

(f) TAXI DRIVER'S LICENCE – FEES – TAXI MARSHALLS (AN122-2014)

Reference is made to the Minute of Meeting of 9th January, 2013.

There have been traffic management issues outside G Casino on Marketgait for a number of years, including taxi drivers forming an unofficial rank on zig zags on the clearway and queuing around to the official evening rank which starts at the bus stop outside Tesco's. This practice has led to drivers joining the end of the unofficial rank and effectively jumping the queue in front of those drivers sitting on an official rank. As taxis are parked immediately outside the entrance/exit of the Casino patrons have been jumping the barriers to access them with limited awareness and concern for their safety on what is a busy clearway. In the opinion of Officers, there is an ongoing public safety issue at this location at weekends.

Discussions have been ongoing with the trade to try to resolve things with the latest discussions taking place at the Taxi Liaison Group on 17th February, 2014. The Trade had some time ago suggested that taxi marshalls would help resolve the situation and at that meeting Officers put forward details and costings for the employment of two taxi marshalls. Their remit would be to discourage waiting on the zig zags, direct the general public to the official rank and report any drivers who persistently flout the traffic regulations to the Committee with a view to licences being suspended. Taxi marshalls are currently in operation in other cities in Scotland albeit to regulate patrons rather than Drivers and contribute to and enhance a feeling of safety for evening economy patrons.

Some trade members were in favour of the proposal and others against it. Following a full and frank discussion, officers indicated that they would be recommending that two Taxi marshals be employed on Friday and Saturday evenings and that Trade Members could ask for a deputation to put their ideas directly to members.

As members will be aware any costs associated with taxis must be recovered. The costs associated with taxi marshalls are estimated at £15,000 per annum and, as all Taxi Driver's Licences are due for renewal at 31st May, 2014 it is recommended that two taxi marshals be appointed and that the renewal fee and the new application fee be increased by £30 which will cover the costs of the marshalls until May, 2017.