



NEWS RELEASE

FROM

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL

CCTV in Sandy

20.12.2013

Sandy Town Council is reviewing the value for money of its CCTV provision in the town. Community safety is a high priority for the Town Council but at a meeting on 25 November 2013 questions were asked by Town Councillors about the cost and efficiency of the surveillance service currently provided by Hertfordshire CCTV Partnership which will cost Sandy Town Council over £22,000 this year.

There are 7 permanent fixed publicly owned CCTV cameras in Sandy. Three are funded by Central Bedfordshire Council and 4 by Sandy Town Council. The Town Council's cameras cover the Town Centre Car Park, Bedford Road Recreation Ground, the Jenkins Pavilion and the skate park at Sunderland Road Recreation Ground. The Town Council also has a mobile redeployable camera. During the period 1 January 2013 to 16 December 2013 footage from these 8 cameras was requested on 34 occasions and this resulted in one arrest. But only 7 of the 34 requests were for footage from Town Council owned cameras.

The Town Council is now contacting local community safety agencies as well as Bedfordshire Police and the local community to seek views on whether this is a good way to spend council tax payers' money.

Mayor Susan Sutton said "We need to consider every item of expenditure in our 2014/15 budget very carefully. Our tax base has been reduced by council tax benefit reforms and Central Bedfordshire Council is refusing to pass on to us any of the Central Government funding it receives which is specifically designed to compensate us for this loss. We are scrutinizing all our services to see where savings can most sensibly be made and we are keen to hear the views of the public and law enforcement agencies." ENDS

For further information contact:

Delia Shephard

Town Clerk

Sandy Town Council

10 Cambridge Road

SANDY SG19 1JE

Telephone: 01767-681491 Fax: 01767-692527

Email: admin@sandytowncouncil.gov.uk

