

# Drivers and Operators Forum

Chair: Lorna Hudson

Correspondence: Regulatory Section (Licensing), Riverside House, Milverton Hill, Royal Leamington Spa, CV32 5HZ

Minutes: Meeting – 14<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at Riverside House

		Action
1.	<p>ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES.</p> <p><b>Present:</b> Lorna Hudson, Rachael Russell, Kathleen Rose, PCSO Martin-Cortez, Afsin Ozeker, Stuart Racher, Paul Tunney, Alan Lewis, Ahmed Rafiq</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> Berni Allen, PC Lund, Simon Brook, Phil Court, Majid Ali, Amrit Sidhu</p>	
2.	<p>PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES</p> <p>Agreed</p>	
3.	<p>UNMET DEMAND SURVEY UPDATE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The end date for the public consultation regarding the survey has now passed and Licensing received the data this week. There were 116 responses. Once these responses have been analysed then a report regarding the Unmet Demand Survey will be going to the Licensing and Regulatory Committee in September with it then going to Full Executive in November. AR asked if drivers could attend the Council meetings. LH advised that as it would be a public meeting they could attend.</li> <li>Licensing will get some basic information on website regarding public consultation results.</li> </ul>	
4.	<p>LARGE DRIVER BADGES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Badges have been made up for members of the forum and additional drivers for the PHO. KR explained that the badge will belong to the driver who will be responsible for making sure that it is displayed in the vehicle they are driving.</li> <li>Discussions took place as to whether the name could be placed on the front of the badge underneath the photograph. KR explained that the most important element of the badge was to be able to see that the photograph matches the driver. Could possibly remove the 'WDC' part of the driver number to only leave a three digit number to make it more clear.</li> <li>Badges will be trialled over the next few months before rolling out to all drivers in September, it is then envisaged that these badges will be enforced by Licensing Officers from October onwards.</li> </ul>	
5.	<p>RESULTS OF FLEET INSPECTIONS AND ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fleet inspections in March and June went well with overall compliance at 86%</li> <li>In April Warwickshire Police produced A5 size Licence Holder Conduct Scheme leaflets in order to issues conduct points on behalf of Licensing. This was due to ongoing concerns from Warwickshire Police that drivers were undertaking dangerous practices such as parking at junctions and parking facing</li> </ul>	

	<p>oncoming traffic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any points issued would then be passed onto the Licensing department for consideration.</li> <li>• Licensing Enforcement Officers also undertook some joint enforcement with Warwickshire Police in April.</li> <li>• Since then Warwickshire Police have been pleased with the improvements and hope this continues.</li> <li>• Licensing Enforcement Officers have seen an improvement in drivers making sure they are wearing their badges, parking sensibly. Appreciate that the ranks are oversubscribed at times but it is not a reason to park dangerously.</li> </ul>	
6.	<p><b>PRIVATE HIRE ONLY BADGES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PT produced a letter in agreement with Castle Cars, Fourways and Brookline regarding the concerns over the lack of PH drivers in the area. Proposal that by separating the dual badge would mean new applicants would not have to take such a detailed knowledge test and therefore applicant numbers would increase.</li> <li>• KR stated that 80% of applicants in the last 12 months had passed the knowledge test. An additional 12% of applicants failed the application process for other reasons.</li> <li>• LH stated that full consideration will be given to the letter provided and feedback in due course.</li> <li>• AL of Unite Union felt that the separation of the drivers badge may result in making a Hackney Carriage drivers badge even less desirable and could have a detrimental effect on the HC trade.</li> <li>• In the meantime AL of Unite Union encouraged drivers and operators to work together and join a Union.</li> </ul>	
7.	<p><b>LEGAL UPDATE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LH informed the forum that there is currently work surrounding air quality and emissions. There will potentially be something filtering down regarding vehicle emissions. LH has put forward report to members regarding our current vehicle status. Will keep forum updated.</li> </ul>	
8.	<p><b>AOB FOR NEXT MEETING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University drop off</li> <li>• Novelty vehicles.</li> </ul>	