

Newsletter

WARNING!

At the Forum of 5th Oct. Roly pointed out that several vehicles had been found to have defective tyres. Vehicles found in such a state will be taken off the road until defects are rectified and such matters will be recorded.

And there's more; an additional TAXI Enforcement Officer has been engaged. We don't know what he/she looks like so make sure nothing brings him/her to your door.



What is included in the MOT test?

From VOSA website as at 3rd Oct 2010

The Minutes of the Taxi Forum held on 5th Oct are available on the website - D-T-N.co.uk.

Thanks to those who attended the meeting - I think we did learn a bit about the future plans for taxi/phv licensing.

As no one came up with any suggested sites for new ranks in Prestatyn, I have asked for sites to be considered at the entrance to Pontins, by the Nova and on the High Street. Let's see what the response is



Also, the Newsletter from the Council asks that any complaints be made to Licensing Services at Russell House. I would advise complaints are made to the correct department:

**Customer Care,
DCC,
County Hall,
Wynnstay Road,
Ruthin,
Denbighshire,
LL15 1YN.**

Complaints are then recorded and investigated and you will receive a response.

Body & vehicle structure: Free from excessive corrosion or damage in specific areas, no sharp edges likely to cause injury, tow-bars for security and condition

Fuel System: No leaks. Fuel cap fastens and seals securely. The fuel cap will need to be opened. Make sure the key is available.

Exhaust emissions: Vehicle meets the requirements for exhaust emissions, dependent on the age and fuel type of the vehicle.

Exhaust system: Secure, complete, without serious leaks and is not too noisy

Seat belts: All the seat belts installed are checked for type, condition, operation and security. All compulsory seat belts must be in place.

Seats: Front seats secure. Front and rear seat backs can be secured in the upright position.

Doors: Latch securely in closed position. Front doors should open from inside and outside the vehicle. Rear doors may need to be opened to gain access to testable items.

Mirrors: Minimum number required, condition and security.

Load security: Boot or tailgate can be secured in the closed position.

Brakes: Condition, operation and performance (efficiency test).

Note the removal of the road wheels and trims are not part of the test.

Tyres and wheels: Condition, security, tyre size/type and tread depth. Spare tyres are not inspected.

Registration plates: Condition, security, colour, characters correctly formed and spaced.

Lights: Condition, operation and security. Headlamp aim.

Bonnet: Securely latches in the closed position.

Wipers/washers: Operate to give the driver a clear view ahead.

Windscreen: Condition and driver's view of the road.

Horn: Correct operation and of suitable type.

Steering and suspension: Condition and operation.

Vehicle identification number: Present on vehicles first used on or after 1 August 1980. Not more than one different VIN is displayed except on multistage build vehicles.

Look at www.denbighshire.gov.uk - Public Protection - Licensing - Private Hire - for a copy of The Blue Book - BUT, scroll all the way down to the 'additional' bits approved by the Committee without having been issued to you.



If you want to join the GMB, ask me for forms. Chris 077888825661

At the Forum meeting of the 5th, Roly mentioned information he collected from staff indicated vehicles were in order. He was then quite taken aback when some members of the trade informed him otherwise.



Roly is adamant that the feet of HC's and PHV's will be improved but he can't do this without the confidence of the trade. He

needs us to tell him our worries when vehicles are seen to be dangerously defective - I think this is a responsibility of us all to ensure licensed proprietors and drivers are fit for the job and we don't all get tarred with the same brush.

The same goes for any problems with Licensing/Enforcement Officers -If he doesn't know, he can't act.

It has come to my notice that our Enforcement Officer is acting outside his box.

To be treated in such a way as I've been hearing about is not on, and reeks of abuse of power.

As previously stated, nothing can be done about this by keeping silent. There are proper procedures in place for dealing with these matters but this mean getting pen to paper.

Anyone who has first-hand experience of being bullied, harassed, ill-treated or the like let me know.

