



Licensing Committee Supplement

Wyre Borough Council
Please ask for : Daphne Courtenage
Assistant Democratic Services Officer
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**Licensing Committee meeting on Tuesday, 28 June 2022 at 6.00 pm
in the Council Chamber - Civic Centre, Poulton-le-Fylde**

- 6. Proposal for the variation of Hackney Carriage Fares within Wyre Borough (Pages 3 - 6)**

Letter from the taxi trade.

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19th May 2022

Dear Colleagues,

Wyre Borough Hackney Carriage Tariff Increase 2022

Further to the above increase being long overdue and having been subsequently contacted by a number of taxi companies, it was decided to hold a meeting, at Fylde Coast Replacement Taxis Ltd., on Friday 13th May.

This was in order to discuss a tariff increase and in attendance were the following trade members;

- Peter Hornby (Ace Cabs Joint Owner)
- Ian Barron (Ace Cabs Joint Owner)
- Paul Howarth (Fleetwood Cabs director)
- Lee Smith (Cleveleys Taxis Director)
- Anthony Mellor (Cleveleys Taxis Director)
- Gary Cheetham (Poulton Cabs Shareholder)
- Christopher Hargreaves (Wyre Hackney License operator)
- Christopher Tomlinson (Wyre Hackney License operator)
- Garfield Hession (Intermediary / Facilitator)

In view of the above individuals being in attendance, it was felt that a broad representation was present from all areas of the borough. There was also an accrued wealth of knowledge due to some of the above being in the trade for in excess of thirty years.

Following cordial dialogue, the absolute consensus concluded that, a significant increase be vital for the taxi trade, within Wyre Borough.

This is required in order to bring Wyre Borough in line with Blackpool and Fylde's tariffs. We may then, hopefully, be able to attract drivers, who are the lifeblood of the taxi trade. Subsequently allowing us to offer a more complete service for the public, as a whole.

Having only had one increase within the last eleven years, it was discussed that more ongoing dialogue, with Wyre Borough Council licensing team, be required in the future.

This would be in order to form better relations and progress matters each year, in regard to tariff increases. Therefore, meaning incremental rises instead of significant increases. Thereafter, benefiting both the taxi trade along with the paying public.

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YOUR ACCIDENT...YOUR CLAIM...YOUR CHOICE

Other issues were discussed, as to why this rise is vital to the trade, such as;

National Minimum wage increasing drastically, against the increase in tariffs.

Inflation reaching the highest levels for forty years.

Significant rises to home gas & electric prices.

Increased food and clothing costs.

Exorbitant Vehicle running costs.

An agreement was reached that the attached, proposed tariff increase, should be advertised to the trade as a whole, via all of the taxi companies.

This is in order for everyone to be given the opportunity to discuss, or offer opinion, in a democratic way. Furthermore, that the consultation timescale be for two weeks.

Done in the this way, the members who attended the meeting, can in no way be criticised, as everyone has been included within the process.

A further meeting was then organised with Patrick Cantley, head of licensing at Wyre Borough Council, for Wednesday 18th May.

Present at this meeting were;

Paul Howarth

Gary Cheetham

Christopher Hargreaves

Garfield Hession

At this meeting, we discussed our proposed tariff increase and explained the reasons behind each item increase. The comprehensive proposal includes all items within the tariff card and addresses them all individually.

Patrick was extremely receptive to our plight, in view of the Wyre Borough Council tariff rating, where we are languishing, somewhat, at the wrong end of the table.

Patrick advised that he intended to advertise three proposals to the trade for them to vote on. The proposals will be;

- No change – continue with the current tariff.
- The option of a tariff increase supplied separately to Wyre Borough.
- The attached tariff increase, which has been formulated following our meeting on 13th May.

We strongly recommend that you take the time to complete this survey, as this will determine which rise is taken forward.

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Should anyone have any queries, in regards to the proposed tariff increases, then guidance or advice can be sought from any of the individuals that attended the initial meeting on Friday 13th May

I trust this is satisfactory and now completes a transparent tariff proposal which is clear for everyone to see.

We look forward to your conclusions and the implementation of a badly needed increase for the benefit of the whole trade.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Hession', written over a faint dotted line.

Garfield Hession
(On behalf of the attendees)

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