

Taxi & Private Hire Forum Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 1 August 2023

St Giles Room, City Offices – 14:00

Attended

Drivers/Operators	Winchester City Council
Anjum Ghyas Imran Khan Khurram Hussain Shamus Farooq	Carol Stefanczuk – Licensing Manager Claire Humphreys – Licensing Officer Kate Norris-Hill – Licensing Officer Nick Lindner – Licensing Officer

Apologies

Yaqoob Ali Saddiq
Marouane El Mamouni

Welcome

Carol welcomed the group and introduced the new Licensing Officers Kate and Nick. She explained an additional body of work has been passed to Licensing – Temporary Road Closures.

The forum members introduced themselves to the new members of staff.

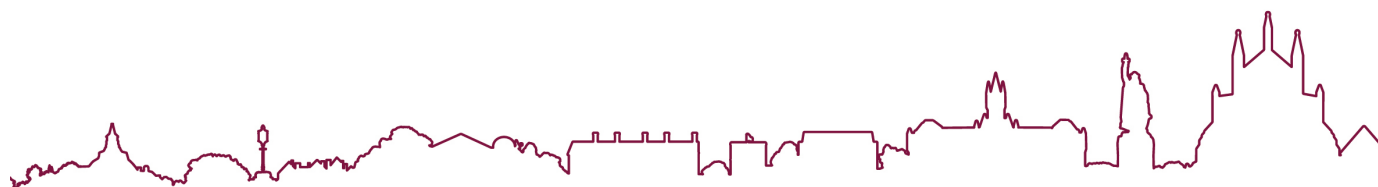
Boomtown

Carol advised the group that two emails had been sent out to drivers regarding Boomtown. One to Hackney Carriage Drivers and one to Private Hire Drivers.

She explained that the dynamics for the Winchester Railway Station had changed this year due the tree roots lifting up the pavement. There will be a safe crossing point added this year to ensure the general public can cross the road safely. The shuttle bus is the same system as it was last year.

Boomtown shuttlebus ticket holders will queue in normal area and the underpass will be used for overflow queuing.

Barriers will be put up by the side of the Wintax private hire pick up point to aid passengers forming a queue and for safety.



Carol confirmed another email with all the Boomtown gate information/road closure information will be sent out to all drivers.

All road closures, including A31 gap closures, for Boomtown are managed by HCC Highways under the Road Traffic Act.

Hackney Carriages – Winchester Railway Station Temporary Rank

Carol reminded the forum that all Hackney Carriage Vehicles should be facing in the direction of the traffic, as required by the Highway Code.

A Taxi Rank Banner will be put up, hopefully prior to Boomtown to show the general public where the rank has been moved to. This is purely due to customers complaints received.

At the moment the rank is a temporary rank. Once it becomes a permanent rank a sign will go up saying Taxi Rank.

Wintax Private Hire Pick Up Point

Carol advised the group that it is understood to be the responsibility of South Western Railing to remove the yellow lines and Taxi Rank wording as it is situated on their land.

Worthy Lane Toilets

The forum asked for an update on the keypad lock for the toilets at Worthy Lane.

Update

05/09/2023 – Estates have confirmed work has almost been completed.

Private Hire Driver Licences

Carol explained to the group how the knowledge test works for Private Hire Drivers. Those drivers who work predominately outside of the City centre are not required to undertake the knowledge test. This has been questioned by the Hackney Carriage Drivers with more Private Hire Drivers picking up from the Railway Station in Winchester from the Wintax pick-up point. Wintax use their system to allocate work only to Private Hire Drivers who can work in the City centre. Carol confirmed we are going to be double-checking permissions with Wintax and undertaking enforcement checks.

Taxi-Plus – Enhanced DBS Checks

Carol confirmed we are aware there has been a delay with Hampshire Police completing the last stage of checks before the Enhanced DBS certificates are issued. All drivers were emailed several times advising them they did not have to wait until their renewals were due to apply for their enhanced DBS certificates and register for the DBS Update Service.



For drivers who have lost earnings due to having to wait over 60 days for their certificates to arrive there is a procedure where they are able to raise a Hardship Escalation directly with the DBS. [can we add in contact details as an update?]

Date of next meeting – TBC (early December?)

