

Enc vi) DRAFT REPORT of CCTV meeting held on Wednesday 25th February 2026

1. PRESENT

Cllr Lynne Grimshaw, Cllr Marjorie Chambers, Cllr Caroline Ball, Cllr Kerry Davison, Cllr Karl Green, Cllr Stephen Roberts, Kennedy Clark (NP PCSO), Acting Sgt Steve Jones (NP), David Knox (AW), Chris Duncan (AW), Neil Pacey (PS), Steven Lynas (AW)

2. AGREEMENT OF CHAIR

It was **AGREED** that Cllr Lynne Grimshaw would be appointed Chair.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Scott Amery

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of interest.

5. REPORT OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was agreed to receive the report of the meeting held on 12th November as a fair reflection.

6. CCTV CAMERA — HIRST EAST END ALLOTMENTS RELOCATION

The meeting considered the report at Enc ii) regarding the proposed relocation of the existing CCTV camera from its current position at the entrance to Hirst East End Allotments to a lamp standard on Woodhorn Road.

The meeting agreed this was a particularly good suggestion and were grateful to the site representative from Woodhorn Road Allotments for raising it. The relocation would retain a deterrent presence relevant to the allotment site, provide broader coverage of an area currently without CCTV, and — as noted by the Responsible Financial Officer — would allow the associated costs to be more appropriately charged to the CCTV budget rather than the Hirst East End Allotments budget, which has regularly overspent.

It was **AGREED** that Asset Watch would scope the most suitable lamp standard on Woodhorn Road, and that a formal request would then be made to NCC Street Lighting for the works required in respect of commando socket, utilising the budget made available by Paul Jones.

7. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

a) System Performance and Reliability

The system is operating well. The only periods of reduced coverage during the reporting period were associated with the Christmas lights connections and subsequent take-down works, which temporarily affected coverage. There were no other outages to report, and the system is otherwise functioning at full capacity.

b) Incidents Discussed

Police representatives reported on a range of incidents during the period. A recurring and significant theme was the value of CCTV in detecting incidents that would not otherwise come to the attention of the police. In particular, it was made clear that many incidents attended — especially fights and anti-social behaviour — are not reported through conventional channels. It is Asset Watch's monitoring capability that identifies these situations

Enc vi) DRAFT REPORT of CCTV meeting held on Wednesday 25th February 2026

and refers them to police teams, who then attend. This underlines the critical community safety value of the CCTV partnership.

Police commended the significant hours invested by Asset Watch in going back over footage in response to police requests, which has made a material contribution to the investigation.

13/11/25	Station Road	Police have contacted asset watch following reports of a suspicious male on Station Road		Requested	Footage was sent over which shows the male on Station Road, no offences identified.	Ungraded-Intelligence only
15/11/25	Station Road	Following a shoplifting at a business on Station Road. Police contacted asset watch for footage of the offenders.		Requested	Footage was sent over of the individuals responsible. One of the offenders was identified through the footage.	Ungraded-Intelligence only
21/11/25	Station Road	Officers contacted asset watch requesting footage of a quad bike riding on the footpath		Requested	Footage was sent however the riders could not be identified due to face coverings	Ungraded-Intelligence only

Enc vi) DRAFT REPORT of CCTV meeting held on Wednesday 25th February 2026

		of station road.				
22/11/25	Woodhorn Road	Vehicle parked up with no MOT.		Reported	Vehicle details circulated to officers in the area.	Ungraded-Intelligence only
23/11/25	Station Road	Vehicle parked up with no MOT.		Reported	Vehicle details circulated to officers in the area.	Ungraded-Intelligence only
26/11/25	Station Road	Electric scooters / surron bikes on the main street.		Reported	Reported via email. Riders faces are covered.	Ungraded-Intelligence only
28/11/25	Station Road	Burglary at a business on Station Road		Requested	The CCTV captured the male kicking at the window causing it to smash and then gains entry. The images were of evidential value.	Enquiries ongoing.
30/11/25	Station Road	Footage requested of two vehicles going through a red light on		Requested	The vehicles were past the red light and waiting for a vehicle to turn right which caused a hold up and	Ungraded-Intelligence only

