



Taxi and Private Hire Newsletter December 2017

Taxi Fares - Increase Approved by Committee

An increase in Stroud District Taxi Fares has been approved by the Councillors of the Community Services and Licensing Committee at their meeting on 7 December 2017.

Thank you to the drivers that emailed us following the last newsletter with comments on the proposals. These were passed on to the Councillors.

By law the Council must now put a notice in a local newspaper and give the public opportunity to object. The notice is in the Stroud News and Journal on Wednesday 13th December 2017 and the Gazette on Thursday 14th December 2017. If there are no objections the new fares will come in from 1 February 2018. However, if there are objections, the Council must consider them and decide whether or not to make any modifications to the fares approved by Committee and set another date for the new fares to start. We will contact you again in the New Year with an update.

New Fares approved by Committee

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**
- Change start time of rate 1 from 07.00 to 06.00

Rate 2

- Change end time by 1 hour from 01.00 to midnight
- Change starting rate from £3.00 to £3.25 **8% increase**
- Change 225 yards to 200 yards for 30p increments
- A running mile will be £2.64 (was £2.35) **12% increase**

Rate 3

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

Extras

- Remove extra for pushchairs
- Remove extra of £3.00 for cheques under £10.00

Do you take credit and debit cards?

From January 2018 there will be a national ban on charging customers a fee for using a credit or debit card. This means that you will not be allowed to add a fee to the fare if someone pays by card.

Driver responsibilities in assisting with wheelchairs

We have been asked ‘ *What is my responsibility with regard to lifting wheelchairs and putting them into the taxi or private hire vehicle?* ’

Stroud District Council’s code of conduct for drivers says that the Council expects you to offer reasonable assistance to passengers with a disability when getting in and out of the vehicle and, where appropriate, to help them from their starting point or destination. There is no legal obligation on you to lift a wheelchair into the boot, indeed on some occasions the chair may be too large or heavy for you to do so. But, where it is physically possible, and you are fit enough to lift a wheelchair without injury, we would expect you to do so without any extra charge.

However if you drive a wheelchair accessible taxi or private hire vehicle you will soon have some obligations by law on giving assistance - see the article below

Equality Act and wheelchair accessible vehicles

The Government has recently commenced some extra parts of the Equality Act 2010. Under this Act Councils can now adopt a formal list of designated wheelchair accessible vehicles which it will make available to the public. To be on this list a vehicle must be capable of carrying some – but not necessarily all – types of occupied wheelchairs. Once a vehicle is on the designated list the driver will be required by law to provide the following assistance to wheelchair users:

- If the passenger wishes to remain in the wheelchair, to assist the passenger to get into and out of the vehicle while in the wheelchair;
- To load the passenger’s luggage into or out of the vehicle;
- If the passenger does not wish to remain in the wheelchair, to load the wheelchair into or out of the vehicle.

Failure to meet the above will be an offence unless the driver has applied for an exemption on medical grounds.

Stroud District Council currently has an informal list of wheelchair accessible taxis on its website. This means that although we expect those drivers to give the assistance as listed above it is not a legal obligation. However the Government strongly advises that all Councils should adopt a formal list as soon as possible. So, next year we will be looking to do so. We will be notifying all wheelchair accessible vehicle drivers with more detail in due course.

Are you on our list of taxis and private hires on our website?

We have a list of taxis and private hires on our website and this page gets the most hits of all our taxi web pages. Due to data protection rules we can only put your contact details on this page if you give us permission. Check our webpage www.stroud.gov.uk/taxis to see the list. Let us know if you are not on there and want to be.

Stroud Goodwill Evening

It has been reported to the Licensing Team that there were some issues this year at King Street taxi rank during Stroud Goodwill Evening on Friday 1st December 2017. Each year the Stroud Goodwill organisers arrange for road closures during the Goodwill Evening and have road blocks in place. Unfortunately it seems that some vehicles, including takeaway delivery vehicles, were getting through the roadblock.

The agreement is that taxis can come from Merrywalks up Rowcroft Retreat and then wait for customers at the top. The taxis can then turn right to get back out of the town centre, through the roadblock in Rowcroft and under the bridge. Taxis are also permitted to come up Rowcroft and into the Station.

Rachel and Hannah have met with the Goodwill organisers to try to make sure it works more smoothly next year. The organisers will speak to the takeaway shops. The Goodwill Evening will probably operate a similar system next year and we will make sure that you are informed of what 's happening.

Just a reminder that Stroud District Council Offices are shut over the Christmas break. Our last day is Friday 22 December 2017 and we are back on 2nd January 2018



**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year for 2018
From the Licensing Team !!!!!**



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
