



Notes from the Wales Group Regional Meeting
Held on 27 March 2013 at Welsh Government Offices, Rhydycar Business Park,
Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 1U

Item	Notes	Action Points
1.	<p>Apologies Colin Jones (Gwynedd), Joanne Rodgers (Wrexham), Tony Caine (Powys), Amanda Perrin (Monmouthshire)</p>	
2.	<p>Welcome and notes from previous meeting Peter Lowe (Chair) welcomed all to the meeting, thanking Jacobs for their sponsorship; Jacobs contributed a (rather large) Easter Egg which was to be the subject of a draw later.</p> <p>The chair confirmed that the Parking News article previously reported as misquoting him has now been amended.</p> <p>The previous meeting notes were reviewed and agreed as a reflection of the 22 November 2012 meeting.</p> <p>The chair reported that he had met with Roy Tunstall (NW Group) and confirmed that Roy is now in better health and has appreciated best wishes passed from the Wales group.</p> <p>It was noted that Colin Eaketts has moved departments within Welsh Government and BPA are endeavouring to create links with any successor.</p> <p>ANPR Trial – Ian Gamble has moved to pastures new and Martyn Attwood is now the POC.</p>	
3.	<p>Transforming Bailiff Action – Paul Kyte – Bristow & Sutor A presentation was given to update members on the progressions made.</p> <p>Review undertaken to simplifying/clarifying bailiff law & actions and to unify the various debt types. Consultation conducted Feb-May 2012; with 254 responses received and 19 recommendations being produced.</p> <p>These recommendations (including standardisation of debts, prescribed processes and fees) are reliant on Parliamentary time being allocated and dependant upon acceptance/rejection of the proposed changes before implementation.</p> <p>It is hoped that an April 2014 implementation date will be achieved.</p>	
4.	<p>Collaborative Working – David Peach – The Parking Shop</p> <p>Presentation was used to reflect on opportunities for collaborative working (using permits/scratch cards/visitor/dispensation permits etc)</p> <p>It was felt that there was commonality across processes/outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customer Facing • Application Processes 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data Capture • Validation • Issuing Process <p>Also possibility of removing duplication of resources/people/office space. Production of design processes for group/individual requirements with communication/distribution - which can produce:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driving cost reductions • Time frame reductions • Customer frustration/complaint reduction <p>Bridgend (Gary Owen) asked where specific costs could be reduced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing common base of stock for all – develop consistency • Forecast of stock/permit types • Digital printing 	
5.	<p>Collaborative Working – Break Out Groups Meeting broke into three groups with feedback given on completion.</p> <p>Group A (Alyn Lewis – Jacobs) Felt that collaborative work is driven by cost saving rather than output and often much work is expended but regional differences produce barriers.</p> <p>Procurement rules appear to differ – some are tied to a strict procurement list of suppliers whilst others are free to buy “off the shelf”.</p> <p>It was felt that this meeting is a very good basis for collaboration with diverse groups being brought together.</p> <p>Group B (Les Finnemore – SEA Ltd) It was felt that a responsibility lay with suppliers to identify purchasing trends of similar products.</p> <p>The question was asked whether there was still a silo mentality out there with inter-departmental rivalry and a strong feeling of local/political ownership of parking related matters.</p> <p>Collaboration is not always about cost saving but should also be about knowledge saving.</p> <p>There is a need for more interaction in order to find out more about the options available.</p> <p>Group C (Paul Gay – Vale of Glamorgan) It was acknowledged that bailiff companies do collaborate (review of bailiff activity is an example).</p> <p>The timing of purchases by LAs is critical and often does not lend itself to joint purchasing. However it was felt that LAs have good opportunities to work more closely.</p> <p>The sharing of experiences at this group was thought to be very useful.</p>	

	<p>Welsh Government could take the lead and overarching legislation may be useful in directing LAs. Issues raised included a standard translation service, overcoming inter county political diversity and helping with budgeting across the country.</p> <p>Patrick Troy (BPA) felt that WG has an important role; LA and Private Sector parking have grown significantly over the years – though they are still separate but could learn from each other.</p> <p>It was also stated that WG don't appear to have sufficient resources to drive through projects – they could ask for assistance at an early stage in any procedure? However LAs also have tight resources so this has to be accounted for.</p> <p>WG implementation of standard uniform and parking charge policies for Blue Badge holders was discussed.</p> <p>It was felt that BPA has helped WG to realise the potential of Parking Enforcement in Wales.</p>	
6.	<p>Welsh Government discussion items</p> <p>Briefs given by Huw Thomas/Owen Jones-Williams (now part of Economy & Science portfolio – parking forms part of “Economy”)</p> <p>WG have produced 6 new Sis to consolidate existing regulations and to introduce new powers.</p> <p>Prescribed PCN for Wales – WG working on many traffic regulations and associated SIs for enforcement of parking and moving traffic contraventions. Once National Assembly has approved legislation (25 March PLUS 40 days), the prescribed PCN will be issued (SI 326)</p> <p>ANPR – pilot scheme continues with 2 progress reports having been produced. Meeting has taken place between ANPR/WG/TPT. Now waiting for full evaluation to be written up and presented (Martyn Attwood to be contacted to provide update).</p> <p>Operational Guidance working group – (including bus lane and moving traffic guidance). Adjudicators and Motoring Organisations have also been asked for any input they might have.</p> <p>CPE updates for Wales - WG indicated that a new application for CPE Powers is to be produced (to include bus lanes and moving traffic). LAs with existing powers will have a separate application if they wish to subsequently take on the powers.</p> <p>Blue Badges - WG looking to reinstate the Blue Badge working group to look at recent changes (part of 5-year action plan). Various discussions took place regarding BB abuse and whether WG would look at directing a policy for charging for BB holders in car parks – but it was considered that this has to stay as a local decision.</p> <p>BPA do work with disabled motoring groups who argue that the Equalities Act may have implications on any charging policy.</p> <p>It was reported that Northgate data on BBs was not readily available to CEOs on the street.</p> <p>The use of BBs in loading bays was discussed. The latest SI may indicate that BB holders</p>	<p>WG</p> <p>ANPR/WG</p> <p>WG/OPERATORS</p> <p>WG</p> <p>WG</p> <p>WG</p> <p>WG</p>

