

SHOREDITCH'S NEW TAXI MARSHALS HELP KEEP HACKNEY SAFER

Shoreditch's new taxi marshals are helping keep Hackney safer, along with the Council's CCTV team and Police. Before Christmas, when footfall in Shoreditch rises by 30 per cent, the CCTV team in its purpose-built vehicle spotted two vulnerable drunk women getting into an unlicensed minicab in the Old Street area. The women, who appeared to be in their early twenties, had emerged from a Shoreditch bar at 1am and appeared to have been drinking, but thanks to the vigilance of the CCTV and the taxi marshals, police were brought in to question the unlicensed minicab driver, who said that he knew the women personally and later gave false details to the Police. When they denied this, the women were escorted towards the marshalled cab rank, where they were helped into a safe licensed cab by the new marshals who operate at the new rank outside the old Court House in Old Street. Tony Ellis, Operations Manager for Taxi Marshals said: "We were delighted to be able to assist the police and safeguard the members of the public and also to help the taxi trade take passengers home safely."

Councillor Alan Laing, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods at Hackney Council said: "The marshals have done their bit to help keep Hackney safer during the busy festive period. It's a good start to what we hope will be a safe and successful initiative. We don't want unlicensed cabs in Hackney. We want people to come into Hackney have a good time and get home safely."



The rank at Shoreditch is marshalled between 22:00 and 03:00 on Friday and Saturday evenings. Licensed taxi drivers are encouraged to support this scheme, use the taxi rank and help get people home safely. The new taxi rank is in operation seven days a week between 22:00 and 04:00.

POLICE APPEAL FOR WITNESSES

Following the death of a man in Twyford House, Elwood Street N5 on 9th December 2009, Police are appealing for details of the driver of a black taxi, who, at about 1.30am, picked up a white female in Blackstock Road, Highbury N5 junction with Elwood Street and it is believed dropped her off in either Southgate Road or Downham Road N1. The female was wearing slippers.

Police urgently require to speak to the driver in order to establish where exactly the woman was dropped and if any conversation took place en-route.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the incident room at Barking on 0208 345 1570.

ILLEGAL MINICAB DRIVER CONVICTED IN KINGSTON

An illegal minicab driver who was arrested in Kingston during Operation Hide in December has been fined a total of £700, disqualified from driving for six months and ordered to pay costs of £100, which included a victim surcharge.

Aamir Maqsood pleaded guilty to four offences at Kingston Magistrates' Court; driving a private hire vehicle without a licence, using a driving licence with intent to deceive, using insurance with intent to deceive and driving without insurance. He was stopped by officers as he left Kingston with a passenger in his vehicle. Police discovered that although the vehicle was a licensed minicab, Maqsood was not licensed. When asked for his details he gave the name of the person who was licensed to drive the car and produced documents under that name but was later found to be lying.

Sergeant Dave Williams said: "Kingston police are working closely with specialist traffic police officers, the Public Carriage Office, Kingston CCTV and KingstonFirst to ensure that people coming to Kingston town centre can travel home safely. We carry out regular checks on private hire vehicles in the area and if evidence of



unlicensed activity is found offenders can expect to be prosecuted."

Kingston officers ran a large policing operation in Kingston town centre from 2300 to 0300 hours. Over 65 police officers took part, with the majority being Kingston officers, supported by a team of traffic officers and a team of plain clothed officers from the Mets cab enforcement unit. Also working with Kingston officers on the night were the UK Border Agency, VOSA, the Public Carriage Office and licensing officers from Spelthorne and Runneymede Councils.

Four police check points on the major routes out of the town centre was put in place; 150 mini cabs were stopped and checked, with driver details sent to DWP for follow-up checks re benefit fraud. 57 breath tests were also conducted. 9 people were arrested, 9 endorsable FPN's (Fixed penalty notice) were issued with a further 3 FPN's issued by VOSA. There were 6 vehicle prohibitions issued by VOSA with 1 vehicle prohibition issued by police, 1 vehicle seized for no insurance and 3 drivers processed for PCO related offences. Operation Hide also examined 2 stretched limos.

ROOF SIGN ON PH VEHICLE

Stanley Roth, a licensed hackney carriage driver, was on his way to funeral in Waltham Abbey when he spotted this private hire vehicle. From the roundel it appears the vehicle is licensed by TfL. Stanley sent the image to the PCO. He said: "I took the photo at about 12.30pm on 28th January in the Highams Park area, on my way to Waltham Abbey."

Taxi Globe has been told by a spokesperson for TfL that the Taxi and Private Hire Compliance team are investigating this.

