

Appendix 3 – Horse Drawn Carriages – Licensing and Conditions

Introduction

1.1. The aim of this policy is to set out how the Council will exercise its powers in the licensing of horse drawn carriages and the conditions to be applied. No horse drawn carriage may be used without a licence issued by this Council.

Application process

The following process must be followed –

2.1 An application for a licence for a horse drawn carriage must be made to the Licensing Team in writing to licensing.team@colchester.gov.uk or to the Licensing, Food & Safety Manager, Rowan House, 33 Sheepen Road, Colchester, CO3 3WG.

2.2 Any supporting evidence should be submitted with the application.

2.3 The application must be accompanied by the relevant, non-refundable, fee.

Determination of Application

The Council will deal with applications as follows –

3.1 The application will be assessed by a member of the Licensing Team and any points clarified with the applicant.

3.2 The Officer will assess whether the criteria set out in this Policy are met.

3.3 If the Council is satisfied that all the requirements have been met a licence will be issued.

3.4 In the event of an applicant being dissatisfied with the decision they may in the first instance appeal to the Licensing Manager. Appeals must be made in writing to licensing.team@colchester.gov.uk or to the Licensing, Food & Safety Manager, Rowan House, 33 Sheepen Road, Colchester, CO3 3WG within 21 days from the date of notification of the decision. The Manager will review the

Appendix 3 – Horse Drawn Carriages – Licensing and Conditions

case file and make his determination. The outcome will be conveyed to the applicant/licence holder in writing.

3.5 There is a further right of appeal to the Licensing Committee. The appellant may submit documentary evidence in advance of the hearing and has the right to address the Committee and/or nominate someone else to do so on their behalf. Appeals must be made in writing to licensing.team@colchester.gov.uk or to the Licensing, Food & Safety Manager, Rowan House, 33 Sheepen Road, Colchester, CO3 3WG within 21 days from the date of notification of the decision.

3.6 If the right of appeal is exercised the Licensing Committee will consider the facts of the case and make its determination.

Criteria for Licensing

4.1 The horse used to draw the carriage must not be less than 14.2 hands in height and shall be of a suitable conformation.

4.2 Details of all the horses to be used for the purposes of the licence must be lodged with the Council and all the horses must be individually identifiable by freeze brand, microchip or by using a marking chart.

4.3 A Certificate of Fitness, issued by an Equine Veterinary, must be produced for each horse to be used for the purposes of this Licence. The Certificate of Fitness may take the form of a letter written by the Vet and must have been issued within 28 days of the proposed grant of any licence or its renewal.

4.4 The applicant is deemed to be a properly qualified, 'fit and proper' person to hold such a licence.

Conditions attached to the Grant of a Licence

5.1 The driver of the carriage must be licensed by the Council and fully qualified to drive any carriage of the type in use.

Appendix 3 – Horse Drawn Carriages – Licensing and Conditions

- 5.2 All drivers must comply with the relevant requirements contained within the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver Conditions except where to do so would conflict with the requirements of this policy.
- 5.3 No horse may be permitted to work in inclement weather, except in the case of a short summer downpour.
- 5.4 At all times when drawing the carriage, the Horse must be well groomed, properly shod and fit.
- 5.5 Any horse shall be taken out of use immediately if any Police Officer, RSPCA Inspector or Authorised Officer of the Council have reason to suspect that it is unfit. It must remain so until it has been examined and found fit by an Equine Veterinary, the cost of such examination being borne by the licensee. Written confirmation that it is fit to work must be supplied to the Council.
- 5.6 Every part of a harness used in the course of drawing a carriage shall be kept fully maintained to ensure the comfort of any horse used and shall be properly attached to the carriage.
- 5.7 Details of the hours worked by the horse and the rest periods must be recorded in a log which shall be made available on request to an authorised officer of the Council, Police office, Veterinary appointed by the Council or RSPCA Inspector.
- 5.8 No horse shall be permitted to draw a carriage or be harnessed to or otherwise attached to a carriage for more than six hours in total in any one day and if it has been so used it cannot be further used in the course of that day for any other purpose.
- 5.9 If the horse is so harnessed to a carriage for a period of three consecutive hours, the proprietor or driver shall ensure that the animal is rested for a period of not less than one hour, during which time the animal must be fed and watered.
- 5.10 No horse shall be used if it is in such a condition so as to expose any person being conveyed in such a carriage, or any pedestrian, on any street, or thoroughfare to risk of injury.
- 5.11 The carriage must be suitable in type, size and design for the purposes of public hire and must be fitted with rubber rimmed wheels.

