

CABINET

17 January 2007

CCTV – AN EVALUATION OF THE BENEFITS

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITIES

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RECENT REFERENCES:

CAB1132 - 'CCTV Monitoring Contract – Extension' - 12 October 2005 (Exempt)

LE24 Appendix 2 – 'Community Development Division Business Plan 2006/07 – 15 March 2006

CAB1300 - CCTV Development and Control Room Relocation – Project Scope and Appointment of External Consultants 10 July 2006

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report attempts to evaluate the benefits that the community perceive and gain from having CCTV systems in the area.

National research and local anecdotal information suggest that the public gain from having CCTV systems as they help prevent crime, enable crimes and criminals to be detected and support feelings of safety in the local community. Local data and a review carried out on behalf of the Community Safety Partnership suggests that there are positive benefits in having CCTV, in terms of crime prevention, crime detection and in helping to foster a feeling of safety for those people coming into the Town Centre.

The local report also highlights problems with the existing system and, if the project to review the CCTV system continues, these ought to be considered as part of the review methodology.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Cabinet

- 1 Notes the results of the studies that have been undertaken and;
- 2 Agrees to the continuation of the project to replace the CCTV control centre, update the CCTV system itself including the hardware and software and renew an operating contract at the expiry of the present contract in 2007, subject to receiving and agreeing further reports on those aspects of the project.

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DETAIL:

1 Introduction

1.1 The Council has been planning to change and update its CCTV systems due to a number of developments that are taking place in Winchester. Cabinet in July last year (CAB1300 refers) noted the factors that were bringing about the need to consider change and agreed to appoint consultants to advise the Council on the way forward in relation to the technology. The Cabinet's informal Budget Sub-Group considering the 2007/8 Budget proposals in November indicated that it wanted to understand if there were any positive benefits for the community that having a CCTV system, predominantly in the Winchester city centre, had brought. As proposals were being prepared for changing and updating the CCTV system, the Cabinet Budget Sub-Group felt that this evaluation had to take place before major investment could be considered.

1.2 The Community Safety Partnership for Winchester had already started to review the data held by the partners from the CCTV system in Winchester and were also able to use information from an important national study by the Home Office undertaken in 2005. This report uses the information gathered in these exercises to come to conclusions about the way forward locally. The report prepared for the Partnership by Ryan Gulliver, the Community Safety Intelligence Researcher and Analyst is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

2 The Home Office Study

2.1 The 2005 Home Office study reviewed 13 CCTV projects that had been implemented in a range of settings. At the same time the study reviewed police crime statistics, public attitude surveys and other crime reducing initiatives that might have explained outcomes in the review areas.

2.2 All of the areas had set objectives to reduce crime and they had been largely achieved. However, in most cases there were a number of factors that could have influenced the outcomes in addition to CCTV. The study concluded that systems installed in mixed category areas, e.g. car parks, produced the most positive results. In town centres the results were more varied but use in solely residential areas was not so encouraging.

2.3 CCTV seemed better at preventing certain types of offences. Impulsive crimes e.g. alcohol related crimes, were less likely to be reduced than premeditated crimes e.g. motor vehicle theft. However, in this context it was noticed that as well as prevention, the detection of crime was an important attribute enhanced by the presence of CCTV.

- 2.4 Members of the public generally were found to worry less about becoming victims of crime when they were in a CCTV monitored area. Feelings of safety also generally increased following CCTV installation but the public surveyed rarely changed their behaviour and most people reported that they wouldn't visit places they had previously avoided.
- 2.5 The presence of CCTV didn't seem to discourage people from visiting places and public support for CCTV was generally high.
- 2.6 The study found that overall the use of CCTV needed to be supported by an effective control centre and a strategy outlining the objectives of the system and how these would be fulfilled needed to be in place. Such a strategy needed to take account of local crime problems and prevention measures already in place.
- 2.7 The Home Office concluded from the local studies that if there had been problems with achieving some of the crime prevention objectives that had been set in those areas, the failure was arguably due less to the failure of CCTV as a crime prevention measure and more to the way it was managed.

3 CCTV in Winchester

- 3.1 CCTV came to the City centre in 1992 with the first installation of cameras in three of the multi storey car parks. It seems that this had an immediate effect in the reduction of car crime in these locations, which pointed to the advantages of more general use for the future.
- 3.2 In 1997 the town centre CCTV system was opened in partnership with the police, Hampshire County Council and city centre retailers. The main focus of the operation was the High Street and the adjoining open spaces of Abbey Gardens and the Cathedral grounds.
- 3.3 The system is managed via a CCTV control room, established in the Friarsgate car park where it is monitored 24 hours a day by speciality contract staff employed for this purpose. The system has expanded its coverage and since 1999 there have been additions to the tasks of the operators such as car park help points, which are linked to cameras and other private systems linking-in after hours. Basic minimum training to SIA standard is a legal requirement for the staff and experience in recognising potentially difficult situations is an important skill. Staff are also governed by legislation, including the Human Rights and Data Protection Acts, which they must adhere to.
- 3.4 The report at Appendix 1 includes the Winchester crime and crime detection figures for September last year and gives a recent and typical local picture of the contribution CCTV has made. The data show that CCTV is both a primary cause of detection, i.e. the crime would go undetected but for CCTV, and also plays a part in subsequent tracking of criminals where there is already police involvement.
- 3.5 It is the case, however, that the CCTV in operation within Winchester is not perfect. Although the data indicate success, it should be noted that many other incidents may have gone undetected within the city centre for several reasons. Firstly, it is known that there is a lack of cameras within certain parts of the city centre; secondly, many of the cameras that have been installed are in the wrong position, i.e. their view is hindered by a lack of light or obstructed by objects ; thirdly, the CCTV cameras that are in operation can be seen to be viewing certain areas and can be avoided in some

cases with relative ease; finally they use dated analogue technology that cannot be maintained and supported for much longer. They do not have some of the capabilities of new digital equipment that would enhance the effectiveness of the system.

- 3.6 If members are minded to agree the principles and recommendation then given the time it will take before the project is complete and operational changes are put into effect the possibility of using low cost solutions to some of the problems highlighted above will be explored.

