

Taxi Liaison Group (TLG)
Thursday 17th October 2013, 10.00hrs

Kingswood Community Association (Bar area), High Street,
Kingswood, BS15 4AB

Chair: Councillor Shirley Potts (SP)

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

SGC Licensing: Kevin Barley (KB)

Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Service: William Sanzo (WS), Janet Platten (JP), Chris Dwyer (CD), Dave Blake (DB)

Apologies: Mark Pullin (MP), Sharon Shaw (SS), Lily Thornell (LT), Dave Calloway (DC), Tony Lidbury (TL), Chris Jones (CJ)

Item			Action
1	Welcome	(SP) welcomed everyone to the meeting at 10.10hrs	
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) will meet up with Shaun Lippiatt of SGC ITU who deals with school contracts.</p> <p>(SP) stated still no letter from VOSA, further discussion on the agenda.</p> <p>(KB) re-iterated that he had sent e-mail advice about the DBS update service to the TLG in June 2013. As part of the taxi policy review one of the recommendations would be to consider this as a policy for all licensed drivers to sign up to.</p> <p>(DB) enquired about the possibility of taxi rank at Station Road, Yate (near train station), (KB) stated that would check on current status for this as traffic order would need to be in place.</p> <p>(DB) questioned about use of bus lane at Stoke Gifford. (KC) clarified that Highwood Lane to remain closed; there were questions over taxi</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">KB</p>

		<p>signs. It was clarified once again that not all bus lanes can be used by all licensed vehicles, the group feels this is unreasonable if hackney carriages can use bus lanes but private hire vehicles cannot. (SP) to invite Head of Transportation Services to future TLG meeting, (KB) to send (SP) the name of the head of service.</p> <p>(DB) questioned, on behalf of some of his colleagues, why letters were being sent out about MOT advisories. Most vehicle owners have the necessary maintenance works completed at that time. (KB) agreed and that was the primary objective that all licence holders carried out the required maintenance and provide records of this, ensuring public safety.</p>	<p>SP KB</p>
3	PSV 'O' Licence vehicles	<p>(SP) gave an update on the letter sent to the Traffic Commissioner for the West of England. (SP) has had no response from Andy Topps, Office of South-West Traffic Commissioner or Office of the Senior Traffic Commissioner. (KC) suggested that the South-West Traffic Commissioner, Sarah Bell, be written to direct. (KB) clarified with (WS) that VOSA had advised Eurotaxi on business operation. (SP) to write to South-West Traffic Commissioner, Sarah Bell, for further legal clarification.</p>	<p>SP</p>
4	Taxi policy review (2013-2016)	<p>(KB) acknowledged the requests for guidance and training from the previous TLG meeting. The Law Commission has now indicated that a Bill may be produced for April 2014. (KB) stated that the taxi policy review is planned for the Regulatory Committee meeting in January 2014.</p>	
5	Kingswood Regent Street hackney carriage rank	<p>(KB) stated that further complaints had been received of hackney carriages making U-turns in Regent Street with no regard for public safety. (CC) stated that some individual drivers are at fault, the majority ensure public safety. (KB) has clarified with Transportation & Highways team if the traffic order is in place and signage displayed. Mark Shearman will advise (KB) when signage is in place.</p>	<p>KB</p>
6	Kingswood – licensed	<p>(KB) advised that the late night premises in</p>	

