

30 Clarence Street

Kidderminster

Worcestershire

Dy10 1rs

Dear Sir

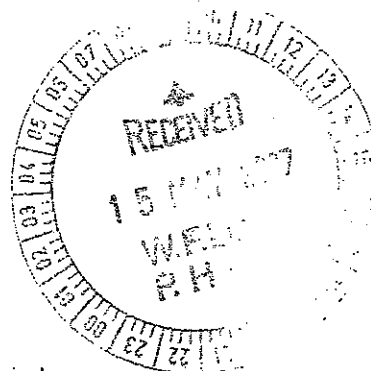
All this rubbish I have been reading about the Wyre Forest taxi trade recently has made me write this letter.

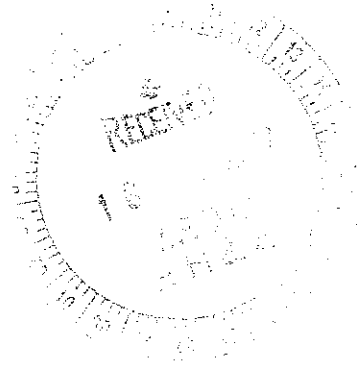
In Birmingham, London and many major cities around the UK, the public has never had a choice of vehicle to hire as a taxi; there are only cab type vehicles. Wyre Forest Council is simply coming into line with this policy.

A private hire vehicle, (or minicab, as they are known in London) is a vehicle which can be hired by telephoning their base, they are usually a saloon type vehicle, and they cannot ply for hire on taxi ranks, or in the street, therefore do not clog up the town centre with traffic. This is also better for the customer because, as they don't drive back to the taxi rank after every journey, they can be sat on the housing estate, outside the pub etc, waiting for the phone to ring, thus reducing waiting times for that all important trip. Although there are a limited number of private hire vehicles working in Wyre forest at the moment, there would soon be more firms starting up to satisfy the demand for this type of vehicle, reducing waiting times further, and giving more freedom of choice for the customer.

Yours Faithfully,

John Turley (Wyre Forest Taxi Driver).





30 Clarence Street  
Kidderminster  
Worcestershire  
Dy10 1rs

Dear Sir.

I understand that the licensing committee would like an alternative proposal from the taxi trade, regarding the type of vehicle to be licensed as a hackney carriage in the future.

In many towns and cities in the UK, there has never been a choice, and all public hire vehicles have to be of the purpose built type. This is the only sensible course of action to take, for the following reasons.

A – Safety. Anyone can put a magnetic sign onto the roof of their saloon car, and pick up vulnerable people in the street, pretending to be a licensed taxi, and at best, overcharging for a journey which is uninsured and dangerous. At worst, well we can all imagine. Not every criminal will go to the expense of buying a purpose built taxi for the purposes of deception.

B – Wheelchair access. People should not have to be discriminated against, because of disability.

C – Although there are not that many private hire vehicles working in Wyre Forest at the present time, the fact that so many drivers are campaigning to be allowed to use saloon type cars as hackney carriages, should be an indication that there will be a lot of private hire vehicles being licensed, when the choice is finally taken away. I can see that within a very short time, there will be firms operating fleets of saloon type private hire vehicles, as they do all over the country right now. Thus bringing more choice to the public, shorter waiting times, and competition. Competition is not a welcome thing for some businesses; I think however, that it will raise standards throughout the trade.

Therefore, there can only be one course of action. All public hire vehicles must be purpose built taxis, there will be plenty of private hire vehicles for people who do not wish to hire the purpose built cab, they will simply have to pick up the phone.

Please accept this as my proposal.

Yours Faithfully,

John Turley.

Drivers badge number - 474

Hackney number - 88

Copy of letter sent to  
Kidderminster Shuttle on 1-June-2007  
for the attention of Licensing Committee  
and Wyre Forest Councillors

30 Clarence Street

Kidderminster

Worcestershire

DY10 1RS

### Cabs only, on Taxi rank.

Sir

I feel that I have to reply to Trevor Owens comments (campaigning for mixed fleet. May 31, letters). All I have to say on the matter is that by separating hackney carriage from private hire, you are taking the confusion out of hiring a Taxi. If it is a Cab, you can hail it in the street, and if it is a car, it has to be ordered by telephone, the driver would know your name and there would be no confusion as to who he was, what could be easier? The current mixed fleet situation would eventually lead to all kinds of complications. Do we have to stick to tradition, where In Wyre Forest there is a mixed up mess of saloon cars and cabs? Anyone could drive into town and pretend to be a taxi, when in fact they were there for more sinister reasons. Shouldn't we try to go forward, and make the Taxi world at least, safer for our young people?

There are three reasons that I can quote right now for making our taxi fleet purpose built.

A – Safety. Anyone can put a magnetic sign onto the roof of their saloon car, and pick up vulnerable people in the street, pretending to be a licensed taxi, and at best, overcharging for a journey which is uninsured and dangerous. At worst, well we can all imagine. Not every criminal will go to the expense of buying a purpose built taxi for the purposes of deception.

B – Wheelchair access. People should not be discriminated against because of disability.

C – Although there are not that many private hire vehicles working in Wyre Forest at the present time, the fact that so many drivers are campaigning to be allowed to use saloon type cars as hackney carriages, should be an indication that there will be a lot of private hire vehicles being licensed, when the choice is finally taken away. I can see that within a very short time, there will be firms operating fleets of saloon type private hire vehicles, as they do all over the country right now. This should bring more choice for the public, shorter waiting times, and competition. Competition is not a welcome thing for some businesses; I think however, that it will raise standards throughout the trade.

I welcome competition; I feel that it will improve the way our customers are treated. I just wonder if everyone in the Taxi trade feels the same way.

Yours Faithfully,

John Turley, Wyre forest Taxi driver.

