



Notes from the Wales Group Regional Meeting

Held on 17 November 2011
at Canolfan Rheidol, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion.

Item	Notes	Action Points
1.	<p>Apologies Peter Cawsey (Denbighshire) Derek McEwan (Denbighshire) Lynn Witham (BPA) Kelvin Reynolds (BPA)</p>	
2.	<p>Welcome and notes from previous meeting Peter Lowe welcomed all to the Wales Group Regional Meeting. PL welcomed Alison Tooze from BPA who is attending in lieu of Lynn Witham/Kelvin Reynolds.</p> <p>Sincere thanks were expressed to Keltic Clothing, Liberty Services & Excel Civil Enforcement Ltd as the sponsors for today's meeting and to Katy (Ceredigion) for making the necessary meeting/catering arrangements.</p> <p>Previous meeting notes were discussed. No comments/issues were raised. PL advised that James Montlake had to 'pull the plug!' on his presentation to the meeting. Issues with UK Government legislation – will be re-presented at a future meeting.</p>	<p>BPA to arrange presentation for next meeting.</p>
3.	<p>Presentation from Alison Tooze – BPA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Executive Update Launch of Masterplans completed in July 2011. Launch considered successful. Still working with Westminster on Protection of Freedoms Bill – BPA will progress with the development of an independent appeals service for private parking industry. Project group now in place. The creation of the IAS will give 'keeper liability' for private land enforcement. IAS in conjunction with existing AOS will continue to improve standards. BPA are to issue tender on behalf of DfT. In place by October 2012 in line with Freedoms Bill. <p>BPA has Submitted evidence to Government about PCN value in England.</p> <p>BPA has been in attendance at the main three Political Party conferences – trying to raise profile of parking sector in political circles. Been quite successful therefore plan to repeat in future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved Operator Scheme Membership of the scheme is increasing. Likely see continued increase as independent appeals service progresses. • BPA annual conference Conference held on 29 September 2011. Good response to event @130 delegates. Positive feedback on format (masterclass sessions). 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Exhibition Exhibition ran alongside the Autumn meeting of the Scottish Group on 25th October. Successful event. Would like to emulate parts on smaller scale in Wales. • BPA/TEC Liason Group TEC progressing with new IT system in Spring 2012. Recent court cases for Kensington/Wandsworth re 'contempt of court'. Positive outcomes for local authorities. • BPA / DVLA Liason Group Positive focus group. Opened to include commercial sector representatives. Elise due to go live. Next meeting December 2011. • Special Interest Groups Healthcare Meeting due on 24 November 2011. Equipment Manufacturer due on 8 December 2011. Higher Education due on 6 December 2011. LASIG not set for 2012 yet. • Parkex 2012 / AGM At National Hall, Olympia London 17-18 April 2012 and AGM on 5 July 2012. • Members Dinner To be held on November 30 2011 at Drapers Hall • ParkMark® Often BPA criticised for not publicising the scheme well enough to the public. BPA recently appointed a marketing company to market the Parkmark® brand. Also looking at structure & fees of scheme. 4800+ nationally (67 in North Wales / 81 South Wales). Just bringing Asda stores on board and hope to have interest from other supermarket retailers. Plan to evaluate the success of the marketing scheme. • Skills/IIP Now a number of management qualifications available at levels 3/4/5 – only issue at present may be the number of providers offering these, however work is taking place between BPA and City & Guilds to get centres accredited to increase availability nationwide. 	
4.	<p>Open Forum PL raised the issue about BPA / IIP membership. Considerable debate and discussion at BPA Council (mirrored at BPA Wales meeting). IPP is a professional body like CIEH. Questions raised about BPA and future of IPP – should they separate?</p>	Members to contact PL or Paul Kyte (new Council Member) with feedback.
5.	<p>Presentation from David Barry – Keltic Clothing Potted history of parking enforcement and how uniforms evolved since first introduction in 1960's – basic need to be comfortable and practical. Should be manufactured to EN... clothing standards. Awareness that CEO's are front line staff – face of the Council not just an enforcement activity.</p>	Group Members to contact Keltic for further info
6.	<p>BPA Masterplan for Wales Patrick Troy received letter from the Welsh Government Minister for Local Government and Communities, Carl Sargeant thanking PT for copy of Masterplan and offering support for the future.</p>	Group Members to advise Alison Tooze if