We had it from Roly's mouth, the full-responses to The Questionnaire will be shown to the Licensing Committee in December, and not just the summarised version shown at the meeting of the 18th.

And this is why all the objections are needed....



The next Licensing Committee will be held in December - we'll keep an eye out for the Agenda and we will let you know if we need an Action Group.

POSSIBLE PROGRESS

Those of you present at the Taxi Forum held at St. Asaph on the 18th will have heard the plans for more rank space on Water Street, Rhyl - IN ADDITION TO the current rank and the additional spaces. The plan is on the top end of Water Street, down to the junction at Sussex Street becoming a part-time rank. The rank, if it happens will be for use by taxis at night-time. This I as much as we know.

**CYNGOR SIR DDINBYCH
HYSBYSIAD CYHOEDDUS
ADRAN 63 - DEDDF LLYWODRAETH LEOL (DARPARIAETHAU AMRYWIOL)
1976**

Ar 23 Mehefin 2010, dan ddarpariaeth y ddeddf uchod, gofynnodd Cyngor Sir Ddinbych i adran drwyddedu'r sir ymgymryd ag astudiaeth i ymarferoldeb a gweithrediad lle cerbydau hacni (safle tacsis) ychwanegol fel ychwanegiad at y safle cerbydau hacni presennol yn Stryd y D?r yn Y Rhyl, at ddefnydd cerbydau hacni trwyddedig Sir Ddinbych yn unig yn y lleoliad canlynol. O'r gorllewin i gyffordd Stryd y Dwr / Stryd Bedford at gyffordd Stryd y Dwr / Stryd Sussex ar hyd ffyrntiad rhif 11 i 27 Stryd y D?r.

Byddai'r lleoedd cerbydau hacni ychwanegol wedi'u cyfyngu i 18.00-06.00 o'r gloch, dydd Llun i ddydd Sul.

Gwahoddir sylwadau cyhoeddus i'r cyfeiriad a nodir isod i'w gwneud o fewn 28 diwrnod i'r cyhoeddiad hwn.

PENNAETH GWASANAETH CYNLLUNIO A GWARCHOD Y CYHOEDD, ADRAN DRWYDDEDU CSDD, TY RUSSELL, Y RHYL, SIR DDINBYCH, LL18 3DP

**DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
PUBLIC NOTICE
SECTION 63 - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976**

On 23 June 2010, Denbighshire County Council under the provision of the above act, requested the county's licensing section undertake a study into the feasibility and implementation of additional hackney carriage (taxi rank) space as an addition to the current Water Street hackney carriage stand in Rhyl, for the sole use of Denbighshire licensed hackney carriages at the following location. From west of the Water Street / Bedford Street junction to the junction of Water Street / Sussex Street along the frontage of numbers 11 to 27 Water Street.

The additional hackney carriage space's would be restricted to the hours of 18.00-06.00 hours, Monday to Sunday.

Public representations are invited to the address detailed below to be made within 28 days of this publication.

THE HEAD OF PLANNING & PUBLIC PROTECTION SERVICE, DCC LICENSING SECTION, RUSSELL HOUSE, RHYL, DENBIGHSHIRE, LL18 3DP

DON'T FORGET, your MP can be contacted with any taxi/phv problems.

Chris Ruane Vale of Cwlyd
25 Kinmel Street, Rhyl LL18 1AH
01745 354626

David Ian Jones (Clwyd West)
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA
jonesdi@parliament.uk
01492 535845

Susan Elan Jones (Clwyd South)
House of Commons London SW1A 0AA
07960 429716
susan.jones.mp@parliament.uk

I am writing to Licensing and Highways requesting the Marine Lake rank is re-marked. There may not be much work at this end of the town, but could that be because the public never knew a rank existed?

A Manchester taxi company is using mobile phones to improve customer security by sending photos of drivers to the handsets of clients.

The company, in Cheetham Hill, has brought in the measure to help protect customers from bogus drivers.

Unlicensed taxis or "touts" are a big problem across the country according to police and transport authorities.

