



Executive
17th July 2006

**Report from the Director of
Environment and Culture**

For Decision / Action

Ward Affected:
Welsh Harp

**Petition – CCTV Cameras in the Church Lane, Kingsbury
area**

Forward Plan - E&C-06/07-002

1.0 Summary

1.1 The report provides background information for a petition received in respect of CCTV cameras in the Church Lane, Kingsbury area, which contained signatures asking for cameras to be provided.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 That the Executive notes petition but resolves not to proceed with provision of CCTV cameras in the Church Lane, Kingsbury area.

3.0 Details

3.1 The purpose of this report is to provide background information for a petition received in respect of CCTV cameras in the Church Lane, Kingsbury area, asking for cameras to be provided.

3.2 The petition has been validated by Democratic Services as containing over 50 signatures and in accordance with Standing Orders has been submitted to the Executive.

3.3 The area concerned falls within the Welsh Harp Ward. There are currently no CCTV cameras in this particular area.

3.4 The petition requests the installation of CCTV cameras to deter and prevent crime in Church Lane Shopping Area, Kingsbury. The petition presents the following crime statistics (source unknown) for the Welsh Harp area:

- 93 incidents of violence against the person
- 74 robberies
- 132 reports of criminal damage, and
- 241 theft offences.

3.5 A recent attack on Church Lane Post Office during daylight hours has increased the demand from residents for CCTV cameras for better crime prevention in Brent.

3.6 Church Lane shopping area, Kingsbury has not been a priority for public space CCTV cameras because, whilst of understandable concern to local people, the crime figures are lower than those experienced in other areas in Brent and hence the area falls behind other areas in terms of priority.

4.0 Current Policy

4.1 Current policy for the provision of public space CCTV cameras has somewhat evolved over a period of time, and has broadly been based on recorded crime figures. More recently, CCTV cameras have been placed as a result of major developments such as the new National Stadium.

4.2 The initial costs of many of the existing cameras have been funded externally through Home Office funding and other partnerships, rather than the Council's own capital budget due to significant competing demands on the latter.

4.3 Later this year, the Director of Environment & Culture will report to the Executive with a proposed CCTV Strategy which will provide a framework for determining future CCTV provision in the Borough.

5.0 Crime data

5.1 The crime figures for Welsh Harp in the period April 2005 - January 2006 show 213 violence against the person (VAP), 85 robberies (business & personal), 65 reports of criminal damage and 291 reports of theft and handling.

5.2 Welsh Harp Ward has been the 8th, 10th & 9th safest ward in the borough in years 03/04, 04/05 & 05/06 (April - Jan) respectively, amongst the Borough's 21 Wards.

5.3 The types of crime identified in the petition that have been reported in the Welsh Harp Ward have not resulted in this part of the Borough being considered as a "higher crime" area, as illustrated by the following reported figures:

- In 2003/2004 Welsh Harp Ward accounted for 3.6% of the total boroughs offences for violence against the person, 2.7% for robbery, 3.8% of criminal damage, & 2.7% for theft and handling.
- In 2004/2005 Welsh Harp Ward accounted for 3.2% violence against the person, 3.6% robbery, 4% criminal damage, & 2.8% theft and handling.
- For 2005/2006 (to January 2006) Welsh Harp Ward accounted for 2.9% violence against the person, 4% for robbery, 5.2% criminal damage, & 3% theft and handling.

5.4 Although figures have increased year by year (apart from violence against the person, which has steadily decreased in the Ward) it is worth noting that there has been a Borough wide & London wide increase in these crime types to a much more significant degree.

5.5 In summary, the Church Lane shopping area accounts for a very small proportion of the crime which is actually taking place in the Welsh Harp Ward. Additionally, the violence against the person figures include domestic violence which is quite a high proportion of the whole violence against the person figures and thus overestimates the amount of violent activity taking place on the street environment that CCTV cameras might assist in deterring or identifying. The Church Lane shopping parade shows a clear increase in crime between 05/06 & the previous year, however there has been a specific reduction in violence against the person.

6.0 Financial Implications

6.1 There is currently no budget available for the provision of additional CCTV cameras.

6.2 Typically the capital cost per camera is £30,000, and added to that figure is an amount of £15,000 as the cost of repair and maintenance cost for a 5 year period. A total cost of £45,000 per camera. After the five year period the maintenance cost will fall on the Council's revenue budget. A review is currently being carried out on the maintenance arrangements for cameras purchased and installed prior to 2005.

6.3 The operational costs for each new CCTV camera includes line rental, staffing costs, general over heads such as accommodation and service charges. These costs are now estimated at £4,200 per camera per year.

7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)

7.1 There are no staffing or accommodation issues arising from this report as it stands. However, if a decision to install cameras was taken, consideration would have to be given to the impact of an increased workload in the CCTV Control Room as the ratio for staff to cameras (1:60) is now at the maximum capacity.

8.0 Legal Implications

- 8.1 The Council has the power under section 163 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 to provide CCTV cameras and other apparatus if it considers that this will promote the prevention of crime or the welfare of the victims of crime. The Council is required to consult the police before installing the CCTV cameras or apparatus.
- 8.2 Under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 the Council has a duty to exercise its various functions with regard to the likely effect on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can, to prevent crime and disorder in its area.

9.0 Diversity Implications

- 9.1 Officers have screened the issues raised in this report, and consider that there are no specific diversity implications.

Contact Officer

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Richard Saunders Director of Environment and Culture	Keith Balmer Director of StreetCare
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WELSH HARP CONSERVATIVES

Petition for installation of CCTV in Church Lane Shopping Area

We the residents of Welsh Harp and the London Borough of Brent support the demand by the Welsh Harp Conservative Action Team that Brent Council install CCTV in the Church Lane Shopping Area.

There were 193 violence against the persons, 74 robberies, 132 criminal damages and 241 theft offences – and that was just in Welsh Harp!

The recent attack on the Church Lane Post Office during daylight hours highlights the urgent need for better crime prevention in Brent.

CCTV will work to deter criminal activity in the Church Lane Shopping Area, please install it immediately.

Signature	Print Name	Address
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