

**Report To:** **WERNETH LOW COUNTRY PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**Date:** **18<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

**Reporting Officer:** Assistant Executive Director, Place  
David Cannon, Greenspace Development Officer

**Subject:** **CCTV Proposals**

**Report Summary:** To inform Members of the proposed installation of CCTV by the Hyde War Memorial Trust at Werneth Low Visitor Centre (Lower Higham Farm).

**Recommendations:** That the report be discussed by the Joint Management Committee.

**Links to Community Strategy:** To ensure that the Country Park is an attractive and environmentally friendly place to visit.


**Policy Implications:** The activities in the Country Park are in accordance with Council policy priorities.

**Financial Implications:**  
(Authorised by the Section 151 Officer)

**Legal Implications:**  
(Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

**Risk Management:** Activities in the Country Park are kept under review in order to ensure any potential risks are dealt with adequately.

**Access to Information:** Background papers and information can be obtained by contacting Nicola Marshall, Greenspace Development Manager.

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## **1. CCTV Proposals**

- 1.1 This brief report sets out the current position on the proposed CCTV installation at Werneth Low Visitor Centre.
- 1.2 The Werneth Low Visitor Centre occupies the ground floor of a building known as Lower Higham Farm; the building and surrounding land is owned by Hyde War Memorial Trust and forms part of the Werneth Low Country Park.
- 1.3 Werneth Low Country Park is jointly managed by Hyde War Memorial Trust and Tameside Council under a Joint Management Agreement; this agreement is currently under review.
- 1.4 Within the Visitor Centre there are displays on the history of Werneth Low Country Park and the War Memorial as well as some interpretation activities. There is a small kitchen area which is used to sell refreshments to visitors. The visitor centre is opened and staffed by Greenspace Volunteers and the Greenspace Officer.
- 1.5 The Visitor Centre is visited by visitors to the Country Park and is also used as a base for Greenspace Volunteers who meet in the Visitor Centre prior to Conservation Days around the Country Park. Other meetings such as the Joint Committee Meetings of the Trust and Council also take place at the Visitor Centre.
- 1.6 On the ground floor there is an office area which is occupied by a Greenspace Officer, an employee of Tameside Council.
- 1.7 The upper floor of the building is tenanted by an individual on a private agreement between Hyde War Memorial Trust and the individual. That individual is the Greenspace Officer employed by Tameside Council.
- 1.8 Following thefts of flagstones (three incidents but all suspected to be linked) from the area outside the Werneth Low Visitor Centre the Hyde War Memorial Trust sought a quote for the installation of CCTV cameras on the exterior of the building to monitor and protect their assets.
- 1.9 The proposal is for there to be 5 cameras on the outside of the building. These cameras would cover the external areas of the building but would not cover inside the building.
- 1.10 The monitoring of these cameras would be carried out by Trustees of the Hyde War Memorial Trust – not all Trustees would be able to monitor the cameras and the Hyde War Memorial Trust would name those Trustees who had access.
- 1.11 The CCTV installation and monitoring would need to comply with all relevant legislation including GDPR and Article 8 of the Human Rights Act. Guidance on this is available on the Tameside Council website and Information Commissioners Office website. It is the responsibility of the Hyde War Memorial Trust to ensure that they are compliant with all relevant legislation to ensure Trustees avoid the risk of prosecution.
- 1.12 The Trust may also receive requests for data from members of the public and they will need to know how to handle such requests in accordance with legislation.
- 1.13 The Greenspace Officer who is based at Werneth Low has raised concerns about the CCTV – he feels that it would be an invasion of his privacy and is concerned about who would be monitoring his movements whilst he is at work.
- 1.14 Greenspace Volunteers have also raised concerns about the CCTV because they also feel it would be an invasion of privacy; in warmer weather they often take their lunch break in the garden area which would be in view of the CCTV.

- 1.15 The Council could consider monitoring the cameras but this would be at a cost of approximately £10,000 per camera per annum which may be prohibitively expensive for the Trust.
- 1.16 The Chair of Hyde War Memorial Trust emailed the specification to the Greenspace Officer based at the Visitor Centre on 4 November 2018 and the Greenspace Officer replied outlining his concerns and requesting a meeting between the Trustees and Officers from Tameside Council. To date there has not been a formal meeting however informal discussions have taken place between the Chair and Officers on a couple of occasions.

### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that this report is used as a basis for discussion at the Joint Management Committee Meeting.