

TAXI FORUM
Notes of Meeting held on 19 September 2018

Present: Taxi Trade: Colin Jones, Shabir Khan, Paul Bates, Tony Blews (Westside), Keith Hawkins (Smart Cars) Patricia Thorpe.
Officers: Julie Wallace

		ACTION
	<p>Notes taken at meeting</p> <p>Introductions were made.</p> <p>1. Paul Bates asked if a feedback/summary could be provided at the end of this year's forums from all of the minutes and actions taken over the past year. This was agreed.</p> <p>2. Safer Nights – Staffs Police. Staffs Police have reviewed the current situation in Stafford and have now put police back on the town on Friday and Saturday nights. It was said by CJ and PT that the police don't seem to be doing anything when incidents happen and that in relation to the taxi trade the police are not helping them out at all, it appears as though they don't want to get their hands dirty. It was also said that the Police are not enforcing the law concerning cars travelling through the town centre high street and also that cars/vans were still waiting/parking on the service road outside CASA which is where the taxi rank is. CJ stated that the sign needs turning to face out onto the road so that people will see it.</p> <p>Discussion was also held about Pilgrim Place and that they are forming a rank.</p> <p><u>Action</u> JW to invite a member of Staffs Police to attend next forum.</p> <p>3. JW explained the situation with the Taxi Marshals and the lack of and that the contract would have to go back out for tender.</p> <p>4. JW gave an overview regarding enforcement that has been taking place on the ranks.</p> <p>5. JW informed that minor amendments had been made within the policy just to ensure that there is no element of doubt on certain paragraphs that were trying to be exploited. All of the amendments made are attached to the end of the policy.</p> <p>6. The question of whether drivers were being charged twice when they sign up online for their DBS' was raised.</p>	<p>JW</p> <p>CJ</p> <p>JW</p> <p>PB</p>

		ACTION
	<p><u>Action</u> JW to clarify situation and feedback.</p> <p>7. PB and CJ asked when Fees and Charges were going to be addressed. The group were informed that this is being looked at and under consideration. SK & CJ stated that the rates of 25% is too low for 6 seaters it should be the fare plus half it was also mentioned that this is being abused and people are being overcharged.</p> <p>8. Discussion of ranks and the pending enforcement camera that will be situated in South Walls. KH asked why PHV's were being the same as HC's. KH informed that the fees were set based on the licensing processes and the issuing of the licences it had nothing to do with what road can or cannot be driven on.</p> <p>9. Forum Dates</p> <p>All available on Website.</p> <p>AOB</p> <p>10. PB informed that he was aware that the Occupational Health tender was up for reconsideration and wanted to ask why the taxi drivers weren't included in it. He knew that the contract was initially done in conjunction with CCDC however CCDC drivers did not have to go to Cannock Hospital as Stafford drivers do and that it was not value for money as they have to pay £100 for a medical. He stated that a separate contract should be allowed for HC & PHV's. He wanted to know why Stafford drivers could not be afforded the same choice as CCDC drivers who only pay £55. He stated that the trade would object to the renewal of the contract.</p> <p><u>Action</u> JW to make enquiries and feedback..</p> <p>Date of next forum Wednesday 12 December 2018 12.00pm Craddock room, 1st Floor, Civic Centre, Stafford Borough Council.</p>	<p>JW</p> <p>JW</p>