



**CHEL TENHAM**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

# TRADE TIMES

**For hackney carriage and private hire drivers.**

## **November Races briefing**

**In advance of the November Races, we are reminding drivers to take extra care when planning your journeys and preparing for work.**

In particular, we are asking drivers to make sure:

- You are carrying out regular vehicle checks to ensure your tyres, lights, brakes, and other equipment is all in order and working well. This follows a recent increase in reports of illegal tyres on vehicles; where such defects are identified, enforcement action will be taken.
- You have working card machines ready for use by customers, and are using these appropriately. Drivers should not be charging any additional fee for use of a card reader, nor asking for part payment of card and cash and not allowing a full card payment to be made. Drivers found using card readers in this way will be issued with a strike.
- Your meter is set to the correct rate, and is being used for all journeys (including shorter ones) within the borough. You should not be manually increasing the fare by adding additional charges where these are not detailed on the fare card.
- If you need to input a destination address into a device, you should do this before you begin the journey. Do not input postcodes into any device whilst driving. If you find you need navigation assistance during a journey, you should pull over to input this. Do not endanger lives.

Licensing officers from Cheltenham Borough Council will be accompanied by officers from Tewkesbury Borough Council; City of Wolverhampton Council; and Gloucestershire Police during the November Races and will be carrying out full vehicle inspections. Avon and Somerset Police's Taxi Compliance Officer will also be working in the borough on the 14 and 15 November. Where non-compliance is found, enforcement action will be taken.

As always, we also wish drivers a safe and successful race meet, and ask that you contact Licensing should you have any questions, concerns, or intelligence we should be aware of.

### **Did you know?**

**You can get 6 penalty points and a £200 fine if you hold and use a phone, sat nav, tablet or any device that can send and receive data while driving.**

