

Taxi Liaison Group (TLG)
Thursday 16th January 2014, 10.00hrs

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

Chair: Councillor Shirley Potts (SP)

Attendees: Councillor Keith Cranney (KC), Councillor Howard Gawler (HG)

SGC Licensing: Kevin Barley (KB), Lily Thornell (LT)

Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Service: William Sanzo (WS), Janet Platten (JP), Mike Platten (MP), Paul Hayward (PH), Brian Maby (BM), Paul Vaughan (PV), Garry Smith (GS), Dave Blake (DB)

Apologies: Mark Pullin (MP), Sharon Shaw (SS), Mike Worley (MW)

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>(DC) & (KB) have met with Shaun Lippiatt of SGC ITU who deals with school contracts, and continue to forge closer working relationship primarily to avoid duplication of DBS checks and also share intelligence on drivers or vehicle owners where actions are required.</p> <p>(KB) confirmed that after the last meeting the Head of Transport, Mark King, was invited to attend this meeting. Jon Munslow, Traffic Manager, stated he would attend meeting on his behalf, however has not attended and made apologies later in the day.</p>	
3	PSV 'O' Licence vehicles	<p>(SP) gave an update on the letter sent to the Traffic Commissioner for the West of England.</p> <p>(SP) has had no response from Andy Topps, Office of South-West Traffic Commissioner or Office of the Senior Traffic Commissioner. Further correspondence to be sent to Richard Francis, VOSA Officer, for clarification of</p>	

		<p>questions posed in original letter. (KC) confirmed as of April 2014, the DSA and VOSA are to merge and will be known as DSVA.</p>	
4	Bus Lane and use by licensed vehicles	<p>Following concerns raised in the past (KB) asked the Head of Transport to attend and explain which bus lanes can and can't be used by private hire vehicles. Three lanes have been raised as a concern from previous meetings. (SP) asked if (KB) could contact the Head of Transport and ask him to explain why he or a representative couldn't attend today. (JP) stated that the signs/ bus lanes would not stand up in Court if challenged. (KB) is disappointed that the Transport Team can't give a list of lanes that private hire vehicles are not permitted to use which (KC) agreed with. (SP) will e-mail the Head of Transport and ask him to attend the next meeting or meet in the interim. (HG) raised concern that the Council didn't appear to be very consistent across the district because a private hire vehicle is a passenger carrying vehicle.</p>	<p>SP/KB</p> <p>SP</p>
5	Taxi ranks	<p>At the present time, none of the previous taxis rank issues have been resolved. (KB) advised that the Traffic Team may resolve these in the next financial year (2014-2015). Mark Shearman will advise (KB) when signage is in place for Regent Street, Kingswood. There is a current consultation for the proposed rank (one space) at Station Road, Yate, opposite Westleigh Close. (HG) confirmed that he received plans yesterday for a new rank outside of Yate train station, on Station Road. The line markings for Broad Street, Chipping Sodbury and Moravian Road, Kingswood will be re-painted when there is a let up in the weather and the Streetcare team have caught up on jobs.</p> <p>(PV) stated that the rank markings at Church Road, Filton have been incorrectly marked and people are unable to get into the licensed vehicles. The line markings at the A4174/Filton Avenue road junction were also highlighted as poor and it was suggested these need to be addressed. (SP) suggested a meeting with the Head of Transport to resolve the problems quicker, (SP) will e-mail him.</p>	<p>KB</p> <p>SP</p>

