

LOUGHBOROUGH
TOWN CENTRE

CLOSED CIRCUIT
TELEVISION
SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

ANNUAL REPORT

1ST APRIL 2003
TO
31ST MARCH 2004



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INTRODUCTION

This is the sixth Annual Report to be published under the Code of Practice that was adopted by the partnership of organisations that successfully brought Closed Circuit Television surveillance to Loughborough Town Centre during 1996.

The Code of Practice sets down how the CCTV scheme will be used and managed.

The Code of Practice is a public document and can be obtained from:

- Policy and Planning Unit
Charnwood Borough Council,
Council Offices,
Southfields,
Loughborough, LE11 2TX
01509 634603
policy.unit@charnwoodbc.gov.uk

This document can also be inspected at public libraries in the Borough and at Loughborough Police Station.

PRIMARY PURPOSES AND KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE SCHEME

The Code of Practice states that the Primary Purposes of Loughborough Town Centre Closed Circuit Television System is to:

- 1.i. Help to secure a safer environment for those people who live, work, trade and visit Loughborough Town Centre:
- 1.ii. Reduce the fear of crime and provide reassurance to the public using Loughborough Town Centre:
- 1.iii. Assist in the detection, deterrence and prevention of crime within Loughborough Town Centre.

The Code of Practice also states that the Key Objectives of the Scheme are:

- 2.i. To improve the general security in the main retail areas of the town, both in terms of personal security and security of buildings and premises;
- 2.ii. To reduce graffiti, vandalism and other criminal damage to improve the environment and reduce costs;
- 2.iii. To reduce theft of vehicles and from vehicles, both on the street and in town car parks, whether owned by the Borough Council or not;
- 2.iv. To assist the operational response of Police patrols in and around the town centre;
- 2.v. To provide the Police, and other official bodies with prosecution powers (e.g. the Borough Council, HM Customs & Excise, the Health & Safety Executive,

Trading Standards) with evidence to take criminal and civil actions in the courts;

- 2.vi. To maintain public order;
- 2.vii. To help identify, apprehend and prosecute offenders;
- 2.viii. To assist in the monitoring of the flow of traffic.

The Code of Practice states that the CCTV scheme will not be used for:

- 3.i. Enforcement of minor breaches of traffic law except where such breaches cause either directly or indirectly injury to persons or damage to property;
- 3.ii. The monitoring of specific individuals or groups of individuals without reasonable cause;
- 3.iii. Surveillance of the interior of any residential or business or other private premises

ANNUAL REPORT

The Code of Practice states that the Partnership will publish an Annual Report which will include:

- A report on the outcome of any evaluation of the scheme;
- Information on the impact in addressing the purposes and key objectives of the Scheme;
- Particulars of any complaints received.

The annual report will also provide information regarding the cost of the scheme during the relevant year.

The last annual report covered the period 1st April 2001 to 31st March 2002. This report covers the period from 1st April 2003 to 31st March 2004. It was agreed by the CCTV Partnership during 2001, that for ease of budgeting and monitoring purposes all future reports should cover the financial year. This document, therefore, constitutes the Annual Report for the Partnership for the seventh year of the operation of the Loughborough CCTV scheme and addresses the issues referred to above in the following sections of the report.

THE PARTNERSHIP

The Loughborough CCTV system is operated by a partnership consisting of the Charnwood Borough Council and the Leicestershire Constabulary.

Charnwood Borough Council owns the equipment that makes up the system, whilst Leicestershire Constabulary operates and provides control room facilities.

THE SCHEME

24 cameras to date make up the Loughborough scheme.

Phase One of the Scheme, commissioned on the 4th November 1996, saw 15 cameras covering the central area of Loughborough town.

A further 6 cameras under Phase Two of the scheme were commissioned on the 5th July 1997. Phase Two extended the existing scheme coverage to include areas around the Fennel Street Multi-Storey Car Park and Nottingham Road, Loughborough.

Mid 2002 saw an additional 3 cameras being sited along Granby Street. Loughborough.

EVALUATIONS

During the summer of 1998, Loughborough University consulted and evaluated the public's perception of the CCTV scheme.

The consultation consisted of "face-to-face" interviews with members of the public, retailers and "others" involved in and around the town centre of Loughborough. The aim of the consultation was to gauge the public's attitude of the scheme.

The results of the consultation showed that, those who were aware of the existence of the scheme felt that levels of crime had reduced in the area. The vast majority stated that they were sure that the cameras helped the police.

Most of the retailers believed that crime had reduced in the area since the introduction of the CCTV scheme.

Whilst neither evaluation nor consultation was completed during 2001 - 2002, this information is retained and will be used as a baseline for the development of future surveys.

It is envisaged that a Borough wide survey to evaluate the public's perception of "Crime and the Fear of Crime", will be completed by the end of 2004. The results from the survey will be used to guide future developments of the scheme, and in addition help to drive forward and address a number of strategic aims within the Charnwood Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy 2005 -2008.

