



Please ask for Brian Offiler
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The Chair and Members of Taxi
Consultative Committee

27 June, 2018

Dear Councillor,

Please attend a meeting of the TAXI CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE to be held on WEDNESDAY, 4 JULY 2018 at 6.00 pm in Committee Room 1, Town Hall, Chesterfield, S40 1LP, the agenda for which is set out below.

AGENDA

Part 1(Public Information)

1. Declarations of Members' and Officers' Interests relating to Items on the Agenda
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 18 April, 2018 (Pages 3 - 8)
4. Matters Arising on the Minutes
5. Police Issues
6. Draft Annual Report - Taxi Consultative Committee - 2017/18 (Pages 9 - 16)
7. Derbyshire County Council Highways Issues
8. Actions Taken by the Licensing Team since the Last Meeting

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Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Randy', written in a cursive style.

Local Government and Regulatory Law Manager and Monitoring Officer

TAXI CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 18th April, 2018

Present:-

Representing Chesterfield Borough Council:

Councillor K Caulfield (Chair)
Councillor J Burrows
Trevor Durham
Ian Waller

Representing the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Trade:

Stephen Atkin
Jim Brookbank
Chris Brown
Ann Dickens
David Madin

Representing Derbyshire County Council:

Simon Tranter

Representing Derbyshire Police:

PC Jordan Richardson
PC Matt Rodda

In attendance for Minute No. 32:

Neil Johnson, Assistant Director - Economic Growth, Chesterfield
Borough Council
Patrick Middleton, Project Manager, Northern Gateway, Chesterfield
Borough Council

26 **MR BRENT TAYLOR**

The Chair referred with sadness to the recent death of Mr Brent Taylor, a Chesterfield licensed Private Hire / Hackney Carriage driver. Members of the Committee stood for a minute's silence in his honour.

27 NOMINATION OF REPLACEMENT TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Further to Minute No. 22, following confirmation from Stephen Aldersley of his resignation from the Committee, nominations for a replacement representative of private hire vehicle licence holders had been invited. One nomination of Jim Brookbank had been received, and it was therefore confirmed that he be appointed as a representative until May, 2019.

28 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' AND OFFICERS' INTERESTS RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

No declarations of interest were received.

29 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor V Diouf, Mandy Shaw, Stephen Oliver and Inspector Nicholls.

30 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 January, 2018 were agreed as a true record.

31 POLICE ISSUES

PCs Richardson and Rodda submitted the reported crime figures for the period 1 January to 30 March, 2018 for the Chesterfield and the Bolsover and North East Derbyshire Policing sections, totalling 39 reports, which included:

33 occasions where the driver was the victim
2 occasions where a member of the public was the victim
2 occasions where the driver was a suspect
2 occasions where a taxi company was the victim.

Timing – 30 crimes were between 0000 hours and 0600 hours.

Violence against drivers – 7 cases

The breakdown of crimes was:

- 25 – making off without payment
- 7 – assault on driver
- 4 – damage to vehicle
- 1 – assault on taxi office worker
- 1 – theft
- 1 – malicious communication to taxi company

The outcomes from investigation of these reported crimes were:

- 9 – restorative justice
- 12 - suspect identified (1 arrested and charged, 11 investigation ongoing)
- 14 – undetected
- 2 – no suspect identified, investigation ongoing
- 2 – support retracted by drivers.

It was noted that there had been an increase in cases of customers making off without payment, particularly in the Bolsover and North East Derbyshire area.

Representatives expressed concern at vehicles parking in the area of the temporary taxi rank on Knifesmithgate, restricting the space available for taxis. It was confirmed that the Police could take action if vehicles were obstructing the highway, but otherwise representatives were advised to contact the parking enforcement officers to seek assistance with specific issues. It was agreed to ask the Borough Council's parking enforcement team to assist in minimising problems in this location as far as possible.

32 UPDATE ON TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENTS

Neil Johnson, Assistant Director – Economic Growth, and Patrick Middleton, Project Manager, Northern Gateway, gave a presentation on the progress of the developments at the Northern Gateway, referring to:

- Refurbishment of the old Co-op store building to provide an 89 bed hotel, restaurants and leisure fitness centre. It was anticipated that the hotel would open by the end of 2018;
- Construction of a new 529 space multi-storey car park to replace the demolished one on Saltergate, with improved facilities and security. The planning application had been submitted and a

contractor appointed with an anticipated completion date of March 2019;

- Construction of a new Enterprise Centre on part of the existing Donut roundabout, with space for 36 businesses, providing up to 170 jobs. It was hoped to appoint a contractor shortly with an anticipated completion date by March 2020 at the latest;
- Development of a pedestrian friendly streetscene environment on Elder Way and Knifemithgate, including loading bays, drop off points and improved taxi rank provision on Knifemithgate, with an anticipated completion date by March 2019.

