

HARLINGTON HOSPICE AND PINGELSTONE CLOSE

Cabinet Member(s)	Councillor Douglas Mills
Cabinet Portfolio(s)	Community, Commerce and Regeneration
Officer Contact(s)	Ed Shaylor, Residents Services
Papers with report	Appendix A - location map (Pinglestone Close) Appendix B - location map (Harlington Hospice shop, High Street, Harlington)

1. HEADLINE INFORMATION

Summary	This report seeks to respond to a petition received by the Council regarding a request for CCTV to be installed at two locations in Heathrow Villages - Pinglestone Close and Harlington Hospice Shop due to a substantial increase in fly-tipping at these two locations.
Contribution to our plans and strategies	This report contributes to the Safer Hillingdon Partnership Plan.
Financial Cost	None.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Residents' and Environmental Services Policy Overview Committee
Ward(s) affected	Heathrow Villages

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Cabinet Member notes the views of the petitioners and advises that:

- 1) That permanent CCTV at the two locations is not a practical solution to the problem;**
- 2) Considers the installation of temporary CCTV from time to time to detect or deter crime and disorderly behaviour as it occurs.**

Reasons for recommendations

The lead petitioner has asked for CCTV cameras to be installed at two locations, Pinglestone Close, Harmondsworth and Harlington Hospice, High Street, Harlington due to a high volume of fly-tipping at both of these locations.

The Council has a number of mobile CCTV cameras that can be deployed for up to 12 weeks at a time in response to resident concerns about crime and disorder. Not only can these cameras collect evidence to support the police and/or Local Authority to carry out enforcement and prosecution work, they can provide useful information about levels of crime in an area if any future applications are made for permanent CCTV or other crime prevention measures.

Alternative options considered / risk management

Permanent CCTV

The possibility of fixed permanent CCTV has been considered but discounted for two reasons. The costs are considerable (capital costs in the region of £20,000) and when installing cameras, we have to consider necessity, proportionality and the likelihood of intrusion into the privacy of people not connected with the disorderly behaviour as required under the Home Office guidance covering use of CCTV.

Dummy CCTV

The Council discourages the use of dummy cameras as they give an impression of safety without the ability to provide any evidence if an incident were to occur.

Private provision of CCTV

In addition to any temporary local authority CCTV cameras, businesses along the Bath Road could consider installing their own private CCTV to cover the interior of their shops plus the pavement immediately outside. Information about suppliers of this type of CCTV can be supplied to individual businesses on request.

Policy Overview Committee comments

None at this stage.

3. INFORMATION

Supporting Information

Petitioners have described a substantial increase in flytipping and rubbish in the following locations -

- The junction of Pinglestone Close and the Bath Road (see Appendix A location map), and
- Outside Harlington Hospice shop, 232 Manor Parade, High Street, Harlington (see Appendix B location map).

The petition specifies "Harlington Hospice, 282 Manor Parade, High Street, Harlington". The current, correct address of the Harlington Hospice shop is 232 High Street, Harlington so we have focussed this report on the 232 address.

When reviewing the Council's database that includes reports to the Anti Social Behaviour Investigations Team and Street Cleansing Team, officers have identified the following number of reports:

Pinglestone Close:

Since May 2014 a total of 32 reports have been made by residents and Ward Councillors about rubbish and flytipping. Of these, 23 were about rubbish and flytipping on Pinglestone Close and at the junction with Bath Road. Just over half of the reports were made on the refuse collection day (Thursday) or the following day of the week.

This location is suitable for the deployment of a temporary, mobile CCTV camera. However, the short street lights in Pinglestone Close (owned by the Council) are not tall enough or strong enough to carry a mobile camera. The Council have approached Transport for London to get permission from them to install a camera on one of the larger street lighting columns on the Bath Road (A4). In addition to seeking permission to put a camera up on their street light, officers have sought permission to temporarily close off some of the A4 to allow a vehicle to park under the street light on a "Red Route" to install the camera. These requests have been acknowledged by TfL but to date we have not yet received confirmation of TfL's approval.

In addition to installing a temporary CCTV camera, the Council can also ensure that residential properties close to the Pinglestone Road/Bath Road junction and in Pinglestone Road all have suitable domestic rubbish bins. Evidence from residents who have approached someone seen dumping a bag of rubbish at the junction is that the person dumping the bag didn't want the bag to remain in their own garden, although this is the Council's expectation prior to collection day.

As so many of the reports about rubbish being dumped are received on the day that the Council collects domestic waste (Thursday) or the day after, it may be profitable to task the Environmental Enforcement Team to patrol on Thursday afternoons and Friday mornings to remind residents (and take enforcement action if necessary) about domestic refuse collection arrangements. This would reinforce the message on the signs in Pinglestone Close about domestic refuse collection.

Harlington Hospice shop:

A temporary CCTV camera was installed close to Harlington Hospice shop at the end of November 2014. Its current location is not ideal because officers have had to install it on a lamp column that did not have Christmas decorations on it (as this disrupts the image recorded on the camera). To date the Community Safety Team has not received any requests from Ward Councillors or the Chairman of Harlington Residents' Association to view footage in response to incidents. As the camera is not monitored constantly, it is necessary for the Council to be informed about the date and time of incidents so that recordings can be viewed.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications for the Council resulting from the recommendations noted by this report, as portable CCTV equipment is already able to be deployed from within the existing budgets of the Community Safety Service.

4. EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

What will be the effect of the recommendation?

The measures recommended will be able to provide reassurance to residents that the Council can respond to crime and disorder hotspots as they occur, without the expense or intrusion of permanent surveillance cameras.

Consultation Carried Out or Required

Consultation has been conducted with London Borough of Hillingdon ASB Investigations Team and Waste Services team.

5. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate finance has reviewed the report and the financial implications, noting that the costs of using temporary CCTV equipment on an ad-hoc basis would be contained within existing revenue budgets.

Legal

The delegation to oversee initiatives in relation to CCTV and community safety rests with the Cabinet Member for Community, Commerce and Regeneration as set out in Article 7.08 paragraph (e) 1 of the Council Constitution. Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides local authorities with the power to do anything an individual can do provided it is not prohibited by other legislation and the works recommended under this report would fall within the range of activities permitted by Section 1.

Any installation of CCTV cameras (whether permanent or temporary) must be in accordance with the Information Commissioner's Office CCTV Code of Practice. In particular, this will require a balancing exercise in respect of the intrusion into the privacy of large numbers of law abiding people by placing them under surveillance and recording their movements as they go about their day-to-day activities against the nature of the problem sought to be addressed i.e. in this case the high volume of fly-tipping at Pinglestone Close and Harlington Hospice Shop. This will include consideration of whether a better or more proportionate solution to the problem exists. The Council's CCTV Code of Practice and the Home Office Guidance on Covert Surveillance should also be considered when implementing any CCTV schemes.

In June 2013 the Home Office published revised guidance around the use of surveillance cameras ("Surveillance camera code of practice" June 2013 - Home Office). Paragraph 2.4 of the new code of practice states:

"The decision to use any surveillance camera technology must, therefore, be consistent with a legitimate aim and a pressing need...The technical design solution for such deployment should be proportionate to the stated purpose rather than driven by the availability of funding or technological innovation...Furthermore, any deployment should not continue for longer than necessary."

If CCTV is to be installed appropriate signage must be placed in accordance with the above mentioned guidance and codes of practice. Any recorded material should be stored in a way that maintains the integrity of the information. This is to ensure that the rights of individuals recorded by surveillance systems are protected and that the information can be used effectively for its intended purpose.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil.