

NOTES

Felixstowe Town Council CCTV Working Group

Date: 6 April 2022, 2pm

Venue: Zoom Meeting

In attendance:

Cllr Darren Aitchison

Cllr Nick Barber

Cllr Tracey Green

Cllr Mick Richardson

Debbie Frost, Deputy Town Clerk

1. Update from ESC

ESC are currently undergoing a review of how their CCTV is monitored, including a large project for replacement of cameras which will involve a business case to Cabinet. ESC's 6 cameras which cover Felixstowe Seafront Gardens are under the same STC contract as FTC's cameras (agreed as part of the Heritage Lottery project in 2015/6 which covers 10 years of funding). Any other CCTV such as those planned in the South Seafront project will need to be considered in the future.

Live monitoring would be preferable, as currently the footage is only used after a crime takes place and if the camera is faulty this is not discovered until the footage is required.

If Felixstowe cameras were to be integrated to the wider ESC network, some consideration is needed to understand how that works from a technical and contact point. e.g. there is an established interface between police (and other agencies e.g. Emergency planning group) and the monitoring staff at Lowestoft. Would they be familiar enough with the Felixstowe area? It could be really useful for engagement in live incidences and for the emergency planning team ie floods.

From a technical perspective, existing Felixstowe provision would require upgrading to a digital system which was capable to be integrated to the Lowestoft monitoring. Pan-Tilt-Zoom (PTZ) cameras which operators can steer, and go on a pre-set 'tour' when not being live-monitored.

At a recent meeting, it was made clear that it may be 1-2 years before the monitoring can be taken over at Lowestoft. In the interim, a spec list will be drawn up and prices for new future-proof equipment will be obtained from ESC's supplier and compared with other quotes. FTC will provide location requirements to Lewis, ESC in the first instance. FTC can then consider options more fully.

2. **STC**

The CCTV Contract with STC ends on 30 June 2022. Normally renewed on a 3 year contract a quote has been obtained for renewing the existing contract for servicing of the 15 cameras (9 belonging to FTC and 6 belonging to ESC). This is an increase of £299 for FTC and £199 for ESC on the existing contract cost.

Following a recent service visit STC have had to remove 2 of the old analogue dome cameras as they had corroded so badly that they presented a significant health and safety hazard. These were located at Undercliff Road Car Park and the leisure centre. One of these could be supplied for £1650 + VAT and STC are offering a guaranteed buy back price of 12 months £885 + VAT, 18 months £650 + VAT, 24 months £400 + VAT. If both cameras were replaced then a new Viper NVR (Network Video Recorder) would be required at a cost of £1,750 +VAT with similar guaranteed buy back prices the total outlay would be £5,050 with a guaranteed buy back price of £2,755 after 1 year or £1300 after 2 years.

STC have agreed to loan 2 cameras in the interim at these two locations and the working group feel that the outlay for 2 new cameras and a recorder would not be sensible at a time when the CCTV is being reviewed.

It is important that any new kit is going to be futureproofed.

The main issue with the existing set up is the monitoring. It was suggested that we investigate whether the PCC has a fund which we can apply for a part-time CCTV person that can collate volunteers.

The working group discussed whether CCTV could be taken in house, this would be very difficult due to GDPR requirements and access to monitoring at all times of the day and night would be very difficult. To get an insight into what is required for the Surveillance Camera Code of Practice see [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/498895/SCC Councillors Guide - February 2016.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/498895/SCC_Councillors_Guide_-_February_2016.pdf).

3. **CCTV requirements**

A walk about by the CCTV Working Group with the Police, ESC and STC took place in the Summer last year and ideal positions for cameras along Hamilton Road were plotted. This is an increase in cameras but new digital cameras will be cheaper than when the existing system was set up. Other options discussed were to investigate a camera near the Train Station (engaging with Network Rail) and also to look at installing them in the parks – especially the two parks being taken on by FTC shortly.

A mobile camera would be a good addition, as one is really required at the Skate Park and this could be moved to other areas when required.

4. Next Steps

Members of the Working Group will arrange a meeting with the Police regarding any current live monitoring (it is understood that live monitoring stopped during lockdown and has not been restarted). It would also be useful if resource was given to check the equipment once or twice a week, as currently if a camera goes down it is not picked up as broken until STC service them. A quick look at the cameras in the room would soon tell if a camera was down and would not take up too much Police time. The Group will also ask the Police, how many convictions have occurred due to CCTV footage.

The group would also like to discuss with other shops via the BID whether they feel that there is any value in the CCTV – most shops currently have their own CCTV.

Once new equipment/set up is in place it will be important to ensure awareness is made, so that if a retailer has an issue they know that the Police have footage nearby. Also for the Police to be able to actively use that footage.