

Newsletter

Please note: in this Newsletter the word TAXI includes PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES unless specifically precluded by law. Please remember, the website at www.d-t-n.co.uk is managed by a licensee for the benefit of the HC/PHV trade. You can post questions, news and views. You can answer questions; with over 260 hackneys and 200+ drivers, there is a mountain of knowledge to be aired and shared. There are links to external sites; DfT, DVLA and VCA and DCC for your use. If you have any suggestions, please mail Clive at clive@c-cabs.com or Chris at chris.122756@yahoo.co.uk

An official complaint was made to the Council concerning lack of responses of letters. Since then, a flood of responses followed.

Councillor Bellis has responded to say he has lodged our concerns as a formal complaint and he will ensure it is dealt with properly. This is in relation to the proposal that Bodelyddan testing station will test vehicles on more occasions than the other testing stations. Why did this service not go out to tender?

GOOD NEWS

Cllr. C. H. Williams, Chair of DCC Licensing Committee agreed to join me on a 'tour' of the problem areas in the County. Cllr. Williams failed to turn up on the arranged day due, he tells, to not getting the messages.

The tour will be rearranged and Cllr. Williams is still happy to look at the problems first-hand. He agreed to this in the spirit of co-operation and of course reserves the right to make his own judgement.

We have been told where our licence fees go!

The answer is, in short, they don't know.

So far we have been told it is 'unknown' as basically, precise records of income and expenditure are not kept. The matter has now been handed over to an external body for examination.

As regards the £98K from Licensing used to offset overspends elsewhere - the same answer was given and this has also been handed over for examination.

Watch this space.

Yes, GOOD and GRIEF come to mind!

Roly invited us to a meeting at the Council Offices: details are posted on the website. It became obvious during the meeting that Roly was not, err, educated in HC/PHV Licensing Law. How then can he write such a document as The Questionnaire? I had a car that was once in 'showroom' condition. Then I drove it out of the showroom!

The usual disclaimer applies:-

I will accept no liability to any party for any error, omission or misstatement produced herein.

C. Smith

Taxi ranks

Please see the website for a template letter you may wish to use to lobby Rhyl Councillors about the lack of information given to the Trade about the reduction of taxi ranks spaces and the reduction of full time ranks to part-time ranks. We need a strong voice on this one, please help by adding yours. LL has written (*in her own name*) to Members



of the Rhyl West Ward, Joan Butterfield and Ian Armstrong. An extract of her letter is as below:-

The trade as expected is disappointed at yet another, for want of a better phrase, kick in the teeth to their livelihoods. Full time ranks are now part-time, others have been moved to allow for loading bays, while some are useless due to lack for forethought in the planning – i.e. Sea Life Rank on the prom and Sussex The Head of Public Protection refuses to see the merit in ceasing the issue of taxis licences although this can be done simply by Licensing Committee resolution. Officers of the Council and Members have been heard to say there are too many taxis and the market is saturated, is NOW not the time to stop issuing taxi licenses? As the majority of Rhyl ranks are within your Ward, I would be grateful if you could look into the matters I have addressed and let me know of any intention to bring about an end to this farce.

Meeting

The recent farce on the rank situation has brought forward the need for a Taxi Group meeting. It will not be Council lead. It will be organised by ourselves.

The date, time and place, together with an Agenda will be posted on the website soon.

And.....Councillor S. Frobisher will be invited to attend.

Quick Quiz

1. When is a taxi driver exempt from wearing a seat-belt?
2. When is a PHV driver exempt from wearing a seat-belt?

Answer - in case it slipped your mind

The Motor Vehicles (Wearing of Seat Belts) Regulations 1993 Exemptions

6.(1) *The requirements of regulation 5 do not apply to*

(1) a person holding a medical certificate;

(2) the driver of a licensed taxi while it is being used for seeking hire, or answering a call for hire, or carrying a passenger for hire, or

(3) a private hire vehicle while it is being used to carry a passenger for hire;

I knew you all knew that, but just in case you forgot! (LL)

DRIVERS IN PRESTATYN, DENBIGH, RUTHIN, LLANGOLLEN Keep in Touch.

Let me know of any problems with ranks, the Council or just problems of any nature.

Use the website, any problems/questions posted will be answered.

We don't hear much from drivers/operators in these towns; please don't think you have been overlooked, we are all in the same trade and need to work together for the benefit of the trade.