

Taxi Liaison Group
Thursday 11th July 2013, 10-00hrs

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

Chair: Councillor Shirley Potts (SP)

Attendees: Councillor Keith Cranney (KC)

SGC Licensing: Keith Jones (KJ), Dave Calloway (DC), Lily Thornell (LT)

Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Service: William Sanzo (WS), Janet Platten (JP), Juan Sanzo (JS), Martin Bracey (MB), Rita Bracey (RB), Chris Dwyer (CD)

Apologies: Councillor Howard Gawler (HG), Mark Pullin (MP), Kevin Barley (KB), Peter Harris (PH), Emma Pain (EP), Chris Jones (CJ), Sharon Shaw (SS)

Item			Action
1	Welcome	(SP) welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
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>(CD) questioned why South Gloucestershire school runs were being given to a Bristol based company who then task a driver over the air rather than use a dedicated driver. (DC) will take up with ITU who deal with school contracts.</p> <p>Road markings at Chipping Sodbury taxi rank, (KC) asked if the proposed road marking would also affect the cobbled area.</p> <p>Yate Railway Station – proposal for taxi rank on Station Road (originally raised by Bob Lonsdale), (KB) has met with Bob on site and now being dealt with by Chris Hanson in Parking Design Team.</p>	DC
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 a response from Andy Topps stating they have no record of receiving any previous letters, however VOSA will investigate.</p>	

		(SP) has responded again and awaits the outcome of the investigation.	
4	Taxi fares	Following the Regulatory Committee meeting on 13 th June it was agreed there would not be an increase in fare tariffs, the consultation period commenced on the 24 th June and the consultation ended on the 8 th July. One response was received in that period and will be considered at the next Regulatory Committee meeting on 5 th September at Thornbury.	
5	Taxi policy review (2013-2016)	(SP) asked for a training session for Members and SGC licensed drivers to make them aware of the proposed changes in the taxi policy (2013-2016). (SP) suggested that the training sessions could be highlighted in the newsletter. (JS) feels that the Hackney Carriage law needs to be revised as it's dated back to 1847, and some points are no longer relevant.	
6	Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) formerly CRB	(KJ) gave an overview to the changes to DBS formally CRB and read the e-mail (KB) sent to the TLG email group on the 17 th June 2013. (SP) asked for the DBS to be put on as an item on the Regulatory Committee, she feels it's important to limit the amount of people that can see the results of the DBS. She feels the information about the change should be cascaded to other teams across the Council.	KB
7	Epilepsy & vision medical standards	(KJ) gave an overview of the recent changes to the DVLA Group 2 medical fitness for licensed driver requirements in relation to epilepsy and vision medical standards. (LT) has amended the SGC medical form to include these changes.	
8	Knowledge test review & updating of tests/ guidance	(KJ) confirmed that the knowledge test has been reviewed and updated, 2 pilot tests have taken place and following comments & feedback received amendments have been made. The new knowledge test will be used from 14 th August and guidance notes will be distributed to the TLG by e-mail for information. (JS) said he felt the knowledge test didn't take into account technology and felt there should be a section on the Bristol City area.	LT
9	Driver's application criteria	(KJ) confirmed that the application criteria has changed accordingly, in respect of documentation required, to ensure that all applicants are treated fairly and consistently in being asked for the same documents. This will be stated on renewal letters to assist applicants.	
10	UWE	(DC) confirmed that he has spoken to the Police in relation to alleged conduct of drivers	

		<p>requesting alternative forms of payment for fares. The Police have stated that they haven't had any complaints; (DC) has also spoken to licensed drivers at random times and the UWE Student Union and no one is aware of the problem.</p> <p>(DC) stated that the Licensing Team are going to have an education stand at UWESU the week before Fresher's Week. (KC) thanked the Officers for investigating as it was a great concern.</p> <p>(DC) also advised that UWE have now appointed a Community Safety Advisor and will be publishing the fare tariff card to make students aware of the current fares. (KC) asked if the Community safety Advisor could be invited to the next Safer and Stronger Communities Group meeting at Stoke Gifford.</p>	DC/CJ
11	Taxi meters	(KJ) advised that he has recently identified that the bank holiday rates stated on the current tariff are not programmed into some taxi meters as the fare tariff has remained the same since 2011. Licensed drivers are advised to check their tariffs to ensure compliance with Hackney Carriage Vehicle conditions.	
12	Taxi newsletter	(KJ) confirmed that the Summer 2013 taxi newsletter is available on the SGC website and in the reception area at the TS&L Broad Lane bungalow.	
13	Unauthorised use of bus lanes	(KC) raised from the last Stoke Gifford SSCG meeting that residents are very upset with taxi drivers using the wrong lanes. (KC) asked if it would be possible to put something in the proposed taxi policy to bring licensed drivers that use the bus lane incorrectly before a Sub-Committee.	
14	Taxi licensing enforcement update	(KJ) advised that Licensing Officers are now looking into MOT advisories from vehicle licence applications; they will be writing to licence holders and carrying out section 50 inspections where required. <p>(KJ) confirmed that the last Bristol International Airport operation with Police & VOSA was cancelled; however North Somerset Council are hoping to arrange another before the end of the year.</p>	
15	Any other business	(KJ) advised that from now on Licensing will be ensuring to state the company name, in respect of Private Hire, on the back of the DBS application form that the applicant works for.	

		<p>(MB) was asking for advice with regards to a planning enforcement issue, as they are now taking him to Court. (KJ) confirmed that he had e-mailed planning enforcement with a clear definition for a Hackney Carriage Vehicle. It was also raised that a lot of South Gloucestershire Hackney Carriages are advertising Bristol companies. (KJ) confirmed that the majority of licensed work must be done within the district where they are license.</p>	
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Next Meeting:

10-00hrs, Thursday 17th October 2013 @ Kingswood Community Association (Bar area), The Community Centre, The Arch, High Street, Kingswood, BS15 4AB