



Notes of the North East Regional Group Meeting

Held on: 26th May 2011

At: Mansion House, Fernwood Rd, Jesmond,
Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE2 1TJ

Meeting sponsored by Keltic Clothing

Item	Notes	Action Points
1.	<p>Craig Mordue (Chair) opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the Mansion House and thanked Keltic Clothing for sponsoring the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies were received from Roy Jones, secretary of the group.</p> <p>The notes of the previous meeting were read and agreed to be a true record.</p>	
2.	<p>The Chair introduced a new feature of regional meetings, the Open Forum which is designed to allow members to discuss topical issues which may not be covered by the agenda.</p> <p>The Chair raised the issue of corporate spending review, and the pressure on local authorities (LAs) to cut costs and manage income streams and asked for feedback from the private sector members on whether it had had an impact on them.</p> <p>Ian Gamble (IG) reported that a presentation by Harry Clarke at the London Regional Meeting looked at how using the right technology can achieve both cost efficiencies as well as being more effective. (The presentation can be viewed here:</p> <p>The Chair reported that several examples had been discussed at the previous meeting, such as ways of enforcing at schools. Unfortunately, due to the need to have each device approved, it can be difficult for LAs to implement.</p> <p>Kevin Mayor told the group that his company (Philips Collection Services) had been hit in several ways by what's happening in LAs. For example, staff are being let go, so processing is not as quick as it could be and initiatives such as free parking have been introduced to stimulate town centre business, resulting in less PCNs being issued.</p> <p>The Chair suggested that political change can also result in differing attitudes and policies.</p>	
3.	<p>Update on Bailiff reform and TEC guidance for warrant issue – Paul Kyte, Bristow and Sutor</p> <p>Paul Kyte (PK) gave an update on Bailiff reform and TEC guidance for warrant issue, as a BESIG meeting was held earlier in the month as well as a</p>	

	<p>TEC Focus Group.</p> <p>PK reported that, disappointingly, TEC wouldn't take part in the section. It was emphasized that TEC are not there to give legal advice. Clarifications on any issues should go to the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and, currently, we are awaiting responses about possession, data transfer and change of address and hope to get clarification about these soon.</p> <p>Anne-Marie Goodard of the MoJ presented to BESIG about the TCE act and stated that a full consultation is likely in the next month or so. The consultation will cover the entire bailiff remit, such as training and fees. It will be a three month consultation and the feedback will inform the new regulations. At the moment the proposed date for enactment is April 2012 although it is thought that April 2013 is a more likely date.</p> <p>The SIA is still in existence until after the Olympics and it is still unclear who will oversee at that level.</p> <p>News from TEC is that new guidelines have been issued although there have been reports that some LAs have not received them due to TEC's out-of-date mailing list. Those LAs who have not received the guidelines should contact TEC direct (details of this are in the BPA weekly ezine). PK mentioned that there were still some points in the guide that need to be clarified.</p> <p>The next BESIG meeting is in November, although an extra meeting may be added if a response is received from the MoJ on the issues outlined above.</p> <p>PK also update the group on the Freedoms Bill and, in particular, the point covering ANPR and whether it can or cannot be used to enforce, as well as whether bailiffs will continue to be allowed to clamp (yes they will). IG reported that Patrick Troy, Chief Exec, is currently seeking clarification on the first point. The BPA is also pushing to have amendments made such as the inclusion of an independent appeals process and keeper liability.</p>	
4.	<p>National Anti-Fraud Initiative Presentation – Given by Mark Astley of the National Anti-Fraud Network</p> <p>A copy of the presentation will be available on the BPA website www.britishparking.co.uk – please go to the regional groups page to download.</p> <p>Questions Raised/Additional information</p> <p>The Chair asked about foreign registered car details and how they can be traced. Currently the NAFN uses BPA member Euro Parking Collections.</p> <p>The National Anti-Fraud Network's website is here: http://www.nafn.gov.uk</p> <p>Most LAs are members, as membership is for the entire organisation.</p>	
5.	<p>European Design Award & Car Park Design Recommendations – Given by Peter Guest</p> <p>A copy of the presentation is available on the BPA website here: http://www.britishparking.co.uk/Presentations---Regional-Groups</p>	

