

Letters of Objection

>>> <ron.parker@streamline.travel> 05/03/2009 14:25 >>>

Melvyn

I refer to the recent open meeting in connection with the Taxi and Private Hire trade in TMBC area and would be obliged if you would convey the contents of this letter to:- The Chief Solicitor, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council.

Fees

Clearly no business welcomes increases in the costs associated in the operating of its business, and the proposed increases by T&MBC of the current fees for the licensing of vehicles and drivers is no exception. I think a more pragmatic approach is required, in these difficult times, and would suggest that whilst the trade is mindful that a fare increase would be nice, it is not sustainable as it would result in a reduction in passenger numbers/passenger journeys. I would suggest that a review of the fees charged by the outsourced contractors for the MOT's is overdue, as muted at the meeting and might go some way to reducing the annual costs of operating a vehicle/vehicles.

Limiting of Hackney Carriage Licences

Although the OFT has issued clear guidelines to local authorities in respect of numerical restrictions of Hackney Carriage Licences, T&MBC still have the ability to restrict the issue, and justify its position by way of an un-met demand survey, or limit the issue by way of a "age/quality" or "wheelchair" vehicles only policy. As an operator with vehicles and drivers licensed in other areas, I would suggest that T&MBC runs the risk of becoming a dumping ground for vehicles that other authorities will refuse to licence.

Unfortunately I could be accused of "pulling the ladder up", but like all of the other major taxi/private hire companies, which operate in your area, we have made a considerable investment in vehicles and premises, and have to compete in these difficult times with operators who have purchased a cheap/old car, which T&MBC will then licence. !

Regards

Ron Parker

>>> TTaxis <ttaxis@btconnect.com> 05/03/2009 14:49 >>>

Dear Mr Wood.

I'm Trevor King of Tonbridge Taxis,
Please would you pass on these comments to your Solicitors and your good selves: After reading the Kent on Sunday I totally disagree with the proposal to raise the taxi licensing fee, with the current financial climate.

T King