

TAXI NEWS

13 June 2018

TEMPORARY OFFICE RELOCATION

The Pier Avenue Council offices will be undergoing a renovation in the coming months and as a result, our usual reception area will not be accessible during that time. Therefore, on a temporary basis, from **Tuesday 26 June 2018** we shall be providing a reception service at the **Northbourne Depot in Vista Road, Clacton-on-Sea, CO15 6AY**.

The open hours will remain the same (please see at the bottom of this newsletter). We do like to continually reinforce the importance of adhering to our reception hours in order to allow us to continue providing you a better service, but it will be of even greater importance during this time as Licensing officers will **only** be available on site during the designated reception hours. Members of staff from other departments will be instructed not to take in Licensing paperwork or deal with enquiries so please do not attempt to use them as an alternative. Appointments can still be catered for but be aware that they will be more restrictive due to the practicality issues. The Licensing office itself will remain at Pier Avenue and so any post should continue to be sent to the same location.

MECHANICAL TEST CANCELLATIONS

Can we please remind all vehicle proprietors that in the event of a mechanical test appointment needing to be cancelled or moved to another slot, the Licensing office must be informed no later than the working day before the booking and 24 hours in advance. If an appointment is amended after this time or missed completely, then a fee will be payable.

PROPOSED FARE TARIFF

Most will be aware that we have recently received a proposal from the Tendring District Taxi Association to raise the taxi fare tariff in Tendring. This proposal encompassed consideration and approval from the Licensing Committee, and a 14 day public consultation period in which the proposed fare tariff was displayed in the local newspaper and on the Council's website. At the conclusion of the consultation period, the Licensing office had received an objection to the proposal and so as per legislation; a second and final meeting of the Licensing Committee is to take place on **Wednesday 18 July 2018** at 7.30pm at the Weeley Council Offices. This is a public hearing and therefore you may attend if you wish to do so, though you will not be able to make comments. We will advise you all accordingly of the outcome.

Please be aware that should the proposed fare tariff be agreed, then there will be an implementation period to allow vehicle proprietors to amend their meters before the new tariff takes effect. If the proposal is rejected then no change will of course be necessary.

DRIVER & VEHICLE PAPER LICENCES

Whenever a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire driver licence or vehicle licence is granted, a paper licence is supplied to you as part of the paperwork.

At present, HC driver licenses are on blue card, PH driver licenses are on cream card, HC vehicle licenses are on yellow paper and PH vehicle licenses are on pink paper.

You must treat these as you would any other important documentation. They are your proof of licence and display all the conditions that are attached to that licence.

We have had a number of requests from licence holders for us to supply them with copies, often because of an insurance company wanting to see proof of licence.

Please ensure you retain these paper licences for the duration in which they are effective. You must not destroy them, and copies must be sought in the event of any loss. A fee is required for copies.

MULTI-PURPOSE VEHICLE (MPV) POLICY

We have now reached the time where the new MPV policy has become fully effective. **The following information is of utmost importance for anyone who either already has a licensed MPV or is planning to licence one in the future.**

We have allowed for a slightly extended grace period and so now from **1 July 2018**, all applications for the grant **OR** renewal of a vehicle licence must conform to the new policy. This essentially means that by **1 July 2019** there will be no MPV vehicles licensed by Tendring that do not meet the new policy requirements.

The policy requirements are as follows;

1) In respect of minibus and other MPV style vehicles a minimum of three doors to the passenger accommodation shall be provided.

2) Have proper signs on how to lift the second row of seats. The sign should be clearly visible to any persons seated in the rearmost seats providing customers with instructions on the operating mechanisms for the seat that may be

required to be tipped/moved forward in order to gain access/egress from the vehicle.

3) The operating levers to be coloured yellow/orange so that they are easily identifiable. They can be coloured by using the appropriate colour tape. Tape should remain damage free at all times and replaced when worn.

4) Have windows on the near and offside in respect of the rear row of seats and that they be free from obstruction at all times to allow access in the event of an emergency.

5) Have well positioned exit window signs (where appropriate).

6) Have an internal device for the rear hatch door to be opened from the inside. This can be by way of an emergency 'quick release' button which can be fitted to the rear hatch door which can be operated by passengers in order to allow access/egress in the event of an accident and one of the side passenger doors being inaccessible.

