

**NOTES FROM PUBLIC MEETING  
HELD ON 11TH JANUARY 2013  
TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBLE INSTALLATION OF CCTV**

The Town Mayor Councillor June Newman welcomed everyone to the meeting which was being held in order to discuss the possibility of citing a CCTV camera on the Town Green.

Cllr Newman went on to explain that the Town Council had received numerous complaints about antisocial behaviour on The Green , usually late at night or in the early hours of the morning , ranging from noise and foul language to vandalism and leaving broken glass , cans and other litter . All of this causing disturbance and distress to residents and visitors, in some cases causing visitors to cut short their stay .

Cllr Newman had obtained a quote for the type of camera that would be admissible as evidence in court in cases of prosecution which was in the region of £2,700, then gave a brief outline of the possible advantages and disadvantages of having CCTV.

Possible advantages	Deterrent to antisocial behaviour Effective 24 hours a day Footage could be used as evidence In addition to 'phoning 101, reports could be made to members of the TC who could take action.
---------------------	--

Possible disadvantages	Cost of initial installation and on-going maintenance Displacement of antisocial behaviour Invasion of privacy
------------------------	--

Cllr Newman pointed out that there are already cameras in operation in some businesses in town and mentioned the possibility of using CCTV in conjunction with PCSO's, she also said that if CCTV is deemed not to be the answer to the problem of antisocial behaviour, then we need to come up with an alternative solution, or accept the situation as it is.

Cllr Newman introduced Chief Superintendent Steve Hughson and said how much he had helped Llanwrtyd over a long period of time.

C/S Hughson said that he was local to the area and that he was keen to come to Llanwrtyd to offer advice as he acknowledges that smaller towns/villages need just as much support as larger ones. He went on to say that although there have not been many reports of incidents, that doesn't mean that they aren't happening and that he appreciated the impact that antisocial behaviour can have. He said that it is up to the community to decide what the scale of the problem is and how they want to deal with it and that the Police are happy to help the TC and the community to find a solution. He emphasized the importance of reporting any incident , whether CCTV is installed or not and said that people could 'phone 101 for anything that wasn't an emergency but of course could still 'phone 999 for anything that was .

Inspectors Stuart Eckley and Lucy Bassett (who are experienced at dealing with antisocial behaviour) joined the meeting.

Cllr Newman invited questions from residents, some of which (together with answers) are listed below.

Q. If noise is caused by people leaving pubs, should the licensee be addressing the problem?

A. Although alcohol can be a contributory factor, the source of the alcohol is not the problem.

Q. Given the expense of installing CCTV, would it not be better to encourage people to report antisocial behaviour to the Police?

A. The TC can meet the cost of installation but of course CCTV will only be an effective deterrent when used in conjunction with reports of incidents.

Q. As the problem seems to be more prevalent during the summer, is it possible to attribute it to people coming for “events” rather than locals?

A. There can be incidents during events but not always. If CCTV were in place, it would assist the Police in apprehending offenders, be they local or visitors.

Q. If CCTV and relevant signage was installed, would that not present Llanwrtyd in a bad light and tarnish its special image?

A. The presence of CCTV would not suggest that Llanwrtyd is a bad place and unfortunately, its special image has already been tarnished by disgruntled visitors reporting how their stay was spoiled on social media.

Q. Would it not be preferable to try and halt antisocial behaviour by having a quiet word with the perpetrators?

A. In some cases yes but there have been occasions when Councillors have tried to talk to youths about their behaviour and been met with abuse.

Q. If the CCTV camera was focused on The Green would that not just result in the problem moving elsewhere?

A. Unfortunately displacement is always an issue, which makes reporting of incidents even more important.

Other comments made during the meeting:

- The necessary signage should be as discreet as legitimately possible.
- Would more organised activities for younger people help alleviate the problem?
- The power of social networking should not be underestimated and uncomplimentary comments attached to businesses can remain there for a considerable time.
- Councillors who have used 101 have reported a positive experience with prompt feedback. There was a mention of concern re the cost of using 101.
- It was apparent that some attendees were unaware of the nature and scale of the problem.

C/S Hughson asked to hear more from people whose businesses had been affected by antisocial behaviour and was told how Hotel and B&B proprietors have had to apologise to guests and have even had visitors who have checked out and vowed never to return to Llanwrtyd.

C/S Hughson said that if residents could identify any of the culprits, they should tell the Police who could go and talk to them; this in itself is often a deterrent.

Cllr Newman thanked everyone for coming and said that she thought the meeting had been very productive and invited residents to put their thoughts (for and against CCTV) on the back of their list of pros and cons, which she could take to the next TC meeting for discussion.

A show of hands was requested which resulted in approximately 1/3 FOR, 1/3 AGAINST and 1/3 UNSURE.

Inspector Eckley later asked Cllr Newman to supply him with dates for future events and said that he would try to ensure a greater Police presence on these occasions.

Cllr Carol Prichard  
13/01/2013