4 Conclusion

- 4.1 Gauging the effectiveness of CCTV systems is not straightforward but from both national and local statistical information it is suggested that without CCTV in operation throughout Winchester city centre, many of the crimes detected in recent months and referred to in the report at Appendix 1 would have gone unrecorded and possibly undetected. This local review undertaken on behalf of the Community Safety Partnership concludes that the data are not clear. However, more people were arrested in September in the Town for behavioural type offences having been caught on CCTV camera than by the police through their direct action. The statistics available show that the relationship between the CCTV operators, police and other crime prevention organisations within Winchester is good. The presence of an effectively operated control centre looks to be important and its being in Winchester has also helped with local co-ordination with the Police and detection of 'live' on-going cases. However if the proposed review for the renewal of the system goes ahead it would need to consider the flaws identified in the Community Safety Partnership report and in addition would need to evaluate the benefits of having a control centre in Winchester as opposed to having or sharing such a facility based elsewhere.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

5 CORPORATE STRATEGY (RELEVANCE TO):

- 5.1 CCTV systems support the increase in feelings of safety by reducing the likelihood that people will indulge in anti-social behaviour and continue to collaborate with our partners to continue to drive down levels of crime generally. The CCTV network is an important crime prevention and detection tool and plays a key role in meeting many of the targets set out in the Community Safety Strategy. In addition, the Council has a statutory duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to have regard to the crime and disorder implications of its decisions and to do all it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area. The recent review of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 has broadened the definition of Section 17 to include nuisance anti-social behaviour, behaviour adversely affecting the environment (environmental crime), and substance misuse.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report but if the CCTV renewal project is given the go-ahead then the proposed replacement of the control centre, monitoring and recording equipment and operator contract will each have financial implications which will be reported separately to Cabinet.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

Assessing the impact of CCTV – Home Office Research Study 292 – February 2005

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1: CCTV in Winchester; *Justifying updating the current system in the interest's of crime prevention and public safety*, Ryan Gulliver Community Safety Intelligence Researcher and Analyst

Appendix 1

CCTV in Winchester: Justifying updating the current system in the interest of crime prevention and public safety

Methodology

The report considers the findings of Gill and Spriggs (2005) home office study '*Assessing the impact of CCTV*', a study that aims to critically discuss the effectiveness of CCTV in the reduction of crime and the fear of crime, whilst considering the factors that may influence the successful operation of CCTV. This is important as the study is one of the most advanced of its kind and gives a good account of the overall effectiveness of CCTV and helps to dispel some myths associated with its uses.

The report then considers CCTV within Winchester and discusses its origins, effectiveness and whether there is just cause for updating the current system in the interest of reducing crime and the fear of crime.

The data shown was provided by the following partners:

- Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service
- Winchester City Council CCTV Operators Staff
- Hampshire Constabulary
- Winchester City Council Community Development Service.
- Neighbourhood Watch

It is important to note that statistics from partnership agencies that have been considered for the purposes of this report were restricted by time restraints. Therefore the ability to fully assess the effectiveness of CCTV within Winchester is largely restricted.

1: An Introduction to CCTV

It is suggested that the closed circuit television camera (CCTV) has become an important crime prevention and security measure. There are many types of camera and CCTV

system that have varying capacities to meet a number of objectives. However, in basic terms, CCTV allows for the collection of images which are transferred to a monitor recording device. These images are then available to be watched and reviewed by additional parties and also stored for future reference. Camera's can be static or have the ability to pan, tilt and zoom. They are usually stationary but in some cases can be redeployable or mobile. Gill and Spriggs (2005) suggest that CCTV is of direct benefit to an investigation,

'The storing of images means that post incident analysis helpful to an investigation can be facilitated.' (Gill and Spriggs 2005: 1).

The potential applications of CCTV are ever increasing with the ever growing rise in technology. Night vision, number plate and facial recognition are just a few examples of the potential applications of flexible technology. However it is important to note that the CCTV camera is only one aspect that contributes to its effectiveness. With it comes the control room, a vital tool which without it, no CCTV system can fulfil its potential, no matter how technologically advanced the system is. The control room is either monitored on a full time or part time basis by an individual or team who in most cases liaise with the police when an investigation is in hand.

The argument as to whether CCTV reduces crime is a question which many have addressed. According to Gill and Spriggs (2005) there is evidence to suggest that CCTV is more effective in some contexts than in others in terms of crime types. For example Brown (1995) suggests that CCTV has a positive effect in the reduction of property crime, while Skinns (1998) and Tilley (1993) would suggest that this is particularly relevant to thefts from and of vehicles. It has also been suggested that CCTV has little effect on personal crimes such as assault and crimes of violence. However it is important to note that if this is the case with personal/violent crime, it should not make any difference to the recording of the crime and the identification of the individuals involved, therefore although not acting as a deterrent, CCTV in this case will still positively effect detection rates. This may lead to and/or assist in the successful prosecutions of those involved.

2: Previous Research

2.1: The Gill and Spriggs Study

Assessing the impact of CCTV is a home office report written by Gill and Spriggs (2005). It represented a major advance in our knowledge about CCTV and its effectiveness in both reducing crime and the fear of crime. The study adopted what is known as a quasi-experimental model of evaluation. This aimed to measure changes in police recorded crime and fear of crime in the targeted areas (defined as the area covered by the cameras) and an analysis of before and after CCTV was installed. This it was hoped would give an indication as to whether or not the implementation of CCTV had been successful in the reduction of crime and the fear of crime and the increase in detection and identification. In all the report evaluated 13 CCTV projects implemented in a range of contexts which included town centres, city centres, car parks, hospitals and residential areas. In addition public attitude surveys were conducted in 12 areas to assess changes in public perceptions of CCTV before and after the installation of CCTV.

2.2: Key Findings of the Gill and Spriggs Study

From examining this study it would be difficult to conclude that CCTV is completely effective in the reduction of crime, change the behaviour of an individual who is about to commit crime or change public perception relating to crime. In fact Gill and Spriggs found a number of problems and inconsistencies with CCTV that hindered its potential success in the areas that were examined. However, they do give several reasons as to why this was the case, and in simple terms it was less of a problem with the CCTV system and more of a problem of how it was managed,

'the failure to achieve crime prevention objectives was arguably less the failure of CCTV as a crime prevention measure than of the way it was managed.' (Gill, Spriggs 2005: 116).

(However, it is important to note that this is not necessarily the case for Winchester, as we will see later within this report, the statistics would suggest that the control room in Winchester has been key to the success of CCTV within the area.) Indeed, the report suggests that in many cases, agencies failed to promote and define the exact purpose of CCTV within their areas. Consequently, CCTV was installed in areas and circumstances where it was unlikely to be used effectively. As we will see later in this report, this is a problem experienced with many cameras in Winchester, which could be more effective if they were moved or positioned properly. Gill and Spriggs (2005) also suggest that it is not necessary to increase the number of cameras in operation in most cases, rather more a case of correctly positioning the cameras already available.

It was found that in terms of reducing acquisitive crime, there was evidence that CCTV was effective, especially with regards to car theft. In addition, it was identified that CCTV works well in small, enclosed areas and as well as reducing car theft, was also successful in reducing crimes within residential areas such as burglary and shoplifting.

Importantly, it was suggested that CCTV was sometimes effective in addressing crime when used for special purposes. For example, some of the targeted schemes looked primarily at reducing drug and alcohol offences. It was found that when working closely with the police, initiatives showed success. It was highlighted that,

'CCTV operators were often an important part of these operations' (Gill, Spriggs 2005: 118),

again emphasising the importance of solid management within the control room. In conjunction, Gill and Spriggs suggest that the role of the police in their relationship with CCTV operators is also key to its success. They suggest that where there was active interest on behalf of the police in terms of providing intelligence to CCTV operators and vice versa with operators providing intelligence to police, CCTV could be very effective.

