

Crime-free car park relaunched in style

BY PAUL WHYATT

WIDER parking bays and flashing lights indicating available spaces are among the improvements that have been unveiled at the "world's safest" car park.

Bold Lane Car Park has been crime-free ever since Parksafe took over the facility almost 13 years ago.

But its owners are no longer content with keeping customers' cars safe.

They have now invested thousands of pounds to ensure customers enjoy a stress-free time when using the Cathedral Quarter facility.

To avoid car damage, blocks of three parking bays have been reduced to two, allowing more space for opening doors.

Plastic bollards have re-

"I look forward to using this car park with full confidence in the day or at night."

FIONA CANNON

placed concrete ones to minimise damage to vehicles when drivers accidentally reverse into them.

And curbs have been shortened where car wheels had been clipping them around bends.

Elsewhere, new payment machines that do not reject change and allow users to contact a new control room for help, via a camera link, have also been fitted.

Customers are even allowed to borrow an umbrella if it rains, and calming background music is set to be introduced in the near future.

In addition, "smart card" tickets are issued which log drivers' details, meaning they do not have to worry about paying a fine for losing their ticket.



Top, guests and staff celebrate the reopening. A "break-in" to a car was staged to show how effective security was (left); Mark Pickering in the control room (centre); and a ground view of the car park (right).

Main picture: Laura Page DELP2019/0288-009_C

possible" for thieves to break into a vehicle and get away with it.

Customers can now activate parking bay sensors whereby any movement of their car while they are out shopping will trigger an alarm.

Parksafe controllers watching on CCTV can then lockdown the entire car park at a

month to allow the refurbishment to take place, the car park was officially reopened yesterday by the High Sheriff of Derbyshire, Fiona Cannon.

Addressing guests at the unveiling, she said: "They have thought of everything. I look forward to using this car park with full confidence in the day or at night."

riddled with car crime before Parksafe took over in 1998. In the year before it took over there were 170 incidents.

There has not been an incident of theft or vandalism since.

Indeed, the company is so confident about its parking system that it does not display "park at your own risk" signs in its car park, but accepts

his company is the only operator in the UK and possibly the world to offer this type of guarantee.

He said he was "enormously proud" of the service that his company was providing.

He said: "If people feel their car is safe they will feel they can leave it for longer and enjoy more time in the city."