

## Using hand-e-pix with BlackBerry to tackle enviro-crime

The geographical analysis of 'tags' within a number of District Councils has enabled Streetscene Officers to identify graffiti trends and also routes of offenders within their communities. Most recently this led to the apprehension of one offender, once a geographical pattern emerged as a school route.

Using BlackBerry devices equipped with hand-e-pix and the latest GIS technology like Google Maps or MapInfo, photo's of incidents with GPS location can easily be captured, collated and analysed revealing these trends. All incident information and photographs recorded by GPS are sent live to the GIS system enabling detailed crime analysis on the 'taggers'.

The GIS software allows the Councils to analyse incidents alongside other authority data which is overlaid to provide comprehensive information e.g. is the property council owned, social housing, residential or a business, and much more. By employing this technology, crime analysis has improved, graffiti removals within 24 hours have increased from 15% to 69% and resource savings have been achieved. In particular this solution has assisted in helping councils report on the following National Indicators.

NI 195

Improved street and environmental cleanliness  
(Levels of graffiti, litter, detritus and fly posting)

NI 196

Improved street and environmental cleanliness  
(Levels of fly tipping)



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Darren Hilton – Managing Director at Handheld PCs comments *'We are delighted that a number of councils in the Berkshire and Sussex areas are using hand-e-pix to help them report on National Indicators for Street and Environmental cleanliness'*. Malcolm Napier – Director from e-mpirical Ltd. comments further *'anyone from a Council and anyone from a partner of the Council should be able to use the camera on a BlackBerry in a secure and structured way to report on relevant incidents in the Community so that service delivery can be improved across the board.'*

For further information:

<http://www.handheld-pcs.com>

<http://www.e-mpirical.com>