

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Newsletter

February 2017

Trade Representative Nominations

We are looking for volunteers who would like to apply to become trade representatives.

The role involves liaison between the Compliance Team and the Taxi and Private Hire Trade. Quarterly meetings are held in Devizes to communicate and discuss items with the trade. You will be expected to attend at least 50% of these meetings. This is your chance to have your say and put forward the views of the Taxi and Private Hire Trade within your area.

If you wish to be considered for this role please send us an email at: fleet.licensing@wiltshire.gov.uk. The email will need to contain the following information:

Your Full Name:

Contact Details: (an email address is essential for this role)

Company you work or are associated with:
Reason for applying:

Name, Badge number & contact number of person nominating you:

Name, Badge number & contact number of person seconding that nomination:

You must be nominated and seconded by a licensed driver that is not connected in anyway to you or your business.

Priority will be given to vehicle proprietors. If we receive a significant number of

applications we may instigate an election process.

Deadline for applications will be 31 March 2017.

Compliance Team Update



There have been some recent changes to staffing within the compliance team. Please see below:

Compliance Team Leader: Gemma Sadd

Compliance Officers: Jo Hulbert & Dan Farr

Compliance Assistants: Mike Drake & Wendy Russell

Safeguarding Training Update

Good news – All drivers have now completed the online safeguarding training. We would like to thank you all for completing this and hope that you found the training useful.

Fit & Proper Policy review update

As advised in previous newsletters we are in the process of reviewing The Council's Fit & Proper Policy for licensed drivers. There are currently two policies in place, one for new applicants and one for existing drivers. We are proposing to change this to one policy that covers all drivers.

Following consultation on this document and subsequent amendments, the report will be taken to the Licensing Committee on 13 March 2017 to approve.

Both the existing policies and the proposed changes to the fit & proper policy can be found on our website at:

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/parkingtransportandstreets/publictransport/licensingtaxisprivatehire>

Private Hire Operator Inspections

During the next year Compliance Officers will be arranging to carry out onsite inspections of all Private Hire Operators. This will involve looking at records kept to ensure compliance with the Council's Guidelines. A copy of which can be found on our website.

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/parkingtransportandstreets/publictransport/licensingtaxisprivatehire>

Law change for Disabled Taxi Users

Taxi drivers face a fine of up to £1,000 if they refuse to transport wheelchair users or attempt to charge them extra, in a change to the law announced 7 February 2017 by Transport Minister Andrew Jones. Further details can be seen on the GOV.UK website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/law-change-demands-equal-treatment-for-disabled-taxi-users>

Drivers of Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles - Training

All licensed drivers who drive wheelchair accessible vehicles must be fully conversant with the correct method of operation of all ramps, lifts and wheelchair restraining mechanisms fitted to the vehicles and be able to provide evidence of suitable training.

Link to interactive roadworks map

There is a direct link from the Wiltshire Council website to the interactive roadworks map for Wiltshire, this shows where roadworks are being carried out and who is responsible for them should you have any queries. This can be found at:

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/parkingtransportandstreets/roadshighwaysstreetcare/roadsandtraffic/roadworks.htm>

Melksham – Temporary relocation of taxi rank

The taxi rank in Melksham has been temporarily relocated from Market Place to

High Street due to alterations being carried out to the layout of Market Place. We have been asked to remind taxi drivers that they must not wait on the bus stop when the taxi rank is busy, whilst we appreciate that there are sometimes issue with members of the public parking on the rank, the bus stop must be kept free for buses. We will be monitoring the area over the coming months to alleviate the situation.

Road Closures

West

Melksham - Lowbourn (Part) and Sandridge Road (Part), Wiltshire 10 Running Race, 12th February 2017

Bradford on Avon - A363 St Margarets Street (Part), Pancake Race, 28th February 2017

Trowbridge -Fore Street (Part), Shrove Tuesday Pancake Races, 28th February 2017

Trowbridge -Fore Street (Part), Lions May Day Fayre, Saturday 6th May 2017

South

Salisbury -Footpath 66 (Market Place), Bi-Weekly Charter Market, Tuesdays/Saturdays 2017

Salisbury - Footpath 66 (Market Place) and Queen Street, Car Boot Sundays, Various Dates 2017

Salisbury - Footpath 66 (Market Place) and Queen Street, Foodie Friday Market, Various Dates 2017

Salisbury - Footpath 66 (Market Place) and Queen Street, Vintage Market and French Market, Various Dates 2017

Salisbury - Footpath 66 (Market Place) and Queen Street, Artisan Market, Various Dates 2017

Mere - The Square (Part), Mere Cancer Research UK Classic Car Event, 30th April 2017

North

Kington Langley - Church Lane, Pancake Race, 25th February 2017

Chippenham - C365 High Street and Market Place (Part), Weekly Friday Street Market (Trial Period), January to April 2017

Lacock - Various Roads, 'Relish Running' Half Marathon, 18th June 2017

East

Devizes (Rolling Road Closure) - Church Walk, Devizes and Various Roads, Devizes Half Marathon, Sunday 9th April 2017

Next Licensing Committee Meeting

13 March 2017 – 10.30am County Hall, Trowbridge

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www.wiltshire.gov.uk