

AGENDA 9, Enc ix) DRAFT REPORT of CCTV meeting held on Wednesday 19th August 2026

Present

Cllr Lynne Grimshaw, Cllr Sonia Simm, Cllr Kerry Davison, Cllr Karl Green, Sgt Kath Smith, Chris Duncan (AW), Steven Lynas (AW), Joel Plumley (AW), Sarah Eden

1. Welcome by the Chair

Cllr Lynne Grimshaw welcomed those present to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Caroline Ball, Cllr Scott Amery, Cllr Marjorie Chambers

3. Disclosure of Interests

There were no disclosures of interest.

4. Report of the Previous Meeting

It was **AGREED** that the report of the meeting held on 20th May 2026 was received as a fair reflection of that meeting.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

a) System Performance and Reliability

Occurrences of system downtime were received as set out on the agenda:

- Station Road — downtime in connection with the Christmas Lights contractor.
- People's Park — incidents of downtime on fixed camera which have now been resolved. Pan camera was still in operation.

Some radio interference was also reported on Woodhorn Road, although this was not considered significant.

6. CCTV Referrals: From Incident to Outcome

The meeting received the incident referral data for the period. The spreadsheet of incidents is imported over the page.

Sgt Kath Smith provided a summary for July 2026. July had seen significant demand relating to youth anti-social behaviour (ASB), off-road bikes, violence and drug-related activity. Asset Watch had provided proactive intelligence, evidential CCTV and safeguarding opportunities. For July alone:

- 25 incidents were logged, of which 15 were reported to police.
- 10 CCTV requests were received.
- A high-risk missing young person was located.
- 3 Section 59 warnings were issued.
- Multiple Operation Beacon – dedicated road safety initiative where identifications were made.
- Home visits were completed and CCTV was provided in support of investigations.

Key themes for the month were youth ASB in Hirst Park and People's Park; Sur-Ron and off-road bike activity; the development of drug-related intelligence; violence and public disorder; and proactive safeguarding activity.

AGENDA 9, Enc ix) DRAFT REPORT of CCTV meeting held on Wednesday 19th August 2026

Date Received	Location	Incident Description	Status	Outcome / Notes
04/07/2026	Peoples Park	Vehicle ASB	Reported	3x Sec 59 warnings served.
05/07/2026	Peoples Park	Surron at People's Park	Reported	Rider unidentified due to face covering. Bike added to database.
06/07/2026	Peoples Park	Youths setting fires and fighting	Requested	Youth identified via Op Beacon and referred to YOLO.
06/07/2026	Hirst Park	Youths with slingshots near pavilion	Requested	Footage sent to OIC and used for Op Beacon.
07/07/2026	Peoples Park	Males on surron waving machete	Requested	No weapon seen. Footage sent to OIC. Grade 1, negative result.
10/07/2026	Paddock Woods	Youths on electric/revvi bikes	Reported	Unable to identify. Intelligence only.
10/07/2026	Riverside Park	Male and female using suspected drugs	Reported	Police attended, negative. Grade 2.
11/07/2026	Station Road	Male on scooter potentially dealing drugs	Reported	Footage and VRM sent to intel. Grade 2.
11/07/2026	Bubbles	Female driving without licence	Requested	Driver not identifiable. Intel updated.
11/07/2026	Hirst Park	Youth ASB	Requested	Offenders identified. Home visit completed.
12/07/2026	Woodhorn Road	Females fighting outside Mighty Oak	Reported	Footage retained for licensing.
14/07/2026	Woodhorn Road	Potential drug deal	Reported	Known nominal identified. Strategy meeting arranged.
15/07/2026	Town Centre	High risk missing youth located	Reported	Returned to family.
16/07/2026	Town Centre	Suspicious van for scrap metal	Reported	No matching theft reports.
18/07/2026	Station Road	Suspicious male with possible knife	Reported	Spoon mistaken for knife. No offences. Grade 1.
18/07/2026	Hirst Park	Males potentially using drugs	Reported	Email report only. Intelligence.
18/07/2026	Woodhorn Road	Vehicle made off from officers	Requested	Footage sent to OIC.
19/07/2026	Station Road	Male on surron	Reported	Images circulated for ID.
19/07/2026	Bubbles	Males fighting outside Bubbles	Reported	Footage sent to OIC and NBM. Grade 1.
20/07/2026	Bubbles	Fight outside Bubbles	Requested	Footage sent to OIC.
20/07/2026	Hirst Park	Youth ASB	Requested	Poor footage. Intelligence only.
21/07/2026	Peoples Park	3 males on surrons	Reported	Faces covered. Intelligence only.
21/07/2026	Hirst Park	Suspicious activity in bushes	Requested	Crime recorded and investigated.
22/07/2026	Town Centre	2 males on surrons	Reported	Dangerous riding reported.
23/07/2026	Town Centre	Male in vehicle after assault	Reported	Vehicle linked to patrol car damage.