	<p>The European Standard Parking Award (ESPA) assesses 'fitness for purpose' of car parks as well as their quality. A number of mandatory criteria must be met. Further information can be found here: http://www.europeanparking.eu/espa?s648=5000000</p> <p>Supporting resources are available from the BPA including Parking Practice Notes on Asset Management and Life Care Plans. These can be downloaded here: http://www.britishparking.co.uk/Parking-Practice-Notes-Members-only</p> <p>The Safer Parking Scheme produced a leaflet on life care plans which is available here: http://www.britishparking.co.uk/Lifecare-Plans</p> <p>A question was asked about whether combining ESPA with Park Mark had been considered.</p> <p>Another question was asked about whether it is feasible to introduce another award that, currently, people don't recognise or understand, especially in austere times. Peter Guest responded that it allows you to benchmark your car park and, if it falls short, concentrate on areas for improvement, thereby providing the best and most attractive facility.</p>	
6.	<p>Safer Parking Scheme Update – Given by Phil Taylor, Development Manager North East</p> <p>Phil reported that there are currently 792 car parks with the Park Mark award in the North East, and 4676 on the Scheme nationally. Due to the addition of a new development manager, Phil's area has slightly altered and now includes Derbyshire, alongside Northumberland, Cleveland, Durham, North Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire & Humberside.</p> <p>PT was pleased to confirm that Asda have started getting their car parks awarded, starting in the North East with the 47 awards.</p> <p>Tyne and Wear Metro, whose car parks are now managed by APCOA, are bringing 20-30 sites on to the Scheme in early June.</p> <p>PT's current main focus is on developing the inclusion of as many hospital and educational establishments. Late last year he was pleased to award Teesside University and Hull University, with Sheffield University and Leeds Trinity College joining in early 2011.</p> <p>Several hospitals have either been awarded or are currently being improved to meet the standards of the award, including Darlington Memorial Hospital, Fieldhead Hospital Wakefield, Pontefract Hospital, Pinderfields and Roseberry Park, Middlesbrough.</p> <p>Airports have also started to join the scheme with Newcastle Airport and Leeds Bradford Airport securing the award.</p> <p>LAs still play a large part in the N.E. portfolio, with North Tyneside Council significantly increasing their numbers last year. Most LAs are still actively supporting the Scheme, and see the benefits from crime free parking facilities.</p>	

	<p>PT and the Police are keen to arrange presentations of the Safer Parking awards to facility managers to enable photographic and publicity opportunities for local press.</p> <p>In an effort to get the safer parking message across to the public we have recently produced informational signage which is available to all members of the Scheme free of charge. Members should contact Sarah on 01444 447314 for copies of the signage.</p>	
7.	<p>BPA Update – Given by Emily McCunn</p> <p>Penalty Charge levels The BPA are still drawing together evidence to support our call to government for a review of the Penalty Charge outside London and for the implementation of the moving traffic powers contained in the Traffic Management Act. These provisions are moving forward in Wales where we have been working with the Welsh Assembly to achieve the same outcomes. LAs with evidence that could support the need for a review should contact Abdul Traore at Abdul.t@britishparking.co.uk</p> <p>Approved Operator Scheme The Scheme currently has around 159 members although a member has recently been expelled, after the scheme of sanctions was applied. The sanctions scheme allows operators who breach the Code to receive a number of penalty points depending on the severity of the offence. As with driving offences, once an operator’s ‘licence’ has reached twelve points in any given twelve month period, then it is likely to be faced with suspension or expulsion. Points have already been given to operators as a result of both non-compliance to the Code and following complaints received from motorists.</p> <p><i>Code of Practice</i></p> <p>A slightly revised Code of Practice has recently been reissued and can be found on the website here: http://www.britishparking.co.uk/Approved-Operator-Scheme-Code-of-Practice</p> <p>Skills and IPP A reception was held at Parkex to celebrate the delivery of the Sector Skills Strategy. To further mark the significance of delivering the strategy, a Skills for Success brochure was published highlighting key achievements. This was available at Parkex and was then distributed with the April issue of Parking News. A copy can be downloaded here: http://www.britishparking.co.uk/Skills-and-Qualification-Resources. If you would like additional printed copies please email emily.m@britishparking.co.uk</p> <p>Work is progressing to create additional pathways for the 1889 qualification. David Bell from Asset Skills attended the Scottish Group on 18th May to consult with our Scottish colleagues about their specific qualification requirements.</p> <p><i>IPP</i></p> <p>Linda Austin’s contract as IPP Development Manager came to an end on 31st March; she was thanked for her significant contribution to the IPP and wished</p>	

well for the future.

BPA Annual Conference

The date is 29th September and venue is same as 2010, the Kensington and Chelsea Conference and Events Centre. Additional break out rooms have been booked for 2011 to facilitate a format based largely on smaller master classes as feedback suggests these were well received and attendees found them of greater value than prolonged plenary sessions. A supporting exhibition will once again be included.