Those criteria do not apply to purpose built wheelchair accessible vehicles however which are still required to ensure that the passenger compartment provides unobstructed entry and exit from the back row of seating of the compartment and which include the requirement that no persons entering or exiting the vehicle should have to remove or dismantle a seat or obstacle to climb over a person. In terms of colouring the operating levers which lift and tip seats yellow/orange, these conformed to national safety health and safety standards.

In the November 2016 newsletter, we had supplied you with a list of contractors that we are aware of who install these switches.

So for your assistance they are listed again below;

Graham Rayner, telephone 07745 644110 or e-mail rayner573@btinternet.com (Graham carries out this work for Basildon and Castle Point taxi trades).

Kevin Graffham, GWE Installation Services, 15 Hayes Road, Clacton on Sea. Phone 01255 -435845 or 07772 707810 or e-mail info@gweinstalls.co.uk

Associate Vehicle Installations Ltd, 7 Five Acres, Walton on the Naze. Telephone 0845 602 6208 or e-mail john@avilttd.co.uk

Please note that the above details are for the information and assistance of MPV licence holders/proprietors only. It is not an endorsement or guarantee of the contractor or their work by Tendring District Council. Please be aware that these details were first obtained in November 2016, so we cannot guarantee they are longer accurate.

The one circumstance where we will allow a deviation from the policy is for smaller multi seat vehicles such as a Vauxhall Zafira, where there are just the two rear seats. We will give the vehicle proprietor the option of licensing the vehicle to either include both of those seats or neither. If you wish to licence the rear seats then the MPV policy requirements listed above will apply, however if you wish not to licence the rear seats then an extra condition will be applied to your vehicle licence which states that those seats must be folded down at all times whilst the vehicle is in use. As that becomes a licence condition it is therefore enforceable.

WOULD YOU LIKE A DASH CAM FREE OF CHARGE FROM THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP?

For those who are unfamiliar with what the above heading means, firstly please see the following mini FAQ;

Who or what is a Community Safety Partnership?

CSP's exist throughout the country but in Tendring's case, they are made up of representatives from (but not limited to) Essex Police, TDC, Essex Fire Authority and North East Essex NHS. By helping to identify and reduce crime through working with businesses and residents, their purpose is ultimately to make communities safer. More information on the Tendring CSP can be found on; <https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/community/crime-community-safety/community-safety-partnership>



The Tendring
Community Safety
Partnership

What do we mean by a free dash cam and why would you want one?

Simply put, when we say free we do in fact mean it quite literally. The CSP is allocated funding to source projects such as this which can help with the reduction of crime and enhance the safety of the local residents. From your perspective as a taxi driver, you may consider this to be a beneficial project to be part of as it would potentially improve the safety of yourself and your passengers.

What is the hidden catch?

Again, simply put there isn't one. You would have to acknowledge that the camera isn't cheap and is only being supplied to you by the Tendring CSP so it would not become your personal property. Therefore a written agreement would be required from you to say that the camera would only be installed in your licensed vehicle and may not be transferred or sold.

This came to light after we learnt that Braintree's CSP have recently rolled out this project to their taxi trade and so far has proved a success. We're pleased to say that Tendring's CSP are also able to finance this in our area.

However it isn't compulsory and we will not be forcing anyone to take up the offer. Enclosed with this newsletter is a form which relates to this, and we would be grateful for anyone who is interested to return the form back to us in the post, or via email. It is dependent on how many individuals take up the offer, but if there is enough interest then we will contact those interested persons over next couple of months in regards to the next steps.

LICENSING TEAM CONTACT DETAILS

E-Mail - taxi@tendringdc.gov.uk

Phone - 01255 686565

Reception Open Hours -

Tuesday & Wednesday 10am-12pm

Friday 1-4pm

Thank you for reading this edition of Taxi News. We always welcome suggestions for future newsletters so please let us know if you think there may be something beneficial for your colleagues in the trade to know about. Past newsletters can be viewed on the following web link on the TDC website; <https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/business/licensing-legislation/taxi-licensing>. In the meantime please keep safe and drive safe.

Dashboard Camera Form

Please tick the box below if you wish to register your interest in the Tendring Community Safety Partnership scheme for the supply of a dashboard camera for use in licensed Tendring District Council Hackney Carriage & Private Hire vehicles



Print Name: -

Signed: -

Address: -

.....

Tel. Number: -

Email Address: -

.....

Please return the completed form either by post to; Licensing Section, 88-90 Pier Avenue,

Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, CO15 1TN

or by email to; taxi@tendringdc.gov.uk

If there is sufficient interest in the scheme we will contact those who have registered their interest within the next 6 weeks to advise of the next steps.