

HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE FORUM Meeting

Venue: City Hall GC06

Agenda: 14 March 2019

Attendee	Representing
Cllr Ruth Pickersgill (RP)	<i>Bristol City Council</i>
Jonathan Martin (JM)	<i>Bristol City Council</i>
Stephen Pick (SP)	<i>Bristol City Council</i>
James Roberts (JR)	<i>Bristol City Council</i>
Gary O'Neill (GO)	<i>PH Trade Representative</i>
Patrick Masih (PM)	<i>Chair - BBLTA</i>

1. Welcome, Introductions, Apologies

- Apologies –
 - Phil Gingell
 - Wouter Merkestein
 - Mahad Jama
 - Patrick Quinton
 - Steve Lohia

2. Minutes from last meeting

- Minutes were agreed as a true record.
- Previous Actions –
 - **Confirm overall timescale for city centre project SP**
Ongoing discussion/to discuss further in Item 3.
 - **Include map of centre in newsletter highlighting what can and cannot be used by PH/HC vehicles JR**
Maps have been included in upcoming newsletter.

3. Transport/Taxi Ranks Update

- Building up to Thursday 21st March, work is being done to highlight super rank in centre, a wrap is now on the shelter.

- Lighting is going on the super rank on Tuesday 20th March.
- Digital advert being installed today (14th March).
- A map is being developed of location of ranks in city centre, and going out to establishments in city centre. RP requested social media inclusion, this is being done.
- Signage being installed on railing at kebab corner to direct people to nearest ranks **ACTION A**. Simple information showing ranks in college green etc. Working with press about possible briefings, TV and media. Ongoing in this respect. JM - useful if PM could be involved and get vehicles down to get publicity for the trade. Looking to target people to get them to main rank.
- RP reminded the Forum at previous meeting it was agreed to try to extend rank near Boots. SP agreed to look into possibility of a 24 hour rank there **ACTION B**.
- BRI/Motion update – still in internal consultation at this stage. Looking to take through to statutory consultation and view to implement in autumn if possible.
- SP and PM agreed to meet at Hippodrome out of hours to discuss ongoing issue of ranking outside the premises **ACTION C**.
- RP asked that the rank at the bottom on Park Street be considered as 24 hours and that the bus area outside watershed could be considered as a possible future rank. **ACTION D**
- PM highlighted the bus dropoff outside Hippodrome does not operate after 6:00pm. As per above action this will be looked at.

4. Policy Update

- No policy changes at present pending major ongoing recommendations made by Government.
- Ongoing Taxi Working Group looking at above.
- Further information at Item 7.

5. Clean Air Zone Update

- Lots of press attention nationally currently.
- JM is working with overall Lead within BCC, who is aware of changes made to taxi policy in 2017.
- Bristol vehicles will be exempt from CAZ charges.
- GON asked about South Glos vehicles being charged. JM confirmed non-compliant vehicles will be charged.

6. Taxi Conference Update

- Date set for 30th October 2019, time to be announced.
- Meeting scheduled on 25th April at public transport group to discuss conference.
- Meeting on 18th by SARI has been cancelled in light of above.

7. Government Statutory Guidance and Consultation Reminder

- JM advised BCC are responding to the consultation.
- JM highlighted the importance of the trade responding to this consultation. It will have impact on business. Through consultation the trade can influence change.
- JM highlighted this is the first time that Local Authorities are compelled to introduce minimum standards.
- The main recommendations are directed at licensing of drivers in respect of language, overseas references, DBS frequencies, and compulsory training.
- National standards have been compared against current Bristol policies; there could be significant change in our policies.
- Bristol will not be able to deviate from the standards that will be set.
- Closing date for the consultation is 14th April 2019.
- GON asked about licensing of Toyota Auris and questioned South Glos licensing for 4 passengers, as Bristol licence for 3. JM confirmed Bristol have higher standards, the Auris is not suitable for three passengers in the back of the vehicle. The legroom and headroom is compromised. The Auris has been discontinued as a model. JM reiterated that these government changes are an opportunity to address issues like this.

8. You Said We Did

- Information regarding this will be going out with newsletter.
- The Forum ran through the Ranks section to ensure it was still accurate given ongoing changes.

9. HC Fare Review

- PM advised that the trade met last Thursday 7th March.
- PM advised that the trade cannot agree on automatic fare reviews every year.
- PM made a proposal to meet with the council annually and agree as opposed to automatic use of the CPI calculator. Must be by proposal, but then happy to use the calculator.
- RP questioned the method of use to make a proposal. PM said that last year the trade asked for minimum increase using a historic method with Pat Jones.
- RP advised the trade need to have a fixed method to pursue any increase annually. This method would be the basic increase and the trade can always add to this afterwards.
- JM questioned if trade would be willing to share their calculator. PM requested to meet with Pat Jones. PM will share the calculator with JM **ACTION E**.

10. AOB

- RP revisited a previously discussed item, the toilets at Blackboy Hill. RP advised these will be reinstated but as there is misuse at night, there will be a security code and drivers will be able to have this once available. RP to circulate code **ACTION F**.
- PM raised concern around Private Hire representation at the Forum. PM has been working with GON to make a Whatsapp group with a view to creating a formal Association. PM would like to see a structured representation involving a Chair and Secretary. No timescale on this at present, but PM and GON want inclusion from people in different communities.
- PM wanted to raise a collective concern. Overflowing South Glos taxis in Bristol. Parking spaces are full of South Glos vehicles, creating too much traffic. What can be done? RP responded that all that can be done is to push MPs and Government to implement the recommendation of jobs starting or finishing in their own area.

11. Actions for next meeting:

Action Point	Matters arising	By Whom	Completed?
A	SP to report on signage being installed at kebab corner directing public to ranks	SP	
B	SP to look at possibility of a 24 hour rank near boots or College Green	SP	
C	SP and PM to meet out of hours at Hippodrome to discuss ongoing issues in the locality	SP/PM	
D	SP to look at possibility of a 24 hour rank on Park Street, and future rank outside Watershed	SP	
E	PM to provide JM with calculator that is used by the trade in respect of fare increase.	PM	
F	RP to circulate out of hours code for toilets at Blackboy Hill.	RP	

Next meeting: Thursday 16th May 2019, City Hall, Room 1P02