

Telford Hackney Carriage Association

Honorary Life President. Mr E.B.Jones.

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With reference to the proposed increase in Taxi Licence Fees.

We do object to these increases.

Below is a copy of an article from today's Shropshire Star regarding the amount that Shropshire Licensing made, an incredible amount which was in the region of 400% increases in their licence revenue mainly from out of town Taxis, as you know most of these are from ex Telford Licences, which should have been in Telfords coffers not Shropshire's, the reason for this was because Telford Licence Fees were increased and Shropshire's is cheaper with longer age limits, surly another increase will drive more licences to Shropshire, (*by the way why was Shropshire Licence Fees not in your Councils list of comparison charges*) if you had retained those lost Licences and worked with the Trade to do so, you would not have the problems you have today, Council Redundancies, less Enforcement Staff than ever and money short falls, I do think that the £105136 or the vast proportion of it would have helped immensely, less staff wages should mean cheaper licences not dearer but alas not in Telford.

Brian Smith

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Figures reveal takings from licensing applications

Council pockets £600,000 in fees

By Andrew Owen

Shropshire Council pocketed more than £600,000 in fees for licensing applications in just nine months, new figures revealed today.

Licensing officers dealt with more than 1,700 applications in just three months alone. They include 536 taxi applications, 597 requests under the licensing act, which can include alcohol, and 398 permits involving gambling.

Shropshire Council also issued 46 permits for animal boarding establishments, 15 for pet shops, and also licences for performing animals, a zoo and a dangerous wild animal licence that covered wild boars.

There were also 377 applications approved for small society lotteries.

But, 18 private hire or taxi vehicle licences have been revoked in a crack-down on the trade.

A report to today's meeting of the strategic licensing committee at Shirehall says licensing applications brought £600,000 into the council's coffers between April 2011 and January this year, compared to £408,500 the previous year.

Increase

Almost half of the income came from taxi and private hire licences, which brought in £297,535 - a huge increase on the £105,138 generated the previous year.

This follows a 400 per cent increase in taxi licence applications during 2011, with the majority of inquiries coming from outside the county boundaries to take advantage of Shropshire's cheaper application process.

The cost of applications is set to rise from next month, and Shropshire Council's cabinet, which also meets today, will discuss raising the price for a driver's badge, taxi or private hire licence by about £15 to recover the costs of delivering the service.

Licensing team leader Carol Foster said: "There is an increase in a certain number of licences at this time of year, like street collections, small scale lotteries and pet shops whose licences are based on the calendar year."