



AHPC CCTV Project Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

13th August 2026
V1.02

The following FAQ will hopefully answer many of the questions arising from AHPC's decision to look at provision of CCTV within Aspley Heath. If you have any questions that are not answered here then please speak to any member of the parish council or email the AHPC Clerk with your questions and we will endeavour to answer them for you – the email address is clerk@aspleyheath.org.uk

RATIONALE FOR INSTALLING CCTV

Why does AHPC want to install CCTV?

AHPC is acting on the request of residents who are concerned at the increasing crime and anti-social behaviour within Aspley Heath and who feel CCTV would benefit our community.

What does AHPC think CCTV will achieve?

We believe it will act as a deterrent to criminals looking to commit crimes in Aspley Heath and that it will discourage anti-social behaviour. We believe it will also provide reassurance to the community and make them feel safer. Importantly, it will capture video footage that may prove useful to the relevant bodies such as the police in their investigations of suspicious, criminal or anti-social behaviour occurring within Aspley Heath.

Isn't the presence of Blueline security enough – why do we also need CCTV?

Contracting of and funding for Blueline is a private initiative undertaken on a purely voluntary basis by a number of local residents. It is not funded by AHPC although we recognise the valuable service that Blueline provides the community. Nonetheless, despite this and the fact that many residents have felt the benefits, the voluntary nature of the funding means that the hours of coverage are extremely small, much smaller than

everyone would like. If AHPC were to fund Blueline it would be extremely expensive and we did not feel it fair nor appropriate to force all residents to fund this. For coverage to include extended hours would mean a cost of many hundreds of pounds per household per year and if AHPC was to provide this, it would have to be directly paid for by an equivalent increase in the precept (included in the council tax bill) of every household in Aspley Heath. AHPC does not feel that it should be actively encouraging residents to subscribe to Blueline. This decision should be left entirely to the private discretion of residents and nobody should feel under any pressure whatsoever to join.

CCTV on the other hand is extremely low cost and provides 24 hour coverage. See answers below regarding cost.

Why don't you make the police do more instead?

Police budgets are already extremely tight and their resources are already very stretched. AHPC does not have control over the police nor their budgets – this is a national matter. However, CCTV footage can assist the police in their investigations, and we believe it will deter the very behaviours that residents here are concerned about.

PRIVACY

Won't CCTV just allow any parish council member to snoop on residents and visitors?

Absolutely not. Access to the CCTV cameras and recordings is subject to a strict CCTV Policy which will be published on our web site. This limits access to the parish clerk, the chairman and two other named parish council members. Each authorised user is given their own access code and 2-factor authentication is used to ensure that access cannot be shared with others. Users sign a declaration agreeing to adhere to the Policy and that access is only for the strict reasons stated in the Policy. Every access is automatically logged showing who accessed the system and when. Each access to the system by a user must be logged and reported to the clerk stating who accessed it, the material accessed (date and time) and when along with the reasons. The clerk will audit the user logs and the system logs. Unauthorised access or unreported access could lead to that user having their access revoked. The clerk will report at each meeting of AHPC on the accesses made, and the reasons, since the last meeting. The public can therefore gain assurance that the CCTV is being used strictly in accordance with the Policy approved by AHPC.

Do I have a right to see recordings in which I appear?

Yes. As stated in the Policy, images of individuals are deemed to constitute personal data and such individuals have a right to request CCTV footage relating to themselves under the Data Protection Act and GDPR – a Subject Access Request. AHPC will honour

such requests free of charge as detailed in the chapter Subject Access Requests in the Policy.

Will CCTV recordings be shared with others?

Yes, but only in accordance with the stated Objectives of the Policy and only on a limited basis as detailed in the Policy – typically only to Police, local authorities or AHPC approved private security firms. This is detailed in the Policy section entitled “Disclosure of CCTV Images to Third Parties”.

What if the camera view includes my property – can you exclude my property from the images?

In order to capture images from the public highway, the camera view necessarily includes the frontages of a small number of properties. However, the system has the ability to configure “exclusion zones” within the field of view and such zones will be blacked out and nothing will be recorded within those zones. If any residents wish all or part of their private property to be excluded from being recorded then we will endeavour to achieve this as best we can. Bear in mind that some anti-social behaviour has been occurring on people’s property and therefore careful consideration should be given to how much is blacked out if you want the system to capture such behaviour.

INFORMATION ON THE SYSTEM AND WHAT IT RECORDS

Where are the cameras located?

We anticipate 2 cameras mounted on the lamppost on Church Road outside Aspley Court.

