



Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Newsletter

May 2024

Taxi Rank Review

During their meeting of 14 May 2024, the Licensing and Community Safety Committee considered a number of proposals put forward by Devon County Council (DCC) in respect of changes to signing and lining and locations of taxi ranks in the district.

An amended list was agreed for an initial informal consultation with the taxi trade. The following list forms a summary of the proposals. The diagrammatic information on the proposals can be found at:

<https://www.northdevon.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-05/North%20Devon%20taxi%20rank%20review.pdf>

Please provide your views on the following rank amendments, preferably by emailing licensing@northdevon.gov.uk with the subject header 'Rank Review'. Alternatively please send written correspondence to: The Licensing Team, Lynton House, Commercial Road, Barnstaple, EX31 1DG.

All comments must be received prior to the **1 July 2024**.

Barnstaple

(Lower) Boutport Street:	no changes proposed - rank to remain no waiting at any time except taxis
(Mid) Boutport Street:	no changes proposed - rank to remain no waiting at any time except taxis
Butchers Row:	proposal to remove overnight rank at this location (would revert to unrestricted overnight parking)
Cross Street:	proposal to remove rank (no waiting at any time except taxis) and relocate to Castle Street

Castle Street:	proposed new 2 space/10 metre no stopping at any time except taxis rank on south west side of Castle Street, 10 metres from its junction with Commercial Road
Holland Street:	proposed removal of taxi rank and replace with no waiting and no loading at any time
Mallets Lane:	proposed change from no waiting at any time to no stopping at any time except taxis
Queen Street:	proposed change from no waiting at any time except taxis to no stopping 7pm and 7am except taxis (with loading only 7am -7pm at this location)
Queen Street (Fever and Boutique):	formerly revoke Queen Street rank outside Fever and Boutique nightclub in Traffic Regulation Order – this was already removed by District Council due to a safety concern raised by the Police and nightclub management
Tuly Street:	Change from no waiting at any time except taxis to no stopping at any time except taxis

Braunton

Access to carpark off Caen Street:	proposed amendment to remove taxi rank at this location (change to no waiting at any time)
Exeter Road:	Proposed change from existing no waiting at any time except taxis (6 metres one space) to proposed no stopping 7pm – 7am except taxis (13 metres two spaces) (with loading only 7am -7pm at this location)

Ilfracombe

Marlborough Road:	Proposed no stopping at any time except taxis to replace no waiting at
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any time except taxis. Propose to shorten rank by 14 metres/ three spaces

Mill Head/St James Place:

Proposed new 25 metre / 5 space no stopping at any time except taxis rank on St James Place outside of The Admiral Collingwood (Wetherspoons) and removal of two ranks on Mill Head (no waiting at any time except taxis)

Oxford Grove:

Proposed change to no stopping at any time except taxis (currently no waiting at any time except taxis)

Capstone Road/The Quay:

Proposed change to no stopping at any time except taxis (currently no waiting at any time except taxis)

Lynmouth

The Esplanade:

Proposed change to no stopping at any time except taxis (currently no waiting at any time except taxis)

Lynton

Lee Road:

Proposed change to no stopping at any time except taxis (currently no waiting at any time except taxis)

South Molton

Broad Street:

Proposed change to no stopping at any time except taxis (currently no waiting at any time except taxis)

Woolacombe

Barton Road:

no changes proposed - rank to remain no waiting at any time except taxis 10pm – 6am

The Esplanade:

Proposed change to no stopping at any time except taxis (currently no waiting at any time except taxis)

Barnstaple Railway Station

DCC is seeking views on proposals to make it easier for travellers at Barnstaple Railway Station to change between buses and trains.

The proposals aim to improve bus-rail integration at the busy station, which is used by over 500,000 passengers per year. They also aim to provide an improved gateway to Barnstaple, with a simplified road layout making it easier for people to access the station and bus stop.

The changes include an upgraded bus stop directly outside the main entrance, which would be served by all buses and would incorporate shelters and real-time information screens. It is also proposed to install a bus-only access onto Sticklepath Terrace, to enable buses to use this road when travelling towards Barnstaple town centre, avoiding queues of traffic on Station Road.

As part of the changes, the taxi rank at the station would be relocated to be immediately adjacent to the western (car park) entrance to the railway station, providing a convenient interchange with trains.

Further information is available on their Have Your Say website, at:

[devon.cc/NorthDevonBSIPs](https://www.devon.gov.uk/have-your-say/north-devon-barnstaple-railway-station)

There is an additional image of the proposed location of the taxi rank, from an alternative direction to that on the above website, and which more clearly shows the taxi rank (taxis shown in yellow) available at: <https://www.northdevon.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-05/May%202024%20-%20Barnstaple%20Railway%20Station.jpg>

Feedback can be provided to DCC via an online survey, which is open until **26 June 2024**. Alternatively, paper copies of materials are available at Barnstaple Library, or can be requested:

- By email: transportplanning@devon.gov.uk
- By post: Devon County Council, Transport Planning, Room 120, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter, EX2 4QD
- By telephone: 0345 155 1015

Caution Over Unsuitable Footwear, Flip Flops Etc.

With summer fast approaching drivers have sought that we raise the issue of the wearing of unsuitable footwear, particularly flip flops. It is good to note that this issue is being discussed amongst the trade, as failing to wear suitable shoes is an area covered in the Highway Code and could potentially see a driver with an offence of driving without due care and attention.

Flip flops have been held to be particularly unsuitable as they can get caught between your feet and the pedals and with wet feet are likely to impact braking.

The RAC has comprised a footwear list including that to be avoided when driving. Sandals, flip flops and bare feet make this list, as do clunky walking boots and high heeled stilettos. The RAC guidelines indicate shoes should have a sole no thicker than 10mm, and one which is not too thin or soft; provide enough grip to stop your foot slipping off the pedals; not be too heavy; limit ankle movement and be narrow enough to avoid accidentally depressing two pedals at once.

Rule 97 of the Highway Code cites that footwear and clothing should be worn which isn't likely to prevent a driver using vehicle controls in the correct manner. This means if you're unfortunate enough to be in an accident and the police note that you are wearing flip flops or no footwear at all, you may be liable for 'driving without due care and attention' which carries a £100 fine and three points. If it escalates to court, both could rise substantially to a fine of £5,000 and nine penalty points. You could also face a full-scale driving ban.