

Downend CCTV Public Consultation

7th February 2020 – 27th March 2020

www.southglos.gov.uk

Background

Due to higher levels of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) around Downend High Street and the surrounding areas over the last 4 years, Downend Parish Council would like to look at CCTV as a tool for tackling the issue.

Downend Parish Council has approved the idea in principle, and is willing to fund the installation of a CCTV system, however before making a final decision, South Gloucestershire Council is keen to hear from local businesses and residents on how they feel about the proposal.

Assessing the need for CCTV

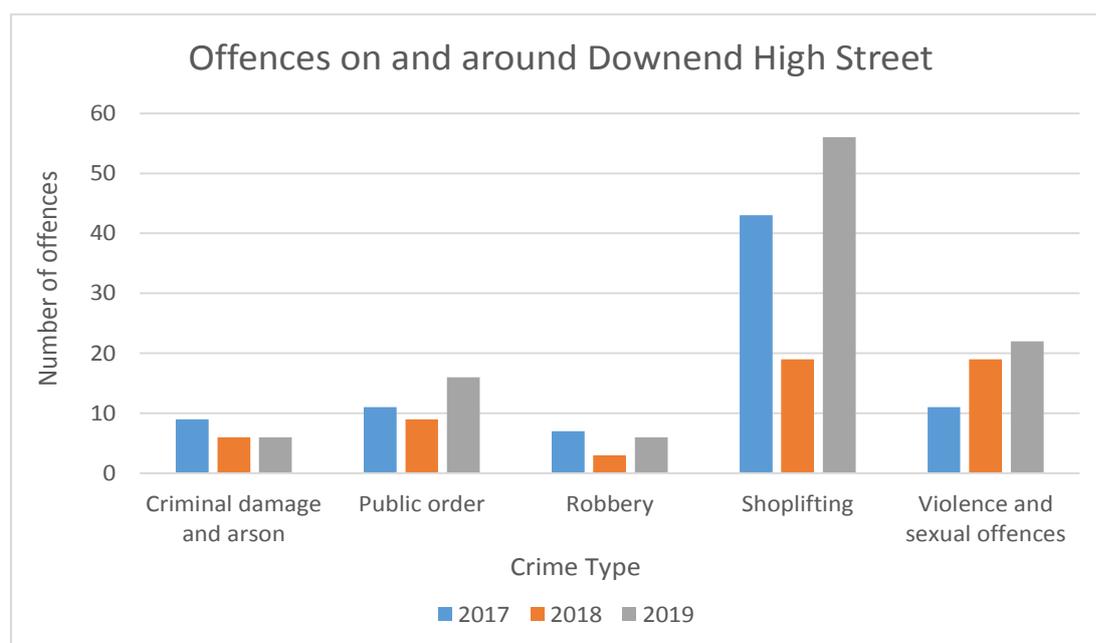
Any CCTV installed must follow the government's surveillance camera code of practice and its 12 guiding principles. These balance protecting the public and upholding civil liberties. To find out more detail please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/surveillance-camera-code-of-practice>

The principles help determine whether there is a specified purpose, legitimate aim, and pressing need for such a CCTV system within Downend High St or whether this can be tackled by other measures.

We have therefore collated and reviewed police crime and incident data from the High St area between January 2017 and December 2019. The results of this data reflect a prevalence of a range of crime types, including shoplifting and public order offences, which could be more effectively tackled through the use of CCTV. These types of crimes are similar to those seen in Hanham, which currently supports a CCTV system and has a similar size night time economy.

