



Notes of the Eastern Regional Group Meeting

Held on: 18th June 2013
At: Ipswich Town Football Club

Item	Notes	Action Points
1.	<p>Welcome, apologies and Notes of Previous Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Zulfiqar Ali – Strategic Highways and Traffic Manager at Southend-on-Sea Borough Council as chair introduced himself, and the Secretary of the meeting Michele Earp – Parking Services Manager at South Norfolk District Council.• Notes of the previous meeting (16th October 2012) were agreed.• Apologies: Gary Hewett, Norwich City Council	
2.	<p>BPA and general updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Patrick Troy, CEO, BPA gave a thorough and comprehensive update of all the main issues and events taking place in the near future including the BPA AGM to be held on 3rd July 2013, the Members' Dinner on 27th November 2013, to be held at Drapers Hall, London, with special guest speaker Gyles Brandreth, and Great Big Parking Debate in Leeds, to be held on 10th October 2013, and advised attendees, and encourage others to take part.• Parkex review – Patrick stated that Parkex was an outstanding event this year. It was most informative, and directly relevant to Local Authorities, Highways and the parking industry. The attendance was good, 2000 approximately had attended the event. The split between Local authorities, and the Private sector to be confirmed.• Zulfiqar added that time and the current financial pressures on Councils may be having an impact on local authority staff attendance. He also commented that he would like to see all sectors, such as the Healthcare sector, railways and airports properly represented also.	

<p>3.</p>	<p>Achieving excellence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still some way to go? Submissions to the Transport Select Committee – Patrick gave a brief overview of the role of the Committee. Focus on LA parking sector. The BPA and 30 individuals were asked to give evidence to the Select Committee. Topics included - How revenues are used, camera technology, adjudication services such as PATAS and TPT, Helping Town centres, and Signage – how good/bad in relation to parking. The report is likely to be available in late September/October. There will of course be lots of media activity. Big issues emerging in the next few months are: “Parking Mad” TV programme about parking enforcement, Eric Pickles again has entered the parking debate, Truth & Lies: Surplus or deficit/cameras/the high street imperative. • Standards – Richard Walker, Colchester B.C gave a comprehensive and interesting overview, and be advised notes are available on request. Zulfiqar commented that this should be led from the top and there is a need for consistency amongst LA’s. An interesting and lengthy discussion followed. A suggestion was raised for the possibility of an Eastern region BPA working Group. Patrick to initiate. • Celebrating our successes – Sean Cleary, Commercial Operations Manager, Cambridgeshire C.C gave an interesting and thorough presentation.It covered a wide ranging perspective and showed an insight into the way C.C is moving forward in this important area within and outside the County. • Thanked attendees for their comprehensive feedback and comments. 	<p>PT</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Break out group discussion</p> <p>Group discussion - Attendees were split into smaller groups, with a mix of LA and private sector and the following topics were discussed:-</p> <p>Group 1- Discussion points</p> <p>Please discuss the following points in your group; you should appoint a facilitator/spokesperson who will feed back on behalf of the group at the end of the break out session.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are your views on the adequacy of current arrangements for parking enforcement and the likely consequences of government policy in this area • How should councils use their revenue from penalty charges, metered parking, car parks and residents’ parking? • Should there be more local discretion over how income is used? 	

Group 2- Discussion points

Please discuss the following points in your group; you should appoint a facilitator/spokesperson who will feed back on behalf of the group at the end of the break out session.

- What impact is new technology, such as cashless parking, parking sensors and CCTV, having on local authority parking enforcement and the consumer?
- How effective are the Traffic Penalty Tribunal for England and Wales and the Parking and Traffic Appeals Service for London?
- Should parking policy in London be subject to separate provisions and guidance, given, in particular, its large parking revenue surpluses, its more integrated public transport network and the number of foreign-registered vehicles in the city?

Group 3- Discussion points

Please discuss the following points in your group; you should appoint a facilitator/spokesperson who will feed back on behalf of the group at the end of the break out session.

- How can local authorities strike a balance between using parking policy to manage congestion and using it to encourage people into town centres?
- Are parking signs clear and comprehensible? To what extent are unclear signs and instructions the cause of breaches of parking control?

Feedback notes from each Group are to be placed on the website.

5.

ANPR and Camera Cars

- Les Finnemore Customer Support Manager – SEA Ltd gave a factual and interesting presentation.
- Case study - Kirklees Council.
- Good practice and technology

Zulfiqar stated it was a very useful and informative presentation and commented that technology should be used for the right reasons. It was agreed to invite the Chief adjudicator to the next meeting.

6.	<p>Town Centre prosperity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update from a Portas Pilot • ATCM(Association of Town Centre Management)/BPA research – Patrick commented that a re-think/a lot more research is needed to reach a conclusion. The main findings are that there is no clear relationship between car park charging and towns. Shoppers value product quality, the safety and accessibility of the town/city centre. It is not based on price alone. RAC, who represent the consumer, found the average motorist spent £42.00 a year on parking, compared with £1,600. on fuel. 	
7.	<p>Parking on private land – the 1st six months of the Protection of Freedoms Act</p> <p>Patrick gave us an outline about the Act, which includes the ban on clamping/immobilising of vehicles parked on private land. In general, it is unlawful for private operators to clamp or remove, but Local authorities have lawful authority. POPLA (Parking On Private Land Appeals) are an independent appeals service and deal with parking charge notices in respect of vehicles parked on private land. Patrick encouraged us to look at the website to see the report by POPLA. This can be found on www.popla.org.uk. The indications are that AA/RAC who represent the consumer, are supportive of POPLA.</p>	
8.	<p>AOB and next meeting date</p> <p>Feedback forms required.</p> <p>Next meeting Tuesday 15th October 2013. Venue to be confirmed.</p>	