

WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

TO: RESOURCES SUB-COMMITTEE - MONDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2000

SUBJECT: MOBILE CAMERA

FROM: COMMISSIONING TEAM

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Members on the investigation to purchase a mobile camera.
- 1.2 To seek Members approval for an alternative proposals to tackle vehicle crime in our rural areas.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Crime reduction used to be seen as almost exclusively the responsibility of the Police. This is no longer the case, this Authority now has a joint and equal responsibility with the Police and County Council to reduce crime in this district.
- 2.2 The original bid came from the Warwick District Community Safety Forum and was designed to tackle car crime initially in the Rural Areas. The Rural Parish Councils were the largest single respondent group with car crime their top priority and a will to work with the Police.
- 2.3 At this committee on 31 March 1999 the purchase of a mobile camera was agreed subject to compatibility with existing systems and a demonstration of the recommended equipment.

3. INVESTIGATION

- 3.1 The Police have carried out a full investigation into current technology including an Automatic Number Plate Recognition System (ANPR).
- 3.2 In a letter to the Chief Executive (Appendix 1) Superintendent Arnold has advised us that it is 'unwise' to proceed with the purchase of a mobile camera including ANPR at this time.

4. ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS

- 4.1 Rather than disappoint the people of the rural areas, alternative proposals to tackle rural car crime have been considered by the Vehicle Crime Tasking Group together with a bid to reduce car crime at Newbold Comyn.
- 4.2 A summary of the proposals are attached as Appendix 2.

5. **KEY ISSUE STRATEGIES**

- 5.1 The relevance to the original Key Issue Strategies is in Joint Working with Parish Councils and Equality and Equal Access in addressing the needs of isolated communities. The relevance to the current Key issues is SO7:

To devise action plans (working with the community) for improving the perceived and actual safety of areas within the Council's direct control.

6. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 To agree that the purchase of a mobile camera be abandoned.
- 6.2 To approve the alternative proposals as set out in Appendix 2.

Peter Cutts
Policy Planning Officer

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Joint Working and Public Participation - 10 March 1999
Resources Sub-Committee - 31 March 1999

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Areas in District
Affected: Rural Areas

PROPOSALS

1. EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN

Initially targeting the Rowington Electoral Division and utilising Neighbourhood Watch working with Parish Councils. Leaflet distribution events staffed by Neighbourhood Watch will raise awareness of vehicle security and personal responsibility to target theft from and theft of vehicles.

This will be run on the same lines as the successful Christmas campaign in Leamington (attached).

Cost - £1,200.

2. HOTEL/CONFERENCE CENTRE AWARD

Hotels such as the Honiley Boot and Chesford Grange attract many visitors and residents for functions and conferences. Unfortunately they also attract professional car thieves.

Whilst recognising that the 'victims' may not be predominately residents the consequences of ignoring the problem can only harm the locality.

A proposal from the Vehicle Crime Tasking Group is to recognise the Hotels/Conference Centres who are addressing security through an award and promote that award through the South Warwickshire Tourism Company in an attempt to encourage others to bring security higher up the Agenda.

Cost - £3000.

3. FIRST GEAR

National Best Practice aimed at young people 15 yrs + who are at risk of committing crime. There are three elements to the course but the main element addresses crime and the consequences of criminal behaviour. The course provides pre learner driver education looking at responsible and legal car ownership.

Cost - £3,646.

4. NEWBOLD COMYN HEDGES

There is a high incidence of theft from vehicles parked at Newbold Comyn. Some tree maintenance is necessary to ensure that the CCTV camera can operate efficiently but current hedge heights also conceal car crime from the many walkers and passers-by. Leisure and Amenities recommend laying rather than cutting hedges as it is the most effective form of regenerative maintenance for quality, dense hedge growth. The hedge provides a considerable barrier and once laid would be far easier to maintain at the 4' height. The proposal is to re-lay 590 linear metres.

Cost - £3,423.