



Notes of the London regional group meeting

Held on: 14th May 2014

At: Terrace Lounge, Fairfield Halls, Park Lane, Croydon, CR9 1DG

Item	Notes	Action Points
1.	<p>Welcome, apologies and Notes of Previous Meeting</p> <p>Apologies were received from:</p> <p>Cheryl Vickers – Chair of the London Group Rocky Dattoo – staff representative for London, now on maternity leave</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alan Wood (AW - acting chair) welcomed the group. He then asked each delegate to introduce themselves and to state what they hoped to gain from the meeting. • Richard Hilton (RH – BPA representative for this meeting) updated the group about the uninvited guest to the last London meeting, and the actions that have been taken to reduce the chance of this happening again. 	
2.	<p>BPA updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RH and Antony Powell updated the group on BPA and SPS activities and events. • Manny Rasores updated the group on equipment and technology developments on behalf of the Equipment Manufacturers and Suppliers special interest group of which he is the Chair. 	
3.	<p>Update on Government activity in parking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport Select Committee/government consultations RH reported to the group about the BPA's response to the government's recent consultation on Local Authority Parking Enforcement. Discussed the letter sent by Patrick Troy to the Minister for Transport, and also the BPA's response to the consultation. • Bailiff regulatory reform AW reported back on the recent work undertaken on regulatory reform. This generated a number of comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring of Enforcement Agents is vital. • Public perception of Enforcement Agents has been skewed by programs such as Parking Mad. The emphasis that was put on commission only basis employment terms puts a certain connotation on the employment of the agents. • There was a parallel drawn in the meeting with the older issue of performance paid CEO's • Commission only contracts provide an incentive for performance, ensuring that agents work harder. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • However, salaried positions work better in a rural area where there are fewer cases to pursue. • Emphasis was placed on the fact that not all commissioned enforcement agents operate to a low standard. • It was suggested that Parking Mad 2 could address the public perception issue of enforcement agents. • Croydon Council said that they use salaried in-house staff that provide a 7% return rate. • There was a suggestion that BPA hold a legal 'pot' to challenge inaccurate or spurious information that is broadcast in the media. 	
4.	<p>The BPA Master Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RH introduced the discussion session that was designed to gain feedback from the group about the development of the BPA's Master Plan. • The majority of the group had not read the Master Plan and some were not aware of its existence. Therefore RH and AW proposed that in order to maximise the use of the time, the group should concentrate on what they would like to see in the next Master Plan. • The group split up and discussed the question on their individual tables. Feedback as follows: • <i>Table 1:</i> A great document, but how does the BPA deliver it? How is the information cascaded to a wider audience? Because the Master Plan tends to deal with the highest level objectives, is this the correct audience to discuss it? • <i>Table 2:</i> Publish results of previous plans. Address standards for pay and display machines. There are high charges for parking, but many machines only accept small denomination coins. Should promote cashless technology in these car parks. Put more detail in terms of work and activities. • <i>Table 3:</i> Commit to raising standards. Fairer to drivers. Address the issue of Bailiff fees. • <i>Table 4:</i> Tackle the issue of legislation for enforcement on private land. Develop a private parking operators' SIG. Continue to lobby to improve bailiff legislation and greater standardisation. For example BPA to develop a standard operational report that any parking manager can use. • <i>Table 5:</i> Streamlining/standardising enforcement across the London Boroughs. Working closer with PATAS to ensure consistency across appeals. • In a more general discussion there was a proposal that the BPA should work with the IRRV to develop the procurement of bailiff services in the parking sector. For example to devise a combined, standard document for use by Local Authorities. There was a concern that the existing proposal for 2 separate documents is not what is needed. EMSIG have also highlighted a need for a common approach to tenders. Also proposed that BPA could encourage each Local Authority to publish its own comprehensive parking report for public consumption. 	Can the BPA look at how the Master Plan is cascaded?

5.	<p>Presentations</p> <p>After a coffee & networking break 2 presentations were delivered to the group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking 2.0: rethinking parking for the digital era – from Parkatmyhouse, • BPA parking qualifications delivered by the award body WAMITAB. <p>These presentations will be made available to members via the BPA website.</p>	
6.	<p>The value of membership</p> <p>There was a discussion about the value of BPA membership which developed into a discussion of what was of interest to the group that could be discussed at the next meeting. A number of topics were proposed and a vote was taken on each topic. The highest polling topics would then be proposed for the next meeting agenda. The topics were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How can we improve the public's perception of what we do? 9 votes ○ A presentation for best practice on making savings 15 votes ○ Making best use of the media 7 votes ○ The new £1 coin 12 votes ○ Power pitches 9 votes ○ Vulnerability in the parking sector 1 vote ○ Pay by plate (ANPR payment technology) 9 votes ○ Parking technologies from other countries 18 votes <p>It was therefore proposed to add best practice for making savings, the new £1 coin, and parking technologies from other countries to the next agenda if possible.</p> <p>This discussion took up most of the rest of the time, so the group took away the value of membership questions and will feedback off line.</p>	
7.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AW suggested that regional meetings would benefit from sponsored lunches after the meeting. This would move the group away from the more formal meeting environment and would allow for better networking opportunities. It is also likely that a sponsored lunch could generate a higher degree of member engagement. • Manny Rasores wished it to be noted that in his opinion this meeting was a very positive event and commended those involved. 	
8.	<p>Date of next meeting: Thursday 6th November 2014</p>	