AGENDA 9, Enc ix) DRAFT REPORT of CCTV meeting held on Wednesday 19th August 2026

26/07/2026	Station Road	Youths setting fire to bin	Reported	Asset Watch dealt with incident.
26/07/2026	Hirst Park	Youths in park	Requested	No further action.
28/07/2026	Station Road	Criminal damage to parked vehicle	Reported	Crime under investigation.
01/08/2026	Paddock Woods	3 males on surrons	Reported	Intelligence only.
02/08/2026	Station Road	2 males on one moped	Reported	Dangerous riding. Grade 2.
02/08/2026	Paddock Woods	2 males on one moped	Reported	No further action.
02/08/2026	Peoples Park	3 males on surrons	Reported	Land Rover driver received S59.
03/08/2026	Station Road	2 males on surrons	Reported	Unable to identify. Grade 2.

Not presented at the meeting but provided as analysis on the data for July and early August.

Of the 33 incidents recorded, 23 were reported proactively by Asset Watch to Ashington Neighbourhood Policing Team, 10 were requests for footage from the police or the Town Council.

In 10 incidents (30%), CCTV led directly to a positive outcome. These included identifying offenders, issuing Section 59 warnings, home visits and referrals, locating a high-risk missing young person, and recording crimes for investigation. In a further 5 incidents, footage was supplied to officers in charge to support ongoing investigations. Overall, 15 incidents (45%) resulted in action or evidence being provided.

Six incidents produced intelligence only. In six, offenders could not be identified, mainly because off-road bike riders wore face coverings or the footage was poor. The remaining six were found to involve no offence or resulted in no further action.

Proactive reporting by Asset Watch generated 70% of all incidents and 7 of the 10 positive outcomes.

The early-August entries are almost all Sur-Ron and moped incidents, which supports the off-road bike theme discussed at the meeting. They are also the first entries in the log to carry police incident reference numbers consistently, which should make tracking outcomes to the next meeting easier.

The meeting then considered the incidents noted on the agenda for follow-up. Sgt Kath Smith had only recently returned to duty and held information for July 2026 only, so it was not possible to discuss the June incidents. The Executive Officer advised that these were randomly chosen examples of CCTV coverage where it was felt there was a good chance of some follow-up. In respect of each of those detailed on the agenda and given ahead of the meeting, the July incidents showed the following outcomes:

- 10th July 2026, Paddock Wood (32850) — it had not been possible to identify those involved.
- 11th July 2026, Drug Deal (32873) — footage and the VRM had been sent to the intelligence unit; graded as Grade 2.
- 14th July 2026, Drug Deal (32850) — a known offender had been identified and a strategy meeting arranged.

AGENDA 9, Enc ix) DRAFT REPORT of CCTV meeting held on Wednesday 19th August 2026

- 18th July 2026, Possible Knife (33190) — the item was found to be a spoon that had been mistaken for a knife.
- 22nd July 2026, Sur-Ron (33370) — dangerous riding was recorded.
- 26th July 2026, Bin Fire – Youths (33572) — the fire in the bin was dealt with by Asset Watch.

The meeting discussed the continuing issues with off-road bikes, including the difficulties presented by riders wearing face coverings, which prevent identification and make it hard to catch offenders. It was noted that work on this is ongoing. The Executive Officer advised countless incidents are caught and shared, but it is clear from them there is no way of making a positive ID. Cllr Karl Green questioned what was possible. It was discussed that the combined approach of both Asset Watch and Police, building intelligence, routes and addresses, and especially the use of drones was the only viable solution.

Cllr Simm outlined the work she is undertaking to find a suitable space for off-road bike riding, and the meeting discussed whether such provision would meet the need. Cllr Simm also asked whether members would consider a petition to change the law so that these bikes could not be sold. The Executive Officer confirmed that there was a petition seeking to change the law to legalise and regulate their riding, but there did not appear to be anything in relation to outlawing their sale. Cllr Grimshaw agreed to raise with the MP.

More generally, discussion centred on occasions where CCTV captures an incident in real time, mostly after midnight, which is rung in by Asset Watch but does not receive a police response. Sgt Kath Smith explained that attendance depends on the seriousness of the incident and the availability of response officers, most specifically when there is no-one on shift in Ashington.

7. Qualitative Information and Positive Impact

Sgt Kath Smith advised that there may be a news story relating to an affray which could be brought back to a future meeting for consideration as a positive story to be shared in the public domain. Additionally, not necessarily as a news story but a good result was a male on female assault which was caught on CCTV in real time and following evidence the male was arrested.

8. Future Meetings and Reports

The meeting agreed the following date for the next quarterly meeting:

- 18th November 2026