

Taxi and Private Hire Newsletter December 2018

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Licensing Team !!!!!

Christmas Opening Hours

Stroud District Council Offices will be closed from 5pm on 24th December 2018 and will re-open on Tuesday 2nd January 2019.

If you have licences that expire at the end of December you will need to make sure that you have renewed by Friday 21st December 2018 to ensure that you receive your updated badges and vehicle disc before the Christmas shut down.



Road Closures on Stroud Goodwill Evening 7th December 2018

Stroud Goodwill is on Friday 7th December 2018. The roads in Stroud town will be closed between 17:00 to 21:00. This will include a road closure at Rowcroft roundabout. Taxis are requested, as normal on Goodwill, to come up Rowcroft Retreat from Merrywalks and wait at the top for customers. Taxis can then turn right to go back out of Rowcroft through the road closure. Following feedback from last year the Goodwill organisers have been asked to make sure that the road closures are properly managed. They have also been asked to speak with the takeaways in the town. They have indicated that they will be requesting takeaway delivery drivers to use the station area to park and collect their deliveries. The Goodwill organisers are responsible for the safety of motorists and pedestrians so please make sure that you comply with any directions given to you by the stewards.

October Joint Agency Enforcement Evening

There was a multi agency enforcement evening on 26th October 2018 in Stroud. Rachel and Hannah joined other Officers from Stroud District Council and the Police to inspect various licensed premises and also check taxis and private hire vehicles. Following the enforcement evening those drivers that were fully compliant received letters from us commending them on this. Some minor issues with taxis were picked up, mainly failure to display both driver badges. Our policy states that drivers of taxis and private hire vehicles should wear their badge where it is easily visible and display the second badge on the passenger side front dashboard in the vehicle in a position and manner easily visible to passengers. The enforcement evening was considered a success and it is hoped it will be repeated in the new year.

Section 167 Wheelchair Accessible List

Stroud District Council has now adopted Section 167 of the Equality Act which means that from 1st January 2019 we will publish a list of wheelchair accessible taxis and private hire vehicles on our website. Drivers of those vehicles will have a legal obligation to:

- To carry the passenger whilst in the wheelchair;
- Not to make any additional charge for doing so;
- If the person chooses to sit in a passenger seat, to carry the wheelchair;
- To take such steps as are reasonably necessary to ensure the passenger is carried in safety and reasonable comfort and;
- To give the passenger such mobility assistance as is reasonably required.

Failure by the driver of the wheelchair accessible vehicle to meet these duties could lead to prosecution.

A Few Reminders

Stroud Taxi Rank

We have received a few complaints from taxi drivers about other drivers not moving up on the rank and so leaving big gaps. Our hackney carriage bylaws do state that taxis should move forward when the taxi in front has driven off or moved forward.

Alcohol Deliveries

Agencies in Gloucestershire have been trying to address issues around people with alcohol problems. They have commented to us that sometimes people with such issues book a taxi or private hire vehicle to go to an off licence or supermarket and pick up alcohol for them. We ask that drivers are mindful when they receive such requests and to not act in a way that encourages people with alcohol problems to drink excessively

Be Safe Over Christmas

Christmas and New Year can be a busy time for all you all but it is important to look after your own safety. Private Hire and Taxi Monthly have produced a newsletter on seasonal safety with useful tips. We have put a link to it on our website www.stroud.gov.uk/taxis/taxi-newsletters

Contact Us:

Email licensing@stroud.gov.uk

Telephone 01453 754440

Web www.stroud.gov.uk/taxis

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.