The Annual Conference working group met recently to discuss the programme and although this is still being developed we can confirm that there will be Master Classes based around the following themes:

- Parking in rural areas
- Parking in urban areas
- PR potential for social media in parking
- Campus parking
- Design/maintenance of car parks
- Enforcement on private land
- Future proofing parking through technology
- Best value contracting/contract monitoring and quality issues
- Making best use of all enforcement opportunities
- Staff retention and development
- Maintaining service levels on reduced budgets
- Using innovation for greater efficiency
- Efficient service delivery - outsourcing and partnerships

We have now put out a call for papers for these classes, we are seeking practical case study based presentations highlighting innovative approaches, best practice & successful working models. If you have a paper to submit for consideration please send a short synopsis to Alison Tooze at Alison.t@britishparking.co.uk by 9am on Monday 6th June.

We are actively seeking sponsorship of the event, both headline sponsors, exhibitors and master class sponsors. Again, interested parties should contact Alison Tooze.

Tickets can now be booked and prices remain the same as last year, with an early bird rate now available. For more information check the website for updates. <http://www.britishparking.co.uk/BPA-Annual-Conference>

Parkex 2011

Parkex took place at the end of March and despite the ongoing economic problems our members are facing attendance was sustained at a similar level to the previous event in Birmingham. Attendees were able to benefit from attending any of the 28 free seminars on offer and in general these were well supported and received. Parkex 2012 reverts to a stand alone show which will take place at the National Hall, Olympia, London from 17-18 April 2012.

	<p>Local Authority Special Interest Group</p> <p>The next meeting for this group will take place on 13th September, venue TBC and the group will be joined in the afternoon by the Structures and Asset Management SIG to discuss the importance of regular maintenance and legal implications for those responsible for car parks.</p> <p>Bailiff Special Interest Group</p> <p>The next planned meeting for BESIG will be on 20th October, although there is possibility that a special meeting will be called in the meantime to discuss the government's consultation on Bailiff reform.</p> <p>Healthcare and Higher Education SIGs</p> <p>The next meeting of the Healthcare and Higher Education groups will be a joint event on 28th June at the RHS Conference Centre, London.</p> <p>Members from all sectors are strongly encouraged to attend meetings of these groups to facilitate better co-operation across parking management activities.</p> <p>AGM & President's Reception</p> <p>This year's AGM and President's Reception have been booked for the 6th July 2011 hosted by Rosie Winterton MP.</p> <p>Members' Dinner</p> <p>The Members' Dinner is booked for Wednesday 30th November at Drapers Hall, London. We are actively seeking four sponsors. Tickets are now available and can be booked by calling Dave Smith on 01444 447316.</p>	
8.	<p>Update on other issues – Given by Craig Mordue, Chair</p> <p>DVLA Focus Group</p> <p>The next meeting is due to take place on the 3rd June in Sandwell. Originally made up of LAs only the BPA, in agreement with DVLA, has extended the remit of the group to include bailiffs, AOS members and equipment manufacturers. The aspiration at BPA is to ensure that the DVLA Focus Group reflects and represents the whole parking sector.</p> <p>Some of the items of discussion for the 3rd June will be as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accuracy of the DVLA's records • Elise project – overview of the Bristol trial and problems encountered • Use of DVLA data for other purposes other than enforcement. • CO2 Rating (Cambridge) • Residential Parking Zones & DVLA (London Council and LB Newham) <p>A full report will be issued after the 3rd June.</p> <p>Blue Badge reform</p> <p>On the 14 February 2011 the Government announced a major programme of reforms to the Blue Badge scheme. The reforms will deliver the most comprehensive changes to the Blue Badge scheme for 40 years. The main</p>	

	<p>areas of changes will be as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring fair allocation of badges • Delivering efficiency savings and improving customer services • Improved and effective prevention of abuse and enforcement • The Badge fee <p>The details with the dates of implementation can be found on the DfT website.</p> <p>Pavement parking</p> <p>The chair also reported on the Government's proposals to extend pavement parking outside of London and that the Department for Transport had designed signs to be used on a zone basis. Local Authorities are currently assessing these extended powers to understand the benefits and broader implications to help address the problem.</p>	
9.	<p>Additional point - Traffic Signs Review</p> <p>A member asked for an update on the Traffic Signs Review.</p> <p>The DfT is currently deliberating all the advice it has received from a variety of sources including the BPA and the Institute of Highways Engineers, who fed in via the Traffic Signs Review Group, of which Kelvin Reynolds is a member. Announcements are expected shortly and we will convey any information we receive.</p> <p>We have advised the DfT on the need to rationalise the TRO procedures and also simplify and improve the use of wide area parking controls (otherwise known as CPZ); we have contributed to the wider debate on the general traffic signs review.</p>	
	Date and time of next meeting – 26 th October 2011, venue TBC	