

TAXI NEWS

April 2016

Review of Council's Seating Policy for Multi-Purpose Vehicles (MPV's) which carry up to 8 passengers- Consultation 5 February to 2 May 2016

The Licensing Team wrote to every licensed driver on 5 February 2016 and also your Taxi Trade Association amongst many others, asking for any comments on the review of the Council's seating policy for multi-purpose vehicles. You will recall from your letter that at its meeting of the 20 January 2016 the Council's Licensing and Registration Committee agreed to review the Council's current seating policy for MPV's carrying up to 8 passenger seats. The consultation letter sent to you outlined that current policy and invited and welcomed any views that you may have in relation to changing the policy, retaining the policy, or specifically amending it along the lines that Basildon Council and the Basildon Taxi and Private Hire trades agreed to introduce in their area in January 2015.

Please can we therefore remind you that the closing date for the consultation is 2 May 2016. Your views and comments are important to us and we welcome them in writing either sent to the Licensing Team by post or by email at licensingsection@tendringdc.gov.uk.

Full details of the consultation and its proposals can be viewed by accessing the 'taxi' licensing pages of the Council's web site www.tendringdc.gov.uk or can be

obtained by contacting the licensing section by e-mail at the address shown above or by phone.

Safety on the Streets

Enclosed with your taxi newsletter is a copy of a guide for hackney carriage and private hire drivers called 'Safety on the Streets'. This has been produced jointly by the Essex Safeguarding Children Board, Southend and Thurrock Safeguarding Children Boards and Essex Police. It gives helpful and valuable information on how to protect your passengers and also yourselves, family and friends from issues such as child sexual exploitation, domestic violence and abuse against males as well as females and human trafficking. It also contains contact telephone numbers for various agencies that may be of assistance if ever needed. Unfortunately this day and age none of us can ever really truly say that these types of issues may never affect us in one way or another so this guide may help you at that time if you need it. Hopefully though you never will.

Disclosure and Barring Service Certificates

Can we remind everyone again please that all drivers applying for the renewal of their Hackney Carriage/Private Hire driver licences should be aware that it is essential they bring into us the DBS/CRB certificate they received back through the post as the Council no longer receives copies of these directly. Without the certificates we are unable to issue new/renewed licences. Failure to do so is likely to result in the applicant having to re-submit their DBS/CRB enquiry form again which will include a further £44 fee to the DBS.

Taxi Newsletters

Current and previous taxi newsletters sent to you are now available to view as an archive on the taxi licensing webpage. You can access this by going via www.tendringdc.gov.uk and going to the taxi licensing webpage.

Taxi Vehicles left unattended on taxi ranks

A reminder please that it is an offence to leave a taxi unattended on a taxi rank and you may receive a fixed penalty ticket from a parking warden if they come across your vehicle unattended on a rank. Everyone understands that nature calls from time to time, but the rank is a workplace not somewhere to be used for private parking while the driver goes to the bank or goes shopping for example. If licensing enforcement officers see vehicles unattended on ranks they may initially leave a note on the windscreen which records the date and time that the vehicle has been seen unattended. If it is still in place on their return to the rank further action may be taken to find out why it was left unattended including contacting parking attendants to ticket the vehicle.

New ASDA Store Former Co-op Site Bull Hill Road

Your Tendring District Taxi Association colleagues in partnership with the Licensing Team have been lobbying ASDA to see if they will agree to site a taxi rank at their new store for their customers. At the moment ASDA have not particularly responded to our requests in any positive or meaningful way, but we are trying to continue to engage them in dialogue over this request and if possible have a meeting with them to persuade ASDA of the many benefits to their customers that a taxi rank at his location might bring. It goes without saying that the new business will also bring benefits to the taxi trade locally. We will update you through the newsletter as to what response our requests meet from ASDA.

