

**Taxi Liaison Group (TLG)**  
**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2014, 11.00hrs**

**Bradley Stoke Jubilee Centre (*The Oak Hall*)**,  
**Savages Wood Road, Bradley Stoke, BS32 8HL**

**Chair:** Councillor Shirley Potts (SP)

**Councillors:** Councillor Keith Cranney (KC), Councillor Howard Gawler (HG)

**SGC Licensing:** Kevin Barley (KB)

**SGC StreetCare and Transport:** Simon Spedding (SS)

**Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Service:** Janet Platten (JP), Brian Maby (BM), Neil Sage (NS), +2 unknown

**Apologies:** Mark Pullin (MP), Dave Blake (DB), Lily Thornell (LT), William Sanzo (WS), Mark King (MK)

Item			Action
1	Welcome	(SP) welcomed everyone to the meeting at 10.00hrs	
2	Previous minutes and matters arising	<p>Matters arising from previous minutes and subsequent actions were discussed. All agreed minutes and were signed off as a true and accurate reflection.</p> <p>(SP), (KC), (HG) &amp; (KB) met with Mark King, Head of Transport on 24<sup>th</sup> February to go over a number of issues raised at the TLG meeting in January. Agreed that a member of the Transport Team would attend the TLG meeting in April to feedback on the issues.</p> <p>(KB) stated that he had not been advised of the (No U-turn) signage being installed at Regent Street, Kingswood.</p> <p>(KB) had advised TLG through e-mail of the Regulatory Committee meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> March to determine the Hackney Carriage tariff of fares following public consultation.</p> <p>(KB) had advised TLG through e-mail of proposal to change start time of TLG meetings to 11am.</p>	

		<p>(<b>KB</b>) advised that animals cannot be carried in licensed vehicles other than Guide Dogs. The Equalities Act requires licensed drivers to carry Guide Dogs, unless the licensed driver has submitted a reasoned/evidenced argument with the Licensing Authority to why they cannot carry Guide Dogs. A written exemption can then be considered and issued by the Licensing Authority.</p>	
3	<p>Bus lanes and taxi ranks – updates and clarification from SGC Transport Team</p>	<p>(<b>NS</b>) stated that signage at taxi rank on North Street, Downend is not correct. (<b>SS</b>) representing Transport Team and fresh to issues being raised, to look at signage after the meeting. (<b>SS</b>) has fed back to (<b>KB</b>) and e-mail advice sent to (<b>NS</b>) and Lead Members to confirm that current signage is legal and that a further Taxi Rank Order will need to be put in place to make proposed changes.</p> <p>Bus lanes – (<b>KB</b>) read out e-mail from (<b>MK</b>) in response to bus lane queries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coldharbour Lane, Stoke Gifford - includes exemptions for Hackney Carriages and Private Hire vehicles</li> <li>• New Road, Stoke Gifford - has no exemption for Hackney Carriages or Private Hire vehicles</li> <li>• Highwood Road, Patchway - includes exemptions for Hackney Carriages and Private Hire vehicles</li> </ul> <p>(<b>KC</b>) explained previous request at Council for Highwood Road to be exempt and this is now in place.</p> <p>Harry Stoke Road, Little Stoke – Transport Team and Police to review signage in place.</p> <p>Filton Avenue/A4174 junction – (<b>SS</b>) stated that part of Filton roundabout scheme to address the current queueing and traffic flow issues. Re-painting of lines also logged as a job.</p> <p>(<b>JP</b>) raised point about the 2+lane on Coldharbour Lane; from observations a lot of single driver vehicles are using the lane during non-permitted hours but this is not being</p>	