The developments were planned to enhance the town centre economy and leisure offer, and there would be further public consultation on the plans during the summer of 2018.

It was noted that design of the streetscene environment would need to consider achieving a balance between the need for loading facilities, a suitable taxi rank, bus stops and drop off points for the hotel.

It was explained that members of the Taxi Consultative Committee would be consulted again in the future on the other developments at Peak Resort and the Waterside, including improved access to the railway station, which were part of the longer-term town centre masterplan.

33 DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL HIGHWAYS ISSUES

Further to Minute No. 24, Simon Tranter reported that the County Council Cabinet Member decision on the introduction of an 18 months experimental period for the use of bus lanes by hackney carriages was due to be taken on 26 April, 2018. Following the decision work would need to be completed to install the necessary signs and lighting before the experimental period began.

34 ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE LICENSING TEAM SINCE THE LAST MEETING

Further to Minute No. 23, Trevor Durham confirmed that following the period of consultation the revised Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy had been approved and was now in operation.

He reported that during the past three months two drivers' licences had been revoked and one driver's licence had been suspended (for failing to attend a child sexual exploitation awareness training session).

It was noted that over 500 drivers had attended the awareness sessions. It was agreed to notify operators of those drivers who had not attended and of remaining dates for the training to encourage drivers to attend.

28 vehicles had failed the six-monthly vehicle test, although it had not been necessary to issue penalty points in respect of any of these cases.

A supplier had been appointed for electronic knowledge tests and representatives would be invited to test the process once this was available before coming into operation in the summer.

It was confirmed that there had been no increase in fees and charges for the second successive year.

Further to Minute No. 25, it was noted that the Eckington test station office staff would be available until 5.00 pm to issue plates or would post plates the day after an evening test. Representatives expressed concern that this may not fully resolve the issue of drivers having to return to collect plates.

Representatives raised concern at the revised arrangements for buses at Chesterfield railway station and the restricted space available for taxis dropping off, especially with wheelchair passengers. It was noted that this was on private land and was not part of the Highways Authority's responsibility. Trevor Durham agreed to investigate further and report back to the next meeting.

35 DATES OF MEETINGS OF TAXI CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2018/19

The following dates were agreed for meetings of the Taxi Consultative Committee in 2018/19, each meeting starting at 6.00 pm:

Wednesday, 4 July, 2018

Wednesday, 24 October, 2018

Wednesday, 30 January, 2019

Wednesday, 10 April, 2019

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CHESTERFIELD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

TAXI CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT

2017/18

Taxi Consultative Committee

Chesterfield Borough Council

Annual Report 2017/18

1. Background

- 1.1 The Taxi Consultative Committee was established in March 2011 as an informal consultative body for the Council and the taxi trade locally in Chesterfield.
- 1.2 The purpose of the Committee is to meet with local representatives of the taxi trade to discuss matters of mutual concern and interest relating to the licensing of vehicles, drivers and operators.
- 1.3 The Committee's aim is to act as a representative body for the whole hackney carriage and private hire trade, ensuring consultation with all licence holders to enable the Council to make fully informed decisions, through the delegated authority granted to the Appeals and Regulatory Committee or appropriate Council officers.
- 1.4 The Committee's terms of reference are included in the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy. These terms of reference were most recently reviewed and updated in May, 2017.

2. Membership and Meetings

- 2.1 The Committee meets at least four times per year. During 2017/18 it met a total of five times – the nominations meeting in June, 2017, and then regular meetings in July and October, 2017 and January and April, 2018.

2.2 The Committee is composed of nine members - three hackney carriage licence holders (persons who drive or own a hackney carriage), three private hire licence holders (persons who operate or drive or own a private hire vehicle) and three elected members of the Council (selected in accordance with the political balance of the Council).