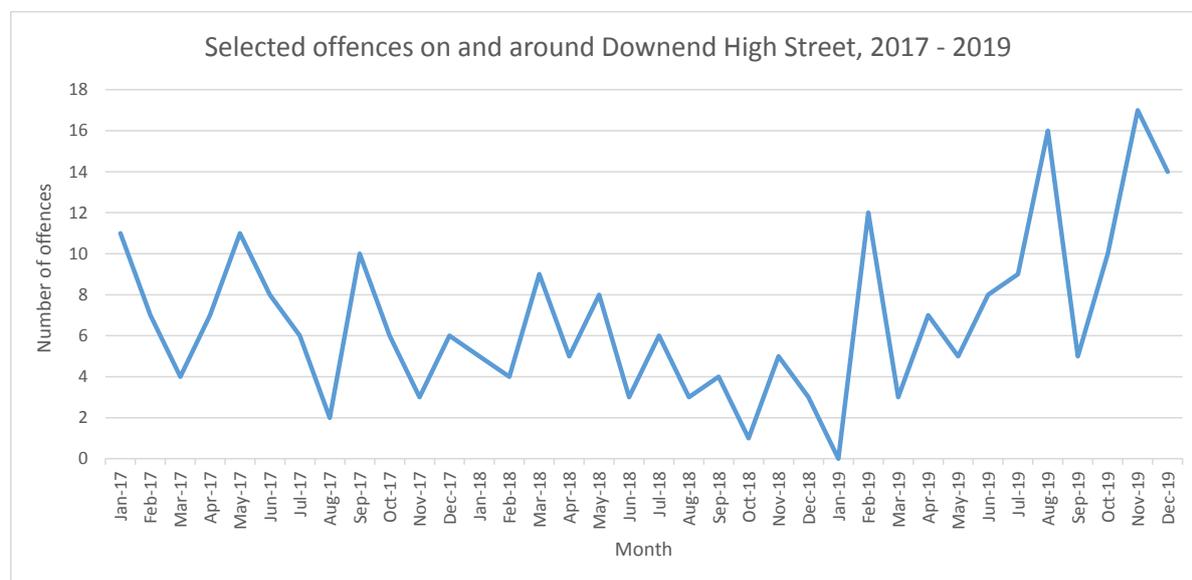
Fig 1: Selected disorder offences on and around Downend High Street, 2017-2019



Source: data.police.uk

Based on the evidence presented to date, Downend High St has seen an increase in offences on and around the High Street, providing the basis for the installation of a CCTV system in Downend in order to assist the Police and Council in their statutory responsibilities in the prevention and detection of crime and disorder.

Fig 2: Selected disorder offences on and around Downend High Street, 2017-2019



Source: data.police.uk

In September 2018 the Local Policing Support Team carried out a Crime Reduction Survey in the Willow Centre (situated just off the High St) and Downend High St itself. The survey highlighted the growing concerns of ASB in the area and the following recommendation for CCTV:

“CCTV - Whilst most of the retail premises have their own CCTV there does seem to be a case due to the nature of the ASB instances and the Night Time Economy in the area for the consideration of a public CCTV System. The system should cover the main problem areas and should be included in the South Gloucestershire Council CCTV monitoring arrangements”

Proposal

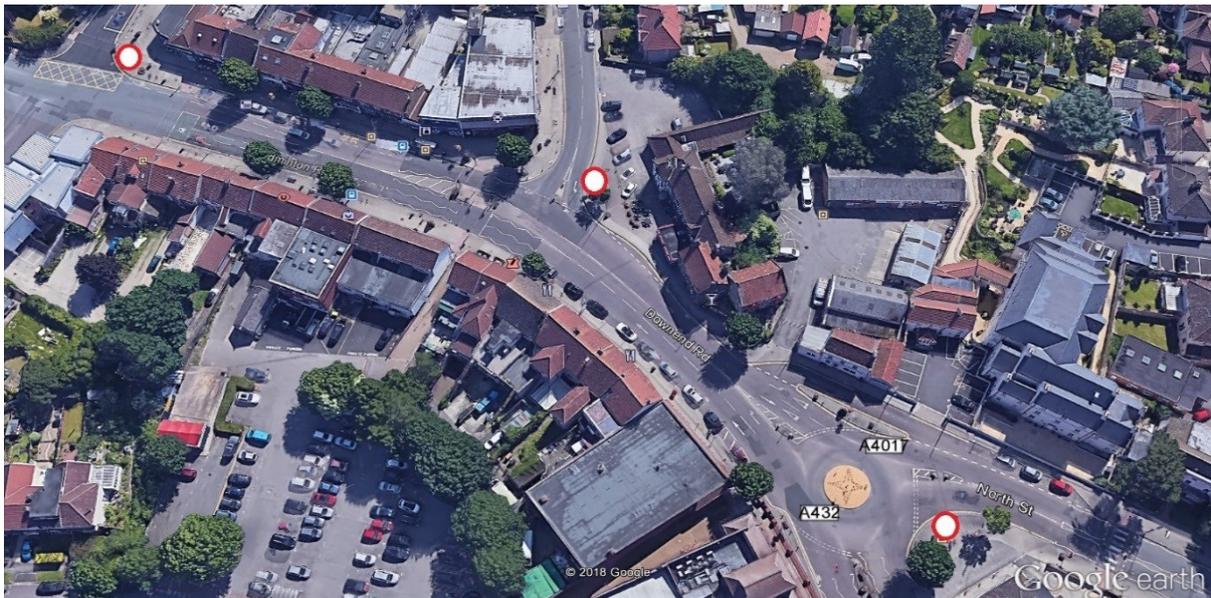
The Council and its partners observe the obligations imposed by the Human Rights Act 1998, and consider that the use of CCTV in South Gloucestershire is a necessary, proportionate and suitable tool to help reduce crime, reduce the fear of crime and improve public safety.

