

Taxi meeting minutes – South Hams 13.9.16

- Dead mileage – 40% isn't enough, should be nearer to 50%. Will check with HMRC.
- Call out charge increase from £1 to £5.
- Soiling charge increase from £80 to at least £100.
- Non-payers of fees causes problems. Perhaps could be a group 'name and shame'.
- Removal of high fuel cost surcharge.
- Tariff 3 proposals.
- The automatic ten year end of vehicle rule shouldn't apply to better quality vehicles.
- Consultation with public? How much weight is given to drivers' views as opposed to parish councils. They were encouraged to visit parish council meetings.
- Medical provider – majority preferred to use own doctors due to distance to Plymouth and the fact that not own doctor used.
- Payment for DVSA tests will generally be at driver expense unless extenuating circumstances when a re-test is required.
- Certificate of Good Behaviour from consulate – suggestion should be from the age of 18 or 21 yrs and for new drivers for first DBS check undertaken.
- Equality Act 2010 is in force with certain aspects applicable – those with a wheelchair accessible vehicle must help people in with wheelchairs. The aspect relating to all taxi drivers is not in force.
- Knowledge test query relating to area tested upon. This will potentially include out of area destinations but information would be provided beforehand.
- CSE training – it was raised that there was similar training provided by Devon County Council which may be suitable and could potentially be used.
- Code of good conduct re lost property – it was raised that handing this in to the police was difficult. If valuable a card would be handed to the bank? Other property may be discarded?
- Penalty points would work on a 12month basis with them being cleared at the end of the year – although would take in to consideration if a number of points were being collected every year.
- Issues with police being available to help drivers.
- Illegal taxi drivers – picking up around Malborough, Salcombe, Kingsbridge etc – taking 'friends'. They will give us info about this. Publicity to members of the public about using unlicensed vehicles and drivers.
- Eating and drinking in the vehicle and leaving taxis unattended on the rank eg if going to toilet – this will not be dealt with arbitrarily, some discretion would be given.
- Changes to ranks – increase the space in Totnes. Totnes drivers to provide a drawing of proposal. Other areas would like the ranks looked at.
- No Civil Enforcement Officers are seen around Kingsbridge rank.
- Conversations about controversial topics – amended to use 'common sense'? It was confirmed that it would be judged on case by case basis and with discretion.
- Audio recordings – we would check this, but unlikely to be permitted.
- No mandatory regulations about CCTV and/or audio use.
- Appeal against the points would be to the licensing committee, but after that it would have to be a Judicial Review to the High Court.