

Life at Tower Hamlets Homes gets a lift from an AlimakHek Temporary Lift

Lift and Hoist specialist AlimakHek has recently installed two temporary lifts for Tower Hamlets Homes as part of a recent internal lift refurbishment project at Ansell House which avoided the need to re-accommodate any of the 250 residents during the 12 week refurbishment programme.



Ansell House is a six-storey building with four lifts, two in the middle and one at each end. Although the two central lifts are linked and have common access, the end lifts are totally independent with no access to the others, which meant that when they are out of action, residents are forced to use the stairs to access their flats. Some residents, who have been at Ansell House since it was built in the late 1950s, are frail or have mobility issues. Asking them to use the stairs during the refurbishment programme was not a possibility.

Jamie Carswell, Director of Investment for Tower Hamlets Homes explained how, with a little lateral thinking, the housing provider found the perfect solution for residents. “Throughout the refurbishment, residents’ wellbeing was paramount. We knew that we couldn’t install an alternative lift because the site and subterranean infrastructure precluded such major construction and also the additional construction and ongoing maintenance costs would be prohibitively expensive. So together with AlimakHek, we came up with the option of installing two temporary lifts to the outside of the building which would then service all six floors of the block.”

The **AlimakHek SE630T** Temporary Passenger/Goods Lift is developed from experience gained from thousands of permanent lift installations; the lift car runs on a structural mast and driven up and down by a Rack and Pinion so no shaft or machine room is required.

The structural masts for each lift were tied in to the structure of the building and as the masts are modular the lifts are quick to install and dismantle at the end of the project. When complete the temporary lifts provided easy and safe direct access to each floor of the 6-storey building for up to 8 people at a time.



Carswell continued: “The temporary lifts were similar to conventional DDA compliant lifts to use - fully automatic and meeting all the required safety regulations. We installed ramps to provide full wheelchair access, which meant that the lifts could be used independently so we didn’t need to factor in the costs of a supervisor or lift operator. Security was maintained by residents using their normal security key fob to activate the lifts, which prevented any unauthorised use. The temporary lifts gave residents full access to the building and we completed the refurbishment programme in just 12 weeks with the absolute minimum of disruption to residents.”

ends

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Editor’s notes:

Hi-res images available on request

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More about Alimak Hek

Alimak Hek is the world's leading supplier of mast climbing equipment and added value services for both temporary and permanent installations providing the most cost efficient, reliable, and flexible vertical access solutions for people and materials in the construction and general industry.

Alimak Hek operates wholly owned sales and rental companies in some 20 locations around the world, and has over 50 representatives in other locations.

For further information

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