As we will see when considering the effectiveness of CCTV within Winchester, there is solid evidence to suggest that the relationship between the police and CCTV operators

within Winchester is good and many arrests have been made as a result of this relationship. The same can be said for the relationship Winchester has with other crime – reduction measures within the city such as pub and shop watch and neighbourhood wardens. As identified by Gill and Spriggs, these types of crime reduction measures and their relationship with CCTV in drawing attention to an incident deemed as *'suspicious'* is crucial in the success of crime reduction and identification of individuals in the process of committing crime.

As well as aiming to reduce crime, Gill and Spriggs (2005) highlight that there were many instances where CCTV helped in the detection of missing children, encouraging visitors or residents to an area and even acting as a catalyst to attract more funding to an area and although the fear of crime was not reduced in most cases, CCTV was still regarded by the public as favourable, dispelling many concerns of a fear of a so called *'big brother'* state.

As already identified, Gill and Spriggs highlighted many problems and inconsistencies that hindered the potential effectiveness of CCTV, mainly the issue of poor management. However one key problem that seems to be overlooked in many cases including that of Winchester is that of the level of lighting. Gill and Spriggs (2005) identify that this has long been an integral part of a CCTV system but unfortunately is easy to get wrong due to a lack of attention or financial restraints that surround a CCTV operation. In basic terms, many cameras are inputted where there is little natural light or sufficient night time illumination, making it virtually impossible to record footage during the night times. This would seem to be a particular problem with some of the cameras in Winchester particularly during the winter months where daylight is shortened. Somewhat ironically, where new lighting is positioned near to cameras, or where a camera is positioned near to existing lighting, a glare or strobing can hinder the quality of the recorded image. Again this emphasises the importance of expert analysis when identifying the purpose or goal of installing CCTV and correct positioning of a camera.

3: CCTV in Winchester

3.1: An Introduction to CCTV in Winchester

CCTV came to Winchester in 1992 with the first installation of cameras in three of the multi storey car parks. It is suggested that this had an immediate effect in the reduction of car crime in these locations which pointed to the advantages of more general use for the future.

In 1997 the town centre CCTV system was opened in partnership with the police, Hampshire County Council and city centre retailers. The main focus of the operation was the High Street and the Adjoining open spaces of Abbey Gardens and the Cathedral Grounds.

The system is managed via a CCTV control room, established in the Friarsgate car park where it is monitored 24 hours a day by speciality contract staff employed for this purpose.

Since that time there have been additions to the tasks of the operators such as car park help points which are linked to cameras. Basic minimum training with the approved SIA standard is a legal Home Office requirement while other attributes particularly in recognising situations for the potential they might hold is a developed life skill. Staff are also governed by Human Rights and the Data Protection Act which they must adhere to.

3.2: Is CCTV in Winchester Effective?

The following tables represent a snap shot of the amount of arrests that took place within the month of September 2006 that the use of CCTV attributed to in order to represent its effectiveness. Although it cannot be assumed that CCTV was the direct resulting factor

in the subsequent arrests, it would be wrong to assume that it was not an attributing or primary factor. In some cases as is shown in table 1 the CCTV operators were the primary origins in the detection of crimes taking place. Therefore it may be fair to suggest that without CCTV in this case, many of the crimes may have gone undetected. In addition it may be fair to suggest that without the use of CCTV many of those who had subsequently committed a crime may have evaded police arrest if it hadn't been for the successful tracking of these individuals by several cameras within operation. As the following tables also show, the role of the police and other crime prevention organisations were crucial in the primary detection of individuals in the process of committing crime, these organisations then liaised with CCTV operators so an individual or group of people could be tracked and identified. As highlighted by Gill and Spriggs (2005) this relationship between CCTV operators and external organisations is crucial to the success of CCTV as a crime prevention measure.

In Total there were 58 arrests made in the month of September 2006 that either originated with CCTV operators identifying an incident in progress or from external organisations such as the police identifying an incident and then using CCTV to help obtain an arrest.

Table1 shows how many arrests were made with the CCTV operators as primary origin throughout the month of September 2006. It also includes the date, time, location, camera and type of incident occurring. (Pro active is the term used to describe CCTV operators as the primary origin).

Table 1.

Date	Time	Location	Camera	Type of Incident	Result	Origin
03-Sep-06	00:23	The Square	8,9,3	Fight	5 Arrested	Pro Active
04-Sep-06	21:00	The Square	3,8,9	Drunk	1 Arrested	Pro Active
06-Sep-06	14:47	Silver Hill	71	Wanted Person	1 Arrested	Pro Active
08-Sep-06	08:12	High Street	2	Public Order	2 Arrested	Pro Active
09-Sep-06	00:52	High Street	1,2	Fight	1 Arrested	Pro Active
09-Sep-06	19:25	Broadway	2	Threatening Behavior	1 Arrested	Pro Active

15-Sep-06	09:55	Andover Road	13	Weapons	1 Arrested	Pro Active
17-Sep-06	00:32	The Broadway	68,1	Public Order	1 Arrested	Pro Active
23-Sep-06	23:05	Jewry Street	6	Fight	2 Arrested	Pro Active
27-Sep-06	00:01	Jewry Street	6,20	Public Order	1 Arrested	Pro Active
27-Sep-06	15:33	High Street	1	Criminal Damage	1 Arrested	Pro Active
29-Sep-06	01:33	Jewry Street	6	Assault	1 Arrested	Pro Active
30-Sep-06	00:18	Jewry Street	6	Public Order	1 Arrested	Pro Active
30-Sep-06	23:41	High Street	4,5,6	Public Order	3 Arrested	Pro Active

As demonstrated above, there were 22 arrests made in the month of September 2006 where the CCTV operators were the primary origin.

Table 2 shows how many arrests were made with the police as the primary origin throughout the month of September 2006.

Table 2.

