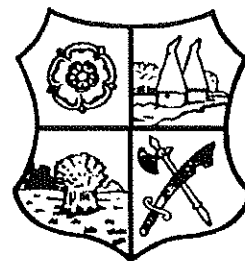


# ALTON TOWN COUNCIL



## PRESS RELEASE

27 March 2009

### ROLL CAMERAS, ACTION!

A pledge made in the spring of 2007 by the Town Council to work toward the provision of CCTV in Alton town centre within two years is at last being fulfilled, as contractors started work this week on the long-awaited scheme, much to the joy of civic, community and business groups.

The scheme has been talked about on and off for nearly ten years, with town centre traders increasingly concerned that with most other towns having the ever watchful eyes, shoplifters and other criminals were starting to see Alton as a soft target. Further worry at the level of criminal damage and anti-social behaviour, particularly during evenings, finally prompted Town Councillors to bite the bullet and press ahead, even though it has meant the Town Council having to bear much of the initial and all the ongoing costs.

The council originally looked at a scheme costing £106,000 but then worked with the successful contractor and consultants, to amend the design so that the same results were achieved in a more cost effective way, resulting in a lower cost of £80,121, which was especially welcome, given that an appeal to traders which hoped to net £10,000 only raised £2,000. Contributions from other parties to the scheme to date include EHD Community Safety Partnership Project Fund £8,400; EHDC Community Initiative Fund £15,000, Hampshire Police Authority £3,000 and Hampshire Police £1,000.

The five camera scheme, backed by Alton Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ACCI), East Hampshire Community Safety Partnership, Hampshire Police and other representative organisations, will see wireless technology used to broadcast the images to Alton Police Station, where they can be watched live or retrospectively when needed, before transmission on to the full-time monitoring suite operated by Winchester City Council. Here, they will be proactively monitored for seven days per week, twelve hours per day - the exact twelve hour window to follow the recommendation of the Police. The scheme has been designed to cater for up to ten cameras in all, so additional cameras can be added as and when needed, funds permitting.

Four of the cameras are being mounted on dedicated columns being installed at Normandy Street/Victoria Road, Crown Hill opposite the Assembly Rooms, High Street/Market Street and outside Westbrooke House. A fifth unity is being attached to the Town Hall to monitor the Market Square and top of Amery Street.

The ongoing costs are in the region of £3,000 to maintain the equipment plus £10,000 monitoring.

Councillor John Smith, who chairs the Town Council's Crime & Disorder Working Party, said "When it appears that a much-needed project is going no where, sometimes someone has to say, okay, we will do it. The Town Council was fed up with CCTV going round in circles and decided to just get on and do it and I am therefore delighted that we have delivered something that we promised we would do. I have no doubt that the cameras will hopefully not just deter and help solve crime, but also lessen the all important fear of crime as people go about their business in the town centre."

The Town Council would like to publically thank all those businesses who have contributed to date: A&S Engineering; Bookers & Bolton; Elstream Management Ltd; fabrik Ltd; Gilroy & Brookes; Lantern Foods; Leightons Opticians; Normandy Street Business Association; Swift Industrial Supplies and Wessex Frame Buildings. The council hopes that now the project is underway, more traders may be willing to contribute.

End

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### **Note to Editors**

A photocall is being organised for the latter part of the week commencing Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March, details to be confirmed.