

 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 11 th December, 2013		Agenda Item No. 10
Title: CCTV & Lighting in St Nicholas Park		
For further information about this report please contact	Pete Cutts Safer Communities Manager pete.cutts@warwickdc.gov.uk 456021	
Wards of the District directly affected	Warwick South	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?	No	
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	n/a	
Background Papers	Executive Report December 12 th , 2012 Petitions regarding CCTV in St Nicholas Park, Warwick	

Contrary to the policy framework:	No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No
Key Decision?	No
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	561
Equality & Sustainability Impact Assessment Undertaken	No
None	

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive	31/10/13	Andrew Jones
Head of Service	25/10/13	Richard Hall
CMT	22/11/13	
Section 151 Officer	22/11/13	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	25/10/13	Andrew Jones
Finance	22/11/13	Jenny Clayton
Portfolio Holder(s)	25/10/13	Cllr Michael Coker
Consultation & Community Engagement		
<p>Prior to the scheme being agreed consultation took place with ward councillors and residents of sheltered housing on the edge of the park. Site meetings took place with CCTV, WCC Street Lighting, Contract Services and Warwickshire Police.</p> <p>Following problems experienced in the first week of the summers school holidays in 2012 an advice sheet was circulated to residents on how to contact Police and updating on action taken.</p>		

In preparing this report the views of Friends of St Nicholas Park have been taken in to account following a meeting with Cllr Coker on 4th November. Community Safety partners were consulted (Police Warwick Safer Neighbourhood Team, WDC Safer Communities & CCTV and Neighbourhood Services) on the points made at this meeting and these are summarised in Appendix 1.

Final Decision?	Yes
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below) As set out in the resolution from the Executive meeting. (2.6)	

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 In the light of the consultations referred to in the appendices it is recognised that various problems exist that require addressing but in the view of community safety partners these would not necessarily be improved by additional CCTV cameras and lighting in St Nicholas Park other than as suggested in 2.1.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 A fixed recording camera system to be fitted at the Café subject to agreement that the proprietor covers the cost of annual maintenance and insurance.
- 2.2 No other CCTV cameras to be installed in St Nicholas Park or any existing cameras to be repositioned but that the tree adjacent to the cafe is trimmed to improve the coverage of this camera of the area.
- 2.3 No additional lighting to be installed in St Nicholas Park.
- 2.4 Further consideration be given to the protection of the houses in Myton Fields from nuisance under the further consultation required by the original decision regarding the expenditure of any remaining funds.
- 2.5 That officers liaise with Police to ensure additional surveillance to protect the park from the effects of "Boy Racers "
- 2.6 Neighbourhood Services will continue to consult with ward councillors, the Friends of the Park and its users to allocate the remaining funding to those other desirable projects previously identified by the working party.

3. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The café has suffered criminal damage and CCTV may provide a deterrent and in the event of further damage some evidence for detection and prosecution.
- 3.2 The level of crime and disorder does not justify any further CCTV in the park area in the view of partners. (Appendix 2)
- 3.3 As a result of the review maintenance and repairs have been made to the existing lighting which is now fully operational and of a good standard along the main pedestrian routes.

- 3.3 The nuisance to properties in Myton Fields and the effect of the Boy racers is a problem that should be addressed but would not be ameliorated by CCTV or additional lighting.

4. **POLICY FRAMEWORK**

- 4.1 Policy Framework -Work in tackling anti-social behaviour is a significant part of the council's vision for Safer Communities:

Protecting our communities from harm with an emphasis on the prevention of incidents, whilst focusing on the most vulnerable to make them feel safer

- 4.2 Fit for the Future – Tackling ASB impacts significantly on the quality of life of residents, businesses and visitors. The level of crime and disorder is cited as the top consideration when deciding on where to live.

5. **BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK**

- 5.1 There is a specific budget (C023) for this work created when a Heritage Lottery Bid was unsuccessful. Following the installation of 3 cameras and lighting there is a balance of £13,907. This has been supplemented by a further £4,500 following a payment from Severn Trent when they sited a compound on the park area giving a total of £18,407.
- 5.2 The cost of a fixed camera system for the café to be confirmed following agreement but is anticipated to be in the region of £5,000.

6. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 6.1 Use any remaining funds for additional cameras and lighting.

7. **BACKGROUND**

- 7.1 In June 2009 a report was considered by the Executive which approved £210k funding for three projects at St Nicholas Park following an unsuccessful Heritage Lottery Bid in March 2008.
- 7.2 A number of projects were delivered. The third project identified was improved safety through lighting and CCTV. There was funding of up to £98k available to fund this work.
- 7.3 The 2009 report also recommended that if external funding could be identified that could supplement the funding the council had allocated that money could be used to deliver further improvements which had been identified by the working party.
- 7.4 The first week of the summer school holidays in 2012 was a hot week and a wide range of ages was attracted to this area. Six incidents were reported between 23rd and 27th July when only 8 incidents had been reported in the previous 51 weeks.
- 7.5 Groups as large as 50 were reported and this included some older and known Criminals who were showing off in front of females and inciting younger individuals.

Incidents reported to Cllr Bromley by residents included red bins being removed foul language, loud noise, kicking footballs against residents property, urinating and one youth walking naked in the area.

