

From: Mark Robinson
Sent: Wednesday, November 27, 2024 9:04 am
To: Councillor George Perfect <george.perfect@medway.gov.uk>
Subject: School Streets scheme

Dear Councillor Perfect,

As mentioned on the phone I'm contacting you in the hope that you'll give us guidance as to the best way to represent the voices of both our customers, and our Drivers in the ongoing debate about the School Streets scheme.

Whilst i think everyone would agree that steps should be taken wherever possible to reduce the number of children involved in traffic accidents on the way to and from school, we feel that the way this scheme has been introduced, and the plans to expand it have not taken into account the needs of other vulnerable groups in our society, or the local businesses that has historically supported those needs.

Specifically, we as, the single biggest taxi fleet in Medway as faced with the possibility of having to turn away all bookings in the vicinity of the roads affected by the scheme as I've a constant stream of Drivers at my door who are infuriated by the fact that have received fines for straying into the roads affected. On one hand we have many vulnerable individuals reliant on our services, and on the other we have Drivers either unable to pick them up or drop them at home without picking up significant financial penalties, or who are faced with extending the journey and therefore the cost to the passenger.

We continue to request that all locally licensed taxi Drivers are provided with exemptions allowing them to do their work but are continually rebuffed with no rhyme or reason. To put this in context, with close to 300,000 people living in Medway we'd suggest that there are around 150,000 of vehicles in the Towns (in 2012 the number of vehicles per 100 people was 505) and there are a total of 500 licensed taxis meaning we are seeking exemptions for 0.33% of Medway's vehicles, some of which are already exempt as they pick up or drop off at the affected schools. The situation would farcical if it didn't negatively affect the elderly and vulnerable so disproportionately.

Sorry for the drawn-out email, but I'm sure you can sense the frustration and would very much appreciate it if we could meet to discuss the matter further. I'll forward email correspondence on this by separate email.

Thanks for the call,

Mark Robinson
CEO Vokes Taxis Ltd