	premises providing door supervisors to assist taxi marshals	Kingswood Regent Street & High Street will be assisting the taxi marshals with dispersal of customers. From this discussion the subject of street lighting was raised and if the earlier turning off of street lights was having an affect on safety. (CD) stated that some young female persons had expressed concerns although no incidents to report.	
7	Chipping Sodbury High Street	(KB) read out an e-mail from (TL) expressing concerns about illegal parking in the High Street and how this impacts on public safety. (TL) also questioning why Police cannot enforce and if tow away signs are displayed why this is not enforced. (KB) stated that the Parking team have advised they will be patrolling in the evenings. (KB) has also asked Parking and the Police to speak with each other to clarify what respective actions can be taken.	
8	Taxi ranks	(KB) re-iterated the current status for the Station Road, Yate rank. The Church View, Filton taxi rank sign is yet to be confirmed, (CJ) is liaising with the Transportation & Highways team.	CJ
9	Missed Council vehicle fitness test inspections	(KB) advised that there are still a number of appointments where the vehicle is not presented for inspection. The date and time are clearly stated on licence renewal letters sent out, it is acknowledged there are instances where these letters are not being received in the post. (KB) advised that all licence holders need to be aware of vehicle licence expiry dates and if you haven't received a letter at least 3 weeks in advance of the expiry date then call the Licensing team to clarify if this was sent or the date of the vehicle fitness test inspection. (KB) stated that all missed appointments are charged to the Licensing team by the Broad Lane garage. As stated in the TS&L fees 2013-14 the missed test fee is £38 and will be charged to the licence holder. (KB) stated that it is the intention to use text messaging or e-mail in the future for renewal reminders.	
10	Requirement to inform Licensing Team of	(KB) reminded all that it is clearly stated in the taxi policy for all cautions and convictions	

	convictions, cautions and driving licence endorsements	(including traffic offences) to be reported to the Licensing team. If licence holders do not comply with this then penalty points may be issued (as policy) and/or the matter to be referred to a Licensing Sub-Committee.	
11	Taxi licensing enforcement update	<p>(KB) stated that joint operation (5 LA's, Police, VOSA, HMRC and DWP) had taken place at Bristol International Airport on 4th October. 9 SGC licensed vehicles were inspected with high compliance return; 4 other LA licensed vehicles taken off the road by VOSA.</p> <p>(KB) stated intelligence led inspections continue to take place at taxi ranks at Parkway and UWE, very few stop notices issued of late and compliance levels very encouraging. Other section 50 inspections taking place at Broad Lane where required.</p>	
12	Any other business	<p>(KB) re-iterated that all queries relating to Yate Shopping Centre should be made to Andrew Lowrey, YSC Manager.</p> <p>(DB) raised concerns about the operations of Kingswood Community Transport and Bristol Community Transport. (KB) stated this has been previously discussed at TLG meetings and the same legislation still applies.</p> <p>(JP) questioned if the Licensing Authority has to manage the information, in respects of the Data Protection Act, held by Private Hire Operators.</p> <p>(KB) advised that this is not a requirement and the information recorded by Private Hire Operators is required in legislation stated on the licence conditions.</p> <p>(KC) stated that some licensed drivers continue to smoke in licensed vehicles. (KB) acknowledged this and stated that some penalty notices have been issued over recent months; however electronic cigarettes are now a commonly used defence.</p> <p>(KC) stated that Dial-a-ride is moving to Bradley Stoke.</p> <p>(KC) has observed that coaches have been parking on a bus stop, one is a South Gloucestershire Bus Company vehicle, this is to be reported to the Parking team and VOSA.</p> <p>(KC) stated there is a website detailing vehicles who cause obstruction or park badly; pictures of vehicles are appearing on the Spotted Bristol website.</p>	

		<p>(CC) and (DB) stated that 'Town Lifts' are advertising on social media, primarily Facebook, and offering transport from Chipping Sodbury to Bristol for £10 per head.</p> <p>(JP) stated that she was aware of intermediary companies taking bookings and tendering them out to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Operators. The intermediary mentioned, Onward Travel Solutions, currently holds a Private Hire Operator Licence with North Somerset Council.</p> <p>(JP) has also advised that vehicles with CCTV cameras, that are only forward facing, are not required to display CCTV signage.</p> <p>Meeting closed at 11.50hrs</p>	
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Next Meeting:

10-00hrs, Thursday 16th January 2014 @ Bradley Stoke Jubilee Centre (The Oak Hall), Savages Wood Road, Bradley Stoke, BS32 8HL