The objectives of the CCTV system which form the lawful basis for the processing of data are:

- to assist in the prevention, investigation and/or detection of crime
- to assist in the apprehension and/or prosecution of offenders
- to deter anti-social behaviour offences against personal and property

- to prevent and reduce anti-social behaviour
- to enhance community safety
- to provide a safe environment for people who live, work and visit the area

In order to ensure the CCTV system is compatible with the wider Community Safety system, we would install an Internet Protocol CCTV system (digital cameras which send their information via the internet) using **3 Pan-Tilt-Zoom cameras** (capable of remote directional and zoom control), at key locations along the main High Street, as shown by the red and white dots in the map below. The images from each camera would be transmitted to the Bristol Operations Centre for monitoring purposes.



How will it be paid for?

The total installation cost is approximately £30,000 with ongoing costs of approximately £10,000 per annum.

Downend & Bromley Heath Parish Council have agreed to utilise the balance of their Community Infrastructure Levy contribution towards this project and will fund the installation costs in full.

South Gloucestershire Council have agreed to fund the ongoing maintenance and monitoring costs which will be incorporated in to the existing Community Safety CCTV funding.

How will the CCTV system sit with the wider Community Safety CCTV Network?

The existing CCTV system consists of CCTV cameras in Kingswood, Staple Hill, Thornbury, Hanham, Filton, Chipping Sodbury and Cadbury Heath. These cameras are integrated onto a fibre-optic network and are proactively monitored 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

The CCTV system in Downend High Street will be incorporated in to this existing Community Safety CCTV network and meet the same specifications in regards to image quality and Pan, Tilt, Zoom capabilities.

In partnership with Avon and Somerset Constabulary SGC also operate a state-of-the-art review suite to monitor activity throughout South Gloucestershire and where evidential footage from the CCTV cameras can be viewed and investigated by authorised officers. It is proposed that the CCTV system in Downend will also form part of this service.

Next steps

South Gloucestershire Council will run a 7 week public consultation from **Friday 7th February until Friday 27th March**, to provide an opportunity for local individuals or businesses to comment on the how the usage of Community Safety CCTV within Downend High St may affect their day to day life.

Following the consultation, a decision is likely to be made in the summer of 2020, and if the council agrees to the proposal, CCTV installation would likely happen around autumn 2020

How to find out more and have your say

- Complete the online survey
- Visit our webpage for the above links, a PDF copy of the survey and the initial equalities impact assessment
- Email: Consultation@southglos.gov.uk
- Write to: *South Gloucestershire Council, Corporate Research & Consultation Team, Council offices, Badminton Road, Yate, Bristol, BS37 5AF*
- Phone: 01454 868154
- Attend the resident and stakeholder engagement **drop-in event**, where you can hear what we are looking to achieve from the scheme & give your feedback: **15:30 – 18:30 on Monday 9th March at Downend Folk House Association**, (in Page Room on the Ground Floor), Lincombe Barn, Overndale Road, Downend, Bristol, BS16 2RW