

## Brighton and Hove Hackney Carriage and Private Hire

### Forum Minutes

Meeting in The Ballroom, King Alfred Leisure Centre, Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2015

Meeting Commenced 1400

#### Attendees:

(TN) Tim Nichols	(BHCC – Chair)
(JC) Jean Cranford	(BHCC)
(MS) Martin Seymour	(BHCC)
(AT) Adam Turner	(BHCC – Minutes)
(MB) Mark Bowen	(Brighton & Hove Buses)
(JH) Jeff Howell	(Streamline Taxis)
(JS) John Streeter	(Streamline Taxis)
(GH) George Hakim	(Sudanese Taxi Forum)
(JS) Jon Smith	(GMB)
(BH) Ben Heath	(Sussex Police)
(AC) Andrew Cheesman	(City Cabs)
(MD) Mark Durrell	(B&H PHA)
(SS) Shafiq Shakir	(Cab Express)
(KA) Khalid Alsaadi	(Arab Taxi Association)
(SA) S. Ahmadi	(Arab Taxi Association)
(MA) Mohammed Albayyouk	(Arab Taxi Association)
(JE) Jeff Elliott	(BHCC)
(TT) Tony Turner	(Radio Cabs)

Item	Minute
1.	<p><b>Apologies:</b></p> <p>Councillor Stephanie Powell (BHCC)            Andy Peters (GMB)            John Oram (UNITE)            Robin Pickett (The FED)            Ibrahim-Sami Saidaroos (Independent)            Shah Mahmoud            Roy Apps – Sussex Police            Dervish Bayram – Fare Increase</p>

2.	<p><b>Minutes from last meeting</b></p> <p>Agreed</p>
3.	<p><b>Sussex Police</b></p> <p>BH – Gave apologies on behalf of Roy Apps and is representative of Sussex Police for this forum meeting. BH recaps on New Year’s operations within the city by saying it went well.</p> <p>AC- Queries about the non-payment signs to be put into Taxi vehicles and if any progress is being made.</p> <p>MS- explained that this is still in progress and will give information out once he has heard something.</p> <p>MD – Explained that he is waiting upon the graphics for the signs to be confirmed by Sussex Police and B+H Council to use their logos.</p> <p>MS and BH to chase this up.</p> <p>SA- Brought up an incident that involved a customer not paying the full amount for a Taxi journey to BH and wanted advice from Sussex Police and the Forum attendees what the best course of action is when this situation occurs.</p> <p>TT- It is classed as theft and should be reported to the police and provide as much information about the passenger. BH agreed this is the best course of action. AC suggested that an estimation of mileage for the journey and from that to give a set fare to the customer and take payment before journey to avoid such incident.</p> <p>MD –Praised Sussex Police for their quick response after a recent incident that involved a knife attack</p> <p>MD- Mentioned that one of his drivers took a picture of the new Pick up / drop off times issued by parking and will email MS and TN a copy.</p> <p>KA- Thanks to Sussex Police for all their help in 2014 and tells BH his recent issues with cyclists and asks how cyclists in our city can change their behaviour / attitudes whilst on the roads. BH replied that he will mention this to policing units to keep an eye out for this issue.</p> <p>JS – explained the frequent disputes that Streamline drivers have with cyclists in the Brighton and Hove area, especially when cyclists use specialist solicitors against drivers if an incident does occur. JS feels that taxi drivers are becoming</p>

	<p>victimised by this and would like Sussex Police to be more involved with enforcement regarding cyclists.</p> <p>BH replied by suggesting to report any incident involving a Taxi and cyclist to the Police so they are covered and to collate evidence if the matter is taken further. Such information would be allocated to the relevant department to handle the matter.</p> <p>AC – Mentioned an incident involving a cyclist and one of his drivers and explained how they went straight to the data controller of the CCTV footage to obtain evidence. MS and Becca Mcmenamin (Licensing Enforcement Officer for HCO) investigated the matter and it showed the supposed victim (cyclist) giving verbal abuse to the taxi driver. AC explained that CCTV is key and should be immediately obtained after any incident/ accident.</p> <p>TN – Pointed out that the Transport Officer is not present in the meeting and would like for representation from that department to attend the next Forum to discuss the cyclist matter.</p>
4.	<p><b>Enforcement (Martin Seymour)</b></p> <p><b>6 warnings to driver</b></p> <p><b>1 Licence Refusal</b></p> <p><b>Now 41% HC Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles (37% Rear Loaders)</b></p> <p><b>17 Drivers passed the Routes Test</b></p> <p><b>71 Service Requests (Enforcement, complaints etc, which is down by 25% from last year)</b></p> <p>SA- Mentioned that refusal of journeys at ranks are happening quite frequently.</p> <p>TN- Responded by saying, in a nutshell, take the Taxi plate number and report it to the Hackney Carriage Office. By refusing a taxi journey at a rank breaks Bye Law Regulations.</p> <p>MB- Suggested to get another local authority to enforce such situations so they have an unbiased advantage.</p> <p>MD –This was discussed in last year’s meetings and was not agreed .</p>

