

## Introduction

My name is Barry Winslade and I joined the Licensing Team at Bracknell Forest in April. I have had some opportunity to meet a few of you and to discuss issues of concern (from both perspectives), but I hope to be able to get to meet many more of you in the weeks and months to come.

## New Fares

A new fare tariff has now been proposed for consultation by the Licensing Committee, details of which are currently on display in Time Square.

## Vehicle Inspections

A reminder that inspections are no longer undertaken at the Council Depot, but are carried out through making an appointment directly with one of the three authorised garages. Further details can be obtained from the Licensing section of the BFBC website or from reception at Time Square.

## New Guidance Booklet

The new guidance notes and conditions are in the process of being finalised and should be available shortly. There are a number of changes to the Guidance, so all drivers should ensure that they take the time to familiarise themselves with the new booklet.

## Courteous and Legal Parking

Several complaints have been received about the parking of licensed vehicles. Some of these incidents relate to illegal parking, which can result in enforcement action being taken. Other incidents relate to disputes about parking spaces or alleged bad parking.

All complaints need to be investigated, it is in all our interests that drivers try to remain civil and courteous at all times (even when you are not at fault).

## Bus Station Rank

Following on from the above, complaints have also been received about vehicles parking in the areas behind the rank where the buses turn



and also about licensed vehicles entering the station through the bus lane near 'The Goose'. Please ensure that driving and parking in and around the bus station is in accordance with the provided signage, and is not likely to provoke complaints from bus drivers or station staff.

## Expired Temporary Plates

Please ensure that plates issues for temporary replacement vehicles are returned to the Council as soon as the temporary vehicles ceases to be required.

## Guide/Assistance Dogs and Disabled Passengers

A reminder that it is an offence for a driver to refuse to carry guide/assistance dogs, unless the driver has an appropriate medical exemption certificate. In addition, a wheelchair accessible Hackney Carriage must carry a wheelchair-using passenger if requested to do so.

An incident was reported recently and this is an area that will continue to be monitored. Any complaints about the discriminatory treatment of persons with disabilities will be fully investigated and, if found to be substantiated, will result in enforcement action being taken.

## Outstanding Insurance and Inspection Documents

Although reminder letters are sent, drivers/vehicle keepers are responsible for ensuring that appropriate insurance documentation is provided prior to or on the day of expiry of the previous insurance. Drivers/vehicle keepers should also ensure that their vehicles' MOTs/inspections are up-to-date.

## Penalty Points System

The issuing of penalty points for contraventions is currently being revived. New forms will be produced detailing what contraventions will be covered and the points allocated in each case. Acquiring 20 points or more over a set period will result in the driver being referred to the Licensing Panel, to determine whether a suspension or revocation of the licence is appropriate. It is anticipated that the new penalty points system will be introduced with effect from 1 August 2008.

## Contact

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