Date	Time	Location	Camera	Type of Incident	Result	Origin
02-Sep-06	00:38	Market Lane	21,2	Public Order	1 Arrested	Police
02-Sep-06	21:27	Jewry Street	6,8	Criminal Damage	1 Arrested	Police
06-Sep-06	21:59	St Georges Street	20	Criminal Damage	1 Arrested	Police
07-Sep-06	22:46	Jewry Street	6	Fight	2 Arrested	Police
10-Sep-06	14:09	Upper Brook Street	Brooks	Drunk	1 Arrested	Police
15-Sep-06	23:33	Jewry Street	6,18	Public Order	2 Arrested	Police
16-Sep-06	19:52	Abbey Gardens	10,1	Assault	1 Arrested	Police
17-Sep-06	03:38	Northwalls	67	Public Order	1 Arrested	Police
17-Sep-06	19:10	High Street	3	Wanted Person	1 Arrested	Police
18-Sep-06	13:06	High Street	3	Aggressive Behavior	1 Arrested	Police
19-Sep-06	10:47	Jewry Street	2	Criminal Damage	2 Arrested	Police
23-Sep-06	00:49	Jewry Street	6,18	Assault	1 Arrested	Police

24-Sep-06	01:03	Jewry Street	6	Fight	1 Arrested	Police
29-Sep-06	00:30	Andover Road	19	Fight	1 Arrested	Police
29-Sep-06	01:25	Jewry Street	6	Assault	1 Arrested	Police
29-Sep-06	02:23	Jewry Street	18	Assault	1 Arrested	Police

As demonstrated above, there were 19 arrests made in the month of September 2006 where the police were the primary origin and liaised with the CCTV control room to identify suspects and make subsequent arrests.

In addition there were 6 arrests made by WC's (prefix ID for a Winchester Police unit).

Table 3 shows the amount of arrests were made with Shop Watch* as the primary origin.

Table 3.

Date	Time	Location	Camera	Type of Incident	Result	Origin
02-Sep-06	10:45	Middlebrook Street	71	Theft	1 Arrested	SW M21
09-Sep-06	01:53	Cathedral Gardens	9, Chesil	Indecent Exposure	1 Arrested	SW M71
17-Sep-06	16:38	Brooks Centre	B, 71	Theft	1 Arrested	SW M7
19-Sep-06	16:42	High Street	2,3,71,41	Theft	2 Arrested	SW M19
21-Sep-06	14:48	BHS	71	Fraud	1 Arrested	SW M4
23-Sep-06	00:15	High Street	2,3,21,17,8,6,5	Assault	1 Arrested	SW 52
27-Sep-06	18:35	Jewry Street	19,18,6	Drunk	1 Arrested	SW M40
28-Sep-06	17:50	Silver Hill	71,41,Brooks	Assault	1 Arrested	SW M7
29-Sep-06	14:52	St Georges Street	71,Brooks	Theft	1 Arrested	SW M1
29-Sep-06	17:30	St Georges Street	71	Theft	1 Arrested	SW M1

As demonstrated above, there were 11 arrests made in the month of September 2006 where Shop Watch was the primary origin and liaised with the CCTV control room and the police to identify suspects and make subsequent arrests.

* Shop staff volunteer as ShopWatch Special Constables and carry out patrols during some of their working hours, acting as additional eyes and ears for the regular police. Their presence seeks to actively deter theft and fraud and discourage anti-social behavior, as well as offering additional reassurance for shoppers (www.shopwatch.info).

In addition to arrests being made there were 63 other incidents recorded by CCTV within Winchester that did not result in arrests. Some of these incidents were resolved at the time or required no further action to be taken; others included alarm responses and trips to the Royal Hampshire County Hospital. In all it can be identified that there were 106 incidents recorded to CCTV in the month of September 2006.

Further analysis shows that the majority of incidents taking place were recorded within the city centre. Table 4 demonstrates the frequency in which incidents took place in relation to the streets in which the incidents that resulted in arrests took place in.

Table 4.

Location	Frequency
Abbey Gardens	1
Andover Road	2
BHS	1
Brooks Centre	2
The Broadway	2
Broadway	1
Cathedral Gardens	1
High Street	8
Jewry Street	14
Market Lane	1
Middlebrook Street	2
Northwalls	1
Silver Hill	2
St Georges Street	3
The Square	2
Upper Brook Street	1

In most cases there were 1 to 3 incidents being recorded in the same street. However Jewry Street in particular and High Street recorded a significantly higher number of

incidents. It is interesting to note that within these two areas there are 8 pubs/bars. Most of the other locations also have or are in close proximity to a pub/bar of some sort and most are included within the city centre and the current Alcohol Exclusion Zone.

Out of the 58 arrests examined, 22 were made after 21:00 in the evening. The majority of which were identified as fights, public order offences and assaults. The locations of these incidents, the time in which they took place and the type of incident occurring can be identified as common features of what is known as the night time economy (NTE). Studies have shown that the relationship between alcohol and the NTE often results in the types of crime demonstrated throughout tables 1 to 3.

It could be argued therefore that without CCTV in operation throughout Winchester city centre, many of the crimes demonstrated in tables 1 to 3 would go unrecorded. The statistics available would seem to suggest that the relationship between CCTV operators, police and other crime prevention organisations within Winchester is good.

In support of this, several police officers from North Walls Police station Winchester gave their views on the effectiveness of CCTV within Winchester and how it assisted them in their day to day duties. (The names of individuals and specific localities involved have been purposely removed).

'Earlier in the year there were two shoplifters who had been detained by security but they made off. Working in connection with the CCTV operator they managed to advise us of where they had gone and going. We managed to form a pincer movement and detain them. Another occasion was where there were about 15 males in the xxxxxxxxxxxx being rowdy and urinating in the flower beds in front of the public. On arrival, the CCTV operator was able to advise me who had done what so that I did not have to get the public to make statements as it was all caught on camera. Another was where there were three persons fighting; we called up initially but then were unable to communicate as

trying to arrest the three. The CCTV operator and control who had access to the footage as it was happening were able to update the other units who were attending. CCTV operators also have shopwatch radios as do police as they can convey what is happening as we are en route to incidents, advising us whether the fight is still ongoing; where the offenders and agg'ds have gone etc.'

'Dealt with a job a few weeks ago involving xxxxxxxxxx. I attended somebody's home address following reports that a male very closely matching his description was drunk, sitting on a car and throwing bottles around. Although he had left by the time I got there, I asked CCTV to keep an eye out for him, and a short while later xxxxxxxxxx was followed by the CCTV system on xxxxxxxxxx threatening a member of the public, knocking bins over and being a general nuisance. I arrested him for section 5, and if it was not for the CCTV system he would have been able to continue with his bad behavior without being discovered. I have also located somebody that I knew was wanted for failure to appear at court by asking CCTV to bear him in mind. Again, without them I would have to rely on hoping I ran into him.'

'On xxxxxxxxxx a large group of youths assaulted two males in xxxxxxxxxx Winchester. CCTV had become aware of these youths earlier in the evening and had kept an eye on them throughout the evening. Operators filmed the incident and continued following the offenders around the town centre collecting good images that were used during the investigation to identify the main culprits. Due to their diligence and professional attitude 4 males were charged and convicted with Violent Disorder. Also during my time as a Beat officer the CCTV control room were a constant source of help and support in the detection and prevention of crime within the city.'

'From memory xxxxxxxxxx a few years ago CCTV was used to assist in the conviction of numerous drug dealers. The case of xxxxxxxxxx rape used to track male through town eventually convicted of rape 8 years. xxxxxxxxxx, xxxxxxxxxx, xxxxxxxxxx and xxxxxxxxxx all prolific offenders who have been convicted on CCTV footage which either proved their involvement or assisted in enquires. Numerous public order problems which are initially caught on CCTV this evidence is usually the icing on the cake when as it usually proves the offenders guilt. As you are aware the input from CCTV is invaluable without it we would not detect a great proportion of late night crime as well as offences such as assaults, thefts etc.'

However major concerns can be identified with the actual CCTV system and the cameras themselves in addition to poor positioning or lack of cameras within Winchester. As the statistics show the majority of cameras are located within the city centre, however it is suggested that some of these cameras are either positioned incorrectly as they are obstructed by objects or that they are obstructed by light. In addition, many of the cameras are rendered useless at night fall as they do not have night vision capability or are not situated near to suitable lighting levels. This obviously leaves a large gap in terms of hours that could potentially be recorded.

Some of these views are expressed by Police Officers. (The names of individuals and specific localities involved have been purposely removed).

*'CCTV is used a lot in the investigation of rape allegations, for example it exonerated a male accused of raping a female twice over a 3 week period. CCTV proved him to be in another's company at the relevant times. **We could do with a better system at VC as the quality of the copying bears no resemblance to the image on the screen.***

'I would say it is very beneficial for our safety in the town centre, as well as for the public, especially on a Friday or Saturday night for example. I have often found shop CCTV systems lacking though. Sometimes they only have one frame every few seconds so the crime isn't actually captured even if the camera is pointed at it. Also today 2 officers were trying to use the CCTV viewing equipment in the report writing room and weren't able to get it to work so that they could view it. In principal I would say it is an excellent tool though - you can't really dispute good video evidence.'

In summary, it would seem that the CCTV in operation within Winchester has had some success in the identification of suspects and assisting the police in making arrests. In many cases it has been shown that CCTV operators were the primary origin in identifying incidents that required intervention on behalf of the police or other crime prevention organisations. Therefore it may be fair to suggest that without CCTV, many of the incidents may have gone undetected. In addition it may be fair to suggest that without the use of CCTV many of those who had subsequently committed a crime may have evaded police arrest if it hadn't been for the successful tracking of these individuals by several cameras within operation.

The tables have also shown that the relationship between the police and CCTV operators is crucial if it is to be a successful crime detection and prevention measure. In addition CCTV cameras have been shown only to be useful if the control room is managed efficiently.

It is fair to suggest however that the CCTV in operation within Winchester is far from perfect. Although the tables seem to indicate success, it must be taken into consideration that many other incidents may have gone undetected within the city centre for several reasons. Firstly it is suggested that there is a lack of cameras within certain parts of the city centre, secondly many of the cameras that have been installed are in the wrong position, i.e. their view is hindered by a lack of light or obstructed by objects and thirdly the CCTV cameras that are in operation use dated analogue technology that does not have

some of the capabilities that new digital equipment has that may be beneficial to CCTV being used effectively. (See problems and possible solutions for further analysis).

3.3: CCTV and the Alcohol Exclusion Zone

It could be suggested based on the area in which the Winchester AEZ covers and the positioning of the CCTV cameras, that the two would complement each other. However there is evidence to suggest that many who would normally be caught on CCTV within the city centre have been displaced into other areas of the city.

For example, from the 8th July 2005 to the week beginning 18th September 2006, 53 (documented) complaints were received within the Community Development Service at WCC.

It is also important to highlight that over a twelve month period it has been estimated that the Community Development Service at WCC has received between 30 to 50 unrecorded telephone complaints.

An example of the most significant problems that have been reported are listed in table 5.

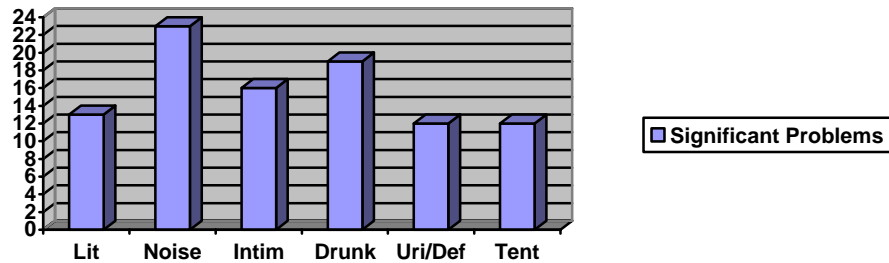
Table 5.

Litter, including beer bottles, cans and broken glass.
Noise Pollution (shouting and screaming obscenities) at various times throughout the day and early hours of the morning.
Intimidation and threatening behavior to members of public.
Drunken/loutish behavior.
Urinating and defecating in a public place.
Tents being erected in public places.

It is important to identify that the majority of the anti social behavior between the dates stated took place primarily at night with many complainants reporting alcohol as an influencing or attributing factor in this behavior.

In the 53 documented complaints received, a total of 95 instances were recorded relating to the significant problems listed in table 5. See Figure 1 for breakdown.

Figure 1.



Lit = Litter, including beer bottles, cans and broken glass.

Noise = Noise pollution (shouting and screaming) at various times throughout the day and early hours of the morning.

Intim = Intimidation and threatening behavior to members of the public.

Drunk = Drunken/loutish behavior.

Uri/Def = Urinating and defecating in a public place.

Tent = Tents being erected in public places.

The problems considered in Figure 1 are identified as taking place predominantly within the following areas: Hyde Gate, King Alfred Terrace, King Alfred Place, Saxon Road, Swan Lane, Hyde Street, Jewry Street, City Road, St Peters Church (Hyde Street). It is important to note that with the exception of Jewry Street, CCTV is not present in any of the above localities. Therefore, apart from witness reports and police presence it is difficult to identify those involved in potential criminal activity within the above localities. Although the majority of complaints are recorded within the summer months, there is evidence to suggest that this is a growing problem and that incidents may continue to rise (see figure 2).

Figure 2.

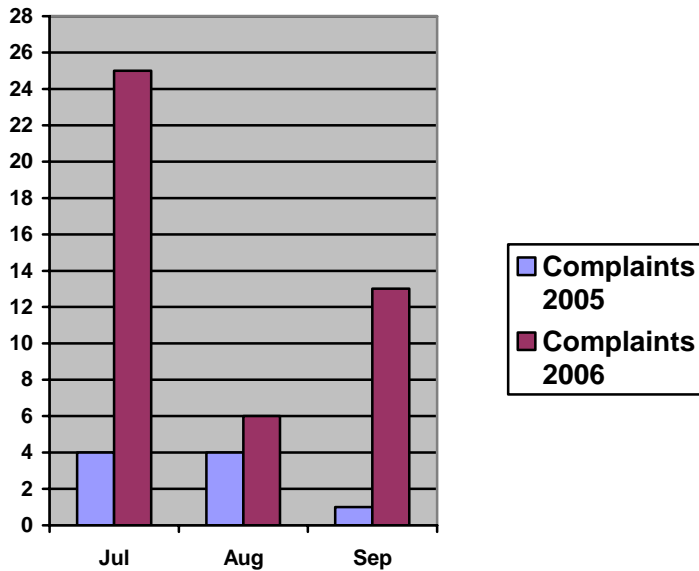


Figure 2 clearly emphasizes the growth in complaints received within the Community Development Service at WCC over a twelve month period. Figure 1 and Figure 2 would suggest that the limited boundaries of the AEZ to the city centre, has displaced street drinkers and anti social behavior to other areas of the city. This supports the proposal for widening the coverage area of CCTV within Winchester. However as Gill and Spriggs (2005) suggest, the effectiveness of CCTV is increased when used in conjunction with other measures. This would seem to support the proposal to increase the AEZ boundary to other areas within the city. (Gill and Spriggs 2005: 116).

