

# kingston

## FIRST TO BREAK THE NEWS

### **PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

25<sup>th</sup> July 2013

## **KINGSTON FIRST FOR A SAFER NIGHT OUT**

Crime in Kingston's four main venues has dropped by 50% since the Scan Net initiative was introduced by Kingstonfirst and the Safer Kingston Partnership, making Kingston Upon Thames one of the safest destinations for a night out.

A recent report by Kingston Police has shown, on average, recorded offences dropped by half in the venues using Scan Net, with a significant drop in the most serious offences of 36% in the town centre during the evenings.

Scan Net was introduced to Oceana, The Hippodrome, McCluskys and The Kings Tun in October 2012 with Barcadia also bringing in the technology in May 2013.

Scan Net is a photo ID scan system which is used to monitor everyone who goes into the five venues, with information able to be shared between them to ensure that when a person is barred from one premise they will be unable to enter any other venues. It is able to detect fake IDs and can identify whether an individual has been banned anywhere else in the UK.

Ros Morgan, Chief Executive of Kingstonfirst said: "Scan Net's successful implementation in the five main venues in Kingston has clearly demonstrated its effect as a deterrent to those aiming to cause trouble in the town centre. We are encouraged by the figures shown in the Metropolitan Police report and hope this will result in more of the venues in the town centre introducing the technology. Kingston is a great place to visit in the evening and we want to continue to attract visitors here."

Gary Taylor, Chief Inspector of Kingston Police said: "The introduction of ScanNet is another positive example of how the police and partners have worked together utilising the latest technology in order to reduce crime and promote safety. This system has been very much accepted by the people who use the venues and I know that people feel safer because of this. The hard work that was undertaken to have these installed is now paying off. We are very pleased with the crime reductions shown but we never take success for granted and will continue to look for new initiatives and tactics for the night time economy within Kingston."

The introduction of Scan Net is an initiative of the Safer Kingston Partnership which includes the police, Kingstonfirst, Kingston Council and the town's licensed venues, which aims to promote the safety and security of the town through partnership working.

-Ends-

**Notes to Editors:**

**kingston**first.co.uk

The UK's first Business Improvement District

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1. Kingstonfirst became the first Business Improvement District (BID) in the UK in 2005 and is funded by businesses in Kingston Town Centre, to deliver services above and beyond those provided by the local authority. The company is led by chief executive Ros Morgan.
2. Kingstonfirst's four key delivery areas are: Cleaner Streets, Safer Streets, Better Experience and More Customers. The overall aim is to lead the renewal and growth of Kingston Town Centre by introducing positive changes through direct intervention, representation, collaboration and monitoring service levels. It also aims to improve the trading environment for our levy-paying businesses by animating our streets and creating a high quality experience which draws visitors to the town time and again.
3. The BID Board consists of 23 Board Members who represent a cross section of businesses in Kingston including the retail, leisure, office, not-for-profit and public sector. Its chairman is Jenny Tomley, Managing Director of John Lewis Kingston.

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