

Appendix 4

Jefferson Collard  
Senior Head  
Development & Environment  
Eastbourne Borough Council

6<sup>th</sup> June 2012

Dear Mr Collard

I write to you regarding the General Licensing Committee meeting on the evening of the 16<sup>th</sup> Jan 2012 at the Town Hall.

The purpose of that meeting was to decide whether to have permanent livery (door signs) or carry on with the chaotic system we have in place at the present time (and still do) which I may add is totally unenforceable due to previous CLL's and Council employees not putting the correct measures in place.

You can obtain a report of that meeting from either Karen Plympton or Katie Cullen, or I'm told you can click on something called a computer, you should also be able to find somewhere the decision made on the night by elected CLL's.

Prior to the meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> Jan Miss Plympton sent out questionnaires on behalf of EBC to the whole of the Taxi and Private Hire trade, this was to give the whole trade an opportunity to decide amongst themselves as individuals whether or not they would like permanent or not, a tick box exercise taking myself no more than a few minutes.

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421 questionnaires were sent out, only 82 were returned, 339 drivers couldn't be bothered to spend a few minutes filling in a form, we were given nearly four weeks to return the forms.

At the meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> Speakers who had pre-arranged with Katie Cullen were given the opportunity to air their views on the subject. myself included, Speakers spoke for and against permanent livery, I myself spoke for permanent door signs.

Some of the speakers were given a second bite of the cherry to speak by the chairman before the Cllrs debated, however he didn't include myself, he also allowed someone to speak who hadn't pre-arranged with Katie Cullen, which begs the question why pre-arrange.

The Cllrs decided after debating that permanent door signs would be required to be placed on the front doors of taxis and private hire vehicles, those private hire with exemptions would not be required to do so.

Now, I don't know how you stand on this, but that decision was made by elected Cllrs, it was a democratic decision, Towns Halls up and down the country operate in the same way, this decision cannot be changed unless challenged in a magistrates court.

At the last Taxi & private hire forum (9<sup>th</sup> May) a petition was handed to Miss Plympton by a representative from Eastbourne & Country Taxis, a Dave Hopkins, basically demanding that the decision made on the 16<sup>th</sup> Jan be reversed, printable thoughts that came to my mind were "toys out of the pram" and "sour grapes".

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If this council reverses this decision without it going to the magistrates court via Mr Hopkins or others then they will be setting a precedent whereas decisions made in the past by elected cllrs will be open to a challenge.

For example, I'm pretty sure i can round up a few hundred uppton residents who were not best pleased with a skate park being plonked in the lovely peaceful setting of manor gardens. May i suggest that this council lets Miss Plympton get on with improving the image of the trade without interference and brick walls being placed in her way, those drivers who don't want to see that happen can seek work/employment elsewhere.

Yours Sincerely

Martin Reeves

Hackney Carriage Proprietor

cc Kareen Plympton  
Robert Cottrill

