

Taxi and Private Hire Newsletter November 2017

Taxi Fares - 2017 Request by Taxi Association for Increase

Stroud Taxi Association have put forward a request for a Taxi Fare Increase. The proposal is going to be considered by Stroud District Council's Community Services and Licensing Committee on **7th December 2017**. A Group made up of 4 Councillors, that sit on the Committee, have had an initial look at the proposal. They had a meeting with representatives of Stroud Taxi Association on 24th October 2017 to give the trade opportunity to explain their reasons for requesting an increase. The Councillor Group are going to put forward a recommendation for the full Committee to consider at the meeting in December. However, this is only a recommendation and the full Committee may not decide to agree to it.

Stroud Taxi Association Proposal for Fare increase

Rate 1

- Change starting rate from £2.50 to £2.80 **12% increase**
- Change 264 yards to 240 yards for 30p increments
- A running mile will be £2.20 (was £2.00) **10% increase**

Rate 2

- Put forward end time by 1 hour from 01.00 to midnight
- Change starting rate from £3.00 to £3.25 **8.3% increase**
- Change 225 yards to 185 yards for 30p increments
- A running mile will be £2.85 (was £2.35) **21% increase**

Rate 3

- Put forward start time by 1 hour from 01.00 to midnight
- Leave starting rate at £4.00 **0% increase**
- Change from 195 yard to 175 yards for 30p increments
- A running mile will be £3.01 (was £2.70) **11% increase**

Extras

- Add £3.00 extra charge for credit and debit card payments

Councillor Group Recommendations

Rate 1

- Support proposal
- Recommend putting back start time of rate 1 from 07.00 to 06.00

Rate 2

- Support the change to end time of rate 2
- Support proposed starting rate
- Amend the yardage proposal to 200 yards
- A running mile will be £2.64 **12.3% increase**

Rate 3

- Support proposal

Extras

- Remove extra for pushchairs to bring in line with wheelchairs
- Remove extra of £3.00 for cheques under £10.00 as this is rarely used
- Amend proposal for credit and debit card payments to £1.00 for payments under £20

Your Comments on the Taxi Fare Proposal

If you have any comments about the Stroud Taxi Association fare increase proposal or the Councillor Group's recommendations please either write to us at the Licensing Section or email us on licensing@stroud.gov.uk by **20th November 2017**. In particular note the trade's proposal to put forward the start time of rate 3 from 01.00 to midnight. The Councillor Group are supporting this request but are recommending that the start time of rate 1 is also put forward from 07.00 to 06.00 to compensate. On the last page of this newsletter is a table showing how Stroud current rates and the Stroud Taxi Association proposal compares with the rest of the County. It also compares the variations being recommended by the Councillor Group.

Taxi Fares - What Happens Next

A Committee Report on the Fare Increase and any supporting information will be published on Stroud District Council's website prior to the meeting using the link below.

www.stroud.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/meetings/community-services-and-licensing-committee

The meeting is a public meeting and anyone can come along to listen. It is on 7th December 2017 starting at 19.00 and will be in the Council Chamber at Stroud District Council. The meeting is also webcast so you can watch it live through the internet using the above link.

After the meeting any decisions made will be available on the above link. We will also put the decision on our taxi web page www.stroud.gov.uk/business/licensing-permits/taxis-and-private-hire-licensing and will send another newsletter.

When Can Drivers Switch The Meter On ?

Stroud Taxi Association asked the question '*when we are waiting on the rank, can we switch on the meter in our taxi as soon as we start loading bags and pushchairs*'. We have checked this out and our bylaws say that the meter is switched on when the journey begins. This means that you cannot put the meter on when you are loading. This rule is consistent with other local authorities including Transport for London.

DBS Criminal Checks—Increase in Charge

The DBS are no longer allowing us to send applications for Enhanced Criminal Convictions checks directly to them. This is because the DBS brought in new criteria and Stroud District Council does not make enough applications a year to be classed as an ‘umbrella authority’. We have to now do DBS applications through a third party provider who charge an administration fee of £12 per check in addition to the £44 that is paid to the DBS. From 1st January 2018 we will be increasing the fee that you pay us for a DBS Enhanced Criminal Conviction Check to £56.

Remember that when you get your DBS Certificate in the post you can, within 30 days, register with the DBS for their update service using the reference number on your certificate and using this link; <https://www.gov.uk/dbs-update-service>. It costs £13 a year to keep your registration current. Once you are registered organisations like us can do a quick online status check to see if your Certificate is still up to date so that you do not have to make a new DBS application - saving you both time and money. If you are already registered don't forget to let us know when we send you the reminder that your DBS Enhanced Criminal Check is due which comes up every 3 years.

Other Matters.....

