

Minutes of Taxi Liaison Group Meeting on Thursday 18th October 2012
Ridgewood Offices

Chair: Councillor Shirley Potts (SP)

Attendees: Councillors Keith Cranney (KC) and Howard Gawler (HG)

SGC Licensing: Keith Jones (KJ)

Taxi & Private Hire Service: John Notto (JN), Chris Dyer (CD), Sharon Shaw (SS), Angela Marsh (AM), Dave Blake (DB), William Sanzo (WS), Bob Jenkins (BJ), Janet Platten (JP), Syed Nasir Shah (SNS)

Apologies: Mark Pullin (MPu), Peter Harris (PH), Emma Pain (EP) and Kevin Barley (KB)

		Action
I. Welcome	SP welcomed everyone to the meeting	
II. Previous Meetings	<p>SP ran through previous minutes and action plan notes. All present agreed that the minutes were a true reflection of the meeting.</p> <p>SP advised that Nick Bailey has resigned and Mark Sawyer would be his successor as Chairman of SGTA.</p> <p>CCTV: Update to be covered on the agenda. Law Commission: Response to be covered on the agenda VOSA – KJ advised that there has been no further correspondence. Heron Way – Update to be covered on the agenda</p> <p>KB has amended newsletter to state all vehicles can be licensed up to 15 years of age (on its own merit).</p>	
III. Law Commission national consultation-confirmation of response form Regulatory Committee members	<p>Further to previous TLG meeting, KB met with Gloucestershire Authorities and submitted a group response to the 73 questions and proposals set out in the consultation. The SGC Regulatory Committee also discussed the proposals and questions and submitted a group response.</p> <p>SP urged taxi operators to respond to the consultation.</p>	
IV. Transportation and Highways	<p>The updates given are from Transportation & Highways/Streetcare team and any further queries should be made to Chris Studley.</p> <p>Heron Way: The scheme is complete. RJ advised that private motorists are still using the road. The use of a camera was suggested as a means of identifying the offenders. DB advised an old sign needs to be removed.</p>	KJ

	<p>Hortham Hospital Development, Hortham Lane: The scheme is complete.</p> <p>Cheswick Bus Link: Access along the Cheswick Bus Link into UWE is barrier controlled. UWE will enforce the Cheswick bus link by not allowing unauthorised vehicles through the barrier.</p> <p>CD raised the point that UWE Management Team does not support the duty of care. Concern was also raised about the number of Bristol taxi drivers who continually collect from UWE.</p> <p>KJ to liaise with KB to discuss how to proceed</p> <p>Highwood Road, Patchway: The closure of this road has been introduced under an experimental order and the exemptions to this closure will be cyclist, buses and taxis. (There is some confusion as the signs only state cyclists and buses at present). The permanent directions signs have been changed showing Hayes Way as the route to the A38. There are temporary signs erected.</p> <p>Link Road: South Gloucestershire Council approved signage now in place.</p> <p>Regent Street, Kingswood: Work now complete. KJ advised, for information purposes, that a ban from 9am – 6pm applies to the U-turn for taxis leaving the lay-by and turning back towards Bristol. Taxis can U-turn to enter the lay-by from Moravian Road at any time. This is an informal agreement and the Police have no power to enforce it.</p> <p>Filton Lane, Stoke Gifford: Work has been completed and signage in place.</p> <p>KC raised a concern about Parkway Station. Due to the ongoing development at the station, there could be potential problems for buses and taxis. A barrier was suggested. PH sits on a committee and is aware of all issues at the Station. KJ to speak with PH to get an update.</p>	<p>KJ/KB</p> <p>KJ/PH</p>
<p>V. UWE</p>	<p>This is an ongoing problem but the Licensing Team would like to re-iterate that as the UWE site is private land, UWE Management Team can determine and manage who is permitted on their land. The Licensing Team are unable to enforce ‘plying for hire’ issues. All issues should be addressed directly with the UWE Management Team.</p> <p>Relating to previous concerns (ref: Cheswick Bus Link) KJ to speak with KB again to try and find a way to proceed.</p>	<p>KJ/KB</p>

VI. CCTV Systems-Update	<p>KJ advised that he is in possession of 10 CCTV systems that can be distributed for installation. 3 have potentially been allocated. Priority will be given for night time economy use. When installed, official notification by means of an identifiable sticker to be displayed in a prominent position on the vehicle issued under the authority of the Information Commissioner. A copy of South Gloucestershire Council's protocol is available upon request with each driver having to sign this document on completion of fitting. KJ will co-ordinate installation with Sparks Electrical, Saint George, Bristol once CCTV systems have been allocated.</p>	
VII. Taxi Newsletter - Content of Winter 2012 edition	<p>KJ requests if taxi operators could forward any relevant articles for inclusion in newsletter. MW queried if the taxi newsletter could be used for recruiting purposes? KJ to check with Legal Services.</p>	KJ
VIII. Taxi Licensing enforcement update	<p>KJ advised that Section 50 inspections are ad-hoc and ongoing at present. Future inspections by VOSA/Police are planned before Christmas. Peter Harris had obtained tyre depth gauges and these would be distributed after meeting by KJ.</p> <p>KJ gave advice about an amendment to the smoke free regulations in Health Act, only one sign is now needed. KJ re-iterated that Licensing still receive many complaints relating to drivers smoking in cars/car smelling of smoke.</p>	
IX. Any Other Business	<p>KJ advised that the Parking Enforcement Policy is now on South Gloucestershire Council's website.</p> <p>The topic of South Gloucestershire Council's view on electric cars was raised. KJ advised that South Gloucestershire Council would support any device that helps the environment and would look into the use of electric vehicles favourably and this was supported by the Chair and Committee.</p> <p>SNS raised concerns relating to UWE/Cheswick Bus Link. SP advised that the subject is ongoing and that KJ/KB are to liaise.</p> <p>JP requested an update on the appointment system. SP advised that the Regulatory Committee have a meeting on 1st November in Kingswood Council Chamber and will review at the next meeting.</p>	

Next Meeting: **Wednesday 16th January 2013, 10.00am**
Venue: **to be confirmed**