

Welcome to the 2011/12 issue of the 24/7 Newsletter – as the incidents clearly show, CCTV continues to provide a valued contribution to fighting crime. The Police make use of captured CCTV data to support their efforts to reduce crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour.

### VEHICLE CRIME AND NUISANCE

CCTV is often used to identify and catch vehicles involved in driving offences and causing nuisance to local residents. Operators monitor the Police radio and look out for specific vehicles reported for different types of offence, such as drink driving, dangerous driving and driving without documents. If the vehicle is reported to be heading towards one of the towns covered by CCTV, the operator takes the camera off-tour to pick up the vehicle and follow it around town. They then pass the details to the Police control room giving a description of the vehicle including the registration number and direction of travel, allowing local Police to locate and stop the vehicle. CCTV can assist Police in identifying nuisance vehicles gathering on public car parks, breaking local By-Laws. Reviews of recordings are also undertaken to identify vehicles which have made off after a road accident, or after damaging vehicles and private property. The following are a few examples:



**Cromer 21:36 hrs Sunday:** CCTV heard an observation request on the Police radio for a moped being driven erratically in Trimmingham, it was headed towards Roughton. The operator monitored the camera covering the road into Cromer from Roughton and located 2 mopeds driving into town at speed. They were followed around town on camera and registration numbers were obtained. The Police control room was advised, and direction of travel and details passed. The mopeds were stopped outside of town on the Holt Road, one moped was impounded as it had no insurance or MOT.

**Fakenham 00:54 hrs Monday:** The CCTV operator spotted 3 cars lined up side by side in Oak Street as if to race. Pictures were passed and a local Police unit arrived within 2 minutes, pulling across the road in front of them to prevent them driving off. Details were taken and advice given.

**Fakenham Industrial Estate 03:30 hrs Saturday:** Two Industrial Units in The Drift found damage to building frontages when they arrived to open up on Saturday morning. It was initially thought that someone may have attempted to break into the premises, but a review of CCTV showed an articulated lorry, delivering to a nearby unit, losing control in snowy conditions. The company logo was visible on the lorry and was passed on for insurance purposes.

**North Walsham 10:36 hrs Monday:** An observation request was heard on the Police radio, for a scooter driving around the town centre, the rider was suspected to be drunk in charge. The CCTV operator located the scooter in the Market Place and informed the Police control room. He was followed on camera and attending Police updated with his location. He was stopped, breathalysed and arrested drunk in charge.

**Sheringham 20:35 hrs Friday:** The CCTV operator was monitoring town centre cameras and spotted eight vehicles skidding and performing “doughnuts” in the snow on Station Road car park. Pictures were passed to the Police control room and specific offenders were pointed out to attending Police, along with their registration numbers. Several Section 59 Notices were issued and vehicles were moved on.

### PUBLIC EVENTS

Any event that draws large crowds of people has a potential for problems and CCTV is used on these occasions as an extra pair of eyes to spot problems as they occur. Operators give more attention to those cameras and pass pictures to the Police control room which enables them to deploy officers more effectively at the event. In North Norfolk there are several seasonal events which draw large numbers; this year Cromer Pier hosted its 10th New Year's Day fireworks event, drawing huge crowds who enjoyed a spectacular display. Above are photos from 2 of our seafront cameras.

**Wells 07:24 hrs Thursday:** A car was parked on The Quay and when the owner returned it had been damaged. Police reviewed CCTV recordings and located the offending vehicle which was a trade waste refuse lorry, the company name was clearly visible on the side. Details were passed for insurance purposes.

## Reviews of Recorded CCTV after the Event

Recordings are kept for 28 days so even if a crime wasn't obvious at the time, or has been reported belatedly, CCTV can be reviewed to see if it was caught on camera. In the last 12 months there have been 328 reviews by Police and operators with 143 incidents being copied to CD or DVD and 66 still images being printed for evidence.

A particularly nasty example in Fakenham: 15:45 hrs Thursday: The CCTV operator heard on the Police radio that a female had just been assaulted in one of the town car parks. The operator immediately reviewed the recording and located the incident. Although it happened at quite a distance from the camera, it clearly showed a male run up behind a female, punch her to the ground and then kick her before running off. The female was found to have a broken wrist. The recording was copied for evidence and the male prosecuted for causing ABH.

## Around the towns

### Cromer

**09:51 hrs Wednesday:** CCTV heard on the Police radio that 2 drunk males had urinated into a garden pond and were heading towards the town centre. The CCTV operator located the males in New St, they were recognised as regular offenders, and their names were passed to the Police control room. They were monitored until Police attended and arrested them for breach of ASBO's.

