

AGENDA 11, Enc vii) Station Road CCTV Provision, DRAFT REPORT of meeting held on Wednesday 25th September 2024

Present

Cllr Lynne Grimshaw, Cllr Louis Brown, Cllr Pauline Thompson, Sarah Eden, Stephen Humphrey, Sgt Kath Smith (NP), PCSO Kennedy Clark (NP), Karl Thurm (AW), David Knox (AW), Chris Duncan (AW), Grant Urquhart (NCC Community Safety Team), PSCO Paige Grant (NP Attachment), PC Harry Felton (NP Attachment)

1. **It was AGREED** that Cllr Lynne Grimshaw would chair the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Caroline Ball, Cllr John Tully, Insp Wayne Daniels.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of interest.

4. REPORT OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was agreed to receive the report of the meeting held on 26th June 2024 as a fair reflection.

5. ASSET WATCH BUILDING MOVE

Karl updated on the move, and it was agreed that he would liaise directly with Stephen about the equipment on the roof of the Town Hall and required access to this.

6. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

a) System Performance and Reliability

No instances of downtime. The CCTV camera from Asda Bridge was now in the new location and was included in the monitoring information.

b) Reported Incidents

Asset Watch shared that there were 86 incidents, averaging 22/month. Stephen asked if the number of requests for footage by others could be recorded and shared at future meetings.

c) Incidents with outcome

It was AGREED to receive the tabled report of incidents from Northumbria Police. It was the information would be sent electronically to allow easier summary, as below. In brief the report illustrated the following:

1 incident is identified as aiding prevention, due to bikes being easily recognisable.

9 incidents are identified as having no action, including when dispersed.

29 incidents are identified as having a positive police response, and action as a result or ongoing inquiries.

18 reports are identified as not able to take action due to lack of information/no ID (this is mostly bikes).

4 recorded as action taken by another, not NPT

It was highlighted that data can be compiled in any way that shares with the meeting how CCTV is being used and its effectiveness in dealing with incidents of crime and disorder.

There are far more incidents/reports in this period than the last, but the previous meeting was the first to be held. With reference to some of the more serious crimes, the NPT recounted that without the CCTV footage it would be impossible to progress, and twelve crimes were highlighted as being serious incidents where CCTV has been used.

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Date	Location	Grading	Outcome
14/04/2024	TOSCANA PIZZA, 3 STATION RD	Grade 1	Early report prevented violence from escalating.
21/04/2024	HIRST PARK	Grade 1	Report of suspicious activity, person was spoken to, no crime.
21/04/2024	ATM, 3 STATION RD	Grade 2	Youth ASB - several identified and home visits carried out.
27/04/2024	THE CREE, 24 WOODHORN	Grade 1	Crime report was created in relation to an assault, investigation ongoing.
03/05/2024	STATION RD	Grade 2	Youth ASB, images sent to NPT for identification and home visits carried out
04/05/2024	WANSBECK SQUARE	Grade 2	Report of ASB - had left area prior to police arrival.
05/05/2024	STATION BGE, STATION RD	Grade 5	Report of fight which had dispersed as report was being made.
06/05/2024	NORTH SEATON RD, NORTH SEATON	Grade 1	Report of fight, nothing ongoing upon police arrival and persons had already left.
15/05/2024	STATION RD	Grade 1	Suspicious activity - this assisted in identifying 2 males who were linked to recent burglaries. Arrested and currently on bail.
18/05/2024	GREGGS, 32 STATION	Grade 1	Early report prevent domestic violence incident from escalating.
18/05/2024	WANSBECK RIVERSIDE PARK, WELLHEAD DEAN	Grade 5	Report of possible drug use / driving offences. Had already left area so no need for police deployment but intelligence report submitted.
20/05/2024	TOSCANA PIZZA, 3 STATION RD	Grade 1	Early report prevented possible fight from escalating.
24/05/2024	WOODHORN RD	Grade 2	Report of a disturbance outside of Wetherspoons. Transpires to be a DV related incident but one of the persons was arrested for outstanding matters un-related to this incident.
31/05/2024	HIRST PARK HOUSE	Grade 2	Report of youth ASB in the area. Made off prior to police attendance <i>*note that Hirst Park is part of Project Shield Patrols (extra patrols daily in that area) *</i>
01/06/2024	STATION RD	Grade 1	Report of fight, nothing ongoing upon police arrival and persons had already left.
11/06/2024	HIRST PARK	Grade 2	Report of drug use in the area, persons identified and known. Recorded for information as nothing ongoing prior to police deployment.
15/06/2024	STATION RD	Grade 2	Report of concern for female who was lying in the street. NEAS also contacted who attended, female intoxicated and received medical treatment.
16/06/2024	STATION RD	Grade 5	Report of possible fight / drug use. Recorded for information and no response required.

