

Minutes of Hackney Carriage Meeting – 21st July 2014

Present

Carol Stos	Licensing Manager
Geoff Binnington	Principal Officer, Fleet and Transport Services
Matthew Bibby	Licensing Support Officer (Minute Taker)
Phil Brook	Enforcement Officer
Shabbir Master	Bradford Hackney Carriage Owners & Drivers Association
Mohammad M Khan	Bradford Hackney Carriage Owners & Drivers Association
Tahir Riaz	Bradford Hackney Carriage Owners & Drivers Association
Mazar Iqbal	Bradford Hackney Carriage Owners & Drivers Association
Omar	People First Keighley and Craven
Tom	People First Keighley and Craven

1) Welcome, Introductions & Apologies

Officers opened and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Shabir Munir Bradford Hackney Carriage Owners Association

2) Feedback from last meeting

A HC/PH Survey has been carried out and the results finalised. This will be an agenda point for the next meeting.

Staffing levels - there will be 2 new enforcement officers beginning within the next 6 weeks.

Conditions - Representatives Proposals

Officers sent out blank proposal sheets with the May minutes and asked for comment by 20th June. No responses were received.

3) Information regarding ranks – Including; Bridge Street; Norfolk Gardens & Morley Street

A number of discussions were held regarding ranks in the district.

Proposed ranks were indicated on a map provided by officers (given by Highways) – Please see attached Document

Bridge Street Rank has been approved by Highways for a temporary 18month closure with a view to a permanent closure. This is due to the rank being used in future for Police vehicles. He Police have moved into City Hall and require the spaces for their use. It was believed Bridge Street rank would be a more suitable rank to close rather than the 1 outside City Hall entrance.

Representatives had a number of concerns about the Bridge Street rank closure and are keen to work constructively and professionally with Highways top look at a compromise where possible. They asked for a possible sharing of Bridge Street rank or possible bays opposite Tesco on Sunbridge Road. Anther possible suggestion was if some of the loading bays could be used for HC vehicles, even if only on Part Time basis.

Highways intend to make alterations on Great Horton Road / Morley Street – Please see attached map and letter giving full explanation.

4) Hackney Carriage Association

Ranks at Westfield – Covered in section 3.

Ranks at Forster Square – HC would like a rank outside McDonald's, main road/valley road, facing City Centre.

Action: Officers to inform Highways according to process.

Out of District Taxi doing contract runs – New contracts are specific to Schedule 10 conditions being met. Enforcement officers are doing joint initiative with contracting enforcement team. Providing schedule 10 is adhered to, contracts can be done.

Enforcement Activity – There will be increased numbers of activities in coming months as the 2 new enforcement officers join the service

Significant enforcement has taken place in recent weeks with officers covering areas of past concerns such as Sackville Street on 4th July. Public owned cars are parking illegally and future actions with wardens will be targeting this type of behaviour.

Church Street in Keighley was also visited but was very quiet

5) **Consultation Proposals**

There was a brief summary of the service's proposed changes. Officers invited representatives to read and comment on the proposals which will be distributed shortly.

6) **APP & Tensator Updates**

Tensator has unfortunately been held up due to a number of software issues with the external provider. This project is now nearing conclusion and is currently in final testing. We anticipate going live with the new IT system (queue management and appointments) in the next few weeks.

APP is progressing rapidly. The Service will be closed the first 2 weeks of September. We are contacting people whose licences expire then to come in to renew their licences in August. If you know of people who need to come in please ask them to contact Shearbridge on taxi.testing@bradford.gov.uk

7) **Unmet Demand Survey**

This will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

8) **People First – Keighley and Craven**

Representatives from People First highlighted the good work that was being done by the HC trade and wished to thank the HC trade for their professionalism.

The experiences that were shared indicate that the HC trade are cheaper than the PH trade regarding wheelchair journeys. Work has therefore been done to promote the HC trade within the various disability group meetings that are held by their own representatives.

9) **Vehicle Statistics**

A summary of vehicle stats was provided from August 2013 when the new conditions were brought in.

Discussions were around the numbers of vehicles that passed and those that failed, including the category that the failure was in.

Work is being done to highlight which companies these vehicles work for. Enforcement action may be taken against Operators who have a higher than expected vehicle failure rate.

The service still does recognise that a small percentage of failures can be attributed to negligent work in local garages and where that is happening the garages are also being investigated.