	<p>Colin Eaketts wants to build on Masterplan - not just putting aspirational items in but to make the plan more meaningful and something that produces outcomes – need to include devolved issues Welsh Government can deal with. Early discussions had been held with Pete Lowe & Kelvin Reynolds although others would need to be involved. Important to have Member input and cross reference with other areas such as regional transport plans etc.</p>	<p>wish to be involved asap.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Presentation from Nigel Blair – Northgate Services NB gave background information on Northgate and their experience of working with the public sector and how they became involved with the blue badge improvement service (BBIS). Currently work with 21 out of 22 LA's in Wales. An update on the current BBIS situation was given and how the system/scheme is likely to progress in future. Many benefits of the new badge such as more secure badge / UK database to combat fraud/easier badge requests/can integrate with existing systems etc. Cost of badge £4.60 + VAT. CE advised that Welsh Government working towards spring 2012.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Presentation from Colin Eaketts - Welsh Government (WG) CE gave an update on new Legislation/Regulations being considered by WG.</p> <p>CPE TMA Regulations are being reviewed and extended for moving traffic/approved devices/bus lane enforcement. Comments have been received from TPT and WG legal services are currently considering.</p> <p>CE indicated that there had been discussions about a standard PCN for Wales. Drafts have been circulated to CPE enabled LA's and comments received have been taken on board. Still need to check other associated documents and Regulations. WG are looking at both the regulation 9 PCN (served by CEO) and regulation 10 PCN (served though the post). CE said there was to be a prescribed PCN to be laid by WG for use across the whole of Wales early in the new year. The wording would be standard for everyone.</p> <p>Blue Badge Improvement Service (BBIS) – number of meetings held across Wales with Stakeholders advising of the proposed changes to the scheme – positive reaction. New badge will be available in Wales Spring 2012. BBIS going 'live' in Scotland and England on 1 January 2012. WG recently completed consultation on a number of issues. Awaiting a decision from Minister.</p> <p>The PCN levy was discussed – still ongoing area of work. WG sympathetic and if evidence could be provided would consider situation. CE asked BPA to provide info that has been submitted in England.</p> <p>Query raised about Blue Badge parking in limited waiting bays. Contradictions in BB scheme & TSGRD – CE offered to look at this if info passed to him.</p>	<p>Group Members to advise CE.</p>
	<p>Presentation from Andy Burke – Edesix AB gave a short presentation on the 'badge cam' - lone worker protection. Uses the latest technology, fully compliant with data protection etc. Software important. Good for management for staff support with abusive incidents and for training etc. Various ways to use. Could be used for any frontline staff not just parking enforcement. Excellent way of obtaining quality evidence for court.</p>	

	<p>Approx cost £495 per badge/software. Use falls under CCTV regulations. Likely to need policy of use. Swansea recently purchased. Conwy/Wrexham had on trial.</p>	
<p>11.</p>	<p>Any Other Business (AOB) Town Centre Study Mary Portas has been commissioned to see why town centres are failing and to develop 'regeneration plan'. Parking obviously seen as contributing factor (Town centres v's out of town shopping). Likely to receive a lot of publicity. View of parking needs to be balanced. 83 places chosen nationally – all Wales location in South Wales. Considerable discussion ensued and disappointment expressed that no locations in North Wales chosen. It was suggested from a group member that perhaps regional groups i.e. TAITH/SWITCH should be involved.</p> <p>Payment of PCN It was raised that a lady who had received a PCN from one of the WPPP partners had searched on line and actually paid PCN but to private operator. Seems like their system will accept any payment/PCN reference. Lady was refunded less a £14 administration charge. Particular company part of BPA. BPA will pursue this issue with private operator.</p> <p>Future Presentations BPA recently had a presentation from Chris Blanchett re how to contact MP'S etc. Will look to arrange similar for Wales Group.</p> <p>Thanks again offered to Katy from Ceridigion and group sponsors and a Merry Christmas offered to all.</p>	
	<p><u>Date of Next BPA Wales Group Regional Meeting:</u></p> <p>29/3/2012 11/7/2012 14/11/2012 Venues to be confirmed closer to the time.</p>	