

POTTON TOWN COUNCIL

Occupier
Bull Street
Potton
Bedfordshire
SG19 2NR

9th October 2017

Bull Street – Vehicle Damage

Dear Occupier

At the town council meeting on Tuesday 5th September two residents from Bull Street spoke to the town council with regards to vehicle damage (keyed and causing a great deal of expense to car owners.).

At the meeting the town council resolved to write to Central Bedfordshire Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner about cars being keyed in Bull Street. Minutes of the meeting are available on the town council website

<http://www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Minutes-Town-Council-Meeting-5th-September-2017.pdf>

Below is an update of what has happened since the meeting.

Correspondence sent to the Police and Crime Commissioner and Community Safety @ Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC), the two CBC ward cllrs Gurney and Zerny were copied in on the correspondence.

Dear Police and Crime Commissioner and Community Safety @ Central Bedfordshire Council

Following a recent meeting of Potton Town Council, I have been asked to contact you with regards to the amount vehicles that are being damaged (Keyed) in Bull Street, Potton. Residents have advised the town council that numerous cars have damaged (keyed) and that they have reported the car damage (keying) to Bedfordshire Police.

The town council would like to be informed about the following;
Firstly please can you advise on how many acts of car damage (keyed) have been reported to Bedfordshire Police in Bull Street, Potton. Statistical information with as much data as you are allowed to provide would be helpful.

Mr J Whitehurst, Town Clerk.

THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, BROOK END, POTTON, BEDFORDSHIRE, SG19 2QS.

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Secondly how many incidents of car damage (keying) in Bull Street, Potton need to be reported to Bedfordshire Police, for Bedfordshire Police and Central Bedfordshire Council to identify this area to be a hot spot. For then Central Bedfordshire Council to then agree to install one or more of its temporary mobile (re-deployable cameras) CCTV cameras in Bull Street, Potton because the area has been identified as a hot spot. I refer to your website “*Central Bedfordshire Council also operates a number of re-deployable cameras which are placed in hot spot areas where static CCTV does not exist. We always consult local residents prior to deployment of a mobile camera.*”

Thirdly please can you advise on what the cost would be to the town council for Central Bedfordshire Council to supply, install a new CCTV camera in the Market Square (near Bull Street), Potton and also the cost for maintaining and monitoring of the new CCTV camera. (A breakdown of the costs would be helpful). The CCTV camera could then have one of its set positions looking up Bull Street, another set position looking up Sun Street and other set positions looking around the Market Square. The town council can then consider the costs as part of its budget setting process, which it is currently working on in advance of setting its Precept and Budget.

Initial response from Police and Crime Commissioner’s office was as follows;

I have forwarded this on to Bedfordshire Police Force for their review and attention. Once I have received an update, I will be in touch.

Response from Community Safety @ CBC was as follows;

I have asked for this issue to be raised at our next Community Safety Partnership Tasking Meeting which is on 10 October.

Second response from Police and Crime Commissioner’s office was as follows;

Further to our previous correspondence, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) has been updated with the following from Inspector Masters of Bedfordshire Police:

We have had series of periodic criminal damage to cars in this street and completed normal enquires with no suspects or leads and so carried out an Op Beneke to proactively investigate local intelligence with Local PCSO Ann Jeeves leading the Community side of things – local feeling is that it is somebody with a grudge against the use of this road for parking and likely to be a local resident.

Offences don’t form a time pattern or leave forensic opportunities and hence regular patrol – overt or covert are of little use. We are scoping for the possible use of the CCTV camera to be moved into the street but depending on location viability and

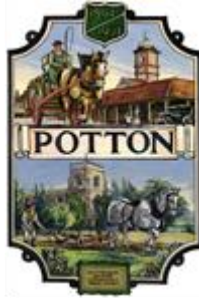
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coverage and the fact that locals will know it is there may again be of questionable value.

Once again we are ensuring we have patrolled and engaged with locals as to likely culprits.

Central Beds and Steve Barrett are the point of contact around temporary CCTV deployment and we will raise the matter and work with him around the issue, the decision will be based on Threat , Harm and Risk and availability of the camera.

It will be on-going work and I'll keep the OPCC updated with any developments.

I hope you find the above information useful and thank you for taking the time to contact the Commissioner.

I have also forwarded the below emails to the individual within the OPCC that attends the Community Safety Partnership meetings for their information and attention.

Local PCSO Ann Jeeves has contacted the town council.

Further updates when available will be posted on the town council website.
<http://www.pottontowncouncil.co.uk/>

Yours sincerely

Mr J Whitehurst, Town Clerk.

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