5.	<p><b>Rep for Rugby World Cup meeting (3<sup>rd</sup> Feb)</b></p> <p>MS- Rugby World Cup will be happening at the Amex stadium and wants to sort out Travel representatives on behalf of the Taxi trade. MS will be representing BHCC.</p> <p>AC- Nominated himself to represent the TRADE – <i>Forum agreed</i></p>
6.	<p><b>Clean Vehicle Technology</b></p> <p>AC- £195,000 has been granted and 60% of that has been paid to the ‘Green Urban’ company. The cost per car to include the new clean vehicle tech is roughly £6,000 per car and there are going to be an estimated 25 cars to be converted. Each of those 25 possible vehicles will be taken out of commission for 2 week duration so the new equipment can be fitted.</p> <p>TN- Acknowledged the difficulties that AC has endured to get this application to function and the time it has taken. TN explained that this whole Clean Vehicle Technology is an experiment and hopefully will work and will cut costs for the future.</p> <p>AC – 12 Radio Cabs cars are currently involved with the process and 13 City Cabs cars are currently in the process of being converted.</p>
7.	<p><b>Deregulation Bill / Law Commission</b></p> <p>MS- Doubts that this will be passed in the time remaining of this Parliament and JS said that Lords were adding as many amendments as possible to slow it down. Even if passed the taxi sections may not be enacted.</p>
8.	<p><b>Valley Gardens</b></p> <p>TN- There is no representation for the Valley Gardens agenda item for this meeting, but Jim Mayor wants this item recorded and emailed to him for feedback.</p> <p>JS – mentioned that he has come up with a collaborative plan with St Peters that can be good for the trade.</p> <p>TT – Concurred with JS on this.</p> <p>AC- The plan for Valley Gardens are in doubt due to £2 million of funding has</p>

	<p>been pulled out of the scheme (<i>AC Showed TN News article on the above mentioned</i>)</p> <p>JS- GMB does not support the Valley Gardens scheme due to the current state of the area regarding traffic etc.</p> <p>JS- JS, TT and AC represented the trade at a recent meeting regarding the proposed and they agreed that the plan should be scrapped.</p> <p>The trade were supportive of the proposals for the rank changes at St Peter's if the plan went ahead but they were against the Valley Garden scheme as a whole.</p>
9.	<p><b>Traffic Management, Ranks, Brighton Station, Amex</b></p> <p>JE- Meetings recently attended concerning traffic with the new city schemes that will be soon put into place and admitted they will be quite problematic.</p> <p>AC – Mentioned the introduction of the Park and Ride scheme and possible plans to go ahead with it due to finding a location outside of Brighton.</p> <p>AC- Also brought up the cyclist issue that was mentioned before to JE in regards to the contra flow on Queens Road.</p> <p>JE- Scheme will be done in regards to Brighton station and the current traffic scenario going on with it. This should ease, especially with the constant queuing of Buses, Taxis etc in that area.</p> <p>TT – Questioned to why the Bus lane at the bottom of Church street is closed?</p> <p>JE- He will enquire about this but has no knowledge to why it is closed.</p> <p>MD – Asked about the works on the Seafront.</p> <p>JE –Hopefully work will be completed by the end of January.</p> <p>TT- The Lewes Road rank - he has had no reply from Dave Parker about the progress of this.</p> <p>MS – Suggests that Dave Parker attends the next Forum meeting to discuss this with the trade.</p> <p>TN – Will ask Dave Parker for his attendance.</p>

10.	<p><b>Fares</b></p> <p>MS – Meeting with Chair involving TN, Jean Cranford, John Oram and Dervish Bayram. The change will take place on Tariffs one and two (proposed in last forum meeting) to go up by 20 pence.</p> <p>TN – Last licensing committee of this administration will happen in March 2015. If there is any objection to the proposed fare plan, it is unlikely that a Committee meeting can be held and therefore the change will not happen. It is suggested by TN that no objections to be given.</p> <p>JS- Fare change should have happened earlier when the 20 pence increase could have benefitted taxi drivers over the year</p> <p>MS – Stressed his concern how the report will be reported in the Argus with the recent falls in fuel prices.</p>
11.	<p><b>Revocations and Suspensions (Streamline)</b></p> <p>JS- Brought up the matter and did not want to relate it to any particular incident, but himself and his company would like to know the definitive processes BHCC has for suspensions and revocations. <i>(20 questions emailed to TN asking of these processes)</i></p> <p>TN- Reassured JS that these questions will be answered and explained the processes put into place for revocations and suspensions change from time to time. TN suggested for the mean time that JS refer to the Blue Taxi handbook for what we have in place for the said processes.</p>
12.	<p><b>Health Incentive for Taxi Driver (Gym Memberships etc)</b></p> <p>KA – Wants a healthy taxi driver program to be put in place that might include a corporate discount for gym memberships, health clubs etc as an incentive to taxi drivers to keep fit and healthy.</p> <p>JH - Suggested to KA to look for a gym that takes on multiple person membership for a discount.</p> <p>TN - Read out to the forum a memo from Ross Findlay (Licensing Enforcement Officer for the Hackney Carriage Office) from his academic work in regards to fitness standards that are carried out by the HCO medicals that outline age, fitness etc.</p> <p>TN to invite Ross Findlay to the next Forum meeting to discuss his health questionnaire work he has recently carried out.</p> <p>MD –The introduction of vapour cigarettes has made a dramatic change to Taxi Drivers who used to smoke regular cigarettes and finds that a lot of drivers have</p>

	now quit regular tobacco smoking.
13.	<b>Items for next Meeting –</b>  <b>1- Valley Gardens to report back</b> <b>2- Committee meeting report</b> <b>3- Deregulation bill</b> <b>4- Taxi Ranks</b> <b>5- Fares</b> <b>6- Clean Vehicle Technology</b> <b>7- Health Incentives for Taxi drivers (Gym memberships etc)</b>
14.	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING –</b>  17 <sup>th</sup> March 2015 – Brighton Town Hall 1pm to 3pm