



During the Halesworth Parish Meeting held September 2018, the topic of CCTV was brought up by a member of the public. During the discussion, Halesworth Town Council asked the attending residents whether or not they support the use of CCTV in Halesworth. The response was overwhelming in support of cameras in the town centre. An HTC working group was set up to investigate CCTV and report back to Council with recommendations.



Halesworth, similar to other local towns, has seen a reduction in the number of Police monitoring the area. It is not possible to replace police with CCTV, but if it is installed effectively and gives a reasonable resolution, it does act as a deterrent to crime.

Halesworth is a small, quiet market town where crime rate is low. Police figures show that the largest element of disruption in Halesworth is due to anti-social behaviour, (ASB). Although the use of CCTV will not eliminate crime, it is intended to act as a deterrent.

This technology also has the potential to allow the Police to enforce traffic restrictions in the Thoroughfare.

Data obtained from the Halesworth Police website for the period of December 2017 to November 2018, and the related area to the data is shown opposite and, in the table, below. The number of report crimes totals 67.

Data has been taken for an area from Rectory Street, down the Thoroughfare including the car park, the top of Chediston Street, the Market Place, Angel Link and London Road. The area proposed for CCTV will include the Thoroughfare, The Market Place, London Road and entrances to the Park. If CCTV can deter offences that generally apply to anti-social behaviour, violence / sexual offences, public order and criminal damage, it may be possible to influence 75% of all crime in Halesworth within this area.

Businesses naturally take precautions to reduce their risks and some retailers have already installed CCTV inside their

Crime Area	Total	%age	
Thoroughfare, Market Place London Road, Park.			
Anti-social behaviour	19	28%	75%
Public order	11	16%	
Violence and sexual offences	11	16%	
Criminal damage and arson	9	13%	
Shoplifting	5	7%	25%
Other crime	4	6%	
Other theft	4	6%	
Possession of weapons	2	3%	
Robbery	1	1%	
Vehicle crime	1	1%	
Bicycle theft	0	0%	
Burglary	0	0%	
Drugs	0	0%	
Theft from the person	0	0%	

premises. Shoplifting is the responsibility of the retailers, but adding CCTV to the Thoroughfare would supplement their CCTV equipment and significantly help the Police in criminal prosecutions.

The CCTV system installed will be able to be expanded with additional cameras and associated equipment. For instance, this would allow Saxons Way and / or Quay Street to be included, if and when, it was deemed necessary and funds were available.

Since CCTV is used in public places, notices need to be displayed, advising the public that CCTV is in operation. The signs will be displayed on all entrances of the CCTV area.

The proposal is that the CCTV will be funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy paid by developers.

HTC has been in consultation with Suffolk Police regarding the use of CCTV. It has been given their full support. Communication received from Inspector Mark Jackson said, "I am supportive of the initiative. CCTV has been used in other towns and continues to be an effective tool to prevent and detect crime".

If you have any questions, concerns or comments, please contact the Clerk at Halesworth Town Council, e-mail - clerk@halesworthtowncouncil.org.uk.