



Notes of the BPA North East Regional Group Meeting

Held on: 29th October 2014

At: Europarc Innovation Centre, Innovation Way, Europarc, Grimsby

Item	Notes	
1.	Stacey Chaplin opened the meeting and thanked those in attendance.	
2.	<p>The meeting was then asked to consider a proposal that the North East Regional Group was divided into two distinct geographical areas: Yorkshire and Northumberland and South Yorkshire and Humberside. The proposal was supported.</p> <p>Stacey Chaplin asked members of the group, if they would consider becoming group secretary. Sally Walker, from North Lincolnshire Council said that she would like to be considered, subject to the group being split, as her employer has restricted her travel to and from meetings.</p>	
3.	<p>BPA UPDATE - Dave Metcalf gave a BPA update covering the following areas:</p> <p>Public Affairs – Campaign for information for motorists, the public and M.P.'s. Launch of online access at Westminster in November.</p> <p>Website – improvements soon to be launched.</p> <p>Consultations – Right to Challenge Parking Policies. Discussions with the Royal Mint relating to the new £1 coin and the implications for Pay and Display. Focus Groups - Local Authority Best Practice Group is to be confirmed.</p> <p>Research – BPA recruiting a person to compile a Parking Bibliography.</p> <p>Operational Services – AOS has 150 members at the moment which is 22 less than this time last year.</p> <p>External Audits – Pleasing results of the audit performed by NSI with the recommendation that area managers undertake a lead audit course.</p> <p>Popla – the procurement process for a new supplier is on schedule.</p>	
4.	<p>SAFER PARKING SCHEME - Phil Taylor updated everyone on the Safer Parking Scheme which has just awarded its first award to a marina – in Northern Ireland. Consideration is being given to extending the scheme to include bus stations. Phil also advised the meeting that a number of meet and greet airport parking schemes had been fraught with problems.</p>	
5.	<p>APPROVED OPERATOR SCHEME – an outline was given of the BPA's potential proposal to separate the scheme from its core activity, placing consumers at the heart of its thinking and to achieve consistency across the sector.</p>	

6.	MEMBERSHIP SERVICES – This year’s annual event was a success with 200 in attendance. The Dinner is now sold out. Dates for next year’s Parkex were confirmed as 21 st – 23 rd April.	
7.	PARKING AND VAT - Keith Miller of Dow, Schofield, Watts gave a presentation of parking related VAT issues. Areas such as how HMRC view parking revenue, the ability to recover VAT on costs were covered. Slides of this presentation will be available.	
8.	A breakout session then followed to consider for discussion; the BPA PiPA and voluntary charters. Stacey Chaplin led the feedback session which generated some interesting and lively debate. Please follow this link to view feedback from the breakout session.	
9.	Park Mark Video Presentation – Phil Taylor presented a short vide aimed at social media websites to promote Park Mark and safer parking. The presentation was well received.	
10.	A further breakout discussion followed to consider; DCLG – “The Right to Challenge parking Policies”. Six questions were considered by groups and the feedback can be found here .	
11.	Stacey asked the meeting for their thoughts on the frequency of meetings. It seemed generally accepted that twice a year, would be sufficient. A proposed meeting date of May 2015 was put to the group. Scott Wallace of NSL suggested a presentation by Edesix to the group. This will be followed up. Stacey also proposed Caroline Shepherd as a possible presenter.	
	Many thanks to Stacey Chaplin for providing the meeting venue and lunch.	