

Taxi and Private Hire Newsletter

December 2016



Merry Christmas
and Happy New
Year for 2017

Committee on 8th December 2016

The Community and Licensing Committee is made up of Stroud District Councillors and meets quarterly in the Council Chamber at Ebley Mill. At their next meeting on 8th December 2016 at 19.00 they are considering two taxi reports: **Taxi Fares** and **Taxi and Private Hire Policy**.

You can look at the reports through a link on our news page www.stroud.gov.uk/taxis. There is also a bit more detail about the recommendations in the reports below. The meeting is open to the public so you can come along and watch or you can see the live webcast on-line through this link: <http://c.connectedviews.com/03/sdc>. We will write to you again in the New Year to update you on the final outcome. We will also keep our web pages updated.

Taxi Fares

Stroud Taxi Association put in a request to the Council in June 2016 for a fare increase. We told you about their proposal in our July Newsletter and asked for your comments. The proposal went to the Committee meeting on 8th September 2016. Members of the Taxi Association came to the meeting and presented their request. The Councillors decided to defer making a decision and asked a small group of Councillors to look at it further. That group are putting forward a recommendation to the Committee at the meeting on 8th December. The group concluded that the proposal put forward by the Association would mean that Stroud fares would be generally the highest in the County. They do not feel there is justification for this. Therefore, they are recommending that, at the moment, the fares should stay the same but suggest that the trade put in another request for a fare increase next year.

Taxi Policy

Thank you to everybody that has responded to our consultation on proposals to amend Stroud District 's Taxi and Private Hire Policy that we sent out in our August newsletter. We received lots of comments, some in favour and some against and many interesting points were raised. A small group of Councillors and Licensing Officers have looked at all the comments and a report is going to Committee on 8th December with a recommendation that the proposals are adopted with a few minor amendments from 1st April 2017.

Immigration Act 2016

This is a new law which means that from December 2016 all Councils must make checks to ensure that all Taxi and Private Hire Drivers and Private Hire Operators have the right to work in the UK. For new applicants we will do these checks on application. However, we must also do these checks for all existing licensed drivers when they come up for renewal but we will only need to do these checks once. However, these checks must be done **for everybody**, even if you have always been a UK citizen or if we have checked your right to work documentation previously. When you get your next driver renewal from us we will tell you more about what you must provide. This will normally be your passport. We must see the original and you must bring it in person. You will be able to also use an expired UK passport. However, if you have a passport or national identity card from another country then it must be current. If you are from outside the EEA, you will need to show appropriate relevant documentation showing your right to work in the UK. If you are a UK citizen and you do not have a passport you can provide a birth certificate and documentation showing your National Insurance number instead. We will include more details with your next renewal but in the meantime if you have any queries please contact us. Remember that for some drivers your next renewal may not be for another 3 years.

Road Closure for Goodwill 2016

As usual the roads in Stroud Town Centre will be closed on Goodwill evening which is **Friday 2nd December 2016 17:00 to 21:00**. Access for taxis will be up Rowcroft Retreat and then out of the town through Rowcroft. You should be able to access the Station.

Stroud District Council Offices Closure During The Christmas Break

Stroud District Council Offices are open up until 4.30pm on Friday 23rd December 2016 and then will be closed for the Christmas break until Tuesday 3rd January 2017. If your licences are due to expire at the end of December you will need to make sure you renew them by 16th December 2016 to make sure that we can send you your renewed licence before the Christmas break.

Contact us at:

The Licensing Section, Environmental Health Service, Stroud District Council, Council Offices, Ebley Mill, Ebley Wharf, Stroud, Glos. GL5 4UB Telephone: 01453 754440 / 754404 Email: licensing@stroud.gov.uk

Web page www.stroud.gov.uk/taxis

We are currently not available on Tuesdays or Thursdays after 12.00