Enc vi) DRAFT REPORT of CCTV meeting held on Wednesday 25th February 2026

		Lintonville Terrace.			the lights had changed by the time they had been able to pass.	
04/12/25	Woodhorn Road	Asset watch contacted and images of a male requested.		Requested	Asset watch were able to provide images/ footage of a male matching that description.	Ungraded-Intelligence only
08/12/25	Station Road	Images requested of young males on revvi style bikes		Requested	Images were sent over which do show the youths faces. Enquiries ongoing	Ungraded-Intelligence only
09/12/25	Reivedale Road	Altercation between three males		Reported	Footage shows two males arguing, slight pushing. Another male turns up and chases one of the males away. No reports made to police from either party.	Ungraded-Intelligence only
13/12/25	Station Road	Asset watch were contacted and asked to keep observations for a high risk		Requested	Asset watch control room located the female on Station Road following an assault. The control room alerted police who were able to return her home	Grade 1

Enc vi) DRAFT REPORT of CCTV meeting held on Wednesday 25th February 2026

		missing female.			and carry out relevant safeguarding	
27/12/25	Hirst Park	Youths riding dangerously on off road bikes		Reported	Sect 59 warning given as a result of one of the youths being identified.	Ungraded-Intelligence only
26/12/25	The Cree	Fight outside of the Cree		Reported	Incident appears to be linked to another job, enquiries ongoing.	Grade 1
29/12/25	Station Road	Electric bikes on Station Road		Reported	Males faces are covered. Unable to identify the riders.	Ungraded-Intelligence only
29/12/25	Paddock Woods	Off road bikes on Paddock Woods		Reported	Faces are shown, images circulated between NPT teams	Ungraded-Intelligence only
29/12/25	Asda petrol station	Issues with electric bikes.		Reported	Images circulated between the NPT teams.	Ungraded-Intelligence only
01/01/26	The Cree	Medical incident outside of the pub.		Reported	Ambulance attended.	Ungraded-Intelligence only

Enc vi) DRAFT REPORT of CCTV meeting held on Wednesday 25th February 2026

13/01/26	Station Road	Off road bike riding down Station Road.		Reported	Footage put forward for campaign. No identification made.	Ungraded-Intelligence only
19/01/26	Station Road	Electric bike on Station Road		Reported	No identifications made. Appears to be an older male- face not covered.	Ungraded-Intelligence only
21/01/26	Station Road	Drunk males gain entry inside the christmas tree		Reported	No identifications made. No damage caused to the tree.	Ungraded-Intelligence only
31/01/26	Laburnum Terrace	Female knocked over by vehicle	56/31012026	Reported	No injuries, no concerns in relation to the manner of driving.	Grade 1
31/01/26	Hirst park	Youths drinking alcohol in the park.		Reported	Youths were given suitable words of advice, left the park after having alcohol seized	Ungraded-Intelligence only
08/02/26	Station Road	Youths kicking at the door of a shop on Station Road.		Requested	Enquiries ongoing	Ungraded - Intelligence only
15/02/26	Station Road	Footage sent over of a vehicle chasing		Requested	Enquiries ongoing	Ungraded-Intelligence only

Enc vi) DRAFT REPORT of CCTV meeting held on Wednesday 25th February 2026

		someone on a pedal bike.				
13/02/26	Station Road	Footage shows a potential drug deal between two males		Reported	Footage circulated between the NPT teams for identification and intelligence.	Ungraded-Intelligence only
17/02/26	Station Road	Male youths on a scooters , bikes and electric bikes causing ASB		Requested	This has been ongoing over the half term, dispersal notice issues over the weekend 20-21st	Ungraded - Intelligence only
18/02/26	Woodhorn Road	Surron bike driving dangerously and attempts to overtake a vehicle whilst they are turning on to Alexandra Road		Requested	Very clear footage and the cameras do capture part of the collision however due to there being no coverage on Alexandra Road, the view is obscured.	Ungraded-Intelligence only.
18/02/26	Hirst park	Small fire set in Hirst Park	Reported to the fire service	Reported	The fire appears to have been set by a male sleeping rough, Carla from NCC has spoken to this male and made	Ungraded - Intelligence only

Enc vi) DRAFT REPORT of CCTV meeting held on Wednesday 25th February 2026

					the appropriate signposting.	
20/02/26	North Seaton Road	Female assaulted by her partner		Requested	The cameras captured the assault however due to the distance from the cameras, exact details were difficult to make out.	Grade 1
21/02/26	Station Road	Fight between a group of males		Reported	Asset watch operators reported the assault which resulted in an arrest for assault. No other parties made calls to police. Male transported to hospital with a head injury.	Grade 1
22/02/26	Woodhorn Road	Asset watch patrol came across a female in an emotional state at 4am on Woodhorn Road. The patrol team remained which	0156 220226	Reported	Vulnerabilities identified. The female was escorted to her home address and safeguarding carried out.	Grade 2

