

Leisure & Amenities Committee

CCTV – Bloomsbury Play Area – as requested by Cllr Philpot

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Cllr Philpot has raised concerns about the persistent levels of anti social behaviour in Bloomsbury Park and requested consideration of CCTV in this area. In July 2020, this Committee considered CCTV in play areas and resolved that
- a) The Parish Manager investigates options for stand alone/mobile CCTV cameras
 - b) Anti social behaviour issues are monitored and reviewed by the Committee at a future meeting
- 1.2 Over the last 12 months there has been a change in the regular use of public parks and open spaces associated with Covid restrictions and lockdowns. Generally there has been no evidence of increased levels of anti social behaviour in West Swindon parks.
- 1.3 At Bloomsbury Park, there is anecdotal reporting of persistent smoking and littering. Reports are consistent with previous years. Volunteers have reported finding knives in this area. There has been a number of incidents of deliberate vandalism in most play areas in Swindon. In the last 12 months there was one incident in Bloomsbury Park.

2 REVIEW

- 2.1 Key questions to consider prior to any installation of CCTV are
- what are the issues?
 - how and when do they occur?
 - how will CCTV surveillance impact on the frequency of occurrence?
 - will CCTV lead to any reduction or cost benefit?
- 2.2 It is unlikely that CCTV at Bloomsbury Park would deter the general gathering of young people in the youth shelter and kickabout space. Incidents captured on CCTV would be unlikely to then lead to cost recovery of damage for the Parish Council however it may improve the general fear of crime locally.
- 2.3 Mobile/Stand alone cameras

It is possible to secure an additional camera for installation to the Swindon Borough Council network (location would depend on installation requirements). This would be the most cost effective and practical option. The camera would be part of the CCTV monitoring across the Borough. Costs would be in the region of £1600 for a single camera. Monitoring in the region of £400 per annum for a single camera. Replacement or repair costs

would need to be met by the Parish Council. There would also be signage costs.

- 2.4 The Parish Council has no enforcement powers so if this was the purpose of the CCTV, it would need to have support from the 'enforcing' organization that it would view and respond to incidents captured on CCTV.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Parish Council has not factored CCTV and maintenance for public open spaces into its annual budget. Costs could be allocated from the play refurbishment budget (£91,000).

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 That this Committee notes the information in this report in order to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of CCTV.
- 4.2 That this Committee makes a resolution determining next steps for this proposal.

Paula Harrison, Parish Manager