

PRESTON TAXI TRADES LIAISON MEETING
9 October 2019

Present:

Daren Ireland – RMT North West
Riaz Qadeer – RMT Preston Taxi Drivers Branch
Naved Safdar - RMT Preston Taxi Drivers Branch
Dave Lowe - Senior Licensing Technician, Preston City Council
Mike Thorpe – Licensing Manager, Preston City Council
David Johnson – Senior Licensing Technician, Preston City Council

Eirian Molloy – Environmental Health Manager
Tracey Sutton – NHS Stop Smoking Service
Mohammed Bilal – NHS Stop Smoking Service

Minutes from Last Meeting

The minutes from the liaison meeting held on 14 August 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

Stop Smoking Service

The Council's Environmental Health manager with responsibilities for public health explained the current strategies available to assist persons wishing to stop smoking, particularly targeting certain groups where it has been found the percentage of smokers is significant. She introduced partners from the NHS Stop Smoking Service one of whom is also a licensed taxi driver and former heavy smoker who shared his journey to quit smoking. It was agreed to work together to undertake an awareness campaign with taxi drivers which may include an event at the Railway Station.

www.quitsquad.nhs.uk

0800 328 6297 then Option 1 for Preston, Chorley & South Ribble

Taxi Ranks

It was noted that since the last meeting the RMT had submitted a request to withdraw the proposal for a new continuous hackney carriage stand at Chapel Street.

MRT reported that he had presented the results of the consultation to the Taxi & Miscellaneous Committee at a meeting held earlier that day and it had determined to recommend the appointment of a new 24 hour rank for three vehicles at Theatre Street and to vary the part-time rank at Market Street to 24 hours, to Cabinet subject to the consent of the Highway Authority (Lancashire County Council). This was requested on 16 September 2019.

Enforcement – General

It was noted that Council licensing enforcement officers were no longer accompanying the LCC civil enforcement officers (traffic wardens) during their twice monthly evening enforcement operations. However, out of hours enforcement activity has now been increased by the Council's licensing team which includes city centre patrols, taxi ranks, operator offices as well as visits to premises providing alcohol, gambling and late night refreshment.

The group discussed the difficulties faced by the trade with the current development work within the city centre, particularly at the Adelphi roundabout and proposals to resurface that end of Friargate.

The trade were asked to advise their members to slow their vehicles down and take care when travelling down the shared space area of Fishergate.

The trade reported that permits issued by the Railway Operator for use of the taxi ranks in the approach road and Butler Street included a £65 fee for an APP which will be an annual fee.

The trade were advised to use MOT approved garages for repair and accident work. They were also asked to advise members to regularly check vehicle handbrakes as this was often found defective during vehicle inspections, particularly in those vehicles with automatic transmissions.

The trade were informed that during city centre patrols Licensing Enforcement Officers would note details of any licensed vehicles that had defective bodywork, minor faults or were unclean which would then be included on future vehicle enforcement operations in partnership with DVSA.

Administration – General

The trade representatives were reminded to advise their members to book driver renewal application appointments no later than 8 weeks prior to their expiry date to allow enough time for their DBS certificates to be issued. It was reiterated that badges/licences will not be issued until all documents have been received and checked.

They were also advised to ensure vehicle application forms are fully completed and signed by the applicant as a decision has been made to return any that are not.

A procedure to allow applicants to make their own appointments through the internet were being investigated.

Enforcement – Vehicle Inspections

DL reported that between August and September 2019 the Council inspected:-

- 17 hackney carriages – 14 IPN/Stop notices and 3 DPN/vehicle defect notices.
- 9 private hire vehicles – 4 IPN/Stop notices and 5 DPN/vehicle defect notices.

Enforcement – Penalty Points

DL reported that between August and September 2019 a total of 11 penalty point notices were issued in respect of:

- 2 private hire drivers for breach of condition
- 5 private hire drivers not reporting motoring offences
- 3 hackney carriage proprietors for breach of condition
- 1 hackney carriage driver for breach of policy

Taxi and Miscellaneous Committee

At its October 2019 meeting an application for a private hire driver's licence was approved and an appeal by a private hire driver against the imposition of penalty points for failing to inform the Authority of a motoring offence, was dismissed.

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 4 December 2019 in Room C at the Town Hall commencing at 2pm.