SCHEME PERFORMANCE AND COSTS

During this year of operation, there have been various breakdowns of the system. All the breakdowns have been minor in nature, causing partial loss of function.

The operational cost of the scheme between 1st April 2003 and 31st March 2004 was in the region of £37,000.

This broken down, comprising mainly of:

- Staffing = £15,000 p.a. (met by Leicestershire Constabulary)
- B.T annual line rental charges averaging per camera = £700.00 p.a. x 21
- and other running costs

POLICE USE OF THE CAMERA SYSTEM

The Loughborough CCTV scheme is staffed by police-employed operators who work a variety of shift patterns according to the demand needs within the town centre. Trained police operators, who use the system for crime enquires and planned operations, supplement the current monitoring.

The CCTV Control Room is equipped with a Radio Link transceiver, which enables direct radio communication with beat officers, the 62 Link Radio Subscribers, 4 Borough car park wardens and the Town Centre manager, when appropriate.

Within the annual reporting period, the police have expended 1,731 hours of dedicated monitoring. This excludes the time spent by police staff on dedicated crime surveillance operations. All arrests witnessed or made, using the schemes have been recorded, as have other incidents that the scheme has contributed to.

A breakdown of the monthly figures of arrests and interventions is shown in Table A.

“Other” incidents include the intervention in street occurrences, responding to calls for assistance or the use of the system to examine recorded footage of suspicious behaviour.

In the period 1st April 2003 to 31st March 2004, a total of 137 arrests have been made and 1756 incidents have been acted upon.

A “snapshot” of incidents is shown below:

- A group of young people were observed stealing a hand basket; the operator then kept them under observation until a police officer could detain them. They were later arrested.
- The operator had received a report of a male stealing jeans from a shop in the Town Centre. The operator then picked him up on a camera and police were directed to his location, where they detain him, which led to his arrest.
- Examination of CCTV footage by officers, following a report of rape, which led to correct identification of the person. This evidence led to the arrest and imprisonment of the identified offender.

CRIME LEVELS

Crime levels have been examined for those areas covered by the CCTV scheme.

Statistics have been compiled for those categories of crime which are most commonly affected by CCTV:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| • Assault | Indecency |
| • Burglary other than dwelling | Public order |
| • Damage to motor vehicle | Damage |
| • Robbery | Theft of cycles |
| • Theft from motor vehicle | Theft of motor vehicle |
| • Theft from person | Theft from stores |

A breakdown of these statistics is shown in Table B.

CRIME DISPLACEMENT

Table C, shows that, over the same period crime figures and certain types of crime have risen within the area covered by the Loughborough Town Centre CCTV scheme. In total, Loughborough town centre has seen an increase of +20% in the rate of recorded crime.

It is difficult to prove or disprove whether crime displacement has occurred around Loughborough town centre, due to the presence of CCTV cameras.

The circumstances that exist in one beat, such as demographic makeup, centres of entertainment and commerce and its residential nature can and do affect crime types, levels and distribution.

INTER-SCHEME COMPARISON

No comparison of the Loughborough town centre scheme has been carried out with other town centres for the purpose of this report.

The main reasons for this are the difficulties in comparing two areas with a differing ratio of commercial and residential make-up, and the possibility of differing procedures and methods used for the operation and monitoring of the system.

COMPLAINTS

No complaints have been raised or brought to the attention of the Partnership during April 2003 to March 2004 period.

RECOMENDATIONS

While there are functional problems with some of the existing public area systems, the main issues for planning the future is the capacity of and technology used in the Control Room for the Loughborough Town Centre System.

The current Town Centre CCTV Control Centre, located at Loughborough Police Station, has been in use since 1996 and the Police have indicated a willingness to continue that arrangement. The equipment in the Control Room, apart from replacements due to equipment failure, consists of the originally installed devices. Whilst the equipment has and continues to provide 24-hour operational CCTV coverage, the life expectancy of approximately 10 years is fast approaching its end. At the same time the industry standard for recording is now digital rather than the analogue systems currently in use. The existing CCTV camera equipment can support digital transmission.

The current Loughborough control system is limited to 32 cameras, and currently houses 24 cameras with expansion agreed to bring in the additional 2/3 cameras from the Ruses development. Opportunities for further expansion (by whatever means that is funded) are limited by that maximum capacity. With a limited life remaining (approx 12/18 months) and limited capacity this is an opportune time to plan for replacement of the control system. A replacement is likely to be modular and digital (enabling images to be stored, searched and retrieved much more easily). Introduction of a new control system would also require changes to the Control Room layout.

Published by the Policy Unit, Charnwood Borough Council on behalf of the CCTV partnership comprising: Charnwood Borough Council, Leicestershire Constabulary, Loughborough Chamber of Trade and Commerce, Charnwood Racial Equality Council and Charnwood Community Council.

