

Brighton and Hove Hackney Carriage and Private Hire

Forum Minutes

The Council Chamber, Brighton Town Hall, Tuesday 14th July 2015

Meeting Commenced 13.30

Attendees:

(TN) Tim Nichols	(BHCC – Chair)
(MS) Martin Seymour	(BHCC)
(AT) Adam Turner	(BHCC – Minutes)
(JC) Jean Cranford	(BHCC)
(MM) Cllr Mo Marsh	(BHCC - Deputy Chair)
(SC) Simon Court	(BHCC)
(BH) Ben Heath	(Sussex Police)
(AC) Andy Cheesman	(City Cabs)
(MD) Mark Durrell	(B&H PHA)
(DS) Dave Smith	(Streamline)
(JF) Jeff Howell	(Streamline)
(JO) John Oram	(UNITE)
(AP) Andrew Peters	(GMB)
(RF) Ross Findlay	(BHCC)
(KA) Khalid Alsaadi	(Arab Taxi Association)
(IS) Ibrahim-Sami Saidaroos	(ITD)
(CN) Chris Nutley	(B & H Radio Cabs)
(TT) Tony Turner	(B & H Radio Cabs)
(SR) Sam Rose	(BHCC)

Item	Minute
1.	<p>Apologies:</p> <p>Saoirse Horan (BHCC Deputy Chair Licensing)</p> <p>Les Paine (UNITE)</p>
2.	<p>Minutes from last meeting</p> <p>All Forum members agreed minutes previous meeting</p>
3.	<p>Albion In The Community, Cancer Champions</p> <p>TBC for next meeting</p>

<p>4.</p>	<p>Traffic Management, Ranks, Brighton Station, Amex (Including Longridge Avenue)</p> <p>*No representative so agenda item postponed until next meeting (Jeff Elliott, BHCC)</p> <p>Ms – Agreed to take the following trade concerns to Jeff</p> <p>There is concern over the safety of the new light sequencing at Queen Square/Western Road. Pedestrians are finding it confusing as well as drivers.</p> <p>Access to Brighton Station / change to existing rank make access and feeder difficult. No rank at night or when the station is closed</p> <p>There are now no disabled parking bays near the front of Brighton Station</p> <p>Can highways look at making the layby in front of the Brighton Centre a taxi rank</p> <p>Replacement rank for over-ranking East Street as part of Valley Gardens changes</p> <p>Alternative feeder rank for East Street as part of Valley Gardens plan. (I'm not sure I understand what they want but I am meeting Tony Turner there to discuss)</p> <p>Can you confirm that the traffic modelling for Lewes Road, Brighton Gateway, Valley Gardens was only for Monday to Fridays and not weekends.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Sussex Police</p> <p>BH- Front office at John Street police station are dealing with a number of taxi drivers handing in lost property from their vehicles and asks the forum members / circuit owners to keep lost property in their offices for a short period then hand it into the John Street police station if unclaimed by the public.</p> <p>AC- outlines the lost property policy as outlined in the taxi blue handbook of driver's having a 48 hour time slot to hand in lost property to the authorities.</p> <p>TN – suggests the possibility of relaxing the byelaws regarding lost property and going with BH's suggestion but is a long process.</p> <p>AP- tells of an incident of a member of public losing an Apple iPhone and tracking it down via a 'Find my phone' application which resulted in the member of public locating the phone at Mr Peter's home and strongly suggests that all lost property within a taxi vehicle to be given to the police</p>

asap.

TT- Mentions a similar predicament to AP where one of his driver's was confronted with a member of the public at their home address which resulted in police intervention and seconds the notion that lost property to go directly to the police at John street station.

BH- will remind police counter staff to issue receipts for lost property handed in

BH- Tells of the Terminus road issue with noise and also noise created by taxi vehicle down Surrey street. BH asks the trade to bear in mind the number of residents that live around the vicinity of Brighton train station.

AC- tells forum of the space problems outside of the Brighton station area, especially with creating a rank on the bottom of Terminus road in relation local residents.

AC- suggests possibly closing the station rank permanently and creating ranks that are situated at the rear the station building.

IS – Tells of how problematic it is with the recent introduction of a bike lane in front of Brighton station. IS says it's an accident waiting to happen for a taxi driver, bus or pedestrian in that area.

JO- Explains how and AC have contributed a lot of time with managers of 'The Gateway Project' with trying to arrange rank spaces etc. to rectify this problem but recently the North Laine alliance has scuppered plans of this because they do not want the presence of Taxi vehicles in this area.

DS- Favours a permanent rank at Terminus road.

