



## Executive Summary

This application to the license committee is for an addition to the current license arrangements for Private Hire vehicles. The changes will create procedures that will allow for the licensing of the vehicles used by a new tour business - specifically a three person trike vehicle - a novelty vehicle. The business will provide a chauffeur service with either set or custom routes which customers (where a customer is anyone who is able to board the vehicle) will purchase on an hourly rate. The concept is similar to that of balloon flights but uses a novel executive car concept which (as far as the business owners are aware) has not been provided in the Vale or surrounding area before. The aim of the business is to provide a unique service open to all which has the potential to bring together some of the other tourist attractions (by visiting those locations on the tour), to win awards because of the service we pride and ultimately to make a reasonable living. The document below gives more details of the concept and the details that the licensing committee require to make a decision on the approval of the new processes and rules.

## Who am I?

My name is [REDACTED]. I have lived in the Vale for more than 20 years and Buckinghamshire for about 25 years. I live in Aylesbury with my wife and three children and currently commute to an IT job in London each day via Chiltern Railways. I am looking for a change in career and my work life balance. I enjoy working with the public and working outside.

## The Idea for Chiltern Trikes

My Dad was involved in the motor trade for over 40 years so I have always had an interest in cars and motorsport. I first became interested in trikes when I saw Billy Connolly driving across America on Route 66 and a trike build by Mark Evans. This year my wife bought me (as a birthday present) a trip on a trike in Scotland. I enjoyed it so much that I looked to repeat the experience a little closer to home and discovered that there are no such companies operating. The only similar businesses I can find are operating in Yorkshire and Midlands (south of Birmingham). This is how the idea for a Chiltern Trike business came about. The business will be based on the model established by Yorkshire Trikes (who are licensed by Leeds City Council).

We live in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty situated just outside London which the local and county councils encourage people to visit for tourism. Most of the businesses that cater for tourism are static but Chiltern Trikes can help move tourists between them by incorporating visits to these businesses as part of the tours. These other businesses could be those that supply B+B (picking up at the B+B to tour the Vale as part of a package offered by the BB), Distilleries, Brewers, cafes offering afternoon tea + cake or pubs offering lunch etc.

The plan initially is for the (fully licensed business, operator and vehicle) to operate tours at weekends with the frequency and days increasing with the demand. We will cover Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Hertfordshire. Customers will be offered a variety of tours (differing by the routes and length of time) of the Vale and surrounding area - initially centred on Aylesbury but including locations from Ivinghoe to Marlow. Later we will look at longer runs (of half and full days and potentially overnight) further afield such as the Cotswolds or maybe tours through London. The routes will predominantly use the lanes and minor roads rather than the main roads and motorways that run through the area. On each of the local tours we will have lists of possible refreshment and toilet facility stops. There will be plenty of opportunities to stop for pictures too.

We envisage that the tours will run from April to the end of October (other times by special request).

## The Trike

Historically trikes were built from other three wheeled vehicles such as Reliant Robins and old motorcycles often by amateur mechanics in sheds. The quality of these early trikes varied a lot often because the skills or lack of skills of the amateur mechanics. Today there are two major European manufacturers of trikes Rewaco and Boom both based in Germany. Boom trikes (who also supply the trikes used by Yorkshire Trikes) were founded in 1990 and now operate from a purpose built factory, building a number of different models including the Mustang Family trike which carries a driver and two passengers.

The reaction of most people seeing a Boom trike for the first time is that it is a three wheeled motorcycle. However a trike is classified by the DVLA as a car. (there is a long history of three wheeled cars particularly in the UK including Morgan, Messerschmitt, Harley Davidson, and the Bond Bug (we will gloss over the three wheeled van from the TV series "Only Fools and Horses" based on a Robin Reliant)).

The road taxation and rules for Congestion Charging for a Boom trike are exactly the same as a car. There is no requirement for any rider to wear a motorcycle helmet (although some type of eye protection is required because there is no windscreen) and the trike can be driven on a full car license. The top top speed of the trike is 160 kph (100mph) but in reality anything over 55 mph makes it very difficult to hear anything if there is no intercom. Boom trikes have European Whole Vehicle Type Approval.

