

Theale Taxis

Mr S Murphy
Public Protection Manager
West Berkshire Council
Market Street
Newbury
RG14 5LD

9th May 2018

Dear Mr Murphy

Objection to Fees as Advertised

Thank you for your notice with regards to the proposed fees, although very standard letter with no explanation.

I wish to make an objection on the grounds of:-

No communication with the trade - in the lead up to preparing the fees for vehicle and Operators Licences.

Insufficient information with regards to the new fee for dispensation.

Section 70 allows for the reasonable recovery cost within the section, can you confirm the carrying forward, surplus or deficits associated costs, and where we stand with finances over the last three years, and an explanation of the new costs.

Please acknowledge receipt of this objection.

Theale Taxis

Sean Murphy
Public Protection Manager
West Berkshire Council
Market Street
Newbury
RG14 5LD

Dear Sean

Following receiving your proposal to increase charges for Private Hire Licences I feel compelled to object to the introduction of an annual charge for Licences with dispensation.

My reasons for the objection are listed below

1. Whilst I acknowledge work is involved in allowing this benefit it is a one off cost there has been no charge for this before
2. Costs to the council for this benefit are minimal and only incurred once
3. To supply an annually dated dispensation is unnecessary and an added cost and workload to an already over stretched council service or so we are told.
4. Very unfair that small businesses face the extra costs – this is now happening all the time

I feel sure that if a brain storming session was held with us all, between us we could come up with cost cutting ways to benefit everyone Council and badge holders, as well as the end customers.
Let's work together to benefit us all?

Yours Sincerely

Excel Executive Chauffeurs Ltd



Telephone & Fax: 01635 45964

Mobile Phone:

Member of the British Chauffeurs Guild

Mr S Murphy

Public Protection Manager

West Berkshire Council

Market Street

Newbury

Berks.

RG14 5LD

6th May 2018

Dear Mr Murphy

I write in connection with the proposed, unjustified, increases in Private Hire fees.

Specifically the proposed additional fee of £55 for vehicles with Dispensation, supposedly to cover additional work involved.

I would be interested to know what additional work this refers to. Having had a dispensation for our vehicle since they were introduced I'm not aware that this requires any additional work. We abide by the same rules as the rest of the private hire trade, we provide the same information, the only condition's I'm aware of for the dispensation is the standard of vehicle used and that we do the required amount of contract work. This does not involve any additional work by the Council Officers.

I see absolutely no justification to warrant this increase.

Director.

From:
Sent: 07 May 2018 09:38
To: Licensing <Licensing@westberks.gov.uk>
Subject: Fees increaqse

This is an EXTERNAL EMAIL. STOP. THINK before you CLICK llnks or OPEN attachments.

To Whom it may concern.

I would like to object to the fees increases that you wish to put upon us. I feel that we are being singled out as we Taxi Owners/Drivers we are getting less and less from West Berkshire Council, with regards to Safety, Security, Parking, Enforcement,

Parking at the south side of Newbury Station is not safe in every sense of the word and needs sorting out, with a safety audit done. Having to stop in the middle of the road and reverse into a bay that is just wide enough to park in and customers opening doors onto other cars opening tailgates and boots for luggage whilst people trying to get by "not safe" loading a wheelchair "not safe" taxis pulling out of the rank and people walking trying to get past "not safe" Why is it that we have the worst taxi rank in England at Newbury Station south side "not safe"

With the closure of the wharf car park there is not enough room for taxis to park up and wait, we cannot afford to drive around town all the time looking for a space on a rank, not only that we cannot drive around like that.

All the taxi ranks in the town are not where the people want them we should be in the Market Place. This would also help with security and safety to drivers being stuck in a dimly lit area is not good.

We basically have to self police ourselves and each other due to the lack of enforcement.

Nobody would mind a small increase in costs if they were getting something from the increases but it appears that as far as Taxis are concerned I get the feeling that nobody in the council wants us in the town.

I heard today of a driver waiting in the wharf parked near the "disabled" vehicles waiting for a coach to arrive and he was told to move on or get a ticket surely somebody needs to sort this system out this is why you want us to pay more and it is not on.

I know that a lot of these problems are being caused by the Highways and Newbury Town Council but we pay you not them, so please give us a break and do something about it

Whilst thinking about this, as far as I can recall the only requirements for a taxi plate are the Licensing Authority, Plate No and the amount of passengers to be conveyed ?

Therefore why cannot we remove the "expiry date" from the plate then the plate could last the life of the car therefore upon renewal of license a plate would not need to be made therefore lowering the cost of renewals saving us money and equally saving your staff time.

If a "disc" is still required for the front of the Taxi/P.Hire then this could be the same as the small "disc" that we use in taxis now similar as to the old tax disc.

As enforcement is an issue then I do not see this as a problem.

Yours

TAXI DRIVER of 35 years last 10 watching it disappear on a downward slope