AC – mentions to the forum that there are no disabled pick up points outside of the station at present and this has become a safety issue after the revocation of the last disabled space.

MM- Favours the Brighton station rank (as a Taxi passenger) due to the convenience of the pick-up points that the rank offers and also for the best interest of disabled passengers.

MM- also points out that a rank that's placed locally to a residential area will always produce problems.

BH- Goes onto mention the issues of over ranking on Friday and Saturday evening on the A259 that situates outside a certain restaurant in a popular part of Brighton. From this, safety concerns have been raised for drivers and pedestrians in that area.

AC- wants to reinstate Brighton centre layby for taxis vehicle because it is currently not be used for anything else as the buses no longer use it.

	<p>AP– refers to a couple of forum meetings previously that it was suggested to Sussex police that cones should to be placed on the road to prevent parking in the problem areas to make enforcement easier.</p> <p>AP- suggests that 20mph to be introduced to the A259.</p> <p>TT- Gives praise to Sussex Police for their work with West Street especially with the increase of popularity with that area of Brighton has increased over the last couple of years.</p> <p>JO- Illustrates that the East street / bottom of west street areas of Brighton are where the most popular / visited clubs are situated and the Forum should work together to establish a space to resolve the over ranking issue and to save the police issuing tickets to drivers.</p> <p>CN – Suggests Pool Valley area to use.</p> <p>TN – agrees with CN as possible areas to use.</p> <p>BH- To raise with head doormen / security at their next meeting about parking on the ranks and pavements.</p> <p>BH goes on to show his appreciation to TT and the others for all their help with assisting Sussex police.</p> <p>CN – Explains on how drivers are being ticketed outside of Falmer station for pre booked jobs and asks BH why this is.</p> <p>AC – explains that Sussex police deem that pick up area to be dangerous and gives the reason to why drivers are being ticketed.</p> <p>MM- Wants to find out more to what the reason is behind drivers being ticketed in area and mentions that as a councillor it's part of her ward and needs to discuss further in relation to disabled passengers.</p> <p>CN – Asks BH to discuss with Sussex police that it would be appreciated that Police would just wave taxi drivers on rather than issuing tickets.</p>
6.	<p>Clean Vehicle Technology</p> <p>SR- The retro fit mini buses to be in operation soon. 3 vehicles will be out of service for 2 weeks at a time for the refits to take place.</p> <p>AC- States that there will be nearly zero emissions after the refits to the taxi vehicles and will be a very beneficial process.</p> <p>TN- Gives his thanks to AC for his patience and contribution in his efforts to sort the clean vehicle technology</p> <p>SR- Says this will be all worth it in the end and will propose other possible</p>

	<p>grants in other clean technologies. SR admits the technologies refit are expensive but reiterates the benefits</p> <p>AP – Asks how much these refits are costing?</p> <p>SR – £9k per vehicle</p> <p>AC – Explains that this process will set a standard for the city and other cities in the country of what this new clean technology can achieve.</p>
7.	<p>Child Safeguarding (Streamline)</p> <p>SC- Explains that the blue book is under review and will deal with this Issue but will be subject to consultation. A second draft of material for drivers and operators is in preparation.</p> <p>SC goes on to say thank you to forum members for all their help and positive response.</p>
8.	<p>Uber</p> <p>SC- Explains that the Local authority notes the level of concern being raised and goes on to say that The local authority has to be neutral and cannot express any views and does not mean that the decision has already been made in favour or against Uber. To avoid any legal challenge the council cannot have pre-determined views on the issues.</p> <p>The application is currently dormant while we await replies from Uber. At the moment there are a number of outstanding issues. There have been some recent issues about things like Insurance which need to be addressed.</p> <p>Due to various factors we have decided that this should be decided not by an officer but by committee (sub-committee).</p> <p>SC- Raised the fact that deregulation is nearly upon us. This would allow the operators to set up in adjacent or nearby authorities and then operate in Brighton & Hove. If this were to occur then we would not be able to regulate their licences or drivers within Brighton and Hove. I queried therefore that it was better to have them within Brighton and Hove and operating in line with other licenced providers.</p>
9.	<p>East Street (Streamline)</p> <p>TT- Says that he has a solution for the East Street rank problem by creating a rank in the lane of Old Steine which will create space and would be accessible for taxis around the Old Steine and will alleviate the issue of the East street rank closure.</p> <p>TT also requests MS to go down there with him to have a look and to consider his idea.</p> <p>AC- The work will commence soon by East Street and the closure of half the rank will be up to 12 months.</p> <p>MS- Has told the contractor that members would object to this closure of</p>

