

COMMITTEE: CENTRAL AREA REF NO: CAC/17/24

DATE: 7 MARCH 2018

**SUBJECT: FUNDING REQUEST: JUBILEE PARK CCTV
IMPROVEMENT**

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HEAD OF SERVICE: JAMES FAIRCLOUGH

Short description of report content and the decision requested:

To request funding for improved CCTV camera coverage at Jubilee Park in order to deter criminal activity & anti-social behaviour and to aid enforcement action. The improvement requires the replacement of a single analogue camera with three digital cameras to cover a wider area and provide better quality footage. The committee is asked to consider funding £4,500 toward the overall cost.

Ward(s) affected: Westgate, St Margaret's and Alexandra

List of Appendices included in this report:

a)

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This report was prepared after consultation with:

External consultees –

The following policies form a context to this report:

(all relevant policies must also be referred to in the body of the report)

Building a Better Ipswich 2017

The Central Area Committee Action Plan

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS AS REQUIRED BY LAW

(papers relied on to write the report but which are not published and do not contain exempt information)

1.

OTHER HELPFUL PAPERS

(papers which the report author considers might be helpful – this might include published material)

1.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report requests that the Central Area Committee consider allocating funds of up to £4,500.00 toward the cost of improved CCTV camera coverage at Jubilee Park. The improvement is CCTV is intended to deter drug activity & anti-social behaviour and to aid enforcement action.
- 1.2 The improvement requires the replacement of a single lower resolution camera with three higher resolution digital cameras to cover a wider area and provide better quality footage. The committee is asked to consider funding £4,500.00 toward the overall cost.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Jubilee Park area is public space within Westgate ward that serves as a hub for the local community. Westgate is a relatively densely populated multi-cultural area within Central Ipswich. During the daytime and early evening the park is a place where local people congregate and socialise and children play on the park and ball-games area.

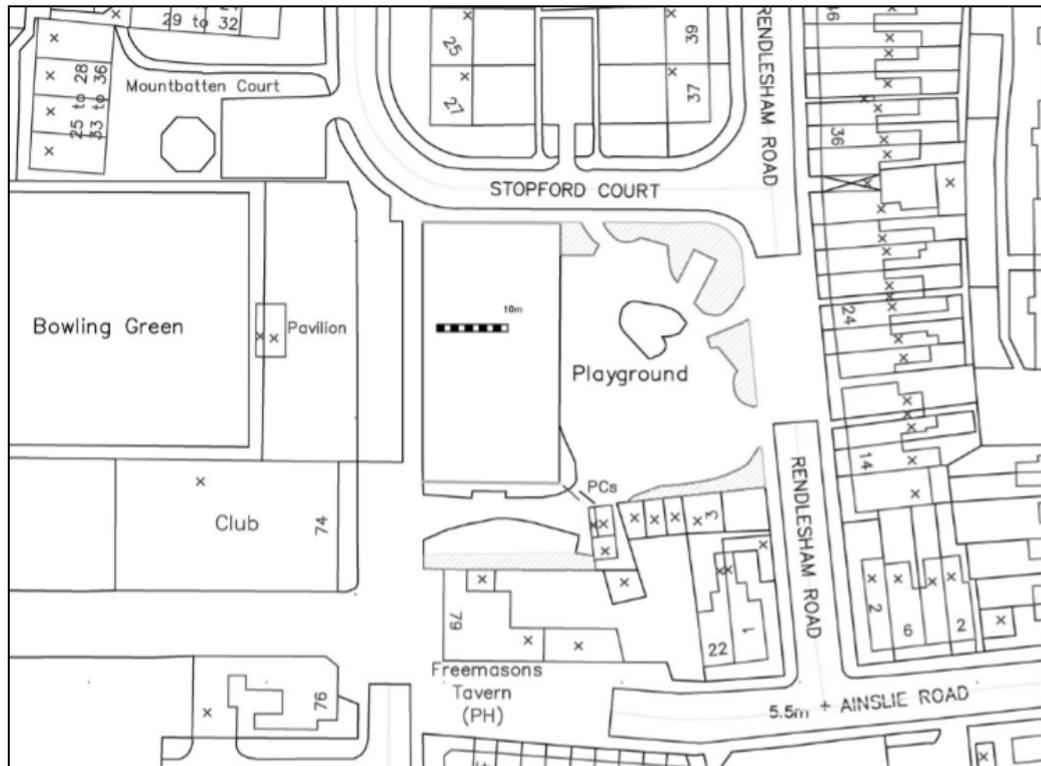


Figure 1 – Plan of the Jubilee Park Area

- 2.2 Overnight and at quieter times however, this public amenity can be a location for drug dealing, anti-social behaviour and vandalism to the park equipment. The same convenience of access and central location that serve the community is also exploited for criminal activities and

this is a cause of considerable concern both to local residents and the authorities. The current volume of criminal incidents at the park is described as significant by the Community Safety team.