The plan is to purchase a new Boom trike (from the official dealer based at Chorley near Manchester). It will have a new petrol 1.5 Mitsubishi engine and an automatic or manual gearbox. According to the Boom website the emissions of the engine are 97/24/EG Kap.5, i.d.F. 2009/108/EG. The intention is to fit GoPro devices to the trike frame and helmets to allow customers to capture the experience.

Boom supply three different trim levels for the Mustang Family and we have selected the mid trim level (which has lots of chrome) in red to appeal in particular to the Chinese and Japanese tourists. The intention is that the registration plate will contain as many 8s as possible - again to appeal to far east tourists. The visual impact and novelty appeal of the vehicle is a very important part of the business. There are less Mustang Family trikes in the UK than super cars such as Aston Martin, Lamborghini or Ferrari. According to the trike dealer a few of the well known celebrities that live in and around the Vale own trikes, but he would not give any names.

## What about Safety?

Customer safety is paramount. The trike (which is approved using the same system as other cars) will be modified in a similar way to the ones that are used by Yorkshire Trikes. In Germany the T-Bar behind the drivers head and in front of the two passengers is deemed enough, however we propose to add airline style seat belts (the dealer in Chorley has experience of doing this). Three point harnesses are not possible because of the way the vehicle is constructed. We will also insist that customers use a helmet (even though they are not required under UK law because the trike is classified as a car not a motorcycle)

Customers who use the helmets supplied by Chiltern Trikes will be connected to the vehicle intercom system (again fitted by the UK dealer) so they can talk to the chauffeur and other passenger. Customers will receive a safety briefing and instructions on how to board and alight from the trike. Passengers will be strongly advised to wear long trousers, warm clothing and enclosed shoes. As part of the tour package the trike will carry jackets, gloves and wet weather

gear for all the passengers. Customers will be advised at time of booking about the open aspect of the trike.

The picture below is taken from a document created by Yorkshire Trikes to show the safety features of the Mustang Family Trike.



1. Side arm rests and comfort bar
2. Roll protection (trikes are very stable and almost impossible to roll because of their low stance and wide track)
3. Lap Restraint - The centre belt is used if there is only one passenger - when there is only a single passenger they sit directly behind the chauffeur.
4. Lap Straps - used when two passengers are being carried.
5. Foot plates. These are an addition (again supplied by the Chorley dealer) requested by the Leeds Licensing committee. In reality they do not help and spoil the looks of the trike. We could use a removable wooden insert instead - only used if a particular passenger required it.
6. Foot rests and comfort bar

Note the 'T' bar behind the drivers head restraint is all that is required in Germany. The drivers head restraint and the 'T' bar can be moved out of the way to allow for easier access to the passenger seats.

In the boot (a Mustang Family trike has a boot of over 200 litres) will be a 1kg dry powder fire extinguisher and a first aid kit.

The engine torque and setup of the Boom trikes (including the solid headstock - where the handlebars attach) means that a wheelie is impossible. In any case, we are proposing a relaxed tour, not hammering down the motorway.

## How will the Businesses Operate?

Chiltern Trikes will be a tour business which will operate along similar lines to the companies that offer balloon rides in the Vale. Unlike the balloon companies the trike tour will not require dry almost still conditions - it can operate in wet weather (the trike will carry wet weather gear for the passengers).

The population demographic (found on the council website) suggests that there is an economic case for the service although we also want to appeal to tourists (both from the UK and abroad).

Customers will (initially) book services via the telephone and be advised about what the trike is like to ride. We will emphasise that the trike is a tour (it is not something you book to go to the station or get back from the shops). Payment will be by cheque or via Paypal a minimum of two weeks before the tour takes place.

It is our expectation that that the tours will appeal to ex-motorcyclists who miss the open aspect that a motorcycle provides but are maybe unable to use a motorcycle themselves. We will emphasise that a trike tour is open (access) for all (there will be some restrictions on height and weight - see below) but essentially anyone who can board the trike (if necessary with assistance) can take a tour. The chauffeur will assist with boarding customers but is not currently qualified in lifting (although if required will attend a specialist course). Customers with physical disability are welcome as long as they can board the trike (with assistance of the chauffeur or second passenger if necessary). Once seated the belt and T bar will keep the passenger in place.