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Date	Location	Report/Incident	Outcome
26/06/2024	Woodhorn road/ best pizza	Footage showing male being assaulted by multiple offenders	Incident being dealt with by NPT
26/06/2024	Woodhorn road/ best pizza	Footage which shows potential offender before a theft	Incident being dealt with by NPT
28/06/2024	Hirst Park	Surron bikes pulling wheelies	Riders face is covered.
28/06/2024	Hirst Park	Youths picking branches up and putting them into the bowling green	Asset watch deployed and spoke to the youths
29/06/2024	Vice City	Multiple fights outside of Vice City. Two females involved were subsequently arrested.	2 x female arrests
29/06/2024	Newbiggin Road	Reported male on the road with an injury.	Police attended and the male was arrested as he was wanted
29/06/2024	Vice City	Footage of suspects on a stolen motorbike	1 x arrest for handling stolen goods and assault on an emergency worker
02/07/2024	Station road/ Pizza addict	Footage of male causing damage to iceland window.	Enquiries ongoing
04/07/2024	Woodhorn Road/ station road	Three young youths out in the early hours	One of the females was reported as missing earlier.
04/07/2024	Riverside park	Vehicle ASB involving two vehicles	Numerous attempts made to speak to the drivers at their home address, no contact made at the time of writing.
04/07/2024	Hirst Park	Individuals potentially taking pictures of children.	
05/07/2024	Woodhorn road/ best pizza	Drunk youths	Police attended and dealt with the youths
05/07/2024	Woodhorn road/ best pizza	Domestic incident ongoing	Police attended and dealt with the incident.
05/07/2024	Paddock woods	Youths drinking alcohol.	Police attended however youths had already left the area.
06/07/2024	Vice City	Assault, three males on one male.	Enquiries ongoing
07/07/2024	Riverside park	Males in vehicle consuming drugs and alcohol	Police attended, positive action taken with males.

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07/07/2024	Wellhead dene	Males in vehicle consuming drugs .	Vehicle left the area before police arrived. Intelligence submitted
11/07/2024	Bubbles/John Street	Footage of a group of males snorting a white substance outside of il girasole.	No units available- asset watch confirmed males had left. (night of the euros)
13/07/2024	Vice City	Footage of suspicious males with a package at 4am, on off road bike	Images circulated for identification
14/07/2024	Woodhorn road/ best pizza	Footage of potential arson suspect	Enquiries ongoing
14/07/2024	Woodhorn road/ best pizza and home bargains	Police contacted asset watch in relation to a live incident; report of a male with a machete	Asset watch monitored cameras and informed police via 999 of a sighting of this male which lead to his arrest. The machete was a toy - public order offence
16/07/2024	The miners/ station road	Reports of an intoxicated male driving and a fight between the male driver and a female	Asset watch reported and monitored the incident which lead to an arrest. Excellent piece of footage, without which, this incident would not have been brought to police attention and further harm could have come to the female. *Male was banned from driving for 18 months and fined*
17/07/2024	Station road	Individual on electric motorbike	Rider is completely covered, unable to ID.
07/07/2024	Best Pizza/ Woodhorn Road	Road rage incident	Instigator has been spoken to by police
18/07/2024	Portland/Station road	Male with knife	Male arrested, footage did not show a knife however did show a male arguing.
18/07/2024	Vice City	Females fighting	Females fighting outside of Vice City. Offenders left before police arrival
25/07/2024	Wilkinsons square	Female causing damage to flower trough	
28/07/2024	Vice City	Males fighting	Identity of the males unknown. Asset watch reported this half an hour after the incident after they noticed the fight from viewing footage from a different incident.
15/07/2024	Station Road	Surron bikes pulling wheelies	Riders faces are covered
17/07/2024	Station Road	Surron bike driving dangerously	Rider wearing a helmet
29/07/2024	Paddock woods	Surron bike at paddock woods	Footage sent to OP Capio
30/07/2024	Hirst Park	Youths sitting on the bowling green	Discussed with community safety team at NCC.

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04/08/2024	Alexandra road park	Male youth with balaclava on, sitting on an off road bike. Still images sent	Unable to identify
04/08/2024	Paddock woods	Youths on quad bike, still images.	Unable to identify
04/08/2024	Station road	Surron bikes driving dangerously	Unable to identify
05/08/2024	Paddock woods	Young child on a quad bike with adult present	Unable to identify
01/08/2024	Station road/ Argos	Bike theft	IP reports theft of bike, investigating officer has requested the footage. The footage shows potential suspects.
04/08/2024	Hirst Park	Assault/ fight between youths	Enquiries ongoing, a youth has been interviewed in relation to this. Further incident occurred at a later date involving the same suspect, footage was also provided for this.
12/08/2024	Station road	Off road bike on station road in the early hours of the morning	Unable to identify the rider.
01/08/2024	Station road/ Lintonville terrace	Surron type bikes pulling wheelies	Unable to identify the rider.
12/08/2024	Station road	Altercation between rider of off road bike and member of the public	Police attended and conducted an area search, footage sent to investigating officer
13/08/2024	Hirst Park	Youth ASB/ on the bowling green	Footage sent after the incident. Unable to identify the youth. NCC have been deploying the engagement van in Hirst park
18/08/2024	Bubbles/John street	Males fighting from bubbles	Asset watch rang 999, when police arrived both parties had left the area and no calls/complaints were made from either males.
18/08/2024	Station road/ toscanas	Males choking each other on Wilkinson underground steps.	Males dispersed prior to police arrival.
18/08/2024	Hirst Park	Youths in the park in the early hours of the morning	Area searched with a negative result
25/08/2024	Station Road/ Bubbles	Male assaulted 3x other males. Asset watch were the only caller for the incident despite numerous on lookers and the whole incident lasting over 20 minutes	1 x male arrest