In support of this Gill and Spriggs go on to suggest that CCTV does not necessarily have to be used as a measure for more serious offences, indeed they suggest that CCTV also has benefits for the location of missing people and controlling alcohol related and other similar anti social behavior, monitoring and dispersing large groups of individuals, and moving on those termed as undesirable. (Gill and Spriggs 2005: 117).

3.4 Problems within Rural Areas: A case for CCTV?

As this report has shown, the effectiveness of CCTV within Winchester can largely be attributed to the confines of the city centre. This it is suggested is because the coverage of CCTV within Winchester is limited to the city centre. However the question needs to be asked as to whether there is a need for CCTV in some of the more rural areas of Winchester.

As an example, this report shall now provide a snap shot of the months ranging January 2006 to the 2nd November 2006 and the responses by Hampshire Fire and Rescue Services in relation to the deliberate ignition of fires in Bishops Waltham, Wickham and Alresford station grounds. This it is hoped shall give an indication of a particular type of problem within some of the more rural areas that may be reduced if CCTV was implemented into these areas.

Table 6.

INCIDENT DATE	GENERIC_CLASS_TYPE	SPECIFIC_CLASS_TYPE	TOWN
08-Jul-06	FDR3 GRASS	222 BEATERS ETC (NO JETS OR HOSE REELS)+ ACCIDENTAL/NOT KNOWN	BISHOPS WALTHAM
10-Aug-06	FDR3 GRASS	222 BEATERS ETC (NO JETS OR HOSE REELS)+ ACCIDENTAL/NOT KNOWN	BISHOPS WALTHAM
10-Aug-06	FDR3 GRASS	222 BEATERS ETC (NO JETS OR HOSE REELS)+ ACCIDENTAL/NOT KNOWN	BISHOPS WALTHAM
14-Aug-06	FDR3 GRASS	231 HR + MALICIOUS IGNITION	WICKHAM (1)
17-Sep-06	FDR3 OUTDOOR STRUCTURE	411 NO ACTION + MALICIOUS IGNITION	BISHOPS WALTHAM
23-Jun-06	FDR3 OUTDOOR STRUCTURE	421 BEATERS ETC (NO JETS OR HOSE REELS)+ MALICIOUS IGNITION	BISHOPS WALTHAM
09-Feb-06	FDR3 REFUSE	511 NO ACTION + MALICIOUS IGNITION	BISHOPS WALTHAM
09-Feb-06	FDR3 REFUSE	511 NO ACTION + MALICIOUS IGNITION	BISHOPS WALTHAM
18-Feb-06	FDR3 REFUSE	511 NO ACTION + MALICIOUS IGNITION	ALRESFORD
18-Feb-06	FDR3 REFUSE	511 NO ACTION + MALICIOUS IGNITION	ALRESFORD
09-May-06	FDR3 REFUSE	512 NO ACTION + ACCIDENTAL/NOT KNOWN	ALRESFORD
09-May-06	FDR3 REFUSE	512 NO ACTION + ACCIDENTAL/NOT KNOWN	ALRESFORD
06-Nov-06	FDR3 REFUSE	521 BEATERS ETC (NO JETS OR HOSE REELS)+ MALICIOUS IGNITION	BISHOPS WALTHAM
06-Nov-06	FDR3 REFUSE	521 BEATERS ETC (NO JETS OR HOSE REELS)+ MALICIOUS IGNITION	BISHOPS WALTHAM
11-Jan-06	FDR3 REFUSE	531 HOSE REELS + MALICIOUS IGNITION	ALRESFORD
11-Jan-06	FDR3 REFUSE	531 HOSE REELS + MALICIOUS	ALRESFORD

		IGNITION	
04-Apr-06	FDR3 REFUSE	531 HOSE REELS + MALICIOUS IGNITION	BISHOPS WALTHAM
11-Apr-06	FDR3 REFUSE	531 HOSE REELS + MALICIOUS IGNITION	BISHOPS WALTHAM
11-Apr-06	FDR3 REFUSE	531 HOSE REELS + MALICIOUS IGNITION	BISHOPS WALTHAM
12-Apr-06	FDR3 REFUSE	531 HOSE REELS + MALICIOUS IGNITION	BISHOPS WALTHAM
21-Apr-06	FDR3 REFUSE	531 HOSE REELS + MALICIOUS IGNITION	WICKHAM (1)
28-May-06	FDR3 REFUSE	531 HOSE REELS + MALICIOUS IGNITION	ALRESFORD
02-Jun-06	FDR3 REFUSE	531 HOSE REELS + MALICIOUS IGNITION	WICKHAM (1)
09-Jun-06	FDR3 REFUSE	531 HOSE REELS + MALICIOUS IGNITION	BISHOPS WALTHAM
23-Jun-06	FDR3 REFUSE	531 HOSE REELS + MALICIOUS IGNITION	WICKHAM (1)
23-Jun-06	FDR3 REFUSE	531 HOSE REELS + MALICIOUS IGNITION	WICKHAM (1)
12-Jul-06	FDR3 REFUSE	531 HOSE REELS + MALICIOUS IGNITION	BISHOPS WALTHAM
21-Jul-06	FDR3 REFUSE	531 HOSE REELS + MALICIOUS IGNITION	WICKHAM (1)
26-Jul-06	FDR3 REFUSE	531 HOSE REELS + MALICIOUS IGNITION	BISHOPS WALTHAM
26-Jul-06	FDR3 REFUSE	531 HOSE REELS + MALICIOUS IGNITION	BISHOPS WALTHAM
18-Aug-06	FDR3 REFUSE	531 HOSE REELS + MALICIOUS IGNITION	WICKHAM (1)
31-Aug-06	FDR3 REFUSE	531 HOSE REELS + MALICIOUS IGNITION	BISHOPS WALTHAM
13-Sep-06	FDR3 REFUSE	531 HOSE REELS + MALICIOUS IGNITION	BISHOPS WALTHAM
13-Sep-06	FDR3 REFUSE	531 HOSE REELS + MALICIOUS IGNITION	BISHOPS WALTHAM
20-Sep-06	FDR3 REFUSE	531 HOSE REELS + MALICIOUS IGNITION	BISHOPS WALTHAM
20-Sep-06	FDR3 REFUSE	531 HOSE REELS + MALICIOUS IGNITION	BISHOPS WALTHAM
12-Oct-06	FDR3 REFUSE	531 HOSE REELS + MALICIOUS IGNITION	BISHOPS WALTHAM
20-Oct-06	FDR3 REFUSE	531 HOSE REELS + MALICIOUS IGNITION	WICKHAM (1)
15-Aug-06	FDR3 REFUSE	532 HOSE REELS + ACCIDENTAL/NOT KNOWN	ALRESFORD
15-Aug-06	FDR3 REFUSE	532 HOSE REELS + ACCIDENTAL/NOT KNOWN	ALRESFORD
24-Aug-06	FDR3 REFUSE	532 HOSE REELS + ACCIDENTAL/NOT KNOWN	ALRESFORD
24-Aug-06	FDR3 REFUSE	532 HOSE REELS + ACCIDENTAL/NOT KNOWN	ALRESFORD
11-Sep-06	FDR3 REFUSE	532 HOSE REELS + ACCIDENTAL/NOT KNOWN	BISHOPS WALTHAM
23-Oct-06	FDR3 REFUSE	532 HOSE REELS + ACCIDENTAL/NOT KNOWN	ALRESFORD
23-Oct-06	FDR3 REFUSE	532 HOSE REELS + ACCIDENTAL/NOT KNOWN	ALRESFORD
10-Nov-06	FDR3 REFUSE	541 JETS + MALICIOUS IGNITION	BISHOPS WALTHAM
10-Nov-06	FDR3 REFUSE	541 JETS + MALICIOUS IGNITION	BISHOPS WALTHAM
10-Nov-06	FDR3 REFUSE	541 JETS + MALICIOUS IGNITION	BISHOPS WALTHAM
10-Mar-06	FIRE	FR	WICKHAM (1)
10-Mar-06	FIRE	FR	WICKHAM (1)
04-May-06	FIRE	FR	BISHOPS WALTHAM

