

Report to:	PUBLIC PROTECTION SUB-COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Sharon Davies, Head of Licensing
Date of Meeting	17 th March 2015

ALLOCATION OF STREET COLLECTIONS 2015/16

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider the allocation of street collections for 2015-16.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To agree that the organisations set out in Paragraph 5.5 of this report be granted a street collection permit for the 12 month period ending 31 March 2016.

2.2 To consider the applications for street collection permits detailed in 5.7 – 5.12.

2.3 To delegate to the Head of Licensing Services authority to issue further suitable applicants with permits.

2.4 To authorise the grant of a permit under the street collection regulations to permit the sale to the public a brochure on the evening of the Switch on of the 2015 Illuminations.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 The Sub-Committee is required to consider applications received for the forthcoming year and consider whether it wishes to deal with future applications itself or delegate powers to grant suitable applications to the Head of Licensing Services.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

The Sub-Committee has the power to grant or refuse the applications.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is 'Create safer communities and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour'

5.0 Background Information

5.1 Street collections are regulated by the Police, Factories, etc (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1916.

5.2 This report sets out the charities on the approved Council list together with other requests for collection permits in 2015/16.

5.3 The Sub-Committee is requested to select those organisations which should be allowed street collection permits for the forthcoming 12 month period.

5.4 The following organisations have been contacted asking whether they wish to hold a street collection in Blackpool during 2015/16:

- St Johns Ambulance
- RSPCA
- The Royal British Legion
- Church of England Children's Society
- Blackpool MENCAP
- Trinity Hospice
- British Red Cross
- Blackpool RNLI
- Blackpool Fylde and Wyre Society for the Blind trading as N-Vision
- The Salvation Army
- Barnardo's North West
- PDSA
- Blackpool Unit 45 of Sea Cadets Corps
- The League of Friends of Blackpool Victoria Hospital

5.5 From this list the following have applied:

- RSPCA
- The Royal British Legion
- Trinity Hospice
- Blackpool RNLI

Copies of the applications can be found in Appendix 4(a).

5.6 The Licensing Service has also received the following applications for street collections in the forthcoming year. Copies of the applications can be found in Appendix 4(b).

- 5.7 **Royal Air Forces Association Wings Appeal.** This is a national charity which aims to provide welfare and support to the RAF family. The application for consideration today is for a permit to collect on the Promenade on the 9th and 10th August 2015.
- 5.8 **Amnesty International Lytham Branch.** This is a local branch of a national charity. The application is for a collection on 11th July 2015 in the Town Centre.
- 5.9 **Care for the Wild.** This is a charity to help neglected and ill-treated animals to be returned to the wild both in the UK and worldwide. The application is for permits to make collections in the Town Centre on 8th/9th and 22nd/23rd May 2015. This would be the charity's first street collection in Blackpool.
- 5.10 **Great Ormond Street Hospital.** This is a charity supporting a children's hospital in London. This is the adopted charity of Premier Inn Blackpool East who held a number of collections in 2013 and 2014. Collections are requested on 03/04/15, 28/05/15, 24/08/15, 30/10/15 and 21/12/15.
- 5.11 **The Fibroduck Foundation.** This is a charity set up to pay for research into Fibromyalgia. The charity has arranged to light up Blackpool Tower on 12th May 2015 or international awareness day and they also plan to hold a family picnic on the Promenade. The proceeds of the collection would be put towards research and to providing support to patients. This would be the charity's first collection in Blackpool.
- 5.12 **Help for Heroes.** This is a national charity, but the applicant for this collection is a local resident. The application is for a collection to take place 3rd-5th April 2015 in the Town Centre. The Sub-Committee should be aware that the applicant was granted a permit under delegated powers to conduct a street collection on behalf of Cancer Research 7th-14th February 2015. The BID team was aware of a number of complaints:
- Complaint from Councillor Christine Wright via Leader's Office about unacceptable charity collectors.
 - Several complaints via Customer First – leading to an approach from a BID warden on the afternoon of 11 February asking them to curb their behaviour.
 - On 12 February, a BID Warden and PCSO approached Matcham's Court from the Grand Theatre to be faced with four collection buckets spread across the width of Matcham's Court. The collectors were shouting for money saying "you may need this one day". When requested by the Warden/PCSO to pick the buckets up, the collectors responded that they can't shake them. Their attitude was quite challenging.
 - I personally witnessed them approaching members of the public asking for donations – which I believe is contrary to the regulations.

- The Manageress of Body Shop has asked the collectors to move from outside of her shop as she believed their behaviour was unacceptable, as they were shouting at people, “you may need this one day” etc.
- One of the BID wardens has had a conversation with a member of the public who says he has witnessed the 2 collectors [one with a ginger beard] whilst travelling home on the train to Preston, speaking to their manager on the telephone telling him how much they had collected that day – the collection should be in sealed buckets.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

List of Appendices:

Appendix 4(a) Applications detailed in 5.5

Appendix 4(b) Applications detailed in 5.7-5.12

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 None

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 None

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 None

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 None

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 None

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 Consultation has taken place with the BID team or Visit Blackpool depending on where the collection is due to take place.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None