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16/08/2024	Alexandra road park	Youths causing damage to the surfacing in the park	
21/08/2024	Alexandra Road park	Continuation of damage from youths	
22/08/2024	Woodhorn road/ Weatherspoon's	Large group of youths outside of Weatherspoon's antagonising people in the customers in the beer garden. This lead to an assault.	Enquiries ongoing in relation to assaults. The footage led to multiple youths being identified and subsequently home visits were conducted.
28/08/2024	Hirst Park	Two males in the park near the pavilion smoking drugs	NPT cannot identify males
25/08/2024	Station road	Surron type bikes provoking members of the public and surrounding police	Riders were fully covered however bikes are distinctive
28/08/2024	Paddock woods	Police were at asset watch HQ viewing footage when an off road bike was seen at paddock woods.	Youth (rider) and parent was stopped and spoken to by the OP Capio team
29/08/2024	Station Road	1x surron type bike riding on station road	Rider is fully masked up
31/08/2024	Vice City	Fight between males and females outside Vice City. Door attendants appear to get assaulted by the males.	Enquiries ongoing
31/08/2024	Miners	Asset watch have witnessed a male and female get into a vehicle then snort a white substance.	Police attended and the driver of the vehicle was arrested for failure to provide a specimen and charged.
09/09/2024	Station road	2x people taking drugs on station road	The two individuals believed to be taking drugs are now living out of the area.
14/09/2024	Bubbles	Male knocked unconscious by 2x males. The male is knocked out and lies on the floor for a while before anybody helps.	Asset watch were the only people to report the incident and request police and ambulance. The male could have been seriously injured and without this footage police would not have been made aware. Crime enquiries ongoing.
15/09/2024	Hirst Park	Youths on the roof of the pavilion	Asset watch attended, the youths were apologetic and came down.

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14/09/2024	Riverside park	Vehicle parks up and occupants leave a substantial amount of litter.	
13/09/2024	Hirst Park	2x fires set in Hirst Park by a group of youths.	Images of offender circulated to NPT
11/09/2024	Station Road	Vehicle drives into shop front and makes off leaving substantial damage	Enquiries ongoing.

d) Footage Playback

Using the CCTV footage to link with third parties was highlighted, including the NCC Community Safety Team who were represented. Grant shared that in his experience the Council and the NPT were receiving an exceptional service from Asset Watch, who often had files made up prior to partners requesting information. The service would eventually become a deterrent as more incidents are recorded, shared, and acted upon.

When there are incidents involving young people, the Community Safety Team will visit homes if young people can be identified. It was discussed that it was disappointing that individuals could not be identified in the damage and vandalism to Alexandra Road play area, which was now closed as the surfacing poses a risk. Sarah advised that although covered by the Council's insurance, the damage is over £5k but more importantly the play area will be out of service for a considerable time. If the culprits could be identified and spoken to, there could be a chance to educate them on the impact of their actions.

Additionally, Stephen shared that Environmental Enforcement had used footage in relation to fly-posting and he would follow-up if this resulted in any action.

It was AGREED to share the location of CCTV cameras with reference to lamp column numbers.

The question was posed on the use of CCTV footage by the Council, to aid in the identification of persons of interest when there is a clear image. Sarah advised that the Council need to be careful before going down this route, and would need to seek advice, as sharing data in this way creates a risk of misidentification, leading to potential harm, defamation, or harassment of individuals; social media is not very well regulated. It would be more appropriate that the police share CCTV images to detect and prevent crime as that is their clear public task, and they have a legitimate interest. **(see advice at end of report).**

7. QUALITATIVE INFORMATION

It was discussed that the conclusion of criminal proceedings in relation to the church would present a good opportunity to share how effective the CCTV was on this occasion.

Sarah asked if the meeting agreed that the incident involving young people could be considered a positive news story with reference to dispersing, identifying, and taking immediate action. This may be a good example of the CCTV being used to good effect, but it was discussed that sharing stories like this online, could result in negative and outing posts. Even if the report does not name young people, others may attempt to, and this would be shared across pages that the Council has no control of. **It was AGREED** when the report of the meeting is received, the Council will be asked to agree action on this.

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8. FUTURE MEETINGS AND REPORTS

To agree future quarterly meeting dates, and receipt of data in advance of meeting.

Meeting Date	Data received by	Report to Council
27 th November 2024	18 th November	December FGS
29 th January 2025	20 th January 2025	February FGS

Advice on sharing footage

The Council should not share CCTV images on social media to identify individuals due to significant legal risks under data protection law. Instead, it should involve the police, who are better equipped to manage such disclosures for crime prevention. Sharing footage publicly is highly invasive, may breach privacy rights, and risks misidentification. It should only be considered in exceptional circumstances and with a clear lawful basis, but this approach is generally discouraged.