**15:11 hrs Thursday:** The CCTV operator heard an observation request on the Police radio for a female shoplifter who had just left Superdrug in Church Street. The offender was quickly located on camera and followed, and she was seen to enter the door to a private flat. When Police attended the CCTV operator directed them to the door, via the Police radio. The female was located by Police and arrested for shoplifting.

**15:42 hrs Thursday:** The CCTV operator was monitoring the Police radio and heard a report of rowdy nuisance, including underage drinking and Cannabis smoking, outside an address in Cabbell Road. The operator checked the camera covering the rear of the properties and spotted a group of youths sat on Levington Green. One particular male was seen to roll a joint then wrap something in plastic and secrete it down his trousers. When Police attended they were directed to the group, in particular the male suspected to be hiding drugs. They were all searched and the male was issued with a street caution for possession of cannabis. One of the group, a female, was only 15yrs old.



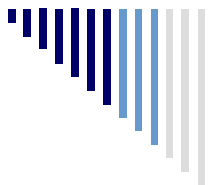
**19:55 hrs Friday:** The CCTV operator was monitoring the Police radio and heard an observation request for a male, who had just left a flat in the town and reportedly had a knife. He was heading toward the churchyard, and was likely to harm himself. The CCTV operator located the male on camera and passed pictures to the Police control room. The male was monitored until Police arrived. He was found to be unarmed and taken to the Police station.



### North Walsham

**23:34 hrs Friday:** CCTV spotted a male head-butted the window of a house in Kings Arms Street. The Police control room were informed via the radio and pictures passed. Attending Police were directed to the male who was arrested for criminal damage.

**00:43 hrs Sunday:** The CCTV operator had been monitoring a male on and off for most of the evening, as he had caused several disturbances in the town centre due to drinking alcohol. Police had attended twice and confiscated drink. Close ups of the male and another male were obtained as they walked down New Road. Shortly after this, the CCTV operator spotted them in Yarmouth Road, trying to break into a car. Pictures were passed to the Police control room and the males monitored until Police arrived. Both males ran off and CCTV were able to direct Police to the area where one was hiding. A copy of the recordings, including the close ups obtained earlier, were made for Police as evidence and the second male was identified the following day. Both males were arrested for attempted theft of a motor vehicle.



## Fakenham

**18:44 hrs Thursday:** The CCTV operator was performing a routine patrol of the town cameras and saw a serious assault in progress underneath the camera in Oak Street. A small group of youths were watching whilst a male, now unconscious, was kicked in the chest and head by two other males. The offenders made off with one of the onlookers into a nearby property. The CCTV operator immediately alerted the Police control room via the radio and passed pictures of the assault. Descriptions of the offenders, and the location of the property they were seen heading towards, were passed to officers arriving at the scene and the 3 males were subsequently arrested. The injured male had no memory of the incident due to concussion. The incident was copied onto CD for evidence and clearly showed the incident and close-ups of the 2 offenders for ID and prosecution purposes.

**00:50 hrs Saturday:** The CCTV operator was monitoring Fakenham Industrial Estate cameras and noticed a car stopped at one of the units. The driver got out and looked in waste bins at the rear of the premises; they then did the same at another unit. The police control room were informed and a unit despatched. Before they arrived the car left the estate and it was followed on camera into the town centre where, with a Registration number and directions from the CCTV operator, Police were able to stop it in Bridge Street. The driver, who was known to Police, was checked but there were no offences found on this occasion.

**01:19 hrs Saturday:** The CCTV operator spotted two males in Bridge Street, one looked very aggressive and was carrying a golf club. As the operator watched him he was seen to simulate a clubbing action. Pictures were passed to the Police control room who agreed that it looked suspicious and despatched a unit to check. Attending Police were directed to the males who had walked off toward the bowling alley. One male was arrested for possession of an offensive weapon.

**23:36 hrs Saturday:** The CCTV operator was monitoring the Police radio and heard a unit being despatched to the rear of a premises in Bridge Street, where it was thought drug dealing was in progress. The CCTV operator checked the camera covering the Limes car park and saw three males in a parked car who were using cigarette lighters. Attending Police were informed and directed to the car which was now in darkness. The car and occupants were known to Police in connection with drugs use, the males were arrested for possession of a controlled substance.

