

# Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

## Full Council Meeting (10 Nov)

### Fairground Video Security (CCTV)

**Agenda item 22/081 9: To resolve:**

- a. The Council looks at installing CCTV on the Fairground.**
- b. The Council requests the District Councillors to consider part funding of the CCTV from the WBC Members' Bid scheme.**

#### **Background**

As reported [at the October meeting](#), the Strategy Working Party's role is to identify medium/long term capital expenditure projects and explore their viability and benefit ([business case](#)) for taking forward. In August it determined to progress fairground video security. It was chosen because:

- i. crime prevention has been a consistent theme in both the 2010/11 parish plan and [2017 Neighbourhood Plan](#)
- ii. the perceived need for security has been raised repeatedly by the public at other times
- iii. we see sporadic incidents of criminal damage, on the fairground and elsewhere.

The technical advances in cameras and connectivity, together with the fact that our near neighbours in Burghfield have a new system on their recreation ground were further reasons to consider similar for Mortimer.

Coincidentally but soon after the strategy group agreed to explore a solution, the newly installed exercise equipment was damaged, before it had even been commissioned. This triggered some (more) public questions on our plans – to which we were able to state that it is under investigation – and a very helpful report from the Police about its use in Burghfield at the September [Neighbourhood Action Group](#) meeting.

#### **Police Opinion**

The Neighbourhood Police team spoke at the recent Neighbourhood Action Group about their positive experiences of the system used in Burghfield, summarised as the ability to give date, time and video evidence to support their work, in a way that would otherwise be impossible. More details in the [Neighbourhood Action Group](#) report.

#### **The System**

Whilst we would ideally seek multiple quotes, there is a good case to copy the system used in Burghfield. Two councillors (Carter and Wells) met both the supplier and its

approved user. They were very impressed at the system capabilities and image quality and the real life examples of use.

## **Concerns**

Most concerns about such systems come from the perceived invasion of privacy and the security of the data (will the footage end up on the internet in a strange place).

- The footage is only checked in response to a reported incident.
- The cameras are unobtrusive, assumed mounted on corners of the tennis court.
- There is no additional lighting required, the cameras use infra-red for night vision

## **Practicalities**

The system would use the existing power running to the rear field (by the tennis court). Ideally the community centre would allow their building to be connected to the internet and to host a small device. If they do not agree, the system will be run over 4G. The quote assumes the latter. This means that the (capital) installation and operating (annual running) costs will differ depending on whether the community centre or 4G is used for the video.

Power is assumed to come from a duct that runs from the north side of the community centre to the box by the tennis court. We just need someone who knows the power arrangements to confirm the route and whether there is space in that box for a video recorder sized device.

The data owner needs to be confirmed.

## **Recommendation**

The working party has not yet reviewed the quote – *Document 22/081 9.1 Fairground CCTV Quote* - which came in only today and is attached. My personal view is that, if the District Councillors are agreeable, we should put this forward for their Members' Bid process, with the final costs and practicalities to be confirmed as explained about. If this goes ahead, I suggest a briefing pack/FAQs be published to both allay any concerns and dispel misunderstandings/wrong assumptions about what a system entails.

Report compiled by Cllr Nick Carter 04/11/22