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TABLE A
CCTV RELATED ARRESTS AND INTERVENTIONS
1st April 2003 to 31st March 2004

WEEK		ARREST	INTERVENTION OR ASSIST
April 2003	Week 1	2	32
	Week 2	3	34
	Week 3	0	0
	Week 4	1	36
May	Week 1	5	28
	Week 2	0	41
	Week 3	1	34
	Week 4	6	40
June	Week 1	3	30
	Week 2	6	44
	Week 3	0	42
	Week 4	5	59
July	Week 1	2	46
	Week 2	0	28
	Week 3	5	15
	Week 4	5	53
August	Week 1	3	32
	Week 2	4	31
	Week 3	5	42
	Week 4	2	46
September	Week 1	2	39
	Week 2	2	44
	Week 3	7	36
	Week 4	2	38
October	Week 1	3	33
	Week 2	4	60
	Week 3	6	46
	Week 4	3	53
November	Week 1	1	38
	Week 2	9	54
	Week 3	1	17
	Week 4	3	32
December	Week 1	1	34
	Week 2	4	40
	Week 3	0	38
	Week 4	0	0
January 2002	Week 1	4	49
	Week 2	1	35
	Week 3	2	6
	Week 4	2	26
February	Week 1	4	47
	Week 2	5	28
	Week 3	1	39
	Week 4	1	40
March	Week 1	6	63
	Week 2	1	36
	Week 3	4	54
	Week 4	0	18
TOTAL		137	1756

TABLE B

**RECORDED CRIME - LOUGHBOROUGH TOWN CCTV SCHEME
April to March 2002/03 and 2003/04 Comparisons**

Offence	2002/03	2003/04	Difference	% change
Assault	321	446	125	38.9
Burglary "other"	68	69	1	1.5
Damage	132	150	18	13.6
Damage to motor vehicle	36	56	20	55.6
Indecency	13	11	-2	-15.4
Public order	17	26	9	52.9
Robbery	8	24	16	200
Theft cycle	19	40	21	110.5
Theft from motor vehicle	92	105	13	14.1
Theft of motor vehicle	9	24	15	166.7
Theft from person	104	118	14	13.5
Theft from stores	259	237	-22	-8.5
Grand total	1078	1306	228	21.2

Offence	Monthly average 2002/03	Monthly average 2003/04
Assault	26.8	37.2
Burglary "other"	5.7	5.8
Damage	11	12.5
Damage to motor vehicle	3	4.7
Indecency	1.1	0.9
Public order	1.4	2.2
Robbery	0.7	2.0
Theft cycle	1.6	3.3
Theft from motor vehicle	7.7	8.8
Theft of motor vehicle	0.8	2.0
Theft from person	8.7	9.8
Theft from stores	21.6	19.8

TABLE C

**RECORDED CRIME - LOUGHBOROUGH TOWN CCTV SCHEME -
STREET DATA
April to March 2001/02 and 2003/04 Comparison**

Location	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	Difference	% change
ANGEL YD	0	1	0	-1	-100
ASHBY SQ	9	15	13	-2	-13
AUMBERRY GAP	3	2	2	0	0
BARROW STREET	0	1	0	-1	-100
BAXTERGATE	95	64	88	24	38
BEDFORD SQ	9	15	11	-4	-27
BEDFORD ST	0	3	2	-1	-33
BIGGIN ST	50	66	63	-3	-5
CARRILLON COURT	35	23	22	-1	-4
CATTLEMARKET	30	18	16	-2	-11
CHURCHGATE	45	41	38	-3	-7
CHURCHGATE MEWS	1	1	1	0	0
DERBY SQ	14	8	6	-2	-25
DEVONSHIRE LA	11	2	4	2	100
DEVONSHIRE SQ	39	37	16	-21	-57
FENNEL ST	25	3	5	2	67
GRANBY ST	131	45	56	11	24
GREEN CLOSE LA	25	27	15	-12	-44
HIGH ST	131	159	190	31	19
LEICESTER RD	0	4	6	2	50
LEMYNGTON ST	12	7	7	0	0
MARKET PL	191	194	223	29	15
MARKET ST	104	121	174	53	44
NEW ST	0	1	6	5	500
NOTTINGHAM RD	40	45	65	20	44
PINFOLD GATE	30	22	28	6	27
PINFOLD JETTY	1	1	2	1	100
QUEENS RD	25	14	23	9	64
RUSHES	10	17	33	16	94
SHAKESPEARE ST	7	5	10	5	100
SOUTH ST	0	1	2	1	100
SOUTHFIELD RD	12	15	42	27	180
SPARROW HILL	25	18	18	0	0
SWAN ST	30	47	57	10	21
THE CONNERIES	4	0	4	4	0
TOWN HALL PASSAGE	0	1	1	0	0
WARDS END	18	16	30	14	88
WOODGATE	25	18	27	9	50
TOTAL	1187	1078	1306	228	21