



CANNOCK CHASE DISTRICT COUNCIL

HACKNEY CARRIAGE & PRIVATE HIRE LIAISON GROUP

**Minutes of Meeting held at 11.00pm on Wednesday 7 June 2017,
Western Springs Room, Civic Centre, Beecroft Road, Cannock, Staffs, WS11 1BG.**

Members of the Liaison Group (Councillors).

Cllr Carl Bennett, Portfolio Leader for the Environment (Group Chair)*

Cllr Maureen Freeman, Vice Chair of Cannock Chase Council (Group Vice Chair)**

Members of the Liaison Group (Officers).

David Prosser-Davies - CCDC*

Sean O'Meara - CCDC*

Jason Salter - CCDC*

Representatives of the Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Trade.

Terrance Hurley*

Steven Toy*

Kendal Tranter*

Martin Hammond*

Steven Holroyd***

Omar Ali (Observer)***

Victor Simonczyk*

Patricia Taylor**

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 meeting of 29 March 2017 were previously circulated and agreed as an accurate record of that meeting.

Matters arising.

Cllr Bennett noted that there were no matters arising which were not on the agenda.

Update on campaigning outside Cannock Chase. Uber, Sandwell, Wolverhampton etc.

Mr Toy advised the group the UBER has now withdrawn their application for a PH Operators Licence to Sandwell MBC. He thinks they did so as a response to what was a strong case against them, made by the local trade.

With respect to Wolverhampton MBC, Mr Toy is concerned that they continue to issue PH drivers licences as a revenue raising exercise but in doing so, they may be compromising public safety.

Birmingham University research into health, lifestyle and emotional wellbeing of people working in the 'gig' economy. Interview at home with Dr Sindhu.

Mr Toy explained that research looked at the health, lifestyle and emotional welfare of the Gig economy which included parcel couriers etc. as well as taxi drivers who work for UBER. He said that had low rates of pay and at times were being paid below the minimum wage.

Cllr Bennett said that unlawful practices would not be permitted within Cannock Chase. Mr Toy acknowledged that Cannock Chase was generally thought to be a model authority.

It was noted that there is an UBER driver operating within the Rugeley area and officers agreed to keep an eye on the situation.

Mr Hammond mentioned that he now pays all his drivers the statutory hourly rate of pay but that this had affected his business. He also asked that the Council looks again at the new to licensing timescale for vehicles as buying vehicles at 3.5 years old is more expensive than buying a 4 year old vehicle. It was noted that Mr Griffiths had previously asked for the new to licensing timescale for WAV's to be increased.

It was agreed that the trade would discuss this matter amongst themselves and then put it on the agenda for a future meeting.

Licensing Unit customer surveys.

Mr Prosser-Davies advised the group that our customer satisfaction survey revealed that over 90% of vehicle licence holders were happy or very happy with the process of renewing their vehicles. This followed the recent streamlining of the application process .

Mr Toy said that the trade were very pleased with Cannock Chase as the Proprietor could generally pick the time and day of their vehicle test inspection where as in other authorities, it could take weeks to get an appointment. He said that he thought it could even quicker if some of the vehicle licence process was moved to the Depot. Mr Prosser-Davies said that this had previously been looked at and although we recognised some current inconvenience, it was not feasible to move some or all of the process to the Depot.

Cannock town centre issues.

Mr O'Meara advised the group that Mrs Taylor had once again raised the issue of parking in the disabled bays at Bar Sport. A discuss took place about the nature of the problem and the issues which arise. Officers agreed to continue to monitor the situation. Mr Toy also agreed to raise the matter on the trade's Facebook page. It was unanimously agreed to take the matter off future agendas.

Mr O'Meara also advised the group that a small number of out of town vehicles are operating within the town. He said that a number of those vehicles and drivers have been inspected by licensing officers and were all found to operating lawfully.

Rugeley Charter Fair.

Mr O'Meara advised that the Rugeley Charter Fair was on Green Lane, Rugeley, this year and that there had been some disquiet amongst locals about the potential for noise and nuisance. He asked the trade to be aware of this.

Date of next meeting.

11.00 on Wednesday 20 September 2017.

There will be a pre-meeting of the trade at 10.00am on the same day.