Will the cameras capture Sandy Lane as well as Church Road?

Yes. One camera will look South and will capture the entrance to Sandy Lane as well as seeing up Church Road where it will capture movement up and down the hill including activity in front of the local pub. The other camera will look North towards the roundabouts at the junction of Church Road. This will be able to see which way any person or vehicle heads upon leaving Church Road.

Does the CCTV capture at night as well as day?

Yes – the cameras are live 24 hours a day. They have infra red lighting but in addition there is the light from the lamp post on which they are mounted.

Can you search the recordings for specific activity?

We cannot. However, the CCTV system although live 24 hours a day, only stores recordings where it has detected motion such as people, bikes, cars. It will store a short recording once it detects motion as well as a number of seconds prior to the motion

trigger. This makes it easy to locate where people and transport enter/leave Aspley Heath.

Does the CCTV system capture number plates?

The CCTV system does not and cannot perform Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR). This was felt to be too intrusive. Such systems recognise number plates and store each detection in a database. Such capability brings with it extra aspects of compliance and procedures, not to mention the considerable additional cost. However, the image quality should allow us to be able to manually read a number plate from the video if required.

Does the CCTV system carry out facial recognition?

No. It is not capable of this nor was it a requirement to do so.

FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Are you purchasing the system or renting it?

We have determined that the most cost-effective model that meets our requirements is for us to purchase the cameras and associated electronics but for the recordings to be stored in an external secure data centre. We rent storage space for the recordings and for the service to access the recordings. We also pay for a mobile data contract that links the cameras to the data centre.

Why not just purchase the entire solution?

AHPC does not possess any property so we have nowhere to house the recording equipment. We would have to seek an agreement with a property owner – eg Woburn Sands Town Council – to house the equipment. This would then need its own security and legal arrangements. In addition we would still need a means to get the images from the cameras to the recording equipment and would probably have to pay additional rental and insurance. The costs and complexity of this solution would far outweigh any advantages. Having the recordings securely stored with audited access is a great solution in terms of privacy protection as well as providing the lowest cost solution.

Why not rent the entire solution?

AHPC examined this option and it was much more expensive – over £7,500/year for a single camera.

How much does the proposed system cost?

The capital cost for the system including installation comes in at under £3,500. Annual running costs are approximately £12,000/year including a full parts and labour

maintenance and service contract. This fares exceptionally well with solutions we have seen other parish and town councils using.

Will this cost me as a taxpayer?

Yes. We intend to fund the project via the AHPC precept – this appears on your council tax bill each year. We have calculated that the increased cost to a band D household will be 15 pence per week. This would not be until April 2026.

LEGALITY

Is the parish council allowed to install a CCTV system?

Yes. Parish councils are permitted to install such a system in accordance with the Local Government and Rating Act 1997 s.31.

What about the ECHR Article 8 right to respect for private and family life?

Article 8 of the ECHR includes a carve-out for public safety and the prevention of disorder or crime. However, the carve-out protects the rights of the individual through the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 2.s33(1) which states that we must “have regard to the surveillance camera code”. AHPC have conducted a detailed review of this code and produced a CCTV Policy which gives due regard to the code. As such, AHPC are operating fully in accordance with UK legislation in our deployment and operation of the CCTV system. Our CCTV Policy will be published on our web site once approved.

Are there any other compliance issues that AHPC need to follow?

Yes. We have to register with the Information Commissioner’s Office and pay an annual fee which is currently £52. We also have to have and make available a CCTV Policy.

There are additional items that we have decided to adopt:

- We will publish on our web site a Privacy Statement relating to the CCTV system.
- We will affix signage in the vicinity of the cameras that is compliant with the surveillance code.

We do not need to carry out a Data Protection Impact Assessment nor do we need any other licences or permissions.

Will you have a Data Protection Officer?

No. There is no requirement for us to have one.

PLANS AND TIMESCALES

Has the decision already been approved?

No. It will be subject to approval of AHPC either in the meeting immediately following the April AGM on 23rd April or if not then possibly in the following meeting in May. These meetings, like, the AGM, are open to the public.

Once approved, how long until the system is live?

This depends upon the availability of the installers but we would hope it to be within 8 weeks of approval.

Can I register any concerns or objections?

Yes. We welcome all feedback. You can either attend any of our public meetings where there is also an opportunity to speak. Alternatively (or in addition) you can also write to us via the Clerk or contact any of the parish councillors. The email address is clerk@aspleyheath.org.uk