Several members of the public have said to us “ *please ask taxi drivers not to park on the pavement, particularly in Station Road, Stroud, it makes it really difficult for people with mobility issues or parents with pushchairs to get past* ”

It has been brought to our attention that the road markings on King Street taxi rank in Stroud is fading. We are trying to work with Highways at the moment to get this re-done.

A member of the public contacted us and said “ *please remind taxi and private hire drivers that the speed limit in Stroud, including Folly Lane, Slad Road and Merrywalks, is 20mph* ”

Our Safeguarding Sessions have gone very well and thank you to everyone that attended. We have one last free session on 16th November 2017 after which nearly all of our existing drivers will have done the training. We are looking at setting up County sessions from next year for new drivers.

Contact Us:

If you want to come in and see us please ring and make an appointment first. We are not available for calls or appointments on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons after 12.00. You can also contact us by email.

Telephone: 01453 754440 Email: licensing@stroud.gov.uk Web: www.stroud.gov.uk/taxis

Comparison Table - Proposal For Taxi Fare Increase 2017

District	In Effect From	1 min waiting	Starting Rate	Running Mile	Summary of Times	
RATE 1	Stroud Taxi Association Proposal		39p	£2.80	£2.20	Mon – Fri 07.00 – 18.00 Sat 07.00 – 13.00
	Councillor Group Alternative					Mon – Fri 06.00 – 18.00 Sat 07.00 – 13.00
	<i>Stroud current</i>	2011	39p	£2.50	£2.00	Mon – Fri 07.00 – 18.00 Sat 07.00 – 13.00
	<i>Cotswold</i>	2008	25p	£2.80	£2.20	Mon – Sat 07.00 – 22.00
	<i>Tewkesbury</i>	2012	35p	£2.60	£2.00	Mon – Sat 07.00 – 23.00
	<i>Gloucester</i>	Dec 2017	33p	£3.00	£1.97	Mon – Sat 07.00 -21.00
	<i>Forest</i>	2012	29p	£2.14	£2.60	Mon – Sat 07.00 – 23.00
	<i>Cheltenham</i>	Feb 2017	36p	£2.60	£2.10	Mon – Sat 07.00 – 20.00
	<i>South Gloucester</i>	2016	33p	£2.40	£2.08	Mon – Fri 06.00 – 18.00

RATE 2	Stroud Taxi Association Proposal		51p	£3.25	£2.85	Mon –Fri 18.00 – 24.00 Sat 13.00 – 24.00 Sun & BH All Day
	Councillor Group Alternative				£2.64	
	<i>Stroud current</i>	2011	51p	£3.00	£2.35	Mon- Fri 18.00 – 01.00 Sat 13.00 – 01.00 Sun & BH All Day
	<i>Cotswold</i>	2008	25p	£3.30	£2.60	Mon – Sat 22.00 – 07.00 Sun & BH All Day
	<i>Tewkesbury</i>	2012	35p	£3.60	£2.40	Mon- Sat 23.00 - 07.00 Sun & BH All Day
	<i>Gloucester</i>	Dec 2017	44p	£4.00	£2.55	Mon – Sat 21.00 - 07.00 Sun All Day
	<i>Forest</i>	2012	29p	£2.70	£2.80	Mon – Sat 23.00 – 07.00 Sun & BH All Day
	<i>Cheltenham</i>	Feb 2017	54p	£3.20	£2.63	Mon - Sat 20.00 – 07.00 Sun & BH All Day
	<i>South Gloucester</i>	2016	33p	£3.65	£2.08	Mon –Fri 18.00 - 06.00 Sat & Sun All Day

RATE 3	Stroud Taxi Association Proposal		72p	£4.00	£3.01	Mon – Sun 24.00 – 07.00 Bank Hols 24.00 – 07.00 Xmas & NY All Day
	Councillor Group Alternative					Mon – Fri 24.00 – 06.00 Sat, Sun, Bank Hols 24.00 – 07.00
	<i>Stroud current</i>	2011	72p	£4.00	£2.70	Mon – Sun 01.00 – 07.00 Bank Hols 24.00 – 07.00 Xmas & NY All Day
	<i>Cotswold</i>	2008	25p	£5.60	£4.40	Xmas & NY All Day
	<i>Tewkesbury</i>	2012	-	-	-	-
	<i>Gloucester</i>	Dec 2017	48p	£5.00	£2.96	Bank Hols, Xmas & NY All day
	<i>Forest</i>	-	-	-	-	-
	<i>Cheltenham</i>	Feb 2017	60p	£4.40	£3.69	Xmas & NY All Day
	<i>South Gloucester</i>	2016	32p	£5.50 £7.40	£2.08 £2.08	Bank Hols Xmas and NY All Day