

Minutes of the Private Hire and Taxi Forum held
on the 16th December 2009 at the Town Hall

1. Present and apologies

Sue Oliver (SO) Chair EBC
Kareen Plympton (KP) Licensing Manager EBC
Jay Virgo (JV) Licensing Officer EBC
Olivia Stapleford (OS) Licensing Officer EBC
Danielle Bryant (DB) Licensing Administration EBC
Councillor Goodwin (CG) EBC
Victoria Mackrell (VM) EBC
Chris Islip (CI) Sussex Cars
Bob Bremer (BB) Sussex Cars
Ben Fowler (BF) Sussex Cars
Mike Chant (MC) Radio Cars
Glen Girling (GG) E+C
Martin Boud (MB) E+C
Stella Wells (SW) Sussex Police
Anthony Small (AS) ESCC

Apologies

None

2. Minutes & Actions from previous Forum

- There has been further discussion with our legal team about retaining the mixed fleet. It has been decided that this is the best way as there is not one vehicle that suits everyone's needs.
- Advertising re fares is on-going.
- Any positive comments we have in will be going on the website .
- The police are present so any matters will be covered in the main agenda.

3. Police Update

The Pier- Sussex Police no longer have the power to issue tickets that now falls under the traffic wardens. They can only ask people to move on. The parking enforcement team have been asked to focus on the Pier but the trade informed them that the main problems are late at night. The Parking Enforcement team and ESCC will take this information away and see if they can arrange anything.

The Police thanked firms and drivers for their assistance with people who were asking to be taken to Beachy Head.

4. Case law regarding overcharging in taxis

The case for this was attached to the agenda. The main points are that the driver can not charge more than the metered fare, its hard for the office to work out what a job will go on the meter as there are different prices for different times of the day.

The reason its attached is to bring this to the trades attention as there is now case law on the subject.

The Case will be circulated with the minutes.

5. DFI improving Access to Taxi Report

The outcome of the DFT consultation document entitled Improving Access to Taxis can be found via the following link

www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/closed/consulttaxis/

Sadiqi Khan MP stated at the NTA meeting in October that mixed fleets are preferential and that cab drivers hours are not to be limited by legislation.

6. ESCC Highways- New Post Holder

Her name is Victoria Mackrell- she has only been in post about 3 weeks. She has met with KP and JV to discuss the main points.

7. Suicides at Beachy Head

This has been covered under point 3.

8. Christmas Festivities

The Council and Police have carried out some joint visits to Licensed premises to give them some advice Christmas.

The Safe Space bus is in operation on a Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening outside on Debenhams. A overview of the services it offers was given to the forum.

The outcome of the joint inspections of taxis/private hires between the council and the traffic police was very positive. Aprox. 80 vehicles were checked 4 stop notices were issued and 3 warnings. The council will continue to work with the Traffic Police.

The trade were reminded that this coming weekend would be very busy and both the council and the Police would be out and about.

9. Any other business

Update on the release of the new Hackney Carriage plates- as of the date of this meeting new other plates have been released.

10. Time and date of next forum

To be arranged