We are currently preparing a website which will introduce the service to the public. The website will carry information about the trike, an FAQ (see below), prices and details of how to book a tour. We will also advise on the website (and at time of booking) what the trike is - and the comfort that customers can expect. In addition we will have a presence on social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter etc), Tripadvisor, local car shows and perhaps a pitch in some of the local council run markets (with the proper permissions). At launch we plan to involve local newspapers and radio - including Mix 96. We have been in touch with VisitChilterns.co.uk and

started to find out how we can meet with other local businesses serving the tourist industry although we have not told anyone the specific idea of the trike or how it can potentially benefit other businesses by bringing people to them as part of the tour.

## Types of Journey / Jobs undertaken

The sorts of trips we envisage the trike making are:

- 1) Tours of the Vale (2,3,4 hours in duration). We are working on these routes (and timings at the moment). With enough time we will take in Oxfordshire, Bedfordshire, Berkshire (Windsor for example) and Hertfordshire. The standard routes will have plenty of stops for tea / coffee (we may use a local cafe or take cups and thermos) and stops for pictures.
- 2) Trips to see National Trust houses or specific locations as requested by the customer.
- 3) Wedding Anniversary / Birthday treats - this could be during the day with coffee, lunch and tea or potentially an evening out - with a run through the lanes to a recommended pub (again involving local businesses is important) for a meal and a run back. We will not operate such runs to the large centres such as High Wycombe and Aylesbury or for clubbing etc.
- 4) Customer requests for longer tours - half or full days - for example the Vale of White Horse, other parts of the Cotswolds or the Norfolk coast.
- 5) School Leaving Days and Proms.
- 6) Engagement runs - people get engaged on the Thames on a boat so why not a trike (it is certainly memorable)? We will not be serving alcohol on these runs - although customers may bring their own small bottle to toast the occasion.
- 7) Weddings. For example of groom and best man.
- 8) TV Filming work. We know that Yorkshire Trikes have appeared in and supported filming in their local area.

We would expect the bulk of the work to be the tours of various durations but we include the others as possibilities - based in part on the work that Yorkshire Trikes carries out.

## Effect on Existing Businesses

Chiltern Trikes is a tour business whose vehicles are licensed under the private hire rules. It is not any competition to any existing taxi, private hire, Uber or airport executive car service businesses based in and around the Vale. There are limousine and four by four businesses operating in the Vale but the type of vehicles Chiltern Trikes propose to operate are very different. It appeals to a different marketplace. Therefore I submit that Chiltern Trikes is not a competition to any existing business because it is operating in a new sector.

The tours undertaken by Chiltern Trikes will seek to include as many small businesses as possible (dependent on customer choices - customers may not want to spend hire time

shopping). The advantage here is that we will potentially be joining up the small businesses (customers may decide to return to them later - at least they know where they are).

## FAQ

This FAQ will make up part of the website but is reproduced here because the website is not yet online.

### Are there any restrictions on who can ride the trike?

There are some restrictions. A child must be either over 12 or at least 135 cms tall (these rules are laid out by statute). Children must be able to reach the foot rests and all under 16 must be accompanied by an adult (18 or over). No passenger can be over 17.5 stone (so about 45 inches round the middle). The maximum weight for two passengers is 34 stone. You need to have the mobility to board the trike (with assistance if necessary). These restrictions are dictated by our insurance and licensing conditions or by the structure of the trikes. We believe that the experience we can offer will give a fantastic sense of freedom to anyone but especially someone living with a long term physical or mental illness, or who has a mobility, visual, hearing or intellectual impairment.

### Where will the tour start?

The trike will either pick you up from home or from a pre-agreed location such as a car park or a station (subject to a suitable safe area being available - it takes a new minutes to run through the safety briefing and suit up). If the pickup location is outside of 10 mile radius of Aylesbury town centre there may be an additional charge.

### Can I bring my luggage?

The trike has a small boot (trunk) but we use it to store helmets, wet weather equipment etc. You may bring a small bag if necessary but we can't guarantee it will fit.

