

PRESTON TAXI TRADES LIAISON MEETING 5 February 2020

Present:

Daren Ireland – RMT North West
Zafar Iqbal – RMT Preston Taxi Drivers Branch
Mohammad Ayub - RMT Preston Taxi Drivers Branch
Dave Lowe - Senior Licensing Technician, Preston City Council
David Johnson – Senior Licensing Technician, Preston City Council

Rachel Stringfellow – Policy and Research Officer, Preston City Council
Dave Hollings - Co-operative and Mutual Solutions Limited

Apologies for absence:

Mike Thorpe – Licensing Manager, Preston City Council

Minutes from Last Meeting

The minutes from the liaison meeting held on 9 October 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

Co-Operatives UK

Dave Hollings from Co-operative and Mutual Solutions Limited came in to give a presentation on setting up a Co-operative business. This followed an expression of interest from the Hackney Carriage trade to set up a private hire operation to enable them to access more white ticket work from the rail operators.

DH explained that a co-operative is owned and controlled by its members and exists for the benefit of its members. It is democratic- every member of a co-op has a vote and has an equal say in how it is run. Every member contributes in some way from buying products, working, volunteering or investing in it and has a say in how resources are used and how its profits are distributed.

The IT department at UCLan have just set up a Co-Operative and it was suggested by RS that they may be able to help set up a mobile app. RS to set up a meeting between the trade and UCLan.

DH also explained that Drive Co-Operative Taxis has been set up in Cardiff, developed with GMB support and their contact is Paul O'Hara at cardifftaxicoop@gmail.com

Southend Taxi Co-operative was also developed with GMB support – contact is someone called Mark Jennings, though he does not have a direct contact. They have developed a downloadable app as part of what they deliver: <http://333444.uk/>

DH can be contacted at dave@cms.coop

Stop Smoking Service

DL explained that the stop smoking day of action that was discussed at the last meeting did not go ahead and we have had no further contact from the NHS Stop Smoking Service.

Advertising

DL reported that the Council had received a request for information from AdOnMo <https://www.adonmo> an advertising company wishing to advertise using Taxi Top Screens on the roof of vehicles. The application process was forwarded to this company outlining that an application must first be made by the proprietor of the vehicle and then the vehicle is to be inspected by a Licensing Officer prior to any advertisement being placed on any vehicle and that MRT has expressed his support for this style of advertising.

Taxi Ranks

DI reported that Sir Mark Hendrick had emailed Angie Ridgwell, Chief Executive at Lancashire County Council to discuss the use of the bus lane on Fishergate Hill and the new anti-terrorist bollards that have been installed in the middle of the taxi rank on Church Street. No response has yet been received DI to send a follow up email to LCC.

The trade reported that they did not agree with the decision by LCC not to grant a new rank on Theatre Street and would be looking to submit a new application.

The trade was reminded about over ranking and idling of engines on St Wilfrids Street and Fox Street. The trade agreed to put a message out on its WhatsApp group.

DL reported that information had been received from businesses in and around Market Street that the rank was not being used much by the trade.

Enforcement – Plying for Hire

The trade reported that a number of private hire vehicles were illegally plying for hire in the bus stop outside Evoque Nightclub. DL reported that on the occasions that this area had been monitored by licensing staff until 5am it was noted that a number of hackney carriage vehicles were also illegally plying for hire in the same spot and he advised that this would make it very difficult for officers to carry out a plying for hire operation in this area if the trade continued to do this. DL stated that he would look a putting an operation together and a discussion had already taken place with his manager.

Enforcement – Vehicle Inspections

DL reported that between November 2019 and January 2020 the Council inspected:-

- 21 hackney carriages – 10 IPN/Stop notices and 11 DPN/vehicle defect notices.
- 17 private hire vehicles – 11 IPN/Stop notices and 6 DPN/vehicle defect notices.

Enforcement – Penalty Points

DL reported that between October 2019 and January 2020 a total of 9 penalty point notices were issued in respect of:

- 2 private hire drivers for breach of condition
- 4 private hire drivers not reporting motoring offences
- 1 private hire proprietors for an immediate prohibition notice

- 1 hackney carriage proprietors for breach of condition
- 1 hackney carriage driver for breach of bylaw

Taxi and Miscellaneous Committee

At its December 2019 meeting an application for a private hire driver's licence was refused and at its February 2020 meeting three applications for private hire driver's licenses were granted and one application for a private hire driver's licence was refused.

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 1 April 2020 in Room C at the Town Hall commencing at 2pm.