

AGENDA ITEM: 4

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

**23<sup>rd</sup> MARCH 2011**

**TAXI FACILITIES IN CROSSFELL ROAD  
Re MORRISONS**

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1 To present the Overview and Scrutiny Board with an outline of the purpose of this meeting.

**RECOMMENDATION**

2. Members of the Board are recommended to consider the information presented at the meeting relating to the taxi facilities associated with Crossfell Road adjacent to Morrisons at Berwick Hills.

**PURPOSE OF THE MEETING**

- 3 The Overview and Scrutiny Board has undertaken a site visit to Crossfell Road and also received information from Environment Service, Transport & Design Service and the Police regarding the proposed siting of a taxi rank and associated safety issues. At the last meeting the concerns from Transport & Design and Police regarding the Crossfell Road location were conveyed to the Board, including those concerns understood to be from the Schools Integrated Transport Service which presently deliver and collect children to the Neptune Centre at this lay-by. The Board was also informed that the Hackney Carriage Association and Middlesbrough Owner Driver's Association had

objected to this rank on the grounds that there is already a rank on Ormesby Road and one within Morrisons.

- 4 The Board has previously been informed of the informal Taxi Rank operating on Morrisons site and of the Bus service operating at the entrance to the car park. Suggestions have been raised regarding the redesign of the car park at Morrisons to accommodate buses transporting children which would free the lay by on Crossfell Road for a Taxi rank. However, there are risks associated with children walking across a busy car park and the Board considered this was an issue to raise with representatives of Morrisons at this meeting.
- 5 Representatives from Morrisons have been invited to this Meeting as the location of the store; its present taxi arrangements and the facilities adjacent to the store are fundamental to the Boards considerations. Consequently, it is anticipated it will assist the Board substantially by engaging with Morrisons directly.
- 6 The purpose of meeting with representatives of Morrisons is to identify if there is a problem with transport or taxi provision from the Morrisons perspective. If the present arrangements and provision in the area are considered to be good and satisfy Morrisons requirements appropriately. Equally, if there are issues or future plans by Morrisons to change existing arrangements then the Board would benefit from knowing this. The meeting will provide the opportunity for representatives of Morrisons to convey the issues as appropriate and for Members to engage and discuss issues directly.

#### **ITEMS RAISED AT PREVIOUS MEETING.**

- 7 **Status of Taxi Rank within Morrisons.** The Board has previously been informed that this Taxi Rank is classed as informal and is a private arrangement between Morrisons and the Private hire / taxi providers. However, the Board had made further enquiries at its previous meeting and the Head of Community Protection will attend this meeting to provide the clarity Members require of this issue.
- 8 **Consultation.** The Board has received information previously on the consultation process undertaken through the distribution of letters to local businesses and residents re the Taxi Rank at Crossfell Road and the responses received. At that time the service confirmed that there was a statutory requirement for Council's to consult with the Police on such issues.
- 9 At the previous meeting, Members raised further questions regarding the status of the consultation process. I.e., formal or informal. Although the detail has been conveyed the Head of Community Protection will attend this meeting to provide the clarity Members require of this issue.
- 10 **Traffic Support Group.** Members have requested circulation of the extract from the minutes of this group which relate to Crossfell Road. This is presented below:-

*Licensing stated that several objections have been received, including an objection from the Police. There were safety concerns because the lay-by was used by school busses for access to the Neptune Centre. Stated that a rank at this location was unnecessary.*

## **FUTURE MEETINGS**

- 11 The Board has its next meeting scheduled for the 13<sup>th</sup> April and is requested to identify the organisation they want to invite to that meeting.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 12 No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

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