		<p>enforced. <b>(SS)</b> advised that Police can enforce.</p> <p>Taxi ranks:</p> <p>High Street, Chipping Sodbury – job logged for lines to be re-painted.</p> <p>Moravian Road, Kingswood - job logged for lines to be re-painted.</p> <p>Church Road, Filton – rank marked incorrectly and railings obstruct doors so passengers cannot exit vehicles safely.</p> <p><b>(SS)</b> will look into various issues not able to answer. Advised TLG members to e-mail any issues to <a href="mailto:Streetcare@southglos.gov.uk">Streetcare@southglos.gov.uk</a> as you get a reference number as part of an audit trail. <b>(SS)</b> and <b>(MK)</b> can trace actions of Officers if required.</p>	
4	<p>Taxi Fares and Licensing Fees commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 – update from Regulatory Committee meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> March. To also commence the review of the existing methodology used in determining increase or decrease in costs</p>	<p><b>(SP)</b> thanked all persons for responding to the tariff of fares consultation which was determined at the Committee meeting in March. It was agreed to not increase fares from 1<sup>st</sup> April.</p> <p><b>(BM)</b> suggested a review of the methodology for calculating an increase or decrease in the Hackney Carriage tariff of fares, and to consider whether to follow the TfL system. <b>(KB)</b> stated that this will be part of the SGC Taxi Policy review and also recommended by the Regulatory Committee to be examined by a working group. <b>(KB)</b> agrees that this could be a working item for the TLG as with Lead Members also present views can be sought from all parties.</p> <p><b>(JP)</b> suggested using the rate of inflation figures; this can be considered by the group.</p>	
5	<p>Law Commission – Draft Deregulation Bill and report to be published on 23<sup>rd</sup> May</p>	<p><b>(KB)</b> stated that he sent an e-mail to the TLG on 1<sup>st</sup> April advising to send responses to the proposals set out by the Law Commission. <b>(BM)</b> stated that he had read it, <b>(JP)</b> had replied to the DfT. All had differing views about the proposed Private Hire changes, with concerns about allowing unlicensed drivers to drive PHV's when not being used for business, this raises insurance concerns.</p>	

6	Knowledge Tests – proposed training sessions; and test criteria proposal for Private Hire Driver applicants	<b>(KB)</b> stated that has had some initial discussions with some operators and drivers about training sessions and possible relaxation of the private hire criteria in light of the Law Commission proposals. This will be part of the Taxi Policy review.	
7	Taxi Policy review (2014-17) – proposed working groups to be set up before public consultation from June 2014	<b>(KB)</b> advised that the policy review will require a wide range of discussions for all parties, also taking the Law Commission proposals into account. The proposals report and Draft Bill intended to be published by the Law Commission on 23 <sup>rd</sup> May and the Licensing Team can then evaluate the timescales for a full consultation. The Regulatory Committee to consider this at the next meeting on 10 <sup>th</sup> June. It is suggested to have working groups prior to the full consultation.	
8	Equality Act 2010, Part 12, Chapter 1 – Equalities Impact Assessment – responsibilities of Licensing Authority and licensed drivers	<b>(KB)</b> has had recent discussions with the South Gloucestershire Disability Equality Network (SGDEN) and as part of Regulatory Committee meetings concerns have been raised about the level of wheelchair accessible vehicles available in South Gloucestershire. This item is to raise awareness that the Local Authority and licensed drivers have responsibilities under the Act to ensure this is adhered to. This will be part of the Taxi Policy review work with SGDEN members on the working group.	
9	Additional CCTV systems for licensed vehicles – initiative for reduction in late night violence against licensed drivers	<b>(KB)</b> stated that this was on-going as the Licensing Team continue to identify potential suppliers and maintenance companies. The preference is to find a local company to ensure any issues can be identified and resolved quickly. This will also be detailed in the summer taxi newsletter, the main point of contact will be Keith Jones, <a href="mailto:keith.jones@southglos.gov.uk">keith.jones@southglos.gov.uk</a>	
10	Taxi licensing enforcement update	<b>(KB)</b> confirmed that intelligence led inspections and spot checks on the taxi ranks are on-going and all non-compliance actioned and recorded on the Licensing database.	
11	Any other business	No other items.	

**Next Meeting:** 11:00hrs, Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2014 @ Bradley Stoke Jubilee Centre (The Oak Hall), Savages Wood Road, Bradley Stoke, BS32 8HL