

CRAMLINGTON, BEDLINGTON & SEATON VALLEY LAC

DATE: 17TH NOVEMBER 2021

Response to Petition for CCTV on Mill Lane, Seghill

Report of Head of Housing & Public Protection

Cabinet Member: Colin Horncastle

Purpose of report

Following receipt of a petition: to report on the use of CCTV cameras and other measures to reduce fly tipping at Mill Lane, Seghill.

Recommendations

1. To continue with current methods of using deployable CCTV equipment to investigate fly tipping events.
2. Investigate options to undertake target hardening of the location to prevent vehicle access.

Link to Corporate Plan

This report is relevant to the “Keeping Our Communities Safe and Well” priority included in the NCC Corporate Plan 2018-2021

Key issues

1. The petition submitted is requesting CCTV to be placed onto Mill Lane, Seghill with a view to preventing further offences, including fly tipping.
2. The Lane itself is such that if only one camera were placed to cover a specific area, then that would only displace the incidents to another location along the Lane.
3. It is estimated that, whilst four cameras could be placed at regular intervals along the Lane to cover the whole length, at least six cameras would be required to cover all events with enough detail to be used as evidence if a prosecution were to be progressed and successful.
4. This amount of equipment and resource required to maintain and supervise the deployment will incur additional costs, for which there is no current budget to do so.
5. Use and deployment of existing deployable cameras will also have a detrimental impact on the ability of the council to respond to other requests associated with crime and ASB in other parts of the county.
6. Seaton Valley Council cannot assist as they have no budget for this activity.
7. Past use of covert camera recording equipment by the Environmental Enforcement Team has been successful. Last year such cameras were used, and 2 incidents were successfully concluded with the offenders being issued with a Fixed Penalty

Notice for a £400 fine each. The same tactic during August resulted in the seizure of a vehicle used in 2 of the incidents. The hope is that a successful prosecution will be obtained, and the vehicle forfeited resulting in publicity to deter future offenders.

8. A further option for consideration, could be 'having the area target hardened' to prevent vehicular access with a gate or barrier at each end allowing necessary traffic for the farmland, horses, and pedestrians but preventing its use as a short cut which is obviously open to abuse from opportunist fly-tippers.

Background

At the time of this report in 2021 the Seghill area overall has had 49 Reports of Fly-Tipping incidents.

The main area of concern historically and most recently is Mill Lane a single carriageway road which runs from the west side of the village for approximately 0.7 Miles to the A189 southbound carriageway.

Mill Lane itself has had 19 Fly-Tipping incidents reported so far this year.

The incidents are mainly of household or construction and demolition waste which are brought to the site by a vehicle and dumped throughout the length of the Lane.

Incidents are reported to the area Neighbourhood Waste Teams and the Environmental Enforcement Team who between them investigate each illegal deposit and try and identify either the origin of the waste or the person who dumped it.

If a pattern develops where a particular area is targeted, then consideration will be given to the placement of covert camera recording equipment which will hopefully catch the culprit in the act. In order to do this NCC must adhere to the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) which ensures that the deployment is lawful and proportionate to the offending that is taking place.

Last year such cameras were used, and 2 incidents were successfully concluded with the offenders being issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice for a £400 fine each.

This year we have also used the same tactic during August which has resulted in the seizure of a vehicle used in 2 of the incidents. The hope is that a successful prosecution will be obtained, and the vehicle forfeited resulting in publicity to deter future offenders.

A further option for consideration for Mill Lane itself however could be 'having the area target hardened' at a much cheaper cost to prevent vehicular access with a gate or barrier at each end allowing necessary traffic for the farmland, horses, and pedestrians but preventing its use as a short cut which is obviously open to abuse from opportunist fly-tippers.

Implications

Policy	no
Finance and value for money	Yes – Local Services budget would be needed for target hardening
Legal	Use of statutory powers
Procurement	no
Human Resources	no
Property	no
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	no
Risk Assessment	no
Crime & Disorder	yes
Customer Consideration	no
Carbon reduction	no
Health and Wellbeing	no
Wards	Seghill only

Authors must ensure that officers and members have agreed the content of the report:

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