

SYSTON TOWN CENTRE

CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

ANNUAL REPORT

1st APRIL 2003
TO
31st MARCH 2004

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INTRODUCTION

This is the Second Annual Report to be published under the code of practice that was adopted by the partnership of organisations that brought closed circuit television surveillance to Syston Town Centre in February 2001.

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, at Syston and Loughborough Police Stations.

PRIMARY PURPOSES AND KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE SCHEME

The Code of Practice states that the Primary Purposes of Syston 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 Syston Town Centre:
- 1.ii. Reduce the fear of crime and provide reassurance to the public using Syston Town Centre:
- 1.iii. Assist in the detection, deterrence and prevention of crime within Syston 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.

This document, therefore, constitutes the Annual Report for the Partnership for the third year of the operation of the Syston CCTV scheme and addresses the issues referred to above in the following sections of the report.

This is a public document, copies of which are available from the Policy Unit, Charnwood Borough Council, Council Offices, Southfields, Loughborough. Telephone: (01509) 634603, e-mail: policy.unit@charnwoodbc.gov.uk and are available for inspection at Syston Police Station, 1293 Melton Road, Syston, Leicester and at public libraries in the Borough.

THE PARTNERSHIP

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

Charnwood Borough Council owns the equipment that makes up the system, whilst trained volunteers operate the system.

In February 2001, a CCTV system was installed in Syston Town centre. Charnwood Borough Council provided funding of £ 62,290. Although launched by Syston Town Council on 1st March 2001, the system was not officially commissioned and handed over to Charnwood Borough Council until 22nd March 2001.

THE SCHEME

The Syston scheme consists of 4 pan, tilt and zoom cameras located along Melton Road, Syston as follows:

- The spot island
- Barclays Bank
- The car park entrance
- Somerfield entrance

The configuration of the cameras is such that pre-set tours provide surveillance for Melton Road in both city centre and county bound directions, along Barkby Road, and the High Street. Pictures are captured by the cameras, and recorded on videocassette 24 hours per day.

In the absence of a scheme manager, the local Crime Prevention Officer, who has dealt with the day to day running of the system since its handover has adopted the role.

Procedures in relation to tape and control room management have been introduced to comply with the Data Protection Act of 1998.

SYSTEM MANAGEMENT, PERFORMANCE AND COST

A number of faults have been reported throughout the year. All of these faults were minor in nature.

The set up and operational cost of the scheme this year was in the region of £ 7,043 (excludes funding) comprising mainly of B.T. annual line rental, alarm installation, furniture and other running costs.

POLICE USE OF THE CAMERA SYSTEM

Following the installation of the system, community volunteers have been recruited from the locality to provide trained operators. This form of part-time monitoring, though not the ideal, has proved to be an effective way of dealing with and improving the efficiency of the CCTV system. Retention of volunteers continues to be problematic.

Local officers, based at the Syston Local Police Unit, have been able to view videocassettes and to date various tapes have been removed from the system to provide evidence for incidents that have taken place within the area covered by the cameras.

CRIME LEVELS

Crime levels have been examined for those areas covered by the CCTV scheme, and a comparison has been made between April to March 2002/03 and 2003/04.

A breakdown of these statistics is attached as Table 1 and Table 2.

Generally, there has been an increase in crime along the High Street, in the areas covered by the cameras. However, in the Barkby Road and Melton Road there has been a decrease in the level of crime.

Table 2 - provides crime figures for the areas only covered by the cameras, within each of the three roads. Overall, there has been a reduction of -8% in the crime figures.

CRIME DISPLACEMENT

It is difficult to prove or disprove whether crime displacement has occurred around Syston 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 Syston 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.

EVALUATIONS

The Code of Practice states that the Partnership will ensure that the CCTV Scheme and the Code of Practice are independently evaluated periodically. In this the third year of the Syston CCTV scheme, the Partnership has not commissioned an independent evaluation.

It is envisaged that a Borough wide survey to evaluate the public's perception of "Crime and the Fear of Crime", will have been completed by the end of 2002 and repeated by the end of 2004. The results from this research will be used to guide future developments of the scheme, and in addition help to drive forward and form the new strategic aims within the Charnwood Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy 2005-2008.

COMPLAINTS

The Policy and Planning Unit of Charnwood Borough Council have received no complaints.

Further Information

For more information please contact:

Policy Unit, Charnwood Borough Council, Council Offices, Southfields, Southfield Road,
Loughborough, LE11 2TR.

Telephone: (01509) 634901

e-mail: policy.unit@charnwoodbc.gov.uk

If you would like this document in your language or to obtain copies in Braille, on audio tape or large print please contact the Policy Unit on (01509) 634603 or e-mail policy.unit@charnwoodbc.gov.uk

RECORDED CRIME – SYSTON TOWN CCTV SCHEME
April to March 2002/03 and 2003/04 Comparisons

Table 1

OFFENCE	BARKBY ROAD		HIGH STREET		MELTON ROAD	
	2002/03	2003/04	2002/03	2003/04	2002/03	2003/04
ASSAULT	1	1	0	1	16	15
BURG OTD	1	1	2	4	3	10
DAMAGE	3	1	0	0	14	13
DAMAGE TO MV	1	0	0	0	7	4
INDECENCY	0	0	0	0	0	1
PUBLIC ORDER	0	0	0	0	1	0
ROBBERY	1	0	0	0	3	0
THEFT CYCLE	1	0	0	0	4	6
THEFT FROM MV	0	0	0	0	7	5
THEFT MOTOR VEHICLE	0	1	0	1	1	0
THEFT PERSON	0	0	0	0	2	1
THEFT STORES	0	0	1	0	18	15
TOTAL	8	4	3	6	76	70

Table 2

OFFENCE	2002/03	2003/04	Difference	% Change
ASSAULT	17	17	0	0.0
BURG OTD	6	15	9	150.0
DAMAGE	17	14	-3	-17.6
DAMAGE TO MV	8	4	-4	-50.0
INDECENCY	0	1	1	100.0
PUBLIC ORDER	1	0	-1	-100.0
ROBBERY	4	0	-4	-100.0
THEFT CYCLE	5	6	1	20.0
THEFT FROM MV	7	5	-2	-28.6
THEFT MOTOR VEHICLE	1	2	1	100.0
THEFT PERSON	2	1	-1	-50.0
THEFT STORES	19	15	-4	-21.1
TOTAL	87	80	-7	-8.0