**The law still applies if you're stopped at traffic lights or queuing in traffic.**

## Races road closures

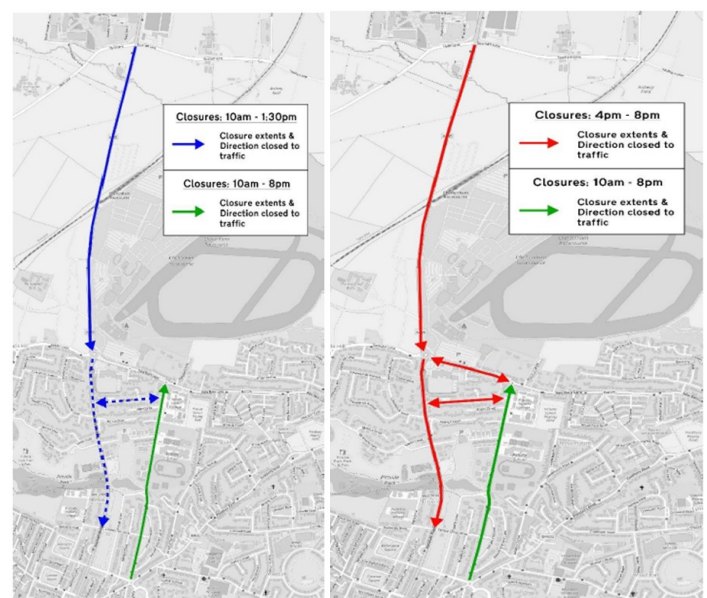
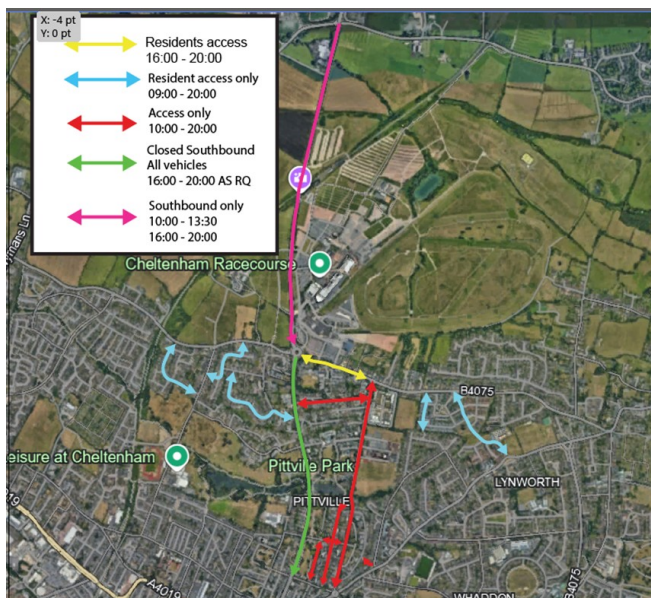
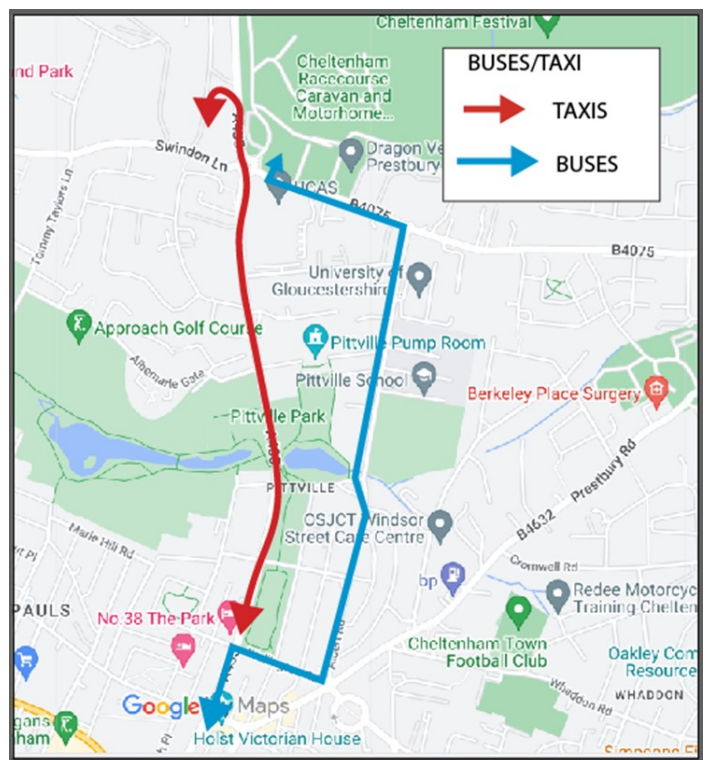
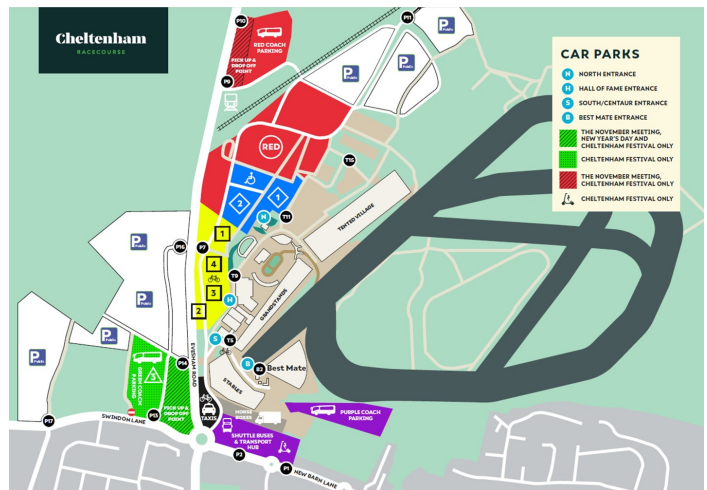
The Racecourse has confirmed details of road closures for the upcoming November Races, and has provided information they wish for drivers to be aware of.

Hackney carriages will be able to pick up and drop off inside the Racecourse site in the area coloured black. Private hire vehicles should use the pick up and drop off point highlighted in green.

During ingress to the Racecourse, licensed vehicles will not be permitted to use Albert Road to travel northbound towards the Racecourse, and will need to use Evesham Road and Tommy Taylors Lane.

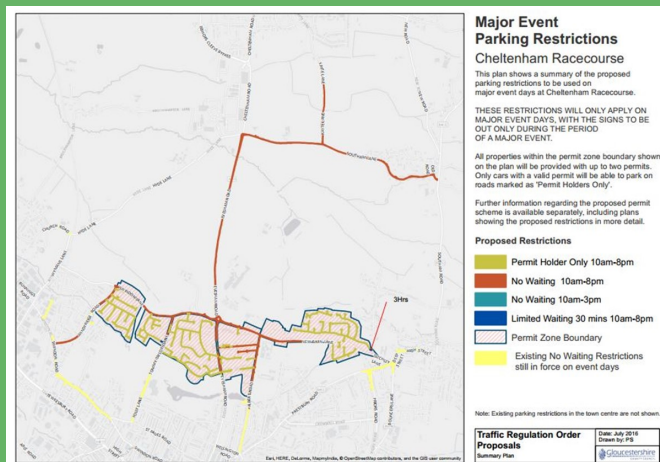
During egress, license vehicles travelling towards the Racecourse from Prestbury will not be able to travel along New Barn Lane, so will have to travel south on Albert Road towards Evesham Road, where they can then travel northbound towards the Racecourse.