Appendix 3 – Horse Drawn Carriages – Licensing and Conditions

- 5.12 The carriage must display the Council's identification plate upon the rear of the carriage, such plate must not to be concealed from public view.
- 5.13 The proprietor or driver of the carriage shall not carry or permit to be carried in that carriage any greater number of passengers than the number of passengers which the carriage is licensed to carry.
- 5.14 The carriage shall be produced for examination and inspection by an authorised Officer of the Council, or such other agency as the Council may think fit, and the cost of such inspection shall be borne by the Licensee.
- 5.15 The Council shall be notified of any proposed alteration to any part of the carriage before such alteration is carried out.
- 5.16 The carriage shall be fitted with a sufficient drag-chain and slipper or other sufficient brake.
- 5.17 The floor of the carriage shall be covered with mats of a suitable material.
- 5.18 The seats of the carriage shall be properly cushioned or covered, fittings and furniture shall be kept clean and adequate for the convenience of persons conveyed therein.
- 5.19 Where the carriage is fitted with a roof or means of protection against the weather, such roof or means of protection must be watertight and there must be a means of opening and closing any windows fitted.
- 5.20 The proprietor or driver of the carriage must keep all of its fittings and equipment in a clean and safe condition, well maintained and in every way fit for public service.
- 5.21 The proprietor or driver of the carriage must not at any time when the carriage is plying for hire or used to carry passengers, drive or allow it to be driven wantonly or recklessly.
- 5.22 In addition to a fully paid up policy of Insurance in respect of Hire and Reward, insurance relating to public liability must be in force during the period of the Licence covering the carriage when it is being used for the purposes of hire and reward in the sum of £5m. Such Insurance must be produced to a Police Officer or an Authorised Officer of the Council at such times and at such places as may be reasonably required.
- 5.23 The proprietor or driver of the carriage must not, in any street within the Borough, feed or allow to be fed any animal whilst harnessed or otherwise

Appendix 3 – Horse Drawn Carriages – Licensing and Conditions

attached to the carriage, except with food contained in, a proper nose bag suspended from the head of the animal, from any centre pole of the carriage, or which is in a proper container or which is being held and delivered with the hand of the person feeding the animal.

- 5.24 The proprietor or driver of the carriage must have available the means of providing adequate water and hay for any horse used to draw the carriage and the said horse shall have access to such water / hay at regular intervals.
- 5.25 The licence holder shall be responsible, when in charge of the vehicle, for the collection and satisfactory hygienic disposal of horse excrement, as soon as is reasonably practicable, after the excrement has been deposited.
- 5.26 The proprietor or driver of a carriage must display clearly the charges for the journey and ensure that the schedule of charges is legible at all times.
- 5.27 The driver of the carriage shall behave in a civil and orderly manner and shall take all reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of persons conveyed in, entering or alighting from the carriage.
- 5.28 The proprietor or driver of the carriage when standing or plying for hire shall not, by calling out or otherwise, importune any person to hire such carriage and shall not make use of the services of any other person for the purposes.
- 5.29 The proprietor or driver, or any person travelling on or using the carriage shall not blow or play upon any horn or other musical instrument, or ring any bell.
- 5.30 The Council reserves the right to suspend or revoke a Licence at any time should the proprietor or driver fail to kept within these conditions or fails to operate the carriage on a regular basis during the period of the Licence.
- 5.31 The Council shall give 21 days' notice of their intention to revoke or suspend a Licence.
- 5.32 In the event that the Licence holder wishes to appeal against the Council's intention to revoke or suspend a licence they may, within 21 days from the date of the Council's letter, appeal in writing to the Licensing Manager by writing to the licensing.team@colchester.gov.uk or to the Licensing, Food & Safety Manager, Rowan House, 33 Sheepen Road, Colchester, CO3 3WG .

Appendix 3 – Horse Drawn Carriages – Licensing and Conditions

Implementation of the Policy - The Policy will be monitored and reviewed on a regular basis. Any proposed significant changes will be subject to full consultation; minor amendments which do not affect the substance of the Policy may be made without consultation.