

FRINTON & WALTON TOWN COUNCIL

CCTV POLICY

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1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to regulate the management, operation, and use of the CCTV system (Closed Circuit Television) on buildings operated by Frinton & Walton Town Council, hereafter referred to as 'the Town Council'.

CCTV systems are installed (both internally and externally) in premises for the purpose of enhancing security of buildings and its associated equipment as well as creating a mindfulness among the occupants, at any one time, that a surveillance security system is in operation within and/or in the external environs of the premises during both the daylight and night hours each day. CCTV surveillance on buildings operated by the Town Council is intended for the purposes of;

- Protecting Town Council buildings and assets, both during and after working hours
- Promoting the health and safety of staff and visitors
- Preventing bullying and/or intimidation by individuals and/or groups
- Reducing the incidence of crime and anti-social behaviour (including theft and vandalism)
- Supporting the Police in a bid to deter and detect crime.
- Assisting in identifying, apprehending, and prosecuting offenders
- Ensuring that the Town Council rules are respected so that the Town Council can be properly managed.
- To assist in dispute resolution

The system does not have sound recording capability.

The CCTV system is owned and operated by the Town Council, the deployment of which is determined by Town Council members.

The introduction of, or changes to, CCTV monitoring will be subject to consultation with members of the Town Council.

The Town Council's CCTV is registered with the Information Commissioner under the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2016/2019.

All authorised operators with access to images are aware of the procedures that need to be followed when accessing recorded images. All operators are made aware of their responsibilities in following the CCTV Code of Practice. All members are aware of the restrictions in relation to access to, and disclosure of recorded images.

2. Scope

This policy relates directly to the location and use of CCTV and the monitoring, recording and subsequent use of such recorded material. The Town Council complies with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) CCTV Code of Practice to ensure it is used responsibly and safeguards both trust and confidence in its use.

CCTV warning signs will be clearly and prominently placed at main external entrances. Signs will contain details of the purpose for using CCTV. In areas where CCTV is used, the Town Council will ensure that there are prominent signs placed within the controlled area.

The planning and design have endeavoured to ensure that the system will give maximum effectiveness and efficiency, but it is not guaranteed that the system will cover to detect every single incident taking place in the areas of coverage. CCTV monitoring of public areas for security purposes will be conducted in a manner consistent with all existing policies adopted by the Town Council, including Equality & Diversity Policy, Codes of Practice for dealing with complaints of Bullying and Harassment and Sexual Harassment and other relevant policies, including the provisions set down in equality and other related legislation.

This policy prohibits monitoring based on the characteristics and classifications contained in equality and other related legislation, e.g. race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, disability etc.

Video monitoring of public areas for security purposes within Town Council premises is limited to uses that do not violate the individual's reasonable expectation to privacy.

All CCTV systems and associated equipment will be required to be compliant with this policy following its adoption by the Town Council. Recognisable images captured by CCTV systems are 'personal data'. They are therefore subject to the provisions of the General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act 2018.

3. Location of Cameras

The cameras are sited such that they only capture images relevant to the purposes for which they have been installed (as described above), and care will be taken to ensure reasonable privacy expectations are not violated. The Town Council will ensure that the location of equipment is carefully considered to ensure that the images captured comply with legislation.

The Town Council will make every effort to position the cameras so that their coverage is restricted to Town Council premises, which includes both indoor and outdoor areas.

Town Council members and staff will have access to details of where CCTV cameras are situated, except for cameras placed for the purposes of covert monitoring.

CCTV video monitoring and recording of public areas may include the following.

- *Protection of buildings and property*; The building perimeter, entrances and exits, lobbies and corridors, special storage areas, cashier locations, receiving areas for goods/services.
- *Monitoring of Access Control Systems*; Monitor and record restricted access areas at entrances to buildings and other areas.
- *Verification of Security Alarms*; Intrusion alarms, exit door controls, external alarms.
- *Video patrol of public areas*; Parking areas, main entrance/exit gates, traffic control
- *Criminal Investigations (carried out by the Police)*; Robbery, burglary and theft surveillance.

4. Covert Monitoring

The Town Council retains the right in exceptional circumstances to set up covert monitoring, for example.

- Where there is good cause to suspect that an illegal or serious unauthorised action(s) is taking place, or where there are grounds to suspect serious misconduct.
- Where notifying the individuals about the monitoring would seriously prejudice the reason for making the recording.

In these circumstances, authorisation must be obtained beforehand from the Chair and/or Deputy Chair of the Personnel Committee.

Covert monitoring will cease following completion of an investigation.

