

Drivers and Operators Forum

Chair: Kathleen Rose

Correspondence: Regulatory Section (Licensing), Riverside House, Milverton Hill, Royal Leamington Spa, CV32 5HZ
 Minutes: Meeting – 4th May 2018 at Riverside House

		Action
1.	<p>ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES.</p> <p>Present: Kathleen Rose, Rachael Russell, PCSO Mansell, Afsin Ozeker, Paul Tunney, Ahmed Rafiq, Amrit Sidhu, Phil Court, Majid Ali, Chand Mubarak, Simon Brook.</p> <p>Apologies: Alan Lewis, Pritpal Bains</p>	
2.	<p>PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES</p> <p>Agreed</p>	
3.	<p>UNMET DEMAND SURVEY UPDATE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AR commented that a lot of drivers felt aggrieved that they have spent money on the survey and feel like their views were largely ignored. KR explained that the report sent to L&R was very open and that L&R decided to make their own recommendation before sending onto Executive. Also stated that LH was approached by several drivers who stated that they wished a cap not to be put in place as they did not want to have to pay ongoing fees. AR stated that drivers feel there is a political agenda and that the Deregulation Act 2015 has undermined the trade. There will not be another unmet demand survey for the foreseeable future. <p>FEE SETTING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KR feels that the fee setting guidance provided to us is not helpful where there are differences in the length of time that a licence will last. However, it is guidance, and we feel that we can probably manage the process more fairly by calculating the fees on the total number of licenced vehicles not on the number of applications received in the year. Looking at having a six month fee for a six month licence. 	
4.	<p>UBER/ENFORCEMENT UPDATE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforcement since April 2017; • Complaints from Uber drivers regarding WDC drivers/vehicles - 6 • Complaints from WDC drivers regarding Uber drivers/vehicles – 9 • The majority of complaints from WDC drivers are regarding Uber vehicles parked in HC ranks. • The majority of complaints from Uber drivers are regarding behaviour of WDC drivers such as arguing and swearing. • Many general enquiries regarding Uber parking up and plying 	

	<p>for hire. – parking legally and waiting for a booking to come through via the app is not plying for hire and this has been determined in Court.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you have any issues/complaints photographic evidence is useful. A photograph of an Uber vehicle not displaying any plates was sent to Licensing in April and this was forwarded to Uber and the relevant Local Authority. Uber then took the driver off the app with immediate affect due to noncompliance. • Licensing have spoken to PC East of Warwickshire Police regarding dangerous driving/parking of some Uber vehicles. Stated he will issue tickets if he witnesses any dangerous behaviour. • LH met with Cllr Thompson (Portfolio Holder) and three HC drivers with regards to Uber. She then met with MP Matt Western on 23rd February regarding the concerns drivers have regarding Uber. MP took on board our concerns and is planning to write to the Minister and push for the matter to be made a priority. Matt Western is in communication with counterpart in Wolverhampton (MP Elanor Smith) and is seeking collaboration with her. • Wolverhampton Enforcement Officers came out with WDC officers on 6th March which was a very useful operation. One suspension and several vehicles were pulled up for noncompliance. Wolverhampton stated they wanted to come out and work with us again, possibly when the Warwick Uni students are back in October. 	
6.	<p>KNOWLEDGE TEST UPDATE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been some delay but this is going to be discussed at the Licensing and Regulatory Committee on 29th May 2018. Knowledge test will be implemented from 1st August 2018. 	
7.	<p>TAXI RANKS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposing to remove Bedford Street rank now Rios has closed and to remove the rank on Warwick Street outside Boots as it is rarely used by taxis. Forum asked if this rank could remain. KR said we would monitor the use of the rank as there are usually only private vehicles parked there or licenced drivers using it as parking as opposed to a taxi rank. WDC will be formally readopting all ranks in the District. Once this is done WCC parking enforcement officers will come out with Licensing to enforce any illegal parking in the ranks. 	
8.	<p>VEHICLE CONDITIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MA suggested that we should change transfer of vehicle age from 5 years to 10 years. KR spoke about emissions and how this is going to affect our vehicle conditions going forward over the next few years. • MA also asked if older vehicles could be replaced with electric vehicles. Electric vehicles will be considered and investigated going forward alongside our age policy regarding vehicles. KR will update EU vehicle figures for emissions and send out 	

	figures to the forum.	
9.	<p>INSURANCE CERTIFICATES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RR reiterated how important it is that the Licensing department are aware of who is driving what vehicles. There have been several incidents recently where drivers who have had their badges revoked have continued to drive. If Licensing don't know which vehicle they are driving then they cannot tell the vehicle owner. Police were also requesting information on vehicle drivers and it became apparent that Licensing did not have up to date insurance certificates. Points will be issued under the LHCS if Licensing are not kept up to date. 	
10.	<p>TAXI MARSHALL UPDATE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Safety have made the decision to stop using the Taxi Marshalls for the time being. This decision may be reviewed in the future. 	
11.	<p>DATABASE OF REVOCATIONS AND REFUSALS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A national register will be going live within the next few months. This register will be able to highlight drivers who have had their licences revoked in one area and then applied in another area. 	
12.	<p>AOB FOR NEXT MEETING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Driving Licence Mandate checks and DVLA check codes Request that next forum meeting is not on a Friday and is after 11am for those that work nights. Future policy reviews. 	