Enc vi) DRAFT REPORT of CCTV meeting held on Wednesday 25th February 2026

		the female until officers arrived.				
24/02/26	Woodhorn Road	Asset watch patrol came across the same female as the above log, lying on the floor at the side of the road.	0075 240226	Reported	Patrol team remained with the female until ambulance and police arrived on scene.	Grade 1

Off-Road Bikes and Surrón Bikes

Intelligence gathering in respect of off-road and Surrón bikes continues to be a priority. The meeting noted that while there may not always be identifiable footage of individuals, footage of addresses to which riders return is being gathered and is building a valuable intelligence picture. Where dangerous driving is involved, this adds a further dimension to enforcement options available, including powers of entry.

One incident involving a Surrón Bike and a vehicle on the road — through no fault of the vehicle — is potentially being used in an education video to illustrate the serious danger posed by these bikes to all road users. The meeting welcomed this proactive approach to public awareness.

Vulnerable Female — Two Incidents

Asset Watch attended to a vulnerable female on two separate occasions in the early hours. On both occasions, Asset Watch remained present and supportive until police and ambulance services arrived. The meeting commended the prompt and compassionate response demonstrated.

Enc vi) DRAFT REPORT of CCTV meeting held on Wednesday 25th February 2026

Burglary on Station Road

CCTV footage from Station Road is being used as evidential material in an ongoing burglary investigation.

8. TECHNICAL MATTERS

a) Hotspot Areas — Additional Cameras

Hotspot areas were identified where additional cameras would both aid intelligence gathering and act as a deterrent to certain behaviour. The meeting noted that some of these areas relate to licensed premises, and it was firmly noted that the police and Northumberland County Council's licensing authority should utilise the powers available to them under licensing legislation, rather than placing reliance solely on the Town Council's support of CCTV. This is not Ashington Town Council's statutory responsibility, and whilst the Council is happy to work in partnership, it should not be seen as a substitute for the exercise of statutory licensing powers.

b) Mobile Camera — Priority Redeployment

The Council, in partnership with Asset Watch, has a camera which it was agreed could be moved around depending on priorities. As it was part of the system for a period of time, this has been provided by Asset Watch at no additional cost, other than relocating. Priority areas for the redeployment of this mobile camera were discussed and agreed by the meeting. The mobile camera will be recited to the highest priority location identified.

c) Commando Sockets — Lighting Columns

The Town Council will seek to utilise budget made available by Paul Jones at Northumberland County Council for the installation of additional commando sockets on lighting columns at the identified priority areas. Asset Watch are keen to proceed with these installations and police expressed their gratitude for this investment being taken forward.

Following the meeting, confirmation was received on the suitable lighting columns. One column requires a one-metre uplift, and this has been formally requested of NCC Street Lighting. The Town Council will continue to progress this.

d) North Seaton — Vehicles Leaving the Town

North Seaton was identified as a further hotspot area, particularly regarding vehicles leaving the town. Whilst there is ANPR in place, the meeting noted that a CCTV camera in this location would be of considerable benefit. However, having reviewed the position, the budget required for the priority areas identified is already committed, and there is no further budget currently available for this.

The meeting suggested that local businesses in the area might be approached, as such an investment would serve their own commercial interests, reduce risk, and support their social value agenda. It was agreed that the Town Council would write to businesses in the first instance to explore whether a contribution could be secured.

Enc vi) DRAFT REPORT of CCTV meeting held on Wednesday 25th February 2026

9. THE COUNCIL'S INVESTMENT IN COMMUNITY SAFETY

The meeting reflected on the significant and sustained investment Ashington Town Council makes in community safety through its support of the CCTV network and its partnership with Asset Watch. The meeting were clear that community safety is not a statutory function of a town council, yet Ashington Town Council has continued to prioritise this area because of the tangible benefit it delivers to residents.

The Council is proud to work in close partnership with Northumberland Police and the NCC Community Safety Team and values the collaborative approach that has developed.

It was AGREED the Executive Officer would circulate a further press release to highlight the Council's continued investment with some stories that illustrate the impact on safety in the town.

10. FUTURE MEETINGS AND REPORTS

The following dates were suggested, with a note that often August meetings are not favoured and the meetings could be brought forward or back. All dates suggested were tentative and subject to change according to availability.

- 20th May 2026
- 19th August 2026?
- 18th November 2026