6	Proposed Taxi Fares & Licensing fees from 01 st April 2014	<p>(KB) stated this is the annual fares review and there will a public consultation as recommended to the Regulatory Committee. (SP) is concerned about the amount of replies that the consultation usually receives, she reiterated that we need licence holders and the public to attend the Committee meeting and share their views, otherwise the Committee tends to rely on policy. (KB) went over the proposal, he confirmed as the price of fuel has dropped and all other costs in the agreed methodology have been taken into account it is recommended that there is no increase in the current fares tariff. The licence fees also have a proposal of no increase as the licensing service continues to be cost neutral. (BM) disagreed about fuel prices and said they were stable, he also stated that licence fees have gone up by 18% since the last fares increase. He also felt that increases in insurance and maintenance costs should be taken into account. (WS) added that fuel costs only make up 15% of their overall business costs. (HG) asked everyone to put their views in writing. (KB) will e-mail the TLG distribution list to remind everyone of the meeting and also send the links to the public consultations that will be on the SGC website.</p>	KB
7	Kingswood	<p>(KB) advised that we have had crime and disorder issues at Kingswood; Licensing and the ASB Team have met the taxi marshals, Safe and Sound Manager and Chief Inspector to try and resolve the issues. The following has been decided; the Police will patrol in the High Street and Regent Street after 3am at weekends. Mobile metal barriers have been purchased and will be used on the taxi rank to channel persons into licensed vehicles. The taxi marshal's hours will be monitored and the proposal is for the marshals to start and finish later, therefore working after 3am when the taxi rank is at its busiest.</p>	
8	Additional CCTV systems for licensed vehicles	<p>(KB) will send an e-mail to everyone on the TLG distribution list about the additional CCTV units that SGC are purchasing. He also confirmed that there would be a maintenance program for all the units. The CCTV system is internal and does not record sound; these are being purchased to</p>	KB

		prevent violent crime and disorder, especially for drivers working alone late at night. This was also detailed in the taxi newsletter sent out early January, the main point of contact will be Keith Jones, keith.jones@southglos.gov.uk	
9	Road traffic accidents involving SGC licensed vehicles	(KB) confirmed drivers must notify the Licensing Team within 72 hours of all road traffic accidents involving SGC licensed vehicles, otherwise action may be taken against them as this is a breach of licence conditions.	
10	Insurance for SGC licensed vehicles	(KB) stated that all licence holders must ensure drivers have valid insurance and a copy of the insurance certificate must be submitted to the Licensing Team. (KB) reiterated that it's especially important when hiring licensed vehicles to licensed drivers to ensure that the insurance certificate names that driver or to obtain a copy of the insurance certificate from the hirer of the vehicle; this must be provided to the Licensing Team.	
11	Taxi licensing enforcement update	(KB) confirmed that the Licensing Team have recently attended an operation at Bristol International Airport. Several SGC vehicles were stopped and checked, VOSA and the Police found no problems with them; (KB) thanked all licence holders for ensuring high compliance. (BM) raised concerns over the amount of time the Licensing Team are spending sending out MOT advisory letters, he also raised that he had received a letter in error when he'd already had the remedial work carried out. (BM) also asked why e-mail copies weren't accepted for V5 documents. (KB) confirmed that original documents were required for all vehicle applications.	
12	Attendance levels at TLG meetings	(SP) asked if anyone present had any concerns over the time or location of the TLG meetings, as more people are encouraged to attend and share their views. (BM) felt it should be at 11am instead of 10am. (JP) & (GS) agreed that it would be better to hold the meetings a bit later. (KB) will e-mail everyone with the proposal, an 11am start at Bradley Stoke, (KC) stated it would also be helpful if people who couldn't attend but had concerns to then e-mail the Licensing Team asking them to be raised at the	KB

		next meeting.	
13	Any other business	<p>(PH) raised the fact that the same issues are raised time and time again and never seem to be addressed and that could be the reason that not many people attend the meetings.</p> <p>(BM) raised concerns over the Harry Stoke Road as some licensed work taking place with customers residing on the road and then having to go long distances to get to the A4174.</p> <p>(DB) asked for advice on carrying dogs. (KB) will look into it and confirm the requirements.</p> <p>(WS) asked about the DBS update service, (KB) confirmed that anyone can sign up to the service; however the applicant needs to give permission to the SGC Licensing Team to view the personal records as required in the taxi policy.</p>	KB

Next Meeting:

11:00hrs, Thursday 17th April 2014 @ Bradley Stoke Jubilee Centre (The Oak Hall), Savages Wood Road, Bradley Stoke, BS32 8HL