

PETITION REQUESTING CCTV IN BRIARWOOD DRIVE, FERNDOWN AND OAKDALE AVENUE, NORTHWOOD HILLS

Cabinet Member	Councillor Douglas Mills
Cabinet Portfolio	Improvement, Partnerships and Community Safety
Officer Contact	Ed Shaylor, Planning, Environment and Community Services
Papers with report	None

HEADLINE INFORMATION

Purpose of report	This report seeks to respond to a petition received by the Council to request CCTV cameras be installed in Briarwood Drive, Ferndown and Oakdale Avenue, Northwood Hills. The petition was received by Democratic Services on 17 March 2010.
Financial Cost	The costs of a temporary CCTV camera can be met from existing community safety budgets.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Residents' and Environmental Services
Ward(s) affected	Northwood Hills

RECOMMENDATION

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

1. the LBH Community Safety Team will continue dialogue with the managing agents to encourage improvements to the car park area in Ferndown;
2. the Police Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT) has been requested to patrol the area in the evenings and, from time to time, after 11pm;
3. the Police will advise youths not to play football in the car park area, and take a robust stance to stop the playing of football in this area as it annoys residents;
4. a mosquito unit has been supplied to Waukesha Bearings and has been installed in the covered car park area to deter young people from going there;
5. the Police SNT has identified of some of the youths causing anti-social behaviour warning letters have been sent to the youth's parents;
6. if evidence is available against any individual offenders, full consideration will be given to prosecution, fixed penalty notices, Anti-Social Behaviour Orders or other suitable enforcement or preventative measures;

7. a temporary wireless CCTV installation fixed to a lamp post for a period of 3 months can be considered; and
8. residents should continue to report incidents to the Police on 0300 123 1212 or the Community Safety Team via 0800 694 0240 (for non-crimes) to build up a picture of whether incidents are increasing or decreasing.

INFORMATION

Reasons for recommendation

To address the concerns of the residents.

Alternative options considered

The possibility of fixed permanent CCTV has been considered but discounted. The costs are considerable 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. This is an obstacle in this instance. The deployment of temporary CCTV would enable an assessment to be made as to whether the problem is a temporary one, capable of resolution, which would avoid some of the problems associated with a permanent installation.

Comments of the Policy Overview Committee(s)

None at this stage.

Supporting Information

The reports from residents are:

Ferndown:

- dropping of litter from parked vehicles
- occupants of the vehicles shouting and fighting in the private car park area
- youths playing football in the parking area late at night
- graffiti, damage and litter in the covered car parking area
- youths climbing on top of the roof area, and causing damage to the roof

Oakdale Avenue:

- threats to damage a resident's car
- a car wing mirror has been smashed on more than one occasion
- cars scratched
- urinating on the stairs leading to flats
- bikes, toys, and a barbeque stolen from outside property

Ferndown and Oakdale Avenue:

- youths smoking drugs

The car park is privately owned and the Principle Landlord is Berkeley Homes. They have two tenants: Zurich and JJ Weatherspoon. Zurich sub-let the property to Waukesha Bearings but,

according to Waukesha Bearings, Berkeley Homes have sole responsibility for the maintenance of the car park area.

The complete enclosure of the covered car park would stop youths from entering and greatly reduce an element of the anti social behaviour for Ferndown. There has been a reduction in reported incidents which was believed to be an indication of improvement in the area. However, following a letter drop in the area, the residents have reported that there has not been a reduction in incidents. Residents have expressed a desire for more police patrols during the late evening when the incidents occur.

If agreed, the recommendations mean that:

1. the LBH Community Safety Team will continue dialogue with the managing agents to encourage improvements to the car park area in Ferndown. This includes the current on-site CCTV and lighting. Quotes are being obtained for steel balustrade fencing to the whole external car park area in Ferndown. However, there would need to be an agreement with the managing agents, the owners and the leaseholders about installing fencing and an agreement about who will meet the costs;
2. the Police Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT) has been requested to patrol the area in the evenings and, from time to time, after 11pm;
3. the Police will advise youths not to play football in the car park area, and take a robust stance to stop the playing of football in this area as it annoys residents;
4. a mosquito unit has been supplied to Waukesha Bearings and has been installed in the covered car park area. This should deter young people from going there;
5. the Police SNT has identified of some of the youths causing anti-social behaviour warning letters have been sent to the youth's parents. If the youths are brought to the attention of the Police in the future, then they will be referred to the Early Intervention Panel (EIP), which would divert them away from anti-social behaviour;
6. if evidence is available against any individual offenders, full consideration will be given to prosecution, fixed penalty notices, Anti-Social Behaviour Orders or other suitable enforcement or preventative measures;
7. a temporary wireless CCTV installation fixed to a lamp post for a period of 3 months can be considered. There is high demand for these cameras and therefore a waiting list. The Area Tasking Forum decides the degree of priority of CCTV in various areas taking into consideration the views of the Police, Councillors and petitioners in the light of necessity and proportionality in this area compared to others; and
8. residents should continue to report incidents to the Police on 0300 123 1212 or the Community Safety Team via 0800 694 0240 (for non-crimes) to build up a picture of whether incidents are increasing or decreasing

Financial Implications

The costs of installing temporary CCTV can be met from existing budgets. There are no additional financial implications for the authority resulting from the recommendations at this

stage as noted by this report. The outstanding issue of the enclosure of car parking area is still being investigated and any financial implications will be reported on in the future.

EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

What will be the effect of the recommendation?

The measures recommended should reduce or help to detect incidents.

Consultation Carried Out or Required

Consultation has been conducted with Hillingdon Police and will continue via the monthly tasking forum.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Legal

The installation and use of overt CCTV cameras is governed by the Council's policy on CCTV usage and the Information Commissioner's CCTV Code of Practice. Both policies act in tandem to set down the means by which overt CCTV footage may be recorded, administered, stored and destroyed. A breach of either policy may lead to a claim for damages under the Human Rights Act.

The relevant Cabinet Member is authorised under Regulation 7.08 (e) of the Council's Constitution to oversee and report to the Cabinet on the Council's responsibilities and initiatives in respect of partnerships and CCTV, including the CCTV Control Room.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.