

HOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

CCTV - Annual Review – 2023

Over one year on and the Houghton CCTV scheme has been operating successfully - we have seen a slight reduction in reported crime over the past 12 months including the areas of Bossington and Pittleworth.

During that period there has been a total of 9 'reasons for access' following reported crime and where images have been reviewed by the team;

Passwords for access are changed every 3 months to retain security;

Annual maintenance is now due, the cost being absorbed for the next 3 years or so as a result of a contribution by Houghton Fishing Club;

Absolute Security Ltd continue to provide good all round support to the CCTV scheme;

It was necessary to relocate one of the cameras, the work was carried out by Absolute Security on the 25th January 2023;

An update has been provided to the village via the Houghton Village News which is delivered to every address in the village;

Crime rates vary and of course can go up as well as down, it can depend on many different issues and trends - but in its first year it's good to see crimes decreasing as opposed to having no effect at all. In relation to a number of the reported crimes significant information and images from the cameras has been passed to the Police to enable further enquires to be undertaken.

The cameras are checked regularly for accuracy and quality, annual maintenance is also due to be undertaken soon in order to retain the quality of images required for such a scheme. A log of each viewing is maintained including regular efficiency checks and also when crimes are reported and access to recorded images is deemed appropriate and necessary.

Houghton is also leading an initiative across 8 different areas / parishes in order to look at the wider issues of crime in the Test Valley. Experiences of crimes are being shared more widely, looking at trends, suspects and also now working far more closely with the Police than previously undertaken. This project named 'Operation Tango Victor' hopes to see even more reduction to crimes as it gathers momentum and improvements in areas where they often go undetected. There have been two meetings now involving the 8 areas with a third planned in May.