



Dartmoor Forest Parish Council

Princetown CCTV Policy – Frequently Asked Questions

- **Why has CCTV been installed in the village?** During snowy & icy conditions; Princetown, is visited at night, by car drivers who use the conditions to race their cars, perform stunts and drive significantly in excess of safe, legal speeds. This anti-social behaviour endangers the people, property and peaceful existence of the parish. This activity has significantly affected the residents of Princetown for a number of years. The purpose of the CCTV system is to deter and detect this activity.
- **What alternatives to CCTV did the parish council consider?**

Police Officers: The council have always asked the Police to attend to apprehend those responsible. Devon and Cornwall Police advise that they will always try and attend to reports of this behaviour, however there are often many other urgent calls that they need to prioritise. They also have significantly less Police Officers available in our area.

Traffic Calming: Devon Highways advise that they did not believe traffic calming measures would act as a deterrent and could cause other issues. Speed bumps can cause car drivers to speed between each set of bumps, resulting in noise pollution and further dangerous driving, and can cause issues for the effective use of snow ploughs. Similarly, the use of chicanes and road narrowing measures were not encouraged as it was felt that this would be attractive to the type of driver already driving dangerously in the village.
- **How did the parish council consult with local residents?** To try and understand the scale and impact of the issue, in May 2018 the parish council surveyed local residents and received over 40 responses, demonstrating the level of disruption and concern this behaviour caused. Responses were shared at a meeting on 18th June 2018 with representatives from Devon & Cornwall Police, the Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner, Devon County Council and West Devon Borough Council (WDBC). In December 2018, the parish council wrote to residents in Princetown and advised that they were looking into installing a CCTV system. A public meeting, seeking residents' views was held on 18th September 2019. This meeting was advertised through posters in prominent locations in Princetown and on social media. Progress on the project has been reported through the parish council. Details of the proposals have been published in the local newspaper The Princetown Times, in October 2019 and further updates in November 2020 and January 2021. In addition, awareness of the project has been raised through the local community by fundraising events, including a 'crowd funder' and quiz night attended by over 70 people.
- **Have the Police been involved?** Devon & Cornwall Police have been regularly consulted about the CCTV plans and are in full support. They have advised the parish council that if they have evidence of cars being driven dangerously then they can take the matter further. In addition, WDBC can also issue 'Community Protection Notices'. These are written warnings, issued to drivers of vehicles reported to be causing nuisance, anti-social and sub-criminal behaviour.

- **Who is responsible for the CCTV system?** The CCTV system is owned and operated by the parish council and deployment is determined by the Parish Clerk under guidance from the Council. The CCTV footage is reviewed remotely by the Council as necessary.
- **What is the CCTV system?** The system comprises a number of fixed cameras. No systems have sound recording capability. All systems are of a High-Definition quality and include Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) capabilities. The cameras are not monitored live. The cameras are recording 24 hours/day, every day of the year.
- **Who paid for the CCTV system?** The parish council raised the funds for the system, which included donations from residents and grants from Dartmoor National Park, the Duchy of Cornwall and Devon County Council. The parish council has not used the money it receives from the precept (council tax) for this scheme.
- **Do I still need to report incidents to 101?** Yes. It is important that the Police receive details of all anti-social behaviour and dangerous driving in the village.
- **Will this help deter other crimes?** The CCTV system could also act as a deterrent to other crimes including vehicle theft, vandalism, anti-social behaviour and burglary. It will also provide reassurance to the public and provide an effective means of detecting crime and assisting the Police in identifying offenders.
- **How did you choose the locations for the cameras?** It was important with limited funds that the council made sure it got value for money. The company chosen to install the cameras, who are experts in supporting local councils, recommended where they should be located. This is to ensure maximum coverage of the problem areas and cars are detected entering the main roads into the village. If there are reports of dangerous driving on side roads it can be identified when they were in the village and information passed on to the Police for follow up action. With the cameras and appropriate signage, it is hoped that Princetown will be seen as a no-go area in the future.
- **Who do I contact to find out more information?** Please speak to any of your parish councillors or contact the Parish Clerk. All contact details can be found here: <https://www.dartmoorforestparishcouncil.gov.uk/members.php>. Also, the full parish council CCTV policy can be found here: <https://www.dartmoorforestparishcouncil.gov.uk/documents.php>