## Sheringham

**18:18 hrs Wednesday:** The CCTV operator was monitoring the Police radio and heard a unit being despatched to a drunk female in the town centre who was walking out in front of cars driving down Station Road. The female was located on camera and pictures passed to the Police control room, allowing them to monitor the situation prior to Police arriving. The female was seen to walk out in front of several cars causing them to brake to a stop. When Police arrived the female, who was known to Police, assaulted one of them and had to be restrained. A paramedic checked the female over before she was arrested for a Section 5 Public Order offence and assault on Police.

**13:05 hrs Friday:** The CCTV operator was monitoring the Police radio and heard a unit being despatched to a male in the High Street, suspected to be collecting money for a bogus charity. The male was located on camera, along with a female, clearly taking money from passers by. The operator recognised the male from a photo issued to CCTV by NNDC Licensing. back in 2009, where he was committing the same offence in North Walsham. He contacted the Police control room to inform them of the previous incidents, and passed pictures of the male in Sheringham. Police attended and arrested the couple for fraud.

**14:58 hrs Saturday:** The CCTV operator was monitoring the seafront area and noticed a young male trying to windsurf; he appeared to be very inexperienced and was more in the water than out. He was monitored for a while but when he drifted further out and seemed to be getting tired, the operator rang the RNLI Lifeguard stationed on the beach. The Lifeguard had also been watching the male and was equally concerned. He supervised the male as he paddled back to shore.



# Wells-next-the-Sea

**00:42 hrs Tuesday:** The CCTV operator was monitoring the Police radio and heard an observation request for a 12 year old male who had run away from home. There was particular concern due to the boy's age, the time of night, the potentially dangerous location and the torrential rain. The CCTV operator located the boy almost immediately on the Quay, pictures were passed to the Police control room and attending Police directed to him as he was hiding and running away from them. He was eventually caught by Police on Beach Road and reunited with his mother.



**11:07 hrs Wednesday:** The CCTV operator heard an observation request for a van, seen in suspicious circumstances, and thought to be involved in thefts of scrap metal. Wells cameras were patrolled and the van eventually located driving along the Quay. The Police control room was informed and given the registration number, and direction of travel as it made its way down east end to the boat yards. Attending Police arrived just as the van was departing. The van and occupants were checked but found to be legitimate.

**22:00 hrs Wednesday:** The CCTV operator heard the Police control room despatch a unit to Freeman Street where a male was reportedly damaging parked cars. The male was located on camera and monitored; he was not seen to damage any vehicles but was seen to be collected in a car before Police arrived. The car was followed on camera through town, where the male was seen to get out of the car again and enter a pub. Police were directed to the male who was arrested for being drunk and disorderly.

## NEW EQUIPMENT

During 2010/11 a total of 4 new cameras were purchased and installed to replace and upgrade the aging system. These cameras are much smaller in size than both the traditional Point, Tilt & Zoom style and the dome style which are found within the towns.

In the last edition of the Newsletter, we announced that improvements would be made to the Control Room by replacing the old viewing monitors which have been obsolete for some time which meant spare parts were not easy to come by. They were also not at all energy efficient.

The new screens have been installed and having monitored the energy use, the council will see savings of approximately £305 per year in terms of electricity costs whilst at the same time, there will be a reduction of the authority's carbon footprint by 1.8 tonnes per year.

During the current year, a further 4 new cameras are being purchased and will replace old units in Wells, Sheringham and North Walsham.



## NEW CONTACT

Many of you will know, and have worked with, Teri Munro who, in her role as Community Safety Manager, managed the Community Safety Team including the CCTV operation. As from 24 August the Community Safety Manager post is being made redundant. She has asked to convey her thanks to you all for the support and encouragement you have given to the CCTV team in the past few years.

From 24 August the management of CCTV will be undertaken by Maxine Collis (Telephone 01263 516256) or email: [maxine.collis@north-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:maxine.collis@north-norfolk.gov.uk). We all wish Teri well in her future career, I am sure she will be missed.

## Your contributions are valuable

In order to keep administration and costs to a minimum we will continue to issue an annual bill along with a newsletter to celebrate the effectiveness of the system. We would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Team, to thank you for your continuing support, without which the replacement and refurbishment of the cameras and viewing equipment would not proceed at the current rate. Please find enclosed invoice for your 2011/2012 contribution, and again, should you wish to come and see the system in action, please contact Maxine Collis to arrange a visit Tel: 01263 516256 email: [property.services@north-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:property.services@north-norfolk.gov.uk)