

ROGER WALKER TRAVEL T/A tuk-xi (still TBC)
PRIVATE HIRE APPLICATION 2022
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION
Updated 07/12/2022

Background

For the past 22 years I have run an independent travel agency and more recently a ski holiday company in Twyford, just outside of Winchester. In the past year I have set up a new business. Experience Hampshire; a website promoting fun and inspiring things to do across the county – www.experiencehampshire.uk

I have recently submitted an application to WCC to operate an electric tuk tuk on a Private Hire basis in the Winchester area.

I grew up and attended school and college in Winchester and, after travelling for a number of years, settled here to get married and raise our family. Over the years I have been an active member of the Winchester Rotary Club and Twyford Parish Council as well as being a co-founder and organiser of the local music event, Graze Festival

I have previously owned 2 petrol engine tuk tuks from India which I have driven around locally as a private vehicle. This application is for a Private Hire Licence for an electric tuk tuk to be used around Winchester to carry 2 passengers, with me as the driver.

Market research shows that there is a demand for more sustainable hire transport locally and potential customers love the green credentials and quirkiness of the tuk tuk, which would be available for short pre-booked Private Hire journeys in and around Winchester and as bride and groom transport for local weddings

The use of such vehicles in and around the city fits perfectly with the council's plans to be a 'carbon neutral district, by 2030

Tuk tuk details

Following council approval, I intend to buy one tuk tuk from an established, Eastleigh-based dealer – www.tukshop.com. Steve, the owner, has extensive experience in importing these vehicles to ensure that they comply with all current UK law and supplied similar vehicles to a business in Newquay who have recently been given a licence to operate it the town – see enclosed details from a Cornish website regarding this application

Branding

The following image shows the make and model of the tuk tuk that I am requesting you to licence, in the colours that it will be purchased in. I intend to brand the vehicle by 'vinyl wrapping' it. I understand that there are restrictions / regulations that relate to the colours and signage of Private Hire vehicles, so I will forward a design for the vehicle styling prior to it being wrapped for the council to agree.

I understand that there is also certain signage required on the vehicle, which I will comply with fully



The full specification of the tuk tuk are shown on the enclosed sheet, but the 'headline details' are as follows:

- 1 x driver seat
- 1 x bench seat behind drive, with lap-belts fitted for 2 passengers
- The vehicle has 'half doors' as shown in the rear of the vehicle for passenger security
- Full MOT and appropriate specification for legal use on UK roads
- Power – 8kw fully electric motor
- Weight – 286kgs
- Top speed – 15 mph
- Range on a single charge – around 60 miles (with 2 driver and 2 passengers)

Bookings

Bookings will be made via email or telephone initially although I intend to develop a website for online bookings. I understand fully that a Private Hire licence only allows me to carry pre-booked passengers. Initially I intend to only operate the vehicle during the summer months when the weather is more favourable

Because the vehicle would be stored in Twyford (and the main charging point would be here), I would start by operating within a 30 mile range of Twyford. This might involve picking up in Winchester for instance and taking passengers to The Fox at Crawley and then repeating the journey later in the evening when they had finished their meal

I would likely have a minimum pre-book time of around 4 hours although this is yet to be decided and could well change depending on demand going forward

Advertising

This hire business would be advertised via a website (with online booking), via word of mouth and on Social Media channels (mainly Instagram)

Pricing

Weddings - £250 per day (additional trailer transport if required for a supplement of around £100)

Private hire in the Winchester area – I have some more research to do on the appropriate costs, but I will base my charges on the private hire rates charged by more 'normal' electric vehicles.

Drivers

I will be the only driver. I have held a full car and motorcycle licence for over 40 years. This vehicle is registered as a 'tricycle' by DVLC and as such requires a motorcycle licence to drive it. I understand that I will require a medical and a CRB check. I will wear a photo name badge whilst driving the tuk tuk

Insurance

The vehicle will have full 'hire and reward' insurance for the carriage of 2 passengers

Charging

The vehicle has regenerative braking, which puts energy back into the battery when the driver de-throttles. This is especially productive when going down hills

To re-charge the battery from flat takes around 4 hours. Charging is from any 13 amp socket using the portable charger unit which can be carried onboard, although this will normally take place where the vehicle will be parked in Twyford

At a later date I intend to investigate operating a solar-powered tuk tuk, which have just become available to purchase