There are a number of road closures that will be in place in both the morning and afternoon during the Races, and details of these are included below. There will also be additional restrictions on parking and waiting around the Racecourse which are included on the next page.





## November Races - waiting restrictions



## Euro 5 vehicles - 2026 renewal date

Following adoption of our new taxi and private hire policy, we wish to remind drivers of Euro 5 vehicles that they must be replaced on their 2026 renewal date.

The only exception to the above is where the vehicle is a Euro 5 WAV, which may be licensed for not longer than 16 years from date of registration. This applies equally to hackney carriage and private hire vehicles.

Please contact [licensing@cheltenham.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@cheltenham.gov.uk) if you have any questions or concerns.

## Hackney Association Chairman Role

*The following role is organised by and for drivers. This is not a Cheltenham Borough Council initiative and has been advertised in the Trade Times upon request. Any questions regarding the role should be sent directly to the Association, not to Licensing.*

**The Hackney Association is currently seeking nominations for the role of Chairman.**

Recognising the critical need for active and engaged leadership, the trade strongly encourages qualified and interested members to put themselves forward.

If you are interested in taking on this leadership position, please express your interest to [cheltenhamshackneys@gmail.com](mailto:cheltenhamshackneys@gmail.com).

A meeting to establish the new leadership will be scheduled in one of the council rooms once a suitable time and date have been confirmed.

## Upcoming safeguarding and local knowledge test dates

We continue to add dates to both our safeguarding sessions and Local Knowledge Tests (LKTs). The following are available to book via [our online form](#):

Safeguarding Dates	Local Knowledge Test Dates
19 November 2025	11 November 2025
11 December 2025	2 December 2025
15 January 2026	18 December 2025
5 February 2026	13 January 2026

All sessions are held at the Municipal Offices. Safeguarding sessions are scheduled to begin at 10:30am with a duration of two and half hours. LKTs begin at 11:00am, and last for approximately one and a half hours.

## Out of area private hire driver prosecution

**Cheltenham Borough Council has successfully prosecuted a private hire driver for illegally plying for hire and driving without the required insurance and licence to do so.**

On Monday, 29 September 2025, Mr Aneel Hussain, a licensed private hire driver with Tewkesbury Borough Council, pleaded guilty to plying for hire on 14 March 2025 during Cheltenham's race week.

Mr Hussain was seen with lights not working by a Cheltenham Borough Council licensing officer and Avon and Somerset Constabulary's Taxi Compliance Officer, PC Quinton, working together during the Friday evening of Cheltenham race week. When pulled over it transpired that the vehicle was not pre-booked and that the passengers had agreed a fare on the roadside outside of the Queen's Hotel.

He was fined £230 for illegally plying for hire, £346 for driving without insurance due to the illegal fare and a victim surcharge of £230. He also received 8 penalty points. Costs of £1157.50 were also awarded to the council.

The prosecution was brought by Cheltenham Borough Council's licensing team, with

assistance from the council's Counter Fraud and Enforcement Unit and One Legal, a legal service shared by Cheltenham Borough Council, Gloucester City Council, Stroud District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council.

Cheltenham Borough Council's cabinet member for safety and communities, Councillor Victoria Atherstone, said "Cheltenham Borough Council is committed to ensuring the safety and legality of taxi and private hire services in our community. This successful prosecution sends a very clear message that we will not tolerate illegal activity in our town and will take decisive action to protect Cheltenham residents and our visitors. We are also committed to working with our partner agencies to ensure that Cheltenham is a safe town to visit during festival season and all year round.

"I would like to thank our licensing team, the Counter Fraud and Enforcement Unit, and One Legal for their diligent work in bringing this case to a successful conclusion."

Anyone can report their concerns regarding unlicensed taxis or private hire vehicles by emailing [licensing@cheltenham.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@cheltenham.gov.uk)

## Your Trade Times

**The Trade Times is produced by Cheltenham Borough Council for drivers - this is your newsletter, and we want to know what you would like to see in the next edition.**

Would you be keen to know more about the enforcement we are doing? Do you want to receive updates on legislation and court cases concerning the taxi and private hire trade? Are there questions that regularly get asked amongst the trade that it would be useful for the Council to answer for everyone to see?

If you have any suggestions about content you want to see in the next Trade Times, please let us know by contacting [licensing@cheltenham.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@cheltenham.gov.uk).