

**LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
2 JULY 2009**

**BRACKNELL LICENSED TAXI FORUM
(Chief Officer: Environment and Public Protection)**

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Since the last meeting of the Licensing and Safety Committee on 23 April 2009, there have been two meetings with representatives of the Bracknell Licensed Taxi Forum (BLTF), on 12 May and 26 June.

2 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting of 12 May are attached as Appendix A and the minutes of the meeting of 26 June will be tabled at the meeting.
- 2.2 Mr Watson and Mr Yexley currently own and drive hackney carriages in the Bracknell Forest borough, while Mr Hildreth represents the GMB Union, Professional Drivers Branch.

3 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 3.1 There are no implications arising from this report.

4 STRATEGIC RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 There are no strategic risk management implications arising from this report.

Background Papers

Minutes of meeting held 12 May

Minutes of meeting held 26 June

Contact for further information

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MINUTES

MEETING NAME: Bracknell Licensed Taxi Forum

MEETING DATE AND TIME: 10.30 hours Tuesday 12 May 2009

PRESENT: Laura Driscoll (LD)
Andy Watson (AW)
John Yexley (JY)
Niamh Kelly (NK)
Robert Sexton (RJS)

1.	<p>Apologies Mick Hildreth (MH) Cllr Marc Brunel-Walker (MBW)</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of last meeting BLTF have not yet supplied details of proposed usage re bus gates etc, so NM will be unable to report to the June meeting.</p> <p>LD reported back reference the issue of an operator running a business from home with a large aerial in his garden, and the situation with survey and plates in Reading.</p> <p>NK to arrange for MBW to visit ranks and operators.</p>	<p>BLTF</p> <p>NK</p>
3.	<p>Fares for wheelchair users LD has been looking into issue of the meter being started when a driver gets out to assist a wheelchair user into the vehicle. JY has been advised by his insurance company that he is not insured unless the meter is on. LD explained that it is clear within the Guidance that reasonable assistance should be provided at no extra charge, and there is potential for action under Disability Discrimination. LD to speak to Alan Woodward (JY's insurance broker and chairman of Oxford Taxi Association). JY believes there is an agreement at Oxford with the licensing authority on these grounds, LD to investigate. JY explained that there is not a problem with stopping for a few minutes on the rank but when picking someone up from a home address it can take up to half an hour. JY has offered to train those drivers who have not done the DSA wheelchair assessment in use of ramps etc. RJS would be happy to organise some training if the drivers feel it would be useful.</p>	<p>LD</p> <p>LD</p>

4.	<p>Progress on unmet demand survey Advert is in place reference the increase in the hackney carriage vehicle licence fee to £270, deadline for objections is 27 May and no objections received yet. LD and RJS have held initial meeting with TPI and they have been looking at position of ranks already.</p>	
5.	<p>First Aid Course LD explained that the current proposal is to invite drivers in by turn by licence number, starting in July. JY will be looking into possibility of Red Cross providing a suitable course and will update at June meeting.</p>	BLTF
6.	<p>Complaints against drivers BLTF enquired about the use of the new penalty points as the new version of the Guidance not yet sent to drivers. LD to email new version through to AW and JY, has been ready for a while and is with the Print Room, will be sent out as soon as ready. The full document is available on the website. The new penalty points scheme took effect from 1 April 2009 in accordance with the Committee decision. However it will be taken into consideration if anyone reaches the threshold for referral to a Panel hearing.</p>	
7.	<p>Train Station Redevelopment LD explained that not received notification yet of a firm date to commence the works. JY enquired as to whether there would be public toilet provision. LD to look into this.</p>	LD
8.	<p>Any other business Discussed a current issue with a refusal to extend age of vehicle, GMB are financing appeal and supporting the appellant. RJS explained that he requires written proof that the appeal has been lodged with the Court or the vehicle will be suspended from 24 May.</p> <p>BLTF have requested signage at bus station to prevent parking alongside rank by private hire vehicles. LD explained that will continue to monitor the area due to BLTF concerns, but there has been no evidence found to date of any illegal plying for hire.</p> <p>BLTF reported that the 'taxi' sign at the rank in Harmanswater has disappeared, LD to investigate.</p> <p>BLTF reported that some vehicles not displaying their plates, details to be supplied to NK for her to look into this.</p> <p>NK to chase John Oblein re driver safety leaflets.</p> <p>NK will try to arrange a couple of conflict management training for drivers for sometime in August.</p> <p>BLTF commented that it may be useful to have joint meetings with representatives from the private hire trade, NK to enquire with operators as to whether they would be interested in this.</p>	<p>BLTF</p> <p>LD</p> <p>BLTF</p> <p>NK</p> <p>NK</p> <p>NK</p>
9.	<p>Date of Next Meeting 10.30am on Friday 26 June 2009, in Time Square South Ground Floor Room 3 (by the old Environment Reception).</p>	

