



Notes of the BPA Midlands Regional Group Meeting

Held on: 10th December 2013

At: Arden House, University of Warwick, Coventry

ITEM 1 – WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

Anjna Patel (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting. Thanks given to Dukes for sponsoring.

Apologies: No apologies

ITEM 2 - Updates from the BPA

- **See end of notes.**

ITEM 3 – Bailiff Reform

- **Update from Paul Kyte.**
 - It is looking likely that the final draft will be released any day now due for implementation 01.04.14.
 - Proposed fees Compliance stage £75, Enforcement £250, Removal £105. VAT yet to be decided
 - Fee remission, if it is established that debtor is vulnerable, fees may go back to compliance stage
 - Training and certification, there will be a two year transition period if the bailiff certification process is changed
 - It does not look like the 12 months warrant life will be extended in line with revenues.

ITEM 4 - DCLG views on parking recommendations.

-Group discussion around recommendations responses attached.

ITEM 5 – Standards and professional development

- **Update from Richard Hilton Membership and Standards Manager, BPA**
 - Individual membership to the BPA is one year old and there is now an opportunity to be nominated for fellowship status.
 - Next year BPA members will be able to nominate individuals from their companies for individual BPA membership.
 - CPD awards are now open for application (Contact Richard)

- BPA is working with WAMITAB to achieve approved parking qualifications. This will be available from 1st Jan. No longer working with City and Guilds
- Clarification that parking qualification achieved through ALPHA parking are not city and guilds qualifications.
- BPA are developing a framework of excellence, professionalism in parking is now available to any BPA member to apply for. Separate standards will be agreed for different sectors. (Any questions please contact Richard.

ITEM 6 – Discussion around effects of banning camera enforcement.

- **Anjna Patel provided handout.**

Group comments included:

- There is no suggested effective alternative
- If efficiency is a focus for authorities then CCTV is effective
- SAFETY, eg late night alternative to CEO's / outside schools.

ITEM 7 – AOB and meetings

- No other business
- Dates for next meetings 15.04.14 and 10.12.14.

Update from the BPA – Autumn 2013

There is significant activity in government and media circles regarding local authority parking. The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Eric Pickles, has recently made a number of public pronouncements about local authority parking. We will discuss these pronouncements later in the meeting.

Meanwhile Norman Baker in his role as Transport Minister announced that he intended to consult on a review of PCN levels outside London following significant lobbying from the BPA. However there has since been a cabinet reshuffle so we will await the new Minister's views on this matter.

The Transport Select Committee concluded their enquiry in July and their report is expected at the end of October. We will be producing response once we have reviewed the report in full.

The High Court ruled in July that the LB of Barnet had acted unlawfully in setting an objective of raising revenue from parking charges. We will discuss this case and its implications later in the agenda.

Combined with four new editions of "Parking Mad" scheduled for later this year, there will be significant activity during the autumn in relation to the future of local authority parking.

Work continues on establishing a Framework of Excellence for the BPA. This is an initiative that has been re-branded as Professionalism in Parking Award and will enable members to achieve the award through attainment of specific standards related to their sector.

POPLA, while broadly supported and welcomed by government and consumer stakeholders, is still a cause for concern for some operators mainly now around POPLA's backlog and decisions made by the Adjudicator and his Assessors. We are progressing the establishment of the independent Board to give the service full independence. Meanwhile DVLA has announced it has given provisional approval to a new Accredited Trade Association from 1 August.

Finally we are working closely with the MoJ on the detail for bailiff reform, with the DCLG on High Street renewal and the DfT and Wales Government on the implementation of Part 6 of the TMA.

BPA Events

The Great Big Parking Debate took place on 10th October in Leeds. Attended by over 100 delegates it was a very successful day of lively debates and sharing of knowledge and views. The day was filmed and the footage will be available for BPA members to view soon via the member's area of the website.

The Members Dinner on 27th November was another sell out event and thoroughly enjoyed by all. The raffle in aid of the President's charity was very well supported and with the addition of sponsor donations we raised over £2000.

Please see the events calendar on the BPA website or e-newsletters for details of all forthcoming regional and special interest group meetings. Dates for 2014 are now being confirmed and released too. A reminder to members that Parkex 2014 is taking place at the later than usual time of June 10th and 11th at Kensington Olympia.

Safer Parking Scheme

The Scheme celebrates 10 years as the Safer Parking Scheme and a PR and marketing campaign is currently being developed to enable award holders to promote this special Birthday. We are also undertaking research to understand the public's and award holder's perceptions towards the Scheme which will help to inform the campaign.