

CANNOCK CHASE DISTRICT COUNCIL

HACKNEY CARRIAGE & PRIVATE HIRE LIAISON GROUP

Minutes of Meeting held at 11am on Wednesday 20 September 2017
Datteln Room, Civic Centre, Beecroft Road, Cannock, Staffordshire, WS11 1BG

Members of the Liaison Group (Councillors)

Cllr Carl Bennett, Portfolio Leader for Crime & Community Partnerships (Group Chair)*

Members of the Liaison Group (officer)

David Prosser-Davies : CCDC*

Sean O'Meara : CCDC**

Jason Salter : CCDC*

Representative of the Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Trade

Terrance Hurley*

Steven Toy*

Kendal Tranter*

Martin Hammond***

Steven Holroyd**

Omar Ali (Observer)**

Samantha Payne***

Victor Simonczyk*

Patricia Taylor**

Jason Shorrocks***

George Simonczyk***

Harry Griffiths*

(* Present (** Apology (***) Not Present / No Apology

Welcome & Apologies

Cllr Bennett welcomed everybody to the meeting and apologies were accepted

Minutes of the last meeting

The notes of the meeting on Wednesday 27 July 2017, were previously circulated and agreed as an accurate record of that meeting.

Matters arising

Cllr Bennett extended his thanks to the trade regarding the Rugeley Charter Fair. It was deemed a success with very little disturbance. Mr Toy added that he thought it went smoothly.

Cllr Bennett said that previous efforts to deal with the issue of taxis parking in the disabled bays outside Bar Sport had not had the desired effect and added that a decision was made to write to all drivers accordingly.

Officers hand delivered the letter to a number of drivers during the evening of Friday 8 September and advised the group that no adverse reports had been received since the distribution of the letter.

Cllr Bennett further advised that a multi agency approach is being used to monitor the situation and asked Mr Toy if he would post a copy of the letter onto the Trade's Facebook page. Mr Toy agreed to do so.

Mr Toy requested that the proposers name be included on the meeting agendas in the future. Cllr Bennett agreed to the request.

Road Traffic Issues

Mr Simonczyk raised the issue of taxis turning right into Stafford Road off Park Road. Mr Griffiths added that drivers occasionally experience challenges from customers regarding the extra fare incurred by taxis having to go beyond the junction and around the island before turning into Stafford Road.

Cllr Bennett advised that Mr Salter would investigate the matter and report back at the next meeting.

Cross Border Hiring

Mr Prosser-Davies provided the group with an update. There was discussion about a letter Sandwell Council had written to the Transport Minister and a letter that the Mayor of London had written to Local Authorities expressing concern about the number of TfL drivers who are not working in London.

Mr Toy said that remote licensing is the problem. Mr Prosser-Davies added that there is a proposed Bill making its way through Parliament about safeguarding and road safety that may introduce a mechanism to deal with the problems caused by remote licensing.

Cllr Bennett said it would be appropriate for a joint letter with views of the Trade and the Council to be sent to the Minister of Transport as soon as is possible.

Mr. Toy requested that background information be forwarded to him to assist with this. Mr. Prosser-Davies agreed to do this.

Government informal Task & Finish Group – Taxis

Mr Prosser-Davies advised the group that the Local Government Association has set up a working group that officers can feed into to look at taxi issues. Mr Toy commented that Cannock is a model authority and the Trade want to capitalise on that reputation.

Licence fees 2018

Mr Prosser-Davies advised the group that there will be a 3% rise in driver and vehicle fees in 2018 in line with inflation. The group were informed that the Council under recovered costs in the sum of £10,000 last year. Mr Griffiths requested a breakdown of the costs.

Mr Toy agreed and was concerned that if the Council had made an error then it wasn't acceptable that the Trade should be expected to pick up the bill. The trade generally expressed concern that such a deficit should arise.

Cllr Bennett advised the group that the accountants figures will be made available to the trade together with reasons why the shortfall occurred.

Mr Toy added that the trade are seeking a fare increase of 2.9% and would be putting forward a formula for this.

Cllr Bennett suggested that a special meeting would be convened to deal with one item; Fees. The Trade agreed to this.

Date of next Meeting

Wednesday 8 November 2017 at 11am.