

Taxi Liaison Group (TLG) meeting minutes
Wednesday 19th March 2015, 10-30hrs

Jubilee Centre (The Oak Hall), Bradley Stoke

Chair: Councillor Shirley Potts (SP)

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

SGC Licensing: Kevin Barley (KB)

SSGD: Dave Withers (DW)

Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Service: Ben Lonsdale (BL), Babs Redman (BR), Stuart Horsey (SH), Bob Smith (BS), James Smith (JS), Steve Hayward (StH), Patryk Owczarzy (PO), Brian Maby (BM), Geoff Wilkey (GW), Tony Lidbury (TL), Kevin Goss (KG), Julian Clarke (JC), Brian Prosser (BP), Mike Worley (MW), Bill Davidge (BD), Ang Marsh (AM), Sharon Shaw (SS), Paul Venn (PV), Shaun Harvey (ShH), Garry Clarke (GC), Simon Holder (SiH), Roy Heffer (RH), Clair Nelson (CN)

Apologies: Mark Pullin (MP), Rebecca Patten (RP), Andrew Whitlock (AW), Dave Blake (DB), Juan Sanzo (JS)

Item			Action
1	Welcome	(SP) welcomed everyone to the meeting at 10:30hrs	
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>(KB) confirmed had spoken with Colin Shepherd, Broad Lane Garage Manager, about inconsistencies of fitness checks and that testers only had to follow the set fitness test criteria which is fully documented. Testers and Garage staff know they can call the Duty Licensing Officer if they want clarification on any issues concerning a vehicle.</p> <p>Rides for Mates - (KB) stated had spoken with Bristol CC and BANES Council about this and any further intelligence of unlicensed work. Joint operation required with Police to do some test purchasing.</p>	KB

3	Annual review of Hackney Carriage Table of Tariff and Fares commencing 1 st April 2015 – update from Regulatory Committee meeting on 5 th March	(KB) stated the proposal was a no increase in fares based on the current methodology. Public consultation had taken place on no increase to the Table of Tariffs and Fares. The Regulatory Committee considered all comments received and determined no increase in fares from 1 st April 2015.	
4	Annual review of Licensing Fees commencing 1 st April 2015 – update from Regulatory Committee meeting on 5 th March	(KB) stated the proposal again was no increase in fees given we have achieved a cost neutral service. Public consultation had taken place on no increase to Licensing Fees. The Regulatory Committee considered all comments received and determined no increase in fees from 1 st April 2015.	
5	Taxi Policy review (2015-20) – update from the Regulatory Committee meeting on 22 nd January for the agreed draft policy, to go out to public consultation, with all proposed deletions, additions and amendments	<p>(KB) stated from agenda that Regulatory Committee had agreed a draft amended Taxi Policy including proposals for Hackney Carriages to all be WAV's from 1st April 2020.</p> <p>(SS) stated that she had 58 replies from customers/current drivers highlighting not earning minimum wage; not all disabled persons want WAV's; Dial-a-Ride now booked up and taking more private hire work; fuel costs increase with WAV's, approximately 10% of South Gloucestershire residents are registered disabled. There may be a case of discrimination if making a driver who is registered disabled to push a customer in a wheelchair up a ramp.</p> <p>Other comments from the group included:</p> <p>Current service provided to elderly residents in Horton area, if unable to provide service if have to pay for a WAV, already subsidising current daily work for these residents.</p> <p>Some drivers will maybe only get 4 or 5 jobs a year from disabled customers.</p> <p>(DW) agreed with (SS) in regards her comments, however Parkway Station usually has no WAV's available, a number of persons currently using Kingswood Taxis. Some disabled persons will sit in vehicle with wheelchair in the back. SGDEN has members with a variation of disabilities. Dial-a-Ride is not an adequate</p>	

		<p>service.</p> <p>Parkway Consortium have met with Linda Swainger, Parkway Station Manager, and First Great Western (Swindon), can confirm that Keith Sanzo has agreed for more WAV's to be bought (5 becoming 8), (BM) stated this to happen within 90 days.</p> <p>(BM) then stated that he gets 100 phone calls a week, may get 1 request for a WAV a month. If hailed on the street will take 10 minutes to load person and wheelchair, if undertaking a 2 mile journey, then takes 10 minutes to unload person and wheelchair, the job is not viable as cannot put meter on until journey starts. If no WAV on the Hackney Carriage rank, will a WAV HC be able to push up the rank if in the queue.</p> <p>(WS) stated that journeys are made all over the area and not just from Parkway Station.</p> <p>17 years of work at Kingswood, only 2 requests from persons in wheelchairs of which 1 lady sat in the vehicle and wheelchair in back.</p> <p>7 years of work, only 1 request from person in wheelchair.</p> <p>(SS) asked how many complaints the LA has received from wheelchair users in recent years. (KB) stated that a handful of complaints or issues raised in 6 years.</p> <p>(KB) stated that he has always been seeking proposals for alternative ratio of vehicles through the group, the public consultation will be the opportunity for these although the dialogue starts now, and everyone must work together to find right balance for the district.</p> <p>(SS) stated can VAT be taken off vehicle price, fuel etc.? Will SGDEN support a request to Government? (DW) agreed with this in principle.</p> <p>(DW) agreed it would be impractical to make all Hackney Carriages to be WAV's.</p> <p>It was suggested that persons in wheelchairs to have phone numbers for companies in the</p>	
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		<p>district who can provide a WAV.</p> <p>(SS) questioned if the Council had carried out a feasibility study in line with the Equality Act 2010, without this any amendment of the Taxi Policy in relation to WAVs could be challenged. (KB) agreed and will seek further legal advice.</p>	KB
6	Propose the promotion of electric cars incorporating rapid charging points located around the district	(KB) stated that SGC and surrounding local authorities are putting together a bid for Government (OLEV) money to carry out a feasibility study for the West of England in relation to having a local infrastructure of charging points for low emission vehicles used as licensed vehicles. (KB) to update group when further information is available.	KB
7	Taxi licensing enforcement update – Display of vehicle plates for private hire vehicles	(KB) stated that no particular enforcement operations have taken place in recent months, but everyday intelligence is being followed up by Licensing Officers, including failure to display plates on a licensed vehicle as HCV and PHV conditions. Penalty points may be issued if there are persistent offenders.	
8	Any other business	<p>(TL) raised about meters and has different settings for bank holidays, has spoken with Licensing Team who have advised to speak with Gardners if have used them in the past. Reminder that as the Table of Tariffs and Fares have not been changed since October 2010 everyone should check their meter and they will have to be re-calibrated to current Tariff if required, and at their own cost.</p> <p>(SS) raised about courier work and recent case of transporting drugs in a package for DHL, drivers to be aware of what is contained in packages as responsible person when in transit.</p>	

Next Meeting: 10:30hrs, Thursday 16th July 2015 @ Yate Outdoor Sports Complex (behind Brimsham Green School), Yate, South Gloucestershire, BS37 7LB