

From: Nick Southgate
Sent: 21 March 2018 13:28
To: HCO
Subject: In support of Uber

I am writing to express my support for renewing Uber's operator licence in 2018.

There can be a lot of negative noise around Uber, much of it drummed up by vested interest groups, and I think much of it is unfair.

As a resident of Rottingdean I often use taxis to go in and out of Brighton. There is no doubt that the convenience, cleanliness, price-point and professionalism of the Uber driver community has been an extremely welcome addition to our transport options.

Can we for once focus on the good things about Uber:

1. The flexible nature of the employment Uber offers is a lifeline to many people.
2. Uber is committed to a clean air policy. Much of its fleet is electric and will become more and more so – surely that is important to a Brighton constituency?
3. Uber is committed to reduce the number of private cars on the road. Again that is consistent with the policy of a city like Brighton.
4. Safety: Uber drivers are licensed to exactly the same degree as other Hackney carriage drivers in the city. I have used Uber all over the world and regularly in Brighton and never had any problem. Why? Because unlike other taxis, each Uber journey is tracked and the name of the driver and their details is recorded. I am happy for my daughter to use Uber.

There are always people who are resistant to change, especially from disruptive technologies. They are disruptive for a reason, because they are replacing something outmoded with something better. If Brighton wants to be seen as a modern, digital, switched-on, green city, it would be an absolute travesty if this application was rejected to appease the vested interests of the local Hackney carriages and the outdated politics of the GMB.

Yours

Nick Southgate