	the rank																																								
10.	<p>Hackney Carriage Unmet Demand Survey</p> <p>MM- Results from the survey will be put to committee in November AP- Raised his concerns about the unmet demand survey with the inclusion of Private Hire Operators in the survey. Also mentions the inclusion of Secret Shopper calling to operators. MS – Explains the inclusion of private hire operators in the survey was essential because it affects all operators and all vehicles involved and in conclusion, the results of the survey can be put to committee and it can create change within the trade. TN- Stated that the report to committee will make it clear that the survey of operators should not affect the results of unmet demand. TN – Asks forum members who run circuits etc. to report drivers who refuse disabled fares to report it in to the Hackney Carriage Office.</p>																																								
11.	<p>Approved Testing Garages (Streamline)</p> <p>JH- Asked MS for the approval of 2 garages in west Hove for approval TN- Asks on how we can justify not accepting new testing garages for taxi vehicles ? MS- Explains that garages have to have extensive knowledge of our requirements for taxi vehicles. The council holds a licence to test vehicles by compliance testing so has to ensure that a garage is suitable to test on its behalf.</p> <p>TN- Asks Forum members to think on how many approved garages there should be and to revisit in next Forum meeting.</p> <p>AC- Suggests that garages should be placed evenly across Brighton and Hove for convenience of drivers etc.</p>																																								
12.	<p>Enforcement</p> <p>MS- since the last meeting</p> <p>Refused 1 new driver on safeguarding grounds 1 driver a warning for assault by beating and theft in dwelling 5 drivers suspended on medical grounds</p> <p>MS- provided some stats to the meeting</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Applications Received</th> <th>April</th> <th>May</th> <th>June</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>HCFA</td> <td>11</td> <td>10</td> <td>5</td> <td>26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HCDL</td> <td>94</td> <td>94</td> <td>116</td> <td>304</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HCVL</td> <td>49</td> <td>58</td> <td>70</td> <td>177</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PHDL</td> <td>49</td> <td>42</td> <td>56</td> <td>147</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PHOL 1-2</td> <td>7</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PHOP Over 2</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PHVL</td> <td>41</td> <td>35</td> <td>44</td> <td>120</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Applications Received	April	May	June	Total	HCFA	11	10	5	26	HCDL	94	94	116	304	HCVL	49	58	70	177	PHDL	49	42	56	147	PHOL 1-2	7	6	7	20	PHOP Over 2	0	1	0	1	PHVL	41	35	44	120
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Total Received	251	246	298	795
Last year	249	269	300	818
% +/-	1	-9	-1	-3

Licences Current	April	May	June
HCDL	1170	1170	1170
HCVL	555	555	560
PHDL	593	594	587
PHOL 1-2	58	58	50
PHOL over 2	7	7	8
PHVL	452	451	461
HCVL WAV	220	222	227
% WAV	40%	40%	41%
Rear loader Wav	88	86	89
% Rear loader Wav	40%	39%	39%
PHVL WAV	52	53	55
% WAV	12%	12%	12%

Service Requests	April	May	June	Total
	0	0	0	0
	7	3	11	21
	4	4	8	16
	0	2	2	4
	10	6	15	31
	3	3	6	12
Total	24	18	42	84
Last year	17	22	27	66
% +/-	41	-18	56	27

Enforcement Type	April	May	June	Total
HCDL	175	188	161	524
HCFA	11	12	8	31
HCMED	27	32	27	86
HCVL	74	123	75	272
PHDL	32	40	34	106
PHOL 1-2	3	1	1	5
PHOP Over 2	0	0	0	0
PHVL	16	29	26	71
Total	147	208	145	500

Knowledge Tests	April	May	June	Total	Total + % +/-
Btn Fail	4	10	1	15	55
Btn Pass	5	9	4	18	33
Hove Fail	0	0	2	2	86
Hove Pass	1	5	6	12	14
Route Fail	2	0	2	4	83
Route Pass	9	3	8	20	24
Total Tests Completed	21	27	23	71	

Last year	26	26	20	72
% +/-	-19	4	15	-1

DVLA + DBS Checks	April	May	June
DBS Checks	68	66	71
DVLA Checks	140	124	125

MS- Requested that members using the rank in Terminus Road do not sound their horns, play loud music shout or cause a nuisance to the residents in Terminus Road. Members were also asked not to do 3 point turns in the road.

MS- Bilking Stickers have been printed and will be issued at licensing

MD- Expresses his concern on the number of taxi vehicles carrying buggies with children inside of them whilst travelling. MD refers to section 40A of the 1988 Road Traffic in relation to this.

AP- suggest taxi vehicles displaying a sticker to convey 'No Buggies'
 TN-Asks forum members to make this sticker possible and report progress in next forum meeting.