### Can we speak to the chauffeur while the trike is in motion?

Absolutely! The trike is fitted with an intercom which the chauffeur will use to explain what you are seeing and through which you can talk to him directly. We use a wired system which is said to be more reliable than bluetooth (Note: if you bring your own helmet we cannot transfer the equipment for the intercom however even without the intercom normal conversation is normally possible up to about 50mph).

### Are there any rules that we need to observe for this tour?

Not many. You must listen to the safety briefing which the chauffeur will give before the tour commences. You must keep your hands within the trike and feet on the bar at all times the trike is moving. Only board or leave the trike once it is stopped and the chauffeur says it is safe to do

so. The chauffeur has the right to refuse a tour if any of the passengers are under the influence of drink or drugs. Any damage by passengers to the trike will be charged. You must not throw anything (including abuse) from the trike - if you do the chauffeur may stop the tour - no refund will be given.

What about breakdowns?

The trike is maintained to a much higher standard than an ordinary car but breakdowns can occur (it is a machine after all). If the tour needs to be abandoned or does not take place then monies will be refunded.

Can I hire the trike for a special occasions?

Yes - please get in touch with us so we can sort out a tour or run that fits your exacting requirements. For example if you have a birthday treat involving collection and transport to a restaurant we can arrange it. Note: If you want the trike to wait while you are eat and then have it transport you back again we will charge for the wait time.

Is the tour open to those with a disability?

Yes - we have a policy of access for all. If you can (with if necessary some assistance from a friend and / or the chauffeur) sit in the seat you can ride the trike. Our chauffeur will give assistance but is not trained in lifting so there is a limit to the help they can give. If you have any doubt please get in contact to discuss and we will do our very best to accommodate you. If you are local to Aylesbury we may be able to meet up before you book to test that boarding and alighting is possible. The trike is not registered on the AVDC list of licensed Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles because we do not have the space to store a wheelchair in the boot. The AVDC conditions of license state that we cannot carry animals, so regrettably we cannot carry an assistance dog either (getting a helmet on a dog would be very hard too). We will try to find refreshment stops with full access but we cannot guarantee this.

We are based very close the the world famous Stoke Mandeville Hospital so if you are a patient please get written permission from the hospital if you want to plan a few hours away! We will not be held responsible if you make a tour without this permission.

Can I record my journey?

Yes - as long as you keep your hands inside the trike. We will try to provide some GoPro that you can attach to the helmet or your clothing. If we use a GoPro on the trike we will tell you we are recording. Let us know if that is an issue and we will stop the recording. As part of the tour we will try to stop the trike in a photogenic spot so you can take your own photos. We will (with your permission) take some photos on our own equipment and then email them to you after the tour. The photos will be deleted afterwards unless we get your express permission to use them in our publicity (website).

What's it like on the trike? Will I be cold?

Pictures of the trike are on our website (and in this document) so you already know what type of transport the trike is. There are no doors, windows or fairings. We will supply helmets, jackets, gloves and wet weather gear where required. The seats on the trike are not heated. One of the attractions of trike is the feeling of the wind and the freedom. You should wear appropriate clothing (long trousers, a jumper and stout shoes are a good idea).

What happens if it rains?

Unlike hot air balloons the trike can operate in all weathers. We carry wet weather gear (a waterproof overall or cape). If the weather is particularly bad you (or the chauffeur) may decide to defer the tour to a later date but generally the tour will go ahead. Once the service commences, the customer is committed, whatever weather conditions prevail during the hire.

Will there be time for refreshments and pictures?

Yes - we will try to stop once or twice during the tour so you can grab some photos of the scenery and the trike. We will, with permission, take pictures of you on the trike and email them afterwards.

Do I need to wear a helmet?

Yes. Under UK law trike riders do not need to wear a helmet, however the terms of our license and insurance require all passengers to do so. A good reason to use a helmet is that it keeps insects and road grit out of your eyes. We will supply a helmet for each passenger (with intercom) or you can bring your own. We supply a balaclava to wear under the helmet to help keep the inside of the helmets clean. Some of the helmets are fitted with GoPro so you can record the journey.

Toilet facilities?