	<p><i>can</i> park in loading bays for three hours. WG undertook to circulate a review to LAs.</p> <p>PCN Charge Level – any submission to vary must be sent to WG for consideration. Lucinda Cheshire and BPA to coordinate a submission from all authorities in Wales under CPE.</p> <p>What can WG do to assist collaboration - With a new minister recently in post (Ms Edwina Hart); they will review where they currently stand and will endeavour to disseminate information as and when it arises. WG do meet with BPA outside the BPA Wales meeting and are happy to consider any issues raised.</p>	LAS/WG
7.	<p>Power Pitches</p> <p>Alyn Lewis (Jacobs) – has been pleased to sponsor group meetings over past 12 months</p> <p>Jacobs supply specialist road traffic enforcement using local resources, welsh language bailiffs and bi-lingual documentation. Have recently opened a Swansea office.</p> <p>Also provide pre-TEC registration searches, persistent evader strategies, ANPR and transfer of proceedings advice.</p> <p>David Peach – The Parking Shop – thanked everyone for supporting the business. Business has 3 strands – printing/signs/safety products. Also “workflow dynamics” supporting back office procedures.</p> <p>Les Finnemore – SEA Ltd – providing ANPR mobile enforcement solutions – camera car for schools/pedestrian crossings/bus lanes/moving traffic and also semi automated CCTV.</p> <p>Richard Allen – Bemrose Booth Paragon – provides P&D tickets with lots of experience in the marketplace. They also produce PCNs/permits/scratch cards and tickets for Mass Transit applications (rail/bus/tram tickets). Also ADVERTICKET which is growing with the opportunities arising. They are also tapping into new technologies (e.g. RFID/smart cards etc). Always willing to speak to LAs.</p>	
8.	<p>BPA Updates</p> <p>Parking Mad – the January programme generated much discussion with concerns/issues – but the public appeared to have enjoyed the programme. Four more programmes have been commissioned. Century Films have been approached by BPA to put across the alternative aspects (including the motorist who doesn’t contravene parking restrictions – but benefits from the enforcement regime), the CEO difficulties encountered and also the private parking sector changes over that past 12 months.</p> <p>Transport Select Committee – will conduct an enquiry into LA Parking Enforcement. BPA have produced a response and are hoping to attend the enquiry</p> <p>Eric Pickles (Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government) – made a recent statement alluding (amongst others) that motorists should be allowed to park on any restrictions for up to 10 minutes to shop, without any fear of receiving a £70 penalty and that council’s should end “dodgy” town hall contracts.</p> <p>Parking Qualifications – City & Guilds are withdrawing from “parking” at the end of 2013. it is part of BPA strategy to identify another awarding authority to fill the breach.</p>	BPA

	Patrick Troy reminded everyone of Parkex in April and hoped to see as many people there as possible.	
9.	<p>Asset Skills</p> <p>Presentation by Jan Williams – Asset Skills are working with WG to deliver qualifications. They offer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking Award for Parking Enforcement Officers (Level 2) • NVQ Certificate in Controlling Parking Areas (Level 2) <p>There is a scheme in place where 50% of the course costs are funded by Asset Skills. They are currently contracting Training Providers and further details are available from:</p> <p>Allen Williams – 077364 38047 – awilliams@assetskills.org Gail Fleming – 0844873 1018 – gfleming@assetskills.org</p>	
10.	<p>AOB</p> <p>It was agreed that parking facilities at BPA Wales meetings/venues will be advised in advance of future meetings.</p> <p>Anyone willing/wishing to sponsor the meetings – please contact Ali Tooze at the BPA.</p> <p>PDL thanked the sponsors and WG for supporting the meeting and wished everyone a safe journey home.</p> <p>PDL initially won the Easter egg but donated it back as he did the draw and Katy Spain took home the monster egg. Well done Katy and thanks again to Jacobs for the egg.</p>	
11.	<p><u>Date of Next BPA Wales Group Regional Meeting:</u></p> <p>10 July 2013 (venue TBC)</p> <p>(November 2013 meeting will be held in Wrexham)</p>	BPA