Cameras sited for the purpose of covert monitoring will not be used in areas which are reasonably expected to be private, for example, toilets.

5. Storage and Retention of CCTV Images

Recorded data will not be retained for longer than 31 days where the image identifies an issue and is retained specifically in the context of an investigation/prosecution of that issue.

Where data is retained for longer than 31 days an electronic file held on a secure central server where specific CCTV image/recordings are retained will be kept. The Data Protection Act and GDPR does not prescribe any specific minimum or maximum retention periods that apply to all systems or footage. Therefore, retention will reflect the Town Council's purposes for recording information, and how long it is needed to achieve this purpose.

The Town Council will always store data securely.

6. Access to CCTV Images

Access to recorded images will be restricted to authorised personnel to view them and will not be made widely available. Supervising the access and maintenance of the CCTV system is the responsibility of the Town Council. When CCTV recordings are viewed, access will be limited to authorised individuals on a need-to-know basis.

7. Subject Access Requests (SAR)

Individuals have the right to request CCTV footage relating to themselves under the Data Protection Act and the GDPR.

All requests should be made in writing to the Clerk who can be contacted on email at clerk@fwtc.co.uk Individuals submitting requests for access will be asked to provide sufficient information to enable footage relating to them to be identified. For example, time, date and location.

The Town Council does not have a facility to provide copies of CCTV footage but instead the applicant may view the CCTV footage if available.

The Town Council will respond to requests within one calendar month of receiving the request.

The Town Council reserves the right to refuse access to CCTV footage where this would prejudice the legal rights of other individuals or jeopardise an on-going investigation.

8. Access and Disclosure of Images to Third Parties

There will be no disclosure of recorded data to third parties other than authorised personnel such as the Police and service providers to the Town Council where these would reasonably need access to the data (eg, investigators).

If an order is granted by a Court for disclosure of CCTV images, then this should be complied with. However, very careful consideration must be given to exactly what the Court order requires. If there are any concerns as to disclosure, then the Town Council should seek expert advice from a Data Protection Officer in the first instance and appropriate legal advice may be required.

The data may be used with the Town Council's discipline and grievance procedures as required and will be subject to the usual confidentiality requirements of those procedures.

9. Responsibilities

The Town Council retains overall responsibility and will;

- Ensure that the use of CCTV systems is implemented in accordance with this policy.
- Oversee and coordinate the use of CCTV monitoring for safety and security purposes within the Town Council premises.
- Ensure that all existing CCTV monitoring systems will be evaluated for compliance with this policy.
- Ensure that the CCTV monitoring is consistent with the highest standards and protection.
- Review camera locations and be responsible for the release of any information or recorded CCTV materials stored in compliance with this policy.
- Maintain a record of access log for the release or viewing of any material.
- Ensure that the perimeter view from fixed location cameras confirms to this policy both internally and externally.
- Consider both Town Council members and staff feedback/complaints regarding possible invasion of privacy or confidentiality due to the location of a particular CCTV camera or associated equipment.

- Ensure that all areas being monitored are not in breach of an enhanced expectation of the privacy of individuals within the Town Council and be mindful that no such infringement is likely to take place.
- Ensure that external cameras are non-intrusive in terms of their positions and views of neighbouring residential housing and comply with the principle of 'Reasonable Expectation of Privacy'.
- Ensure that monitoring data stored on devices is stored in a secure place with access by authorised personnel only.
- Ensure that images recorded are erased after a period of 31 days unless required as part of a criminal investigation or court proceedings (criminal or civil) or other bona fide use as approved by Town Council members.
- Ensure that when a zoom facility on a camera is being used, there is a second person present with the operator of the camera to guarantee that there is no unwarranted invasion of privacy.
- Ensure that camera control is solely to monitor suspicious behaviour, criminal damage etc and not to monitor individual characteristics.
- Ensure that camera control is not infringing an individual's reasonable expectation of privacy in public areas.

10. Data Protection Impact Assessments and Privacy by Design

CCTV has the potential to be privacy intrusive. The Town Council will perform a privacy impact assessment when installing or moving CCTV cameras to consider the privacy issues involved in using new surveillance systems to ensure that the use is necessary and proportionate and address a pressing need identified.

11. Policy Review

The Clerk is responsible for monitoring and reviewing this policy. In addition, changes to legislation, national guidance, codes of practice or commissioner advice may trigger interim reviews.

The policy should be reviewed every three years and additionally when changes in legislation occur.

Policy Dated & Approved: June 2023

Review Frequency: Four Years

Next Review Due: June 2027