The chauffeur carries an app on their mobile telephone which allows us to locate the nearest facilities, however we cannot guarantee they will be open or the standard of those facilities.

Do you run the tours all year round?

We generally run tours through Spring, Summer and early Autumn. Winter is by prior arrangement. Each season has its own very special qualities, further enhancing your tour experience. You need to be very well wrapped up in the winter.

What do I need to wear?

We recommend long trousers and a warm jumper. We also request you wear stout footwear like trainers or boot (please don't turn up in flip flops - they are not appropriate for the trike).

What about Safety?

Although the trike is classified as a car it has no windscreen, doors or airbags. The trike has a roll over bar, however the wide stance means it is nigh on impossible to roll (the rear track is nearly 2m). Unlike a motorbike, there is no requirement for the passengers to lean into the

corners. The trike is fitted with a T bar in front of the passengers (all that is required in Germany where the trike is manufactured) and airline seat belts which have been added as part of license requirement. We also carry a fire extinguisher and a first aid kit in the back of the trike. Passengers do need to follow the safety advice in the briefing (especially about keeping everything inside the trike) given by the chauffeur before the tour commences.

#### What is included in the tour?

Tours will be a fixed length and a minimum of 2 hours. Note: The time will include time to suit up, receive the safety briefing, time on the trike, refreshment breaks, photo opportunities and the time to remove the equipment. We will supply helmets, balaclavas, gloves and jackets. We will also supply wet weather gear as necessary. On some routes we will supply refreshments (either in a cafe or from the trike itself).

#### What is not included in the tour?

We do not include gratuities, entrance to any of the National Trust properties or any refreshments at commercial premises unless explicitly stated at the beginning of the tour. On some tours we may supply coffee, tea or hot chocolate with biscuits (let us know if there are any dietary requirements and we will attempt to accommodate). We do not supply any alcohol (for a tour that includes a celebration customers may bring a small bottle of champagne or similar. Let us know and we will try and find a way of keeping it cold). Sundries purchased (gifts and snacks) and travel insurance are not included.

#### Can I ride as a single passenger?

Yes - this is not a problem but please remember our prices are based on two people - there is no reduction for a single passenger because we operate the trike on a hourly rate (with a minimum of 2 hours for a single hire). When we are carrying two passengers they sit side by side with the chauffeur between and below them. Single passengers ride directly behind the chauffeur with his head below and directly in front of them.

#### What about Insurance?

The trike is insured as a Private Hire Chauffeur driven vehicle. Under UK law we also have to have public liability insurance. The private hire requires us to have three licenses (for the company, the chauffeur and the trike itself) which are issued by Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC). We are one of only a handful of companies in the UK to have a license for a trike which is classified as a "novelty" vehicle.

#### Can I book the Trike for my Wedding?

Yes - please call us for your exact requirements but remember that trike is completely open (we carry wet weather gear but potentially that doesn't make a great wedding picture) and you will need to wear a helmet (not great on your hair?) on the way to the venue. Once the trike is parked you can remove the helmets and take as many pictures as you want - we will try to dress the chauffeur appropriately (do you want biker or some kind of suit?). All our chauffeurs are

always smartly dressed anyway. If you decide to book but then do not to use the service because of bad weather on the day there is a 30% cancellation fee.

### Is the Trike available for TV Work?

Yes - please get in contact with us if you want to use the trike either on screen or as part of the filming setup.

### Smoking

Smoking is not allowed on or around the trike or while wearing the equipment (we need to keep it smoke free for others to enjoy their experience).

### Food and Drink

Eating and drinking are not allowed on the trike (the helmet makes this very difficult anyway!)

## Example of a Tour

This section is an example of how a tour could be booked and would then take place. We will assume that the customer is visiting London (rather than being a member of the local community) and would like to see the site of the Great Train Robbery at Bridego bridge and follow one of the potential routes to Leatherslade Farm. (It needs to be stressed it is only an example. There will be several other routes laid out for different lengths of tour).

