

2 October 2012

Agenda Item: **10**

REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, POLICY, PLANNING AND CORPORATE SERVICES

TACKLING CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN GEDLING

Purpose of the Report

1. Wollaton Avenue, in the borough of Gedling, has been experiencing high levels of crime and anti-social behaviour over a sustained period of time (3 years). The local Community Safety Partnership has utilised a range of measures to tackle this problem and whilst all of these have been successful, the effects have only been short term, and have been expensive in respect of officer time and resources. This report seeks a funding contribution towards a long term, sustainable and economic solution to the problem, namely the installation of a CCTV camera, to cover the Wollaton Avenue area.

Information and Advice

2. Wollaton Avenue is a small retail hub in the St James ward area of Gedling. The section of Wollaton Avenue that would be covered by the CCTV camera is primarily small individual shops and food outlets. As such the area is classed as a public space and the CCTV camera would not overlook any domestic properties.
3. This area of Wollaton Avenue has experienced high levels of anti-social behaviour and crime over the last three years, (approximately 200 incidents). Anti-social behaviour has included harassment of shopkeepers, unruly and rowdy behaviour, underage drinking and excessive noise and litter. Crime has included criminal damage, theft, violence and robbery. A worrying trend of violence against bus drivers has also emerged.
4. The levels of crime and anti-social behaviour at Wollaton Avenue are approximately three times higher than the average for the Borough of Gedling as a whole
5. There is no evidence of any seasonal trends to this crime or anti-social behaviour, but incidents do tend to peak at weekends and evenings.
7. This pro-active partnership approach to tackling issues has a proven success rate in Gedling, for example disrupting car cruising in Netherfield, whereas one agency working in isolation will have much less chance of success.

Other Options Considered

9. The local Community Safety Partnership has initiated a range of measures to tackle this problem. These have included:-
- work with local shopkeepers to secure their premises
 - diversionary activities for young people
 - increased police patrols and presence in the area at peak times
 - community projects, such as litter picks, information campaigns

All of these have been successful whilst operational, but are expensive to maintain in any sustainable way.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

10. The installation of CCTV cameras in similar “hot spot” areas of Gedling (Oxclose Lane, Westdale Lane), has reduced crime and anti-social behaviour incidents to almost zero.
11. The installation of the CCTV camera will have an immediate and positive impact on the effective use of officer time and resources, both for the County Council and the Borough Council.
12. Wollaton Avenue does not fall within the Partnership Plus Area of Gedling and as such has not received any other funding for crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour issues from the County Council.
13. The Community Safety Partnership will add to the impact of the CCTV camera by working with local schools, colleges and the bus company to further reduce the levels of crime and anti-social behaviour around Wollaton Avenue.
14. The impact of the installation of the CCTV will be monitored and evaluated by the Community Safety Partnership, with regular reports on crime and anti-social behaviour levels, satisfaction surveys with local traders and bus companies, identification and work with offenders and the use of Anti-Social Behaviour Orders or Acceptable Behaviour Contracts

Statutory and Policy Implications

15. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Recommendations

16. That the sum of £9,000 is allocated from the Community Safety Budget as a contribution to Gedling Borough Council for the overall cost (£18,000) of the installation of a CCTV camera on Wollaton Avenue.

Martin Done, Service Director Communications and Marketing

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Tony Shardlow Community Safety Officer, Safer and Engaged Communities x73846.

Constitutional Comments (SLB 13/09/2012)

17. Community Safety Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report; it is responsible for the Council's statutory duties in relation to community safety.

Financial Comments (DD 10/9/12)

18. The financial consequences are noted within the report. All future maintenance costs to be borne by Gedling Borough Council.

Background Papers

19. Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.
20. Analysis of Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour on Wollaton Avenue (Report produced by the Community Safety Partnership Analyst – August 2012)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

21. Gedling