

Taxi & Private Hire Forum Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 31 January 2023

St Giles Room, City Offices - 13:30

Attended

Drivers/Operators	Winchester City Council
Anjum Ghyas Imran Khan Khurram Hussain Marouane El Mamouni Shamus Farooq	Carol Stefanczuk – Licensing Manager Claire Humphreys – Licensing Officer

Apologies

Yaqoob Ali Saddiq

Welcome

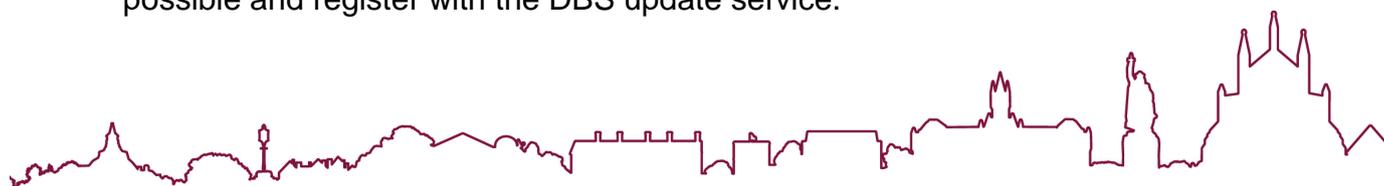
Claire welcomed the Forum members and apologised for January's meeting being re-scheduled at the last minute.

Claire informed members that Shamus Farooq would be joining the Forum as a City Private Hire Operator.

Taxi Plus – Enhanced DBS Consent

Carol advised members that a letter had been sent out requesting consent from all current drivers that were already registered for the DBS Update Service to permit DBS online 6 monthly checks. These checks are in line with amendments to the Statement of Licensing Policy (July 2022) which relate to recommendations made from the Department of Transport for National Standards. All Local Authorities are being asked to do this.

Carol explained to the group that all new driver and renewal application forms do contain permission for this. In response to a question, it was also confirmed that temporary driver licences will not be issued to drivers waiting for Enhanced DBS certificates. Therefore, drivers are recommended to apply for their DBS as soon as possible and register with the DBS update service.



The question was asked if the direct debit is not paid to the DBS Update Service, will the driver receive notification to enable them to pay, for example if they have a new bank card?

Action

Have asked Taxi Plus – Awaiting response.

Forum Members asked if we would email all drivers to notify them they are able to apply for their enhanced DBS and join the update service before their renewal date.

Action

All drivers were emailed on 2 February 2023.

TUK TUK Application

We have received an application to licence a TUK TUK as a private hire vehicle for weddings and special journeys and is likely to be seasonal.

Carol advised the group we have been looking at other Authorities that have licensed them to gain some knowledge on any problems they may have had. This will go before the Licensing Sub-Committee for decision. Safety standards and conditions will be formed. The licence will be bound by the company's business plan.

Safety was questioned by the forum members and the members were reassured by officers that they did not consider the vehicle would be a threat to the trade.

Action

Forum to be kept updated.

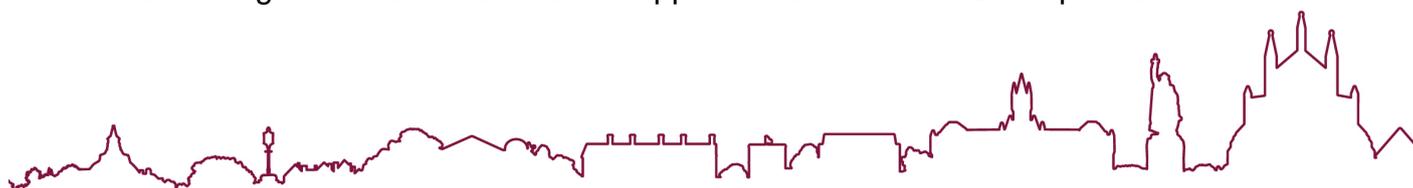
Euro 6 Vehicles

Imran Khan asked if all licensed vehicles that don't meet Euro 6 standard have been replaced. Carol explained the euro 6 compliance and that some manufacturers complied years before. We have a website that we can use to check and on checking the vehicles are Euro 6 compliant - www.hpi.co.uk/content/diesel-news-the-future-of-diesel/hpi-euro-emission-standards-checker/

Carol told the members if there are any vehicles they are concerned about to let us know and we will check.

Online Renewal Forms

Carol asked for feedback on the online forms. Winchester was ahead of the game by switching to online forms for some applications before the Covid pandemic. A lot of



other authorities are still not doing this. Imran Khan commented that it saves a lot of time.

The transfer of interest form is the last form to be added. Members will be updated when this is live.

Staff Update

Carol informed the group that Briony has left Winchester City Council. We are in the process of recruiting a new Licensing Officer. We are extremely busy at the moment and will be prioritising replacement vehicles and current drivers over new drivers.

Toilets

Anjum explained to us that drivers are struggling to find toilets to use after 10pm at night. Imran added that Briony had started the process of getting a key lock fitted to Worthy Lane toilets in which the code could be given to drivers.

Action

Carol/Claire to investigate further.

WhatsApp

Khurram asked if we would be able to have a WhatsApp group that we could advise drivers of road closures/notices. No personal information just general. Most drivers have access to WhatsApp on their phone rather than email.

Action

*Carol to investigate further.
A useful website for road closures is [one.network](#).*

Any other business

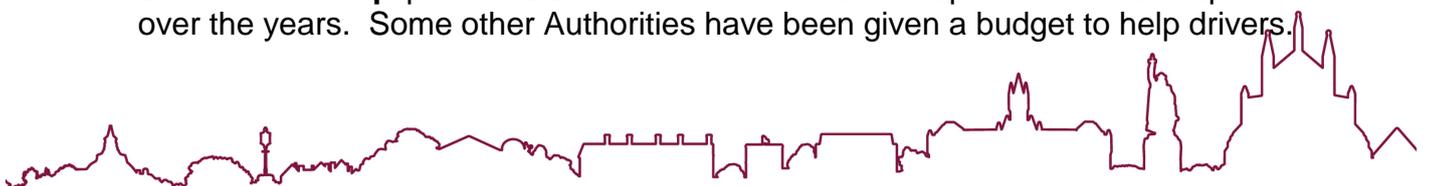
Imran Khan mentioned that there are still parking issues on the Jewry Street rank (outside Turtle Bay). Imran felt the yellow lines need to be re done and the signs bigger.

He said delivery people and cleaning companies are the worst...

Action

*To find out what time the Bid Rangers finish.
To find out from parking if images can be emailed to them for enforcement action or warnings.*

Shamus Farooq spoke of CCTV in all vehicles. Carol replied it has been spoken about over the years. Some other Authorities have been given a budget to help drivers.



To have this in policy, we would have to go through an impact assessment of the area, gaining crime statistics, attacks on drivers.

Drivers obtaining their own CCTV is permitted, however they must ensure they follow the laws relating to that. The Information Commissioner's Office have guidelines on their website that drivers can access - <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/sme-web-hub/whats-new/blogs/installing-cctv-things-you-need-to-do-first/>.

Shamus also mentioned the article in the Hampshire Chronicle regarding the revocation of a Winchester City Council Driver's Licence and asked if drivers could have be given basic information when these cases arise as a reminder of what they can and can't do.

