

Taxi Liaison Group (TLG) meeting minutes
Wednesday 25th May 2016, 12:15hrs

Shire Way Community Centre (Skittle Hall), Shire Way, Yate,
BS37 8YS

Chair: Councillor Keith Cranney (KC)

Councillors: Councillor Tony Davis (TD)

SGC Licensing: Kevin Barley (KB)

Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Service: Bob Lonsdale (BL), Joe Noto (JN), Paul Venn (PV), Janet Platten (JP), Tony Lidbury (TL), Jonny Halliday (JH), Hadrien de Patoul (HdP)

Apologies: Councillor Shirley Potts (SP), Mike Worley (MW), Sharon Shaw (SS),

Item			Action
1	Welcome	(KC) welcomed everyone to the meeting at 12:35hrs	
2	Previous minutes and matters arising	<p>Matters arising from previous minutes and subsequent actions were discussed.</p> <p><u>Broad Lane Garage</u> - (KB) has asked garage staff to make two appointment slots available in morning, and two in the afternoon, amending the existing three appointment slots for morning only at the current time. (KB) still awaiting decision from garage staff although number of MOT's being carried out on licensed vehicles is down. Discussion that BL Garage does not do corrective work and therefore vehicle owners go to other approved stations.</p> <p><u>Private Hire sub-contracting</u> – discussion took place between the group about how Uber is set up, with concerns about reliance on GPS (Sat-Nav technology) being sensitive and not showing the most direct route. (JH) and (HdP) of Uber, clarified with the group how technology used and communication with customers.</p> <p><u>Community Transport</u> - (TD) confirmed that recent meeting was arranged and took place with Jenny Bright, Green Community Transport Ltd, (PV) and (SS) in attendance. (TD) confirmed that this was constructive and misconceptions were discussed, reiterating that community transport is governed by its own legislation. Jenny Bright is willing to attend a future TLG meeting if required.</p>	KB

3	<p>Knowledge Test - clarification that Regulatory Committee agreed to amend the content of the private hire element of the knowledge test to a basic skills test, taking effect from 23rd April 2016</p>	<p>(KB) advised the group that the private hire element of the knowledge test had been amended by the Regulatory Committee to reduce the number of sections being tested. A briefing paper had been sent to the TLG e-mail distribution list on 9th May to explain the rationale for the change, this is also available on request although intended to be placed on the taxi licensing pages of the SGC website.</p> <p>The group raised that they were being advised of a 4 month waiting list which (KB) confirmed he understood to be correct with current high service demand, with the Technical Support team dealing with the bookings at the present time. (KB) advised (PV) and all present to address the service wait times through Councillors.</p> <p>Concerns were raised about changing back to the old private hire test, (KB) reiterated that the briefing paper was for clarity for all and the Council was now following national guidance and good practice, the Council would not revert back to the old test.</p>	
4	<p>Taxi Policy review (2016-21) – clarification that Regulatory Committee agreed the draft Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy to go out to public consultation, this commenced Friday 8th April and ends on Friday 1st July 2016</p>	<p>(KB) stated that draft Policy had been agreed by the Regulatory Committee and was out for public consultation until 1st July. All Operator, Vehicle and Driver licence holders had been written to with a link to the SGC consultation website page for reference.</p> <p>The group discussed wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAV's) and the initial findings from the Equalities Impact Assessment survey for the policy. (PV) stated that it should include PHV's, (KB) confirmed it was the intention of the Licensing Service to publicise all current WAV's on the taxi/private hire licensing pages of the Council website, with business contact details of the respective licence holder/s.</p> <p>There was discussion within the group that some were quite bored reading the draft policy. (KB) stated that the summary of proposed amendments had been produced for ease of awareness, but that further proposals and/or amendments could be made at any time through the regular Committee meetings, this was not a last chance for 5 years.</p> <p>(HdP) stated that he would be making a response, recommending to remove the DVSA test, some applicants were travelling to the Southampton Testing Centre for a test as the waiting time in Bristol or the South-West in general was as long as August. There was then a debate about driver standards if the test was removed, (HdP) then made reference to Newcastle City Council removing the requirement for the DVSA test, evidence suggests that there</p>	

7	Date and venue of next meeting	Proposed for Thursday 8 th September 2016 @ 10.30hrs, at Shire Way Community Association. Meeting concluded at 13:55hrs.	
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Next Meeting: 10:30hrs, Tuesday 6th September 2016 @ Shire Way Community Association (Skittle Hall), Shire Way, Yate, BS37 8YS