- 2.3 There is an existing temporary camera that provides oversight of the park area but this is dated and limited in its range and effectiveness. The camera captures limited resolution footage that is linked to the central Emergency Services Centre (ESC) via the phone network. The footage produced by the camera only of good enough quality to support enforcement action or supply evidence in limited conditions and within a limited area.
- 2.4 It has been the case that a crime was captured by the existing camera but the images were not of sufficient quality to use as evidence. The Council's ESC team has reviewed the current provision and recommend an improvement scheme. This involves replacing the existing camera with a new digital model, installing a second new camera to a lamppost and lastly a new post and camera at a third location.
- 2.5 The three replacement cameras will capture a higher resolution, which is then linked wirelessly over a higher bandwidth back to the ESC. The combined increase in area and quality will aid the work of the Police and the Community Safety team.
- 2.6 The combined cost of removing the existing camera, installing the new pole, mounting the three new cameras and setting up the link to the ESC is £13,010.64. The majority of the funding required is available from the Community Safety budget however the Central Area Committee is asked to contribute toward the project in order that it can be delivered.
- 2.7 The total amount requested from the Central Area Committee is £4,500.00.

3. Relevant Policies

- 3.1 Building a Better Ipswich 2017:
 - Priority 3: An enjoyable Place to Live, Work and Study
 - Priority 6: Safe Communities
- 3.2 Central Area Committee Action Plan – aims to alleviate deprivation in the following domain:
 - Crime

4. Options Considered / Under Consideration

- 4.1 **Option 1** – To approve the allocation of up to £4,500.00 for the installation of 3 CCTV cameras at Jubilee Park in order to support community safety in Westgate.
- 4.2 **Option 2** – Not to fund.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 The ESC has consulted with Suffolk County Council on the feasibility and cost of providing an additional pole (street furniture) on which to mount the third proposed camera.
- 5.2 The ESC has consulted with Council's approved supplier for CCTV equipment on the best solution to effectively cover the area and the equipment costs.
- 5.3 The ESC has consulted with the Police who are consistently involved in enforcement action in the area and the corresponding proposal for improved surveillance provision.

6. Risk Management

Risk Description	Consequence of risk	Risk Controls	Risk Probability taking account of controls (1 almost impossible 6 very high)	Risk Impact taking account of actions (scale 1 – negligible 4 catastrophic)	Actions to mitigate risk
Drug dealing, drug taking and related Anti-Social Behaviour	Concern for local residents and decreased quality of life	Reporting to the police Police patrols Street-lighting CCTV surveillance	3	2	Reporting, patrols and lighting are already in place and this activity has persisted. The installation of improved CCTV surveillance would help mitigate the risk by providing a deterrent and aid prosecutions.
Contact with drugs or drug litter	Needle-stick injury, hepatitis, HIV Significant concern as above	Staff monitoring of area Police patrols CCTV surveillance	1	4	As above what measures staff and police are able to take are in place. CCTV would

					further mitigate the risk.
Public perception of the area and of the Council's action in dealing with anti-social behaviour	Negative effect on Council reputation and town.	Council support to the police and local agencies.	3	1	Support for this application would enable the installation of a visible deterrent to anti-social drug activity

7. Environmental Impact Assessment

7.1 The installation of the cameras, if agreed, would use some non-renewable materials and the running of the camera would require further energy consumption. These are considered of minor negative impact and the public safety concern is given precedence.

8. Equalities and Diversity Implications

8.1 It is not expected that any individual will be impacted negatively by the proposal here in relation to a characteristic protected by the Equality Act 2010. The park area, roads and pavements are public spaces and accessible, so the benefit of deterring activity at this location would be beneficial to any that choose to use it.

8.2 It is arguable that any physical and mental impairment arising from addiction to class-A narcotics could be considered a disability. However, disregarding that the activity itself is illegal, the Council supports agencies in the town that offer to tackle and mitigate the impact of drug related activities.

9. Financial Considerations

9.1 The Council's CCTV contractor and the County Council have provided quotes for the installation of cameras and additional post respectively.

Expenditure Description	Cost
• To install new 8m pole	£2,275.64
• Traffic Management costs	£325.00
• To supply and install 3 cameras with relay to the ESC	£10,410.00
Total	£13,010.64

- 9.2 The Community Safety team is able to provide £8,510.64 from operational budgets and the remainder is requested of the Central Area Committee.
- 9.3 The total amount requested from the Central Area Committee is £4,500.00.

10. Legal Considerations

- 10.1 The Council has the power to award grants to community projects through the Area Committees. The Area Committees have delegated Executive powers and devolved budgets.
- 10.2 Area Committees have the power to award grants in accordance with part 3, section 2 of the Council's Constitution i.e. the Area Committee terms of reference.
- 10.3 The funds are required to purchase improve the CCTV camera coverage at Jubilee Park. This in turn will assist in deterring drug activity, anti-social behaviour, and aid enforcement action.

11. Performance Monitoring

- 11.1 The Central Neighbourhood Partnership Group will monitor the efficacy of the camera placement and the CCTV team will review its impact after one year. The conclusion of this review can be provided to the committee. The partnership group includes the committee members and partners that take action on drug activity at this location, including the Ipswich Central Safer Neighbourhood Team and the Council's Anti-Social Behaviour team.

12. Conclusions

- 12.1 There is a long running problem with anti-social behaviour and criminal activity at Jubilee Park that is acknowledged by community safety partners operating in the town centre area. This is a detriment to residents' quality of life and to the reputation of the area. This is especially grievous as the amenity and surrounding area is otherwise busy and well used by the local community.
- 12.2 The proposed CCTV camera is intended to both provide a deterrent and to aid prosecution against people involved in criminal activity there.

13. Recommendations

- 13.1 That the Central Area Committee determines the allocation of funding from the Central Area Committee budget of up to £4,500 for the installation and running of three CCTV cameras at the area encompassing Jubilee Park.**

Reasons:

- to deter criminal activity and aid prosecution
- to improve the quality of life for local residents
- to protect public safety