There were 93 cab-related sexual offences in London alone last year, with 120 the year before.

In Manchester, the city council has attempted to combat the problem by having licensing officers patrol the city centre on busy nights. And they regularly prosecute bogus taxi drivers.

Under new regulations, all Manchester minicabs have to be the same shade of silver so they are more easily recognisable.

One north Manchester taxi firm, 6 111 111, has gone a step further by providing customers with photos of their drivers and it seems to have had a beneficial impact.

THE EQUALITY ACT

You've heard of it, and you've read your new obligations on the web-site - but what does it all mean?

First - find out if the Council will keep a list of designated vehicles. They don't have to, the Act states councils "may" keep a list.

If DCC is not keeping a list, the obligations don't apply to you.

If it does intend to keep a list and you think you may be medically exempt from assisting a passenger in a wheelchair I would advise that you visit the licensing office and ask for the paperwork allowing you to claim medical exemption, sooner rather than later.

The Act allows for two reasons for exemption: -

On medical grounds , or

If the drivers' physical condition makes it impossible or unreasonably difficult for him or her to comply with the duties.

Time will tell, but think of this scenario. A driver weighing 8 stone pushing a passenger in a wheelchair with a total weighing 16 stone, upwards, possibly in the line of traffic?

WHO SAYS YOU DON'T NEED PROTECTION?

The 65-year-old man, picked up a fare outside Moorgate Station at about 6.25 p.m. on Tuesday (Aug 31).

His passenger who was described as Asian, about 18, clean shaven and skinnily built got into the silver Cab and asked to be taken to the Isle of Dogs.

The taxi driver stopped outside Brassey House, Cahir Street, and his passenger said he wanted to get out and then pay the fare but the cabby refused and said he had to pay before leaving the car.

But his passenger climbed out of the rear window and the driver got out of the cab and was threatened with a 12 inch kitchen knife demanding money and his bag from him and running off.

DON'T GET CAUGHT OUT

- Make sure you have your Badge in vehicle so passengers can see it.



- Make sure all your legal obligations as a driver are met - tyres, lights, indicators.

- Make sure your documents are up to date and have been submitted to the licensing office. (advisable to get a receipt if you leave them there)

- Make sure you don't give any reason for your livelihood to be taken away.

- The feedback is;- enforcement is coming!

If the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.

- Matthew

AND WHO SAYS WE DON'T NEED ENFORCEMENT?

A **BOGUS** cabbie who raped a young woman in a taxi as she made her way home from a night out around Hoxton in 2003 has been sentenced to eight years in prison.

Astor Newton Murray, now 49, of Edmonton, north London, has been caged after DNA taken for a taxi touting offence last year matched forensic evidence.

The rapist preyed on a 22-year-old woman as she waited for a bus home in City Road at about 4 a.m. on November 9th 2003.

He offered her a cab ride, which she refused at first, but when he suggested a reasonable rate, she agreed.

Murray drove the victim to an industrial estate, where he locked the doors, stripped off his shirt and trousers and raped her.

He then insisted on driving her to her home in south London with the doors still bolted before she finally managed to escape while the cab stopped at traffic lights.

But Murray was only seized after he was charged for taxi touting and assaulting police in October last year

He was sentenced to eight years in prison at the Old Bailey last Friday (September 24th 2010) and put on the sex offenders list for life after being found guilty of rape and indecent assault on September 2nd.

Woman's taxi driver ordeal at cash-point (Oct 3rd), Wales On Sunday

A woman taxi passenger was left terrified when a driver drove off with her in his car, as her partner nipped out to a cash-point.

The woman had been waiting in the back of the black Fiat Doblo cab outside Tesco in Pontyclun while her partner got some money to pay the fare.

The driver then drove off before stopping about half a mile away in Heol Miskin, Pontyclun, where the woman managed to get out and flagged down a police car. Officers were last night investigating the incident, "We have been speaking to taxi companies but as yet we have been unable to trace him."

The driver is described as being of Asian appearance, with a black beard and scruffy black hair.