

14th July 2008.

BURNLEY HACKNEY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Chairman taxi licensing committee Borough of Burnley

At a recent meeting of Burnley Hackney Carriage Association the Chairman and Vice Chairman tender their resignations, there were multiple issues to discuss. Initially the Chairman was persuaded to carry on and Vice Chairman's resignation was accepted and a new committee was formed.

The new committee now stands as Mr Jamil Munir Chair, Musharaf Perviz vice Chair to deal on any issues with Council and Police. Further three members were elected to deal with internal issues headed by Mr Arshad, Mr Shahzad and Mr Haji Maqbool.

The full committee had the task of agreeing the Fare Structure with Council. A further meeting was held by the association to deal with problems outside lava night club parking problems. A splinter group exists within the organization. Attempts were made to curb the problem within the group.

At our meeting held on Wednesday 9th July 2008 the members attending the meeting unanimously decided to keep the existing committee incharge and requested the chairman to take following issues back to the Council.

Members who were present at meeting and those who were unable to attend signed the attached sheet in support of the committee and request/proposals to be presented to the council by the chairman. Any other person presenting such document should not be accepted on behalf this or another body.

The reason for the above statement is that members have signed a similar document for another suggestion regarding a taxi marshal.

The proposals suggested by the council that knowledge and skill tests are needed for existing driver and should be introduced for new applicants. We strongly oppose these measures along with introduction of a BTEC Course. Why? We in the HACKNEY TRADE have invested many thousands of pounds well be for the council introduced DE REGULATIONS. May be it should have introduced these measures then, so that before new applicants invested to obtain cabs would have known what laid ahead?

Now you are saying to these people that you must under take these tests before you can keep there licenses. It's like agreeing to sleep with someone then being accused of RAPE! Its not fare at all is it?

Mr Henderson mentions in his report that some complaints have been received about drivers attitudes over disabled people, our request/suggestion over this issue is that we will support the council that those drivers be made examples by sending on skill training courses or what ever action it feels fit. Many people have got mortgages on their homes to finance their CABS who would suffer and be assured that there are many that fall into that category. As mentioned earlier we would support council's idea in respect of new applicants. But resist on existing as many will not only go on state benefits but suffer financial and mental hardship. I sincerely request that the council over looks on this method regarding the existing CAB drivers.

Vehicle tests.

On this matter the members are in full agreement with Mr Anderson that any owner who is unable to maintain his vehicle properly should not be able carry on using such vehicle, how ever what we would like the council to do is reward those owners who keep their vehicles well maintained from a four monthly tests to six monthly. With this proposal we not only get better but much safer service through out the borough.

Fees.

Members do not really see or understand any reason to change the present system as when ever the need has arisen in the past to increase the fees the council has been able to do so with any real problem. Why change a system that has already been faultless?

Vehicle Testing Sites

Members feel that the county council has unfair advantage and monopoly of testing our vehicles. We feel further sites be given the opportunities to test vehicles so that no time is lost to put vehicles back on road, as many times the members suffer financial loss as direct result of this.

Taxi Marshal

We have discussed this matter with Mr Henderson and find him in support of this suggestion. Initially we were to employ a taxi marshal our selves to remove private hire vehicles plying for hire illegally out side night clubs, however after consulting Mr Henderson the matter has been put on hold for further discussion with the council.

I must add that I am very disappointed with Mr Henderson as he is not interested nor willing remove some of his recommendations before the committee. What is the point of these so called consultations if he had no intentions of listening?

Finally I sincerely hope that the council listens to our suggested request and put our members out of misery and at ease.

Many thanks.



Jamil Munir

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Cc kitty Usher MP

Cc the leader of council

Cc the leader times (the press)

Cc the evening telegraph