- 7.6 Warwickshire Police made this area a priority with the Safer Neighbourhood Team carrying out regular patrols with PCSO's remaining in the area for the majority of their shifts. The area was added to Police Tasking for incident response.
- 7.7 Community Safety met with Police and produced an advisory note to residents encouraging them to report incidents and setting out how to report, a summary of actions undertaken and what was planned.
- 7.8 As a result of the actions taken there were significant improvement in the area. The Community Safety Manager attended a meeting with residents but residents were not interested in what had been done or the improvements, they were only interested in securing additional CCTV.
- 7.9 Based on the level of ASB and crime in St Nicholas Park the Safer Communities Manager advised that CCTV was not needed. If money was to be spent on CCTV and lighting then the priority should be the car park and main pedestrian route through the car park. Paths to our leisure facilities down to Coten End would benefit from enhancement to existing lights and some additional columns.
- 7.10 Accepting that CCTV would provide some reassurance one camera was upgraded at sheltered accommodation (Avon St). One camera was installed to cover a new line of parking in the main car park and a further camera at the junction of the footpath/cycleway joining Myton and Emscote Roads.

SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERS RESPONSE TO POINTS MADE AT A MEETING WITH FRIENDS OF ST NICHOLAS PARK

Lighting

I met on site with PC Trent McMurray and reviewed the lighting including the footpath from the Leisure Centre to the main car park. We spoke to Leisure centre staff and concluded that lighting levels were good even when the all-weather pitch lighting was off.

We found 3 columns not working on the corner of the footpath (all weather pitch to the car park and adjacent to the fun fair). These are now working.

The only area of poor lighting is at the entrance to the main car park. A line of lights are not working. These are WDC owned ornate lights on the footpath. There is a fault and WCC are carrying out investigatory work. Lighting levels along the footpath/cycleway from Myton Rd to Coten End were good.

Recommendation – no additional or enhanced lighting to be installed.

CCTV

1. Provision of a camera at each end of the schools foot path/cycle way to provide a safe route for the children using it from local schools.

I consulted with Sgt David Kettle and Graham Collis (CCTV Manager). We do not believe the risks justify camera on this route. One mugging/robbery was child on child and we do not believe the route presents greater risk than other routes across our parks and CCTV would be unprecedented. If it was high crime or high risk route then there would be technical issues due to the geography in terms of receiving the signal. A letter has been received from the Governors of Myton School in support of CCTV along this route but the concerns are general (attachment 3). Recommendation – no additional cameras to be installed.

2. Reposition the camera near the children's plays area so that it covers the café and not obstructed by the tree.

I have consulted with Graham Collis and as stated at the meeting the camera is in the correct position to cover its primary target – the new line of car parking. The camera can cover other areas of the park including the play area but was never intended to cover the paddling pool or café.

Recommendation – do not move the camera at a cost of around £7000.

Some trimming of the tree to be carried out. Installation of a recorded CCTV system at the café to be costed as utilised at other locations in Warwick with equipment supplied from the available funds and the proprietor to cover cost of insurance and annual maintenance (after Year 1)

3. Try to stop the nuisance caused by BBQs in Myton Fields - there is no suggestion that this is an issue for CCTV.

Recommendation: Offer to meet with residents to look at educational signs and look at options to create some distance between car parking and property boundaries.

4. Travellers in Myton Fields – I have discussed this with Sgt Kettle, Graham Collis & Robert Hoof (Contract Services). There was considerable damage to this area in 2008. There have been two visits in 2013. The Travellers were moved on, returned and were moved on immediately. We do not believe that CCTV will provide a deterrent to entering the site or preventing damage when on site. The option to install a height limiter has been dismissed as it would prevent legitimate use of the site and this part of a report going to Executive Committee. We understand that two stop-over sites for

travellers will be in place in 2014 and whilst this will not stop travellers from arriving will enable us to move them on more quickly. Experience from other areas with stop over sites suggests the incidence of unauthorised encampments reduces.
Recommendation- no additional CCTV

5. Boy Racers in Myton Fields – I have discussed this with Sgt Kettle, Graham Collis & Julian Hill (Anti-Social Behaviour Officer). This is a concern but again hard to deter or design out when there is parking on public open space. The car park is pay and display and there is an absence of a capable guardian. We have boy racers in other areas of the district including the town centre and CCTV is no deterrent. We need officers to attend.

Recommendation – no additional cameras. Residents to share intelligence with Warwick SNT and patrols to be put in place.

Pete Cutts
Safer Communities Manager

CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR FIGURES FOR ST NICHOLAS PARK, WARWICK

Crime

Sept 11 to Aug 12 (12 months) - 7 crimes
x 3 drugs, x 2 criminal damage, x 1 violence, x 1 theft of cycle

Sept 12 to Aug 13 (12 months) - 6 crimes
x 2 theft, x 2 violence, x 1 theft from vehicle, x 1 criminal damage

Anti-Social Behaviour

Sept 11 to Aug 12 (12 months) - 13 ASB incidents (x 11 nuisance, x 2 personal)

Sept 12 to Aug 13 (12 months) - 20 ASB incidents (x 15 nuisance, x 3 environmental, x 2 personal)

CAMERA USE SINCE MAY 2013

There have been five Operator logs for pro-active activities with the cameras.

One Incident caught on camera and evidence passed to Police following the viewing.

Five requests to review cameras from Police following up on reported incidents, of which none were actually within camera view.