

CCTV System

Background

1. At previous Village meetings there has been support for the community to implement a CCTV system – the suggestion being a camera on the village side of the M45 bridge which would record all traffic (people and vehicles) entering and leaving the village.
2. The purpose of the CCTV would be to:
 - Deter criminal activity;
 - Deter vehicle speeding;
 - To facilitate crime detection and apprehension of wrongdoers;
 - Provide CCTV footage to Warwickshire Police.
3. In December 2018 Robert Ashford (RA) reported that a single camera system would cost £1,350 (ex VAT) and should be relatively easy to implement. He subsequently produced for the Parish Council a draft policy for your Council to consider.

The focus of RA's report was on the development of a policy to ensure we comply with relevant legislation concerning video recording in public spaces. This is to ensure we comply with General Data Protection Regulations and the Information Commission's Office and associated legislation to ensure compliance.

4. This document summarises research undertaken by Cllrs Keith Boardman (KB) and Norman Lines (NL) as at 8th April 2019.

Research

5. Following RA's report KB & NL reviewed the proposal with regard to:
 - a) The technical solution and overall implementation costs;
 - b) The role of the Parish Council and system's management, and our day to day procedures;
 - c) Collaboration arrangements with Warwickshire Police.
6. They consulted with:
 - a) Local Community Police Officers;
 - b) Warwickshire Police at county level;
 - c) A CCTV company – the supplier to Polesworth, in the north of the county.

Polesworth is a large parish which has invested in 31 cameras across the parish, mainly focussed on ASB hot spots and to assist with traffic management. It is jointly sponsored between Polesworth PC, N Warks BC, and Warwickshire Police.

7. System Purpose
 - a) The Police indicated that as a low incident crime area, opportunist crime will be relatively low, and we should focus our efforts on deterring and detecting targeted high value robberies.
 - b) A TV camera will support speed reduction. However speeds per se, would not be calculated.
 - c) Number plate recognition is recommended as this would significantly improve crime detection.
 - d) TPC would need to register as the Data Controller, and to comply with the law a nominated Data Controller should be trained to Home Office accreditation standards – involving a 2/3 day course with written examination, at a cost of in excess of £200.
 - e) We would develop our procedures to cover collaboration with Warwickshire Police – either alerting them to incidents, or on occasions the police may contact us based on their own intelligence.
 - f) As the Data Controller, TPC or its agent would be required to research video recordings and export extracts to a portable media device such as a DVD or memory stick.

8. Technical Appraisal

- a) To enable number plate recognition we would require a more sophisticated TV camera system, otherwise with daytime glare, and/or low light levels would not allow reliable character recognition.
- b) Both police and CCTV representatives recommend a 28 day digital recording loop. This implies a digital recording memory of 2 TBytes.
- c) In order to download video data the Council would need to provide a wi-fi encrypted link with a reasonably high specification laptop computer. HD video recordings can be large – e.g 7hr night recording may produce 50Gb of data. The current proposal assumes the person downloading would be in close proximity to CCTV – that is on the Main Street bridge approach.
- d) Based on the HD 28 day recordings with ANPR a required budget would be circa £2,500.
- e) It was recommended that the Parish should undertake fortnightly or monthly system checks. Call out the maintenance organiser as and when – at a cost £120 / visit + component costs, if out of warranty.
- f) Once the required video download has been reviewed, any relevant extracts should be copied to a removable media such as a DVD or memory stick. The storage device would also need to be encrypted.
- g) The police do not as yet have the capability to download video data streams directly to their vehicles. Our equipment would need to meet Warwickshire Police's technical compliance in terms of data format and encryption.
- h) The lack of an official Parish Council office would necessitate connectivity to residents homes would likely be unaffordable for our parish.

Current Position

The system is doable albeit there are complexities in sustaining a CCTV service because of:

- Start-up and ongoing costs;
- Operations would need to be managed by TPC, as Data Controller;
- At minimum we would require 2 or 3 village volunteers, perhaps on a rota, who could make themselves available at relatively short notice to support the system – commitments would be ad hoc based on village incidents or police requests.
- Technical viability, at least in the short term, would be by downloading data close to the lamp post. We have no permanent office base.
- We could obtain statistics such as traffic volumes, although this will be tedious to undertake. It will not record vehicle speeds.
- Both Police and CCTV supplier argue we already have a good public surveillance system – euphemistically known as curtain twitching and the ThurlastonNet!

We may wish to consider alternative systems such as:

- Mobile hand-held speed cameras– and log registration plates with Warwickshire Police.
- Mount a permanent camera with automatic illuminated speed indicator – so called SID (Speed Indicator Device)

Keith Boardman
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