### The Booking

The customer sees the Chiltern trikes website and decides to book the tour. They contact us via telephone / email. During the call we will discuss the following

- 1) The tour that they would like to book.
- 2) Contact details (to be retained until the tour is complete to comply with GDPR rules).
- 3) Any special requirements (for example help to board the trike).
- 4) The open aspect of the trike (and therefore the comfort levels to expect).
- 5) The restrictions on height / age and weight.
- 6) What to wear and the requirements for a helmet during the tour.
- 7) Ascertain the approx size of the passengers (for the jacket, helmet sizes + weight)
- 8) Confirm the time and pickup point (in this case we will assume the customer is coming from London Euston and arrange the pickup at Tring Station at the agreed time)
- 9) Check payment will be made two weeks before the tour commences.

### The Tour Day

On arrival at the pickup point the chauffeur will check that the customer has supplied the correct information (as to age / height and weight) and that the none of the passengers are under the

influence of alcohol / drugs or are unsuitable to undertake the tour. They will also assess the passengers for any issues that means they will require help to board the trike.

The chauffeur will take the passengers through the safety briefing explaining all aspects of the trike (including how to board and alight from it). He will also reiterate that customers must keep their hands inside the trike and their feet on the foot bar. Finally the chauffeur will remind the passengers that any breaking of the rules (which are there for the passengers safety) could result in the tour being terminated early.

Each passenger will be issued with a bandana / balaclava that they will wear under the helmet. This makes it easier to keep the inside of the helmets clean because the bandanas can be easily washed. The passengers will be issued with jackets, gloves and helmets and the shown how to open/close and adjust the helmet. The passengers will then board the trike and be instructed on how close (and open) the seat belt. Finally we will plug in and test the intercom feature. Ready to go.

For this particular route we will drive through Aldbury and then up to Ivinghoe beacon (where there will be time to take in the view and take some pictures). From there we will drive through Ivinghoe and take the road for Horton and Leighton Buzzard. The bridge itself is off this road. The chauffeur will give a commentary on sites along the way as well as some of the details of the Great Train Robbery itself (which took place on the 8 August 1963). After time for pictures at the bridge we will take some of the backroads (one of the possible routes) to work our way around to the location of the farm (Wingrave, Weedon, Waddesdon, Chersley and Long Crendon). We will return via a different route to Tring station. At some point the tour may call in at a tea room such as the Mead and Sons farm shop where we can also take in the Puddingstone Distillery.

The chauffeur will be carrying information on the nearest public toilets - should the customer require it.

At the end of the tour the chauffeur will take the helmets, jackets, gloves and balaclavas and store them back in the rear of the trike.

## Boom Trike (Mustang Family)

Boom company website can be found [here](#)

The specification of a trike (according to the website) is

- 1) Engine 4-cylinder in-line engine with controlled catalytic converter.
- 2) Power from 110 HP (81 kW) to 140 HP (103 kW).

- 3) Gears (forward/reverse) 5/1 manual transmission / 4 gears automatic transmission Max. speed from 160 km/h to 180 km/h (depending on motorization).
- 4) Fuel consumption / Range approx. 5 - 10 l / 100 km / 350-600 km (depending on motorization).
- 5) Type of fuel Super unleaded 95 ROZ or E10.
- 6) Fuel capacity 38 l.
- 7) Frame 2-parted tubular frame, bolted Body Wear-resistant GRP.
- 8) Dry weight approx 653 kg to 745 kg (depending on equipment).
- 9) Gross vehicle weight 1000 kg to 1.100 kg (depending on motorization).
- 10) Seats 3 (1 driver and up to 2 passengers).
- 11) Vehicle load capacity approx. 280 kg (depending on equipment).
- 12) Towing capacity 312 kg to 362 kg (depending on motorization).
- 13) Dimensions (depending on equipment).
  - a) Length 3.675 - 3.875 mm.
  - b) Width 1.680 - 1.945 mm (depending on tyres).
  - c) Height 1.350 mm Seats 3.
- 14) Service interval 10.000 km (6000 miles).

We will have a dealer modify the trike (as above in safety) as per the Yorkshire Trike business and any other conditions from AVDC.

The Dealer (the official dealer is [here](#)). Through this website you can see other trike tour sites (the last menu item in the top bar). The dealer is experienced in preparing trikes for public tours as the ones we are proposing. The FAQ tells you about the requirements for licensing / helmets etc.