13.

Blue Book

AP asks about the suggestions he made in the last forum meeting in regards to operators in the blue book changes.
 MS- The suggestions previously agreed at forum have been included in the draft version

14.

Deregulation Bill

AC- Reads email from Caroline Lucas in regards to Uber and mentioned meetings that have recently took place and also points of the Enterprise bill. AC was unaware of these meeting and the bill mentioned nor does forum meetings.

MD- Asks if there are going to be either 1 year or 3 year licences?

MS- Replies that the council are considering keeping to 1 year licence renewals but are waiting on the guidance to be issued by the Government.

.15.

Health Incentives for Taxi drivers – (Ross Findlay BHCC)

Last year RF undertook a project for his degree, this was based on the health of taxi drivers. Undertaking this work highlighted that the licensing office spends a lot of time assessing fitness standards, but we could increase our efforts to actually encourage and help drivers improve their health.

There are lots of risks in being a taxi driver, stress, diet choices but in particular the sedentary nature.

MS explained during the forum there were 5 suspensions/revocations for medical reasons recently. RF highlighted that this demonstrates that there are too many cases where we have had to suspend or revoke driver's licences for medical reasons and it's something we would prefer to avoid. RF would like the taxi licensing office to work with operators, drivers to begin to think about how to develop some health initiatives to support improving health amongst drivers. Any suggestions or ideas are welcome. RF will continue to investigate and report back to the forum. Initial enquiries so far have included;

- The leaflets attached to the forum minutes provide information on Free NHS Health checks in English, Arabic, and Farsi. i.e. a Health MoT
- The majority (if not all) of the council's sport buildings like King Alfred, Prince Regent or Withdean are now run by Freedom Leisure, Ross has contacted the company regarding any possible Subsidised or corporate gym memberships that may be available.
- The council also has a Sports Development team, RF has contacted them regarding the potential of organising something specifically for taxi drivers, RF has a meeting regarding this next week with the health walks manager.
- Some of the Licensing officers are undertaking in-house council training on health awareness; this should help the officers to provide basic advice or signpost to specialist services.

There was a short discussion on this and how we could also get drivers to stop smoking. The forum remembered that a few years ago the forum was visited by a stop smoking specialist and many drivers successfully stopped smoking using the vaporisers.

DS advised he had a friend who sells these who may be able to offer a discount. Ross will research if there is a stop smoking specialist and seek advice.

Recent evidence has suggested that even if recommended physical activity levels are met, i.e. going to the gym everyday, sedentary behaviour can still result in poorer health outcomes.

My project found that a lot of other authorities have aimed health initiatives at taxi drivers, examples of these projects include;
Other LA Approaches

The 'Colin the Cabbie' Sefton intervention aimed to improve taxi drivers lifestyles by encouraging them to improve their diet, level of exercise and to stop smoking (Occupational health, 2008). The approach entailed a combination of approaches that included the distribution of educational lifestyle brochures, stop smoking postcards, free and reduced rate gym membership and healthy cooking lessons. Similarly to the Sheffield project a number of drivers were also involved, they were trained as mentors enabling them to provide advice to other drivers and the public.

	<p>CABS A project undertaken in Sheffield (CLAHRC for South Yorkshire, 2011) aimed to tackle health inequalities related to South Asian men and the higher rates of coronary heart disease, stroke and diabetes amongst them. The intervention entailed engaging with local taxi drivers who had accepted there was a problem who agreed to tackle the problem together. These drivers were provided with a 2 day training course on CHD for them to become 'health champions'. Drivers were then able to deliver health messages to their communities, other taxi drivers and their families.</p> <p>TAXI! Walsall An interesting and what appears a unique intervention towards taxi drivers was undertaken in Walsall. The project known as 'TAXI!' (Local Government Association, 2011) used social marketing to engage men to review their lifestyles and encourage them to make positive changes.</p> <p>Health MOTs - A health MOT is a form of brief intervention that involves a general health check that is often a drop in service that allows people to undertake health tests and receive lifestyle advice. The tests include areas such as checks on blood pressure, carbon monoxide, cholesterol, BMI and assessing if they are at risk of related diseases. The benefit of health MOTs is that results can be given on the spot, and early signs of diseases such as heart disease or diabetes can be identified.</p>
16.	<p>Items for next meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Albion In The Community Cancer Champions (TBC) • Traffic Management, Ranks, Brighton Station, Amex • Sussex Police • Child Safeguarding (Streamline) • Uber • Hackney Carriage Unmet Demand Survey • Enforcement • Blue Book • Deregulation Bill • Health Incentives for Taxi Drivers
14	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>2nd September 2015</p>