From:	Kenneth McSheaffrey
To:	Robert MacKie
Subject:	Fwd: Review of Taxi Fares
Date:	27 September 2021 15:42:19

Hi Bob

Copy of our objection to the fare notice. Sent officially to Licensing.

Cheers

Kenny

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Kenneth McSheaffrey** <info.cbanktaxioperators@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, 27 Sept 2021 at 15:44
Subject: Review of Taxi Fares
To: <licensing@west-dunbarton.gov.uk>

Hi

In response to the advert in the Clydebank Post, that gave notice of a possible change to the WDC Clydebank zone fare structure, Clydebank Taxi Operators held a meeting on 22 September 2021 at Clydebank Community Sports Hub, Dean Street, Clydebank.

Our meeting was advertised to all members of the newly formed Clydebank Taxi Operators group and also posted on our official Facebook members page.
To date we have had 40 members fill in our online membership application form and we have 57 members on our facebook group page.
We had anticipated a low turnout at the meeting due to anxieties regarding covid and the fact it was a hall meeting. 10 people attended the meeting and a number of people sent their apologies.

Item 4 on our agenda - Fare Review was discussed.
We debated all aspects of the 4 proposals put forward by the licensing committee in this public notice. Members had expressed their concerns that proposals being put forward by the committee in a public notice had not been asked for or agreed by the trade in advance. Members said they appreciate that the Licensing team had used a questionnaire to canvass operators in advance as a way to gauge opinion. They felt that once again this gives individuals a chance to make personal representation which sometimes is not in the best interest of the trade as a whole. Members are keen to point out that the 18 month delay to the fare increase from the last fare review not only cost the Licensing Team over £10,000 in costs but also estimate a cost to the drivers of approx £1,500.00 per head in lost revenue.

In real terms over £250,000 in wages not earned to the trade and the knock on spend in other local businesses. Members have asked for a re-think to this process so that an agreed fare review is in place before it goes to a public notice and the elected members rule on the matter.
Hopefully this can be part of a future conversation.

1 Proposal to add 30p to the initial flag fall on all tariffs.
After debating & voting the people present voted to accept the proposal. (9/1)

2 Proposal to change tariff 2 from 10.00pm to 9.00pm each day.
After debating & voting the people present could not reach a majority (5/5)

3 Proposal to change tariff 2 on both Christmas Eve & New Years Eve from 6.00pm to 6.00am.
After debating & voting the people present voted by majority to reject the proposal. (10/0)

4 Proposal to change tariff on soiling fee from £50.00 to £60.00.
After debating & voting the people present voted to accept the proposal. (10/0)

To summarise, our members present felt that the taxi trade needs to take a small increase to combat rising fuel & running costs which is reflected in our vote in proposal 1.

We did not feel comfortable or indeed had enough feedback from members who worked in the hours that affected tariff 2 to form a majority in proposal 2.

As a group we feel, and would like to make representation if required, to let the committee know that we strongly object and feel that proposal 3 will, if passed, have a detrimental effect on the taxi trade & indeed our relationship with our customers.

Finally, members said in relation to proposal 4 you could make this £100 but it would not increase your chances of someone actually paying once the cab was soiled as this is not a legal requirement by the customer.

Clydebank Taxi Operators are a newly formed group made up of operators with years of experience and knowledge with regards to the taxi trade in Clydebank. We aim over the following months to engage with both drivers and operators to encourage them to be more proactive in their own trade. We look forward to forming a good working relationship with both the Licensing team and the elected members.

Regards

Kenny McSheaffrey
Acting Secretary
Clydebank Taxi Operators