

Taxi/PHV Newsletter

PRESTATYN DRIVERS/OWNERS



I did ask - Where would you like ranks? We need to know so we can campaign for ranks in the places they are needed. You drive in Prestatyn so you are best to judge where ranks are needed.

The Tesco and the town centre development is on the go, are you bothered about a rank near to the new development? Pontins, the Nova, Ffrith Beach, High Street? Let us know please.

Due to the lack of response, I have asked for ranks to be located by the Nova, Pontins and off the High Street. Moves are already in motion for these to be placed before DCC Licensing Committee.

Leave your comments on www.d-t-n.co.uk

DENBIGH DRIVERS/OWNERS

Where would you like ranks? We need to know so we can campaign for ranks in the places they are needed. You work in these towns so you are best qualified to tell us where you want ranks. By Morrisons? Vale Street? Let us know please.

At the last Taxi Forum, the lack of signs directing people to ranks was mentioned. I asked Roly if this could be looked into. Some days later we were on the streets with Nicky and Howard from Licensing looking at places to put signs. Nicky noted down the best places and is checking with Highways about signage. (permission is needed to site things

Beware of cheap insurance

Taxi firms in Sheffield have been left with invalid insurance policies after it was found many policies didn't provide the correct cover. Unfortunately, the insurance firm has not been named but is being investigated by Police.

FROSTY MORNINGS?

The cold weather may make an idea chance for someone to steal your car - frosty mornings may lead to drivers leaving keys in vehicles while they warm up - making them an easy target for car thieves.

Pete Sturgeon from Coventry Police said: "As the weather gets colder, some motorists become careless and leave keys in their ignitions as they warm their vehicles. Others leave the engine running in their parked vehicles as they go back inside the house and wait for their vehicle to de-ice.

"There are people who will steal if the opportunity presents itself and others who deliberately go in search of such opportunities - please do not give anyone the chance to steal your property.

"Some victims nip inside to collect their bag or a last sip of coffee and that's all the time a car thief needs.

The message is simple - never leave your car unattended while the keys are in it.

A Brazilian illegal immigrant who posed as a taxi driver to collect a female nightclubber before raping her has been jailed for six years.

Sankey Bezeera, 23, picked up his victim from Old Market and drove her to woodland to carry out the sexual assault – and then drove her back to her Home in Bristol

Following a nine-day hunt, Bezeera was arrested when detectives discovered he had placed his silver BMW up for sale and posed as prospective buyers to view. When they searched the car's satellite navigation system, they found it contained the victim's postcode – which Bezeera had used to drive his victim home after the attack. He will be deported after serving his prison term

Taxi licensing fees should not be used to raise revenue for the council general funds says GMB.

GMB revealed that using the Freedom of Information Act it has discovered that Brighton & Hove Council has been using taxi licensing fees to raise revenue for the council general funds.

Yes, we know, we've asked, we were told and the matter, in our opinion similar to this one, is being investigated.

Following a number of Freedom of Information Act enquires GMB taxi driver members in Brighton and Hove have discovered that nearly £90,000 of their licensing fees revenue has been spent elsewhere by the council over the last three years. The GMB are also concerned that fees for this year's budget, projecting a huge £58,000 surplus, will also be spent elsewhere. The Department of Transport has confirmed that taxi licensing fees should be 'ring-fenced' and not diverted away from the taxi trade. The GMB therefore ask where has our member's money gone.

Mick Hildreth, GMB PDB Provincial Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Secretary said, "GMB's Professional Drivers Branch, with members the length and breath of the country, is calling on all councils when setting taxi licensing fees to keep to the law and not divert taxi fee revenues to other departments within the council.

GMB is demanding that every penny is repaid to drivers and owners, and in future any surplus fees should be kept within the taxi licensing budget. He is also urging the Department for Transport to write to all councils reminding them that taxi fee revenues must be ring-fenced and only spent within the taxi licensing regime, and not used as a cash cow for councils to do what they like with."

Gmb.org.uk

Watch this space!

RANKS



Out and about, it was noted that the Pavilion Theatre is without a rank. So we've asked for one. Watch that space!

The public notice for the proposed 'new' rank at the top of Water Street, Rhyl is out. This new rank will be part-time - from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. While loads of ranks space is needed, do you want one that is only there for night-time drivers? It is suggested that you put pen to paper and let the Council know, within the next few days. The same public notice tells us the extension to the current Water Street Rank has been withdrawn. There are legal issues here, which we are putting to the Council; it is up to the Committee to decide if a rank is not appointed - not officers. We'll let you know when we get a response.

Would be interested in accepting Taxi Cards? Please see web-site 'comments' posting for how the scheme would work - if we can get it passed by the Council. Have a think and leave your comments on the web-site please.

The Results



The Questionnaire results were considered by DCC Licensing Committee and here are the unverified resolutions:

The Licensing Committee was surprised, as were we, at the lack of response - 73 responses out of 500 shows lack of interest. The lack of trade members present was also noted.

Decisions:

Proposal 1 - new to fleet tested at Bodelwyddan- agreed

Proposal 2 - under 5 years old get another 6 months test at ANY testing station - agreed

Proposal 3 - over 5 years old get 2 tests at 4 monthly intervals at ANY testing station - **deferred**

Proposal 4 - over 5 years old need to be in showroom conditions etc. - agreed

Proposal 5 - removing plates - amended (*they seems to have realised they can't do this!*) testing stations will now send info to Licensing and Bodelwyddan.- agreed

Proposal 6 - under 5 years - 6 monthly test at ANY testing station - agreed

Proposal 7 - over 5 years, 1 test at Bodelwyddan and 2 further tests at 4 monthly intervals at ANY station - **deferred**

Proposal 8 - removing plates - as No. 5 - agreed

Proposal 9 - No need to the 7 year inspection at council office - agreed

Proposal 10 - introduce a licensing regime for testing stations - agreed

Proposal 11 - Fleet Manager at Bodelwyddan to determine standards - agreed

Proposal 12 - Testing Stations to record info and send to Licensing and Bodelwyddan - agreed

Proposal 13 - Fleet Management to supervise Testing Stations - awaiting official minutes

Proposal 14 - Using best practice by PANS - agreed

Deferred items will be considered at a further Licensing Committee meeting - I suspect they are now looking at the number of test a council can legally require - but it would be helpful, if you don't agree with these proposals, you write and tell them, now.

The things that come to those that wait may be the things left by those who got there first.