2.3 For 2017/18 the three elected members were:

Councillor Caulfield (Chair)
Councillor Burrows (Vice-Chair)
Councillor V Diouf

the three hackney carriage licence holders were:

Mr S Atkin
Mr C Brown
Ms M Shaw

and the private hire licence holders were:

Mr S Aldersley (until January, 2018)
Mr J Brookbank (from April, 2018)
Ms A Dickens
Mr D Madin

2.4 Following the review of the nominations process by the Committee in April, 2017 and the subsequent approval of the revised terms of reference by the Appeals and Regulatory Committee in May, 2017, the appointment of the above hackney carriage and private hire licence holders in June, 2017 was made for a two year period.

- 2.5 In January, 2018 Mr S Aldersley resigned as a representative of private hire licence holders, and, following invitation of nominations for a replacement representative, Mr J Brookbank was appointed in April, 2018 until May, 2019.
- 2.6 In addition to the above nine members of the Committee, officers from the Council's Licensing and Legal sections and from the Police and Derbyshire County Council Highways department are invited to attend the Committee to advise the Committee members.
- 2.7 Attendance at meetings during 2017/18 has been good with average attendance as follows:

Elected members – 2.25 members per meeting
Hackney carriage representatives – 2.75 per meeting
Private hire representatives – 2.75 per meeting

3. Issues Considered

- 3.1 At each of its meetings the Committee considers the reported crime figures relating to the taxi trade in the Chesterfield and the Bolsover and North East Derbyshire policing sections, along with any other Police related matters, issues relating to Derbyshire County Council Highways and actions taken by the Licensing team since the previous meeting.
- 3.2 The taxi related crime figures varied between 23 and 39 in the four quarters of the year, with an average of 30 per quarter. The most common type of crime was passengers making off without payment.

- 3.3 The main Highways issue throughout the year has been the development of the proposal for the use of bus lanes in Chesterfield by hackney carriages, initially on an 18 months experimental period.
- 3.4 The Licensing team reported on the number of licences suspended or revoked and the number of vehicles which had failed the vehicle test in each quarter. It also reported on the test purchase operation carried out in September, 2017 to identify any private hire vehicles plying for hire, when no offences had been detected.
- 3.5 In addition to these standard items, the Committee has also considered the following issues during 2017/18:
- Discussion with a major private hire operator on matters of common concern;
 - Concerns relating to the issuing of vehicle licences and plates at the Eckington test station following the introduction of a new contract there in May, 2017;
 - The availability of appointments for applicants to undertake the knowledge test and the introduction of an electronic system of knowledge tests to improve availability and consistency;
 - A proposal from the hackney carriage representatives to increase the hackney carriage tariff;
 - Discussion with the Council's Health and Wellbeing Officer and the Dementia Friendly Communities Co-ordinator of the Alzheimer's Society on issues related to dementia and opportunities for operators and drivers to become more dementia friendly;
 - A draft revised version of the Licensing Policy which aimed to make the policy document easier to understand;
 - An update on the town centre developments at the Northern Gateway;

- Concerns regarding revised arrangements at Chesterfield Railway Station for buses and limited space for taxis dropping off passengers.

4. The Committee's Main Achievements / Outcomes

- 4.1 Information being made available for customers about how complaints could be submitted.
- 4.2 Greater availability of test appointments for applicants and the introduction of an electronic system of knowledge tests to speed up the process of applying for a licence.
- 4.3 Approval by the Appeals and Regulatory Committee in November, 2017 of the proposal to increase the hackney carriage tariff.
- 4.4 Information made available to operators about dementia friendly initiatives and opportunities. Approval by the Appeals and Regulatory Committee in February, 2018 of an exemption within the Licensing Policy for the display of dementia friendly signs where drivers had completed the appropriate awareness training.
- 4.5 Approval by the Appeals and Regulatory Committee in April, 2018 of the revised Licensing Policy, resulting in the document being easier to understand.
- 4.6 Extended hours during which licence plates could be issued at the Eckington test station.
- 4.7 Development of a proposal to introduce an 18 months experimental period for the use of bus lanes in Chesterfield town centre by hackney carriages.

5 Conclusion

- 5.1 The Committee has continued to provide a forum for the consideration of matters of mutual concern relating to the hackney carriage and private hire trade locally, with input from the Council's Licensing team, the Police and the County Council Highways team.
- 5.2 The role of trade representatives in raising concerns, considering issues and communicating with other members of the trade more widely is a positive and valued contribution.
- 5.3 The Committee aims to continue to operate as an informal consultative body in the year ahead to enable relevant matters to be considered and to inform the practical application of licensing procedures and decisions to be taken by officers or formal decision making bodies.

Councillor Kate Caulfield
Chair, Taxi Consultative Committee
Chesterfield Borough Council

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