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**Report To:** Planning, Leisure & Environment Committee      **Date:** 06 November 2023

**Contact Officer:** Paula Harrison

**Subject:** CCTV review – as requested by Cllr Gattapur

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## 1. CCTV - Background

1.1 In June 2021, West Swindon Parish Council considered the introduction of CCTV in play areas and resolved that the costs were prohibitive. This report sets out information to consider regarding the introduction of CCTV.

## 2. Public Open Spaces

2.1 Generally there are reports of the gathering of small groups of young people, smoking and/or drinking in play areas. It is more common in the warmer months and lighter evenings. Outside of this there are few reports of anti social behaviour and one off incidents of petty vandalism. Occurrences can happen in any play area however reports have generally been focused on the following:

- Shelfinch
- Plattes Close
- Bloomsbury Close
- The Chesters

2.2 It has been commonly reported that Westlea park and surrounding footpaths have issues relating to drug dealing.

## 3. Proposal

3.1 The Parish Council would need to establish a case for installation of CCTV monitoring the public domain. To avoid issues relating to licensing/data control and retrieval, the simplest approach to CCTV is to secure an additional camera/s for installation to the Swindon Borough Council network (location would depend on installation requirements). This would be the most cost effective and practical option but would require Swindon Borough Council's agreement.

## 4. Impact

4.1 Any use of CCTV must be proportionate and **justifiably necessary**.

4.2 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.

4.3 It is unlikely that CCTV in any play area would deter the general

gathering of young people in youth shelters, kickabouts or open spaces.

- 4.4 Incidents captured on CCTV would be unlikely to then lead to cost recovery of damage for the Parish Council however it may improve the public fear of crime locally.

## **5. Costs**

- 5.1 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. There would also be signage costs. Costs in year one estimated: £2,200 Costs in subsequent years £400 depending on contingency for repair/replacement.

## **6. Budget**

- 6.1 The Parish Council has not factored CCTV and maintenance for public open spaces into its annual budget.

## **7. Financial & Other Implications**

- 7.1 Consideration would need to be given as to whether this is an effective response to deter vandalism and anti social behaviour and whether it is justified and proportionate.
- 7.2 Replacement or repair costs would need to be met by the Parish Council. It is not known what this could be.

## **8. Recommendations**

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

Paula Harrison, Parish Manager