

Feedback received by email from residents:

These comments have been copied directly from the emails received.

"I am unable to attend the meeting on 11.08.26 but I wish it to be known that I have no objection to cameras."

I am installing cameras at my house."

“Having just read your post about cctv in the woodland trust to combat anti social behaviour I would like to offer my thoughts. As I resident in the parish, a lifetime member of the woodland trust and someone who uses and values our spaces I feel I need to support what you are doing.

I have spent 30 years in Kent police and retire this month. I have experience within community safety having worked within Maidstone CSU, response policing, neighbourhood policing, high risk critical and firearms command to reference just a few of the roles which have given me the knowledge I have.

Whilst overt CCTV can support a reduction in ASB through a visible deterrent the overt nature means it is obvious and our parish is vast, the woodland trust is vast and you cannot have eyes everywhere. It does however compliment covert cctv. Covert cctv is used to good effect by councils in the uk and brings with it evidence used for prosecution and diversion.

The very nature of covert CCTV should not be discussed in an open forum and any discussions should be limited to a select few.

There are legislative considerations to consider and I would recommend speaking with

[REDACTED] a Bearsted resident, and [REDACTED] like me has 30 years experience in law enforcement however specialising in covert surveillance amongst many others. He advises and supplies councils across the country and provides effective solutions for exactly this type of issue. It is not something that can be widely advertised as the techniques are by their very nature covert.”

"I am long term member and always follow the latest news regarding the BWT."

I am certain, that if a go fund me could be setup to help raise the cost of CCTV to curb the recent rise of anti social behaviour, that many locals would contribute.

People like myself, that work full time, cannot contribute with our time - but we can rally around and contribute financially to play our part.

Just a suggestion."

“Sadly security cameras are now so commonplace that the personal liberty argument is no longer sustainable. If there is sufficient evidence that they would be an effective deterrent here - and affordable - then in principle I would support their installation provided they are set up in a way which protects the privacy of

neighbouring property.

Do we know what effect the cameras in the car park have had? I see they did help catch the lads doing wheelies)? I see Headcorn has recorded a 25% drop in ASB. How do the sites where they have been put in place compare with Bearsted's hotspots? For example, Church Landway is a long and isolated stretch to cover. BWT sprawls across 28 acres. Do the police see this as the way forward? I assume there will be input from them in the papers which are published online ahead of the meeting.

We know their visits have already been effective at disrupting potential ASB. As they seem unable to offer more than current levels of cover might BPC consider employing their own wardens at specific hours of peak ASB activity?

I would welcome action to tackle this growing problem. But I think fixed cameras have their limitations."

"While I applaud the Parish Council's efforts to do something about antisocial behaviour,

I do not currently support the use of CCTV for this. There is very little evidence that CCTV is effective as a deterrent (1, 2). Indeed, the rise in antisocial behaviour over the past years has been correlated with an increase in CCTV coverage, suggesting that the latter has no effect on the former.

Where CCTV is effective, it is for identification of offenders and supporting enforcement. I may be more supportive if those arguing for it were to say that they were working with police and the limiting factor was that offenders cannot be identified. From the council's Facebook post, it appears that this might be the case and the argument, but that case needs to be properly made.

While we're on the topic, I would like the council to look at cases of antisocial behaviour and property damage on the Green connected to the White Horse pub and its events, and ask the council to push for a licence review to reduce the likelihood of these incidents.

I personally believe that we're far better off as a society dealing with the causes rather than the effects. To that end, I volunteer with the Scouts and we try to create a place where young people feel they belong to their community and where they're kept engaged. If there's time at the meeting to make people aware of our offering and encourage those who can to volunteer and help us offer this to more young people, that would be much appreciated!"

"For what it's worth, I'd be in huge favour of CCTV being installed within the parish to help combat the rise in ASB we have been witnessing. The Woodland Trust, The Green and local shops and the "main" roads/junctions would be my suggestions.

I cannot be at the meeting due to holiday but hope it is a productive one."