Renewals of Driver, Vehicle and Operator Licences

Please be reminded that renewal letters and forms are sent out for all licence renewals at least three or four weeks before the expiry/renewal date of your licence. The application must be completed and returned to us before the expiry/renewal date of your licence if you are intending to renew and retain your licence seamlessly and without any interruption. It is no use putting

in a renewal application the day before or the day after your licence expires without good reason and then complaining that your licence is not ready for you on time. Frankly anyone making such a complaint is likely to receive very little empathy or understanding in return.

If you think that you are going to have problems submitting your renewal paperwork because of a holiday or a family emergency for example then all you need to do is let us know and we will do everything that we can to accommodate you. We fully understand for example that sometimes it can be difficult to get medical appointments even with a month's notice. Again just e-mail to let us know or update us with what is happening to licensingsection@tendringdc.gov.uk or phone us.

What we want to genuinely and earnestly avoid is to have to disrupt anyone's livelihood by suspending a licence because we haven't had the renewal paperwork submitted or because applicants have not communicated to us or have made no effort to communicate any problems they may be experiencing to us. A quick e-mail or phone call to explain the problem doesn't take long to do; really isn't that much trouble to do and may save us all a lot of unnecessary grief as a result. Thank you for your understanding with this.

Road Closure Notices

The Licensing Authority has been made aware of the following road closures in the near future:

Clacton:

A temporary rolling road closure will be in place on Sunday 24th April 2016 between 13.30 hours and 16.30 hours. The area concerned is Victoria Road from the junction of Marine Parade East to Skelmersdale Road and Church Road from the junction of St Pauls Road to Victoria Road, Clacton.

Frinton

A full road closure will be in place on Saturday 11th June 2016 between 11.00 hours and 17.00 hours. The area concerned is Connaught Avenue, Frinton from the junction of Old Road to Harold Road.

NEW CLUB OPENING IN CLACTON

We know that the closure of the Geisha will have affected trade for many of you. At the moment the premises still holds a licence to sell alcohol and provide music and dancing but if the stories in the local paper are correct it seems unlikely that it will be a nightclub or bar again.

It therefore may be some good news for you to be aware that there is a proposed new club being opened up above the Wimpy and between Buffalo's in Station Road called 'Elements'.

It will open Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8pm to 12 Midnight, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays 8pm to 01.30am and Sundays 12 noon to 6pm.

It is our understanding that the owner hopes to have the club open for the next Bank Holiday but no doubt that this will depend on what work is still required to be done.

Hopefully the club will be successful and a positive boost to the evening and night time economy in Clacton including yourselves in the taxi and private hire trades. Particularly as its right next door to the taxi rank!

MEDICAL PROBLEMS

This was mentioned previously in the April 2015 taxi newsletter, but just a reminder please that it is a requirement of your DVLA car drivers licence that you must let the DVLA know if you develop a 'notifiable' medical condition or disability or a condition or disability has got worse since you got your licence. 'Notifiable' conditions are anything that could affect your ability to drive safely and can include, epilepsy, strokes, other neurological and mental health conditions, physical disabilities and visual impairments.

These are examples only and not any sort of exhaustive list. This is a legal requirement and is your legal responsibility as a car driver to advise the DVLA if affected.

For further details see www.gov.uk/driving-medical-conditions or telephone 0300 790 6806. (Source GOV.UK).

Your medical fitness may also impact on your 'fit and proper person' status to hold a hackney carriage/private hire driver's licence.

LICENSING TEAM CONTACT DETAILS

Contact details for the Licensing Team are:

E-Mail - licensingsection@tendringdc.gov.uk
Or
E-Mail - taxi@tendringdc.gov.uk

Phone - 01255 686565

Fax - 01255-686343

Licensing Reception Opening Times Weeley

Mondays - Appointments Only

Tuesdays - 9am to 12 noon

Wednesdays- 9am to 12 noon

Thursdays - Appointments Only

Fridays - 9am to 12 noon

Thank you for your time in reading this newsletter and we hope that the information it contains will be helpful. In the meantime please keep safe and drive safe.