21-May-06	FIRE	FR	BISHOPS WALTHAM
21-May-06	FIRE	FR	WICKHAM (1)
03-Jul-06	FIRE	FR	BISHOPS WALTHAM
03-Jul-06	FIRE	FR	BISHOPS WALTHAM
03-Jul-06	FIRE	FR	BISHOPS WALTHAM
14-Oct-06	FIRE	FR	WICKHAM (1)
14-Oct-06	FIRE	FR	WICKHAM (1)
14-Oct-06	FIRE	FR	WICKHAM (1)
14-Oct-06	FIRE	FR	WICKHAM (1)
14-Oct-06	FIRE	FR	WICKHAM (1)
14-Oct-06	FIRE	FR	WICKHAM (1)
14-Oct-06	FIRE	FR	WICKHAM (1)
14-Oct-06	FIRE	FR	WICKHAM (1)
14-Oct-06	FIRE	FR	WICKHAM (1)
14-Oct-06	FIRE	FR	WICKHAM (1)
14-Oct-06	FIRE	FR	WICKHAM (1)
14-Oct-06	FIRE	FR	WICKHAM (1)
14-Oct-06	FIRE	FR	WICKHAM (1)
14-Oct-06	FIRE	FR	WICKHAM (1)
02-Nov-06	FIRE	FR	WICKHAM (1)
02-Nov-06	FIRE	FR	WICKHAM (1)
02-Nov-06	FIRE	FR	WICKHAM (1)
02-Nov-06	FIRE	FR	WICKHAM (1)

(Data shown in generic class type order).

Key

FDR3 =	Secondary Fires
FR =	Primary Fires
ABB =	Road Abbreviation

Table 6 identifies that from January 2006 to the 2nd November 2006 there were 72 recorded primary/secondary incidents responded to by Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service within Bishops Waltham, Wickham and Alresford. (Bishops Waltham = 32, Wickham = 27, Alresford = 13). Of these 72 incidents 57 were classed as malicious ignition, i.e. the fire was started deliberately. (33 of this 57 were classed as secondary and 24 were classed as primary). This succeeds in emphasizing that there are other problems other than those demonstrated within Winchester city centre in some of the more rural parts of the city.

It could be argued that the problems above experienced justify the introduction of mobile CCTV within the stated areas in order to assist in the reduction of malicious fire ignition, this would seem particularly important within the Bishops Waltham area.

In addition, it is interesting to examine local neighborhood watch data, especially with regards to Bishops Waltham.

Table 7

Date	Type of Incident	Location
07/11/06	Theft	Wickham
08/11/06	Theft	Bishops Waltham
10/11/06	Arson	Bishops Waltham
10/11/06	Arson	Bishops Waltham
10/11/06	Criminal Damage	Bishops Waltham
11/11/06	Criminal Damage	Bishops Waltham
11/11/06	Theft	Bishops Waltham
13/11/06	Theft	Wickham
14/11/06	Criminal Damage	Wickham
15/11/06	Criminal Damage	Bishops Waltham
16/11/06	Theft	Bishops Waltham
17/11/06	Criminal Damage	Bishops Waltham
17/11/06	Arson	Bishops Waltham
17/11/06	Theft	Bishops Waltham
17/11/06	Criminal Damage	Bishops Waltham
18/11/06	Criminal Damage	Bishops Waltham
19/11/06	Theft from a vehicle	Bishops Waltham

Table 7 shows that there are other crimes taking place other than malicious fire ignition, especially within Bishops Waltham. Again this succeeds in emphasizing that when considering updating the current CCTV system within Winchester, the more rural parts of the city should be considered along with the city centre.

Although it can be identified that some areas of Bishops Waltham have CCTV, it has also been suggested that they are ineffective for technical reasons; (see 2.4 for further analysis) therefore, an update of current technology to render the existing cameras effective is needed. At the very least the data has shown that some of the more rural areas of Winchester suffer from criminal behavior as well as the city centre and therefore should not be overlooked when considering the renewal and updating of the current CCTV system.

4: Problems and Possible Solutions

There have been additional picture feeds to the original CCTV control room which now monitors images from Park and Ride, British Rail, Hampshire County Council ROMANSE traffic system and The Brooks Shopping Centre (a private company provision with its own mini centre but switched to Winchester City Councils control room after trading hours). It is suggested that the technical link with some of these systems such as the ability to move or change the camera view is very limited thus hindering their effectiveness hugely. Therefore it would seem sensible to improve the technical link between the systems to the central CCTV control room.

Until recently, the CCTV control room received images from a total of 152 cameras. This however has now been reduced to 141 as a result of Colebrook Street City Offices System. This system although a modern digital system, is not monitored and the building is unstaffed after hours. Quite simply this would indicate that any incident occurring after hours goes unseen, although still recorded.

