



Giving a community a new lease of life: JCB Smart Towers® help give crime-hit areas a better future.

Criminal activity and anti-social behaviour have ‘almost disappeared’ for one area in Greenock, Inverclyde, since the installation of JCB Smart Tower® CCTV systems.

BACKGROUND

Greenock is located a few miles west of Glasgow. The community at the group of flats in Neil Street comprised of a mixed group of residents, from the elderly and vulnerable, through to the young and unemployed. Many residents felt that they had all but lost their fight against years of vandalism, anti-social behaviour and intimidation, to the point where they believed their homes could be considered for demolition. Vacant properties on the estate were rising and being persistently broken into, costing River Clyde Homes expenses in lost rent and repairs on a regular basis. Previous damage to adjacent blocks had resulted in £60,000 in repair costs alone.

River Clyde Homes is a dynamic not-for-profit social housing provider that owns and manages over 6,000 homes and provides factoring services to a further 2,250 homes in the Inverclyde area of Scotland.

“The cameras were a great deterrent and the anti-social behaviour in the area has almost disappeared.”

Ally Burns, Neighbourhood Police Officer, Scotland

OVERVIEW

SECTOR	Social Housing Provider
CUSTOMER	River Clyde Homes
SITE	Residential Community, Neil Street, Greenock
CHALLENGES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerable site with vacant property • Deter vandalism & anti-social behaviour
SOLUTION	JCB Smart Tower® CCTV System





SOLUTION

River Clyde Homes contacted VPS Site Security to discuss options to try and protect the community and their assets, initially enquiring about placing a security guard in one of the empty units. VPS carried out an assessment of the location, the environment, the landscape and the criminal reports in the area and recommended that a better solution would be to use mobile JCB Smart Towers® rather than manned guards.

“We recommend manned guards for certain sites, sometimes in combination with CCTV systems, but in this case the more effective solution was to install JCB Smart Towers®” says Ryan Clark of VPS Site Security.

“The Towers are a far more effective 24/7 visual deterrent than a single guard. Besides providing round the clock protection, with a number of CCTV cameras able to cover a wide area, we felt that a manned guard in this environment might attract more trouble than reduce it, and may not be a safe option.”

“The service with the cameras on site has been of the highest standard.”

Paul Sheerin, Riverclyde Homes

The installation comprised of an integrated, rapid deployment CCTV system of five JCB Smart Towers® with mains power plus 6 hour battery back-ups. The pan-tilt-zoom cameras (PTZ) have a 100m night vision range, connected to passive infra-red detectors, digital video recorders and a live audio challenge facility.

“Our monitoring station can review incidents in daylight and at night time with infra-red night vision capability. One of the innovative key features of the system is how the PTZ cameras follow movement which is picked up by the sensors. River Clyde Homes had considered a fixed camera system, but cameras which respond to movement in the vicinity increases the deterrent factor considerably.

“The solution here is essentially about deterrence. It’s not about catching vandals or criminals, but having the Smart Tower® provide a very visual presence to prevent crime in the first instance.”

Ryan Clark, VPS Site Security

Combined with the monitoring station’s capability to intervene ‘live’ to reported incidents and issue audio alerts to people carrying out anti-social activity, it has proved to be hugely effective” Mr Clark concludes.

This pilot project has been extended and VPS Site Security are now working with the police, local council and housing authority to develop a long term strategy on the back of its success.

Organisations who have a challenging, difficult to protect, or remote site that needs securing can request an assessment from an experienced VPS Site Security Consultant at no cost.



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