In addition, there was a more recent attempt to place car park/street cameras in the town of Bishops Waltham. This provision took advantage of more modern technology but appeared ill advised as to the compatibility and provision of the images to the CCTV room, thus it failed for technical reasons. These problems could not be overcome with reasonable cost and therefore the images are now sent elsewhere, where the likelihood of

monitoring is unknown. This example clearly re emphasizes Gill and Spriggs (2005) point that CCTV will only be effective if the balance between CCTV technology, the CCTV control room and how both are managed is crucial to the success or failure of the CCTV system. (Gill and Spriggs 2005: 116).

As previously identified, there is much room for improvement within Winchester in terms of the type of technology available and the amount available and the positioning of the cameras themselves. For example, it would seem that there is growing concern over growing foliage which has increased in scale over the years. This has a detrimental effect on what can be seen by the existing system when the trees are in full leaf, meaning that vulnerable areas such as the children's play area within Abbey Park cannot be monitored. In addition, public behavior such as drug dealing, anti social behavior and also drinking in the Alcohol Exclusion zone can occur in spaces that cannot be monitored successfully.

In addition to this, there is concern over the positioning of the fixed cameras throughout Winchester, especially within the car parks. These could be usefully replaced by fewer, moveable models. There is also scope in the main high street, the site of the original thrust in 1997 where all cameras are somewhat inflexibly on the same side of the street, this causes in many cases unnecessary overlaps.

As previously identified the present CCTV system within Winchester dates from 1997 and is life expired. Although there is the ongoing replacement of equipment as it fails, the standard of viewing, recording and retrieval fall well below current available standards. One possible solution would be to update the current CCTV cameras to be contained within domed housing. This is where cameras are incased within a dome shape, the purpose of which is to make it very difficult for the public to know which direction the camera is facing, the idea being that any one carrying out an action will be unaware of the camera position or feel confident that it is facing the other way.

5: Conclusions and Recommendations

It is difficult to gauge the effectiveness of CCTV generally. As Gill and Spriggs (2005) would seem to suggest, it is difficult to assess the effectiveness of CCTV as the systems themselves and the way that these systems are managed vary greatly. Also it must be taken into consideration that the effectiveness of CCTV can only be fully assessed if whoever has a system in place has outlined the exact purpose of the system and identified exactly why the system has been installed.

It has been suggested that in terms of a means of preventing and reducing crime, there is no solid proof that CCTV is effective. However, it could be argued that this is not necessarily the fault of the system itself but rather a question of suitable management on behalf of those operating the system. Indeed the relationship between the CCTV camera and those operating it is key to its success or failure. In addition the relationship between CCTV operations staff and external organizations such as the police is also key in the detection and arrest of individuals and also prosecution.

Within Winchester it has been identified that CCTV has been of use in the detection and arrest of those committing crime and anti social behavior within the city centre in particular. The data examined has shown that CCTV operators and the relationship that they have with organizations such as the police and shopwatch has been a crucial factor in the successful detection of those committing crime. It could be argued that without the CCTV system in place, many of the crimes listed particularly in tables 1-3 would have gone undetected. In addition, police officers themselves have supported the use of CCTV within Winchester and the overall impression gained is that CCTV is a useful tool in the working lives of police officers when dealing with smaller crimes such as anti social behavior but also larger crimes such as drug dealing and rape.

Although it could be suggested that the CCTV control room operators within Winchester have a reasonable relationship with the police and make good use of what they have in

place, it may be fair comment that they are restricted as to their capabilities. This however could be improved by considering the points raised in (4) of this report. Based on the data obtained this report finds that the following recommendations be taken into consideration when considering an update of the current CCTV system within Winchester.

- The cameras themselves could be updated and a more modern system. The current analogue system is past its life expectancy and although as identified, parts are replaced as and when they need to be, it may be fair to suggest that in the long term, this may not be cost effective and also may hinder the usefulness of CCTV as a crime prevention and detection measure that could be made more successful and reliable with more modern, advanced equipment.
- In addition to the updating of the cameras themselves, sensible logic would suggest that the CCTV control room should follow suit. It would seem sensible based on the findings that there is scope for a purpose built CCTV control room with room for expansion. It may also be fair to suggest that all Winchester City Council CCTV cameras be centralized and controlled under the suggested purpose built CCTV control room in the interests of efficiency and the health and safety of the public and WCC employees. However this may not be possible with the current limited number of operators, although sensible deduction would link together all CCTV functions to provide the best possible service at the most economical price.
- As identified, some of the cameras are rendered ineffective within Winchester as they are restricted by light (or lack of it) or objects such as trees/shrubs. Therefore careful consideration is needed when deciding where to put new cameras or reposition current cameras. Indeed it has been identified that many of the cameras images overlap each other because of their positioning, this would seem to be a waste of a potentially effective resource.
- It is worth taking into consideration that any move to update the current system should ideally coincide with other crime prevention measures. A good example of

one such measure as identified within this report is the Alcohol Exclusion Zone within Winchester city centre.

- When considering all of the above points, it needs to be noted that there should be a good and sufficient level of expertise available to guide any such CCTV updates.
- This report although not conclusively proving that CCTV reduces or prevents crime has shown that it can be a valuable tool in helping to do so. However it can be identified that in terms of reducing the fear of crime within Winchester, this report is severely restricted. Therefore it is proposed that a survey is carried out amongst residents and visitors to the city with regards to their experiences and perceptions of CCTV. As an example the proposed survey may include the following questions:

Q1 Does your nearest town/city centre have CCTV?

Yes

No

Don't know

Q2 Would/does CCTV make you feel safer?

Yes

No

Don't know

Q3 Do you think CCTV has reduced the amount of crime and disorder in Winchester?

Yes

No

Don't know

Although not proving out rightly that CCTV is completely effective at reducing and preventing crime within Winchester, it can be identified that it has shown potential and

benefit to this cause. Whether or not it has reduced the fear of crime within Winchester is a question that needs further analysis, indeed it would be ill conceived to make assumptions at this stage.

It must be taken into consideration that the problems experienced with CCTV within Winchester are by no means unique and are common difficulties associated with many CCTV initiatives. Gill and Spriggs (2005) suggest that much of the problem stems from asking too much from only one crime prevention measure;

'Too much should not be expected of CCTV. It is more than just a technical solution; it requires human intervention to work to maximum efficiency and the problems it helps deal with are complex. It has potential, if properly managed, often alongside other measures, and in response to specific problems, to help reduce crime and to boost the public's feeling of safety; and it can generate other benefits. For these to be achieved though, there needs to be greater recognition that reducing and preventing crime is not easy.' (Gill and Spriggs 2005: 121).

Therefore instead of condemning the current system, further consideration should be given as to how we maximise the systems full potential by building on the ideas raised and the recommendations within this report.

Reference

Gill. M., Spriggs. A. (2005). *Assessing the Impacts of CCTV*. Home Office Research Study 292.