

CROMER- PF/22/3028 – Installation / re-installation of CCTV cameras in Cromer town centre. Cromer Town Council, 21 Overstrand Road and 13 other locations around Cromer.

Minor Development

Target Date: 28th March 2023

Extension of time: 28th April 2023

Case Officer: Ms A Walker

Full Planning Permission

RELEVANT SITE CONSTRAINTS

- The application sites are located within the settlement boundary of Cromer in areas designated as Residential, Open Land, Public Realm, Primary Shopping and Town Centre, in policy terms.
- The application sites are located within the Cromer Conservation Area and affects the setting of Locally Listed and Grade II listed Heritage Assets.
- The application sites are within areas susceptible to Ground and Surface Water Flooding.
- The application sites are within areas of Contaminated Land.

RELEVANT PLANNING HISTORY

Reference PF/00/1381
Description Erection of six meter pole and cctv photo-scanner dome
Outcome Approved 17/04/01

Reference PF/03/0132
Description Relocation of six meter pole with cctv camera dome
Outcome Approved 03/04/03

Reference PF/00/1490
Description Erection of six meter pole mounted cctv camera
Outcome Approved 17/04/01

Reference PF/00/1489
Description Erection of six meter pole mounted cctv camera
Outcome Approved 09/02/01

Reference PF/00/1488
Description Erection of six meter pole mounted cctv camera
Outcome Approved 17/04/01

Reference PF/00/1382
Description Erection of six meter pole and cctv photo-scanner dome
Outcome Approved 05/02/01

Reference PF/00/1380
Description Erection of eight meter pole and cctv photo-scanner dome
Outcome Approved 17/04/01

THE APPLICATION

The application seeks permission for installation / re-installation of 11 CCTV cameras in various locations around Cromer town centre and 3 associated bridge antenna infrastructure.

REASONS FOR REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE

The application received a number of objections raising material planning issues. As both Ward Councillor and leader of Cromer Town Council (the Applicant) the application cannot be referred to Councillor Adams under Lead Member Protocol and is therefore referred to the planning committee due to Cllr Adams declared interest.

REPRESENTATIONS

Seven in objection (summarised):

- Too many proposed cameras disproportionate to the crime level - the intrusion of privacy is hugely disproportionate to the small benefits achieved by the installation of the cameras.
- Number of cameras proposed will ruin the ambiance of the town.
- Health concerns regarding the use of Nanobeam technology.
- The previous installations for CCTV were proved to be ineffective and were subsequently removed at a great waste of money
- Number of cameras excessive and infringes on our freedom of movement common law rights to privacy.
- Violation of public right to privacy and unwelcome intrusion into residents' private lives, with no evidence-based justification.
- Cost- It's expensive and the money could be better spent elsewhere the current economic climate/ cost of living crisis.
- People do not consent to be monitored in this way.

CONSULTATIONS

Cromer Town Council: No response received.

Historic England: No advice given.

Conservation and Design: No objection.

Environmental Health: Support Application.

Estates Officer: No response received.

County Council Highways: No objection.

(Police) Architectural Liaison Officer/safety Officer: Support Application.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

It is considered that the proposed development may raise issues relevant to Article 8: The Right to respect for private and family life.

Article 1 of the First Protocol: The right to peaceful enjoyment of possessions.

Having considered the likely impact on an individual's Human Rights, and the general interest of the public, approval of this application as recommended is considered to be justified, proportionate and in accordance with planning law.

CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 - CHAPTER 17

The application is intended to help reduce crime and disorder within Cromer Town Centre and will also help provide a way of capturing evidence when crime and disorder incidents do occur within the coverage area of the cameras.

LOCAL FINANCE CONSIDERATIONS

Under Chapter 70(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 the council is required when determining planning applications to have regard to any local finance considerations, so far as material to the application. Local finance considerations are not considered to be material to this case.

STANDING DUTIES

Due regard has been given to the following duties: Environment Act 2021 Equality Act 2010 Crime and Disorder Act, 1998 (S17) Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006 (S40) The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (R9) Planning Act 2008 (S183) Human Rights Act 1998 – this incorporates the rights of the European Convention on Human Rights into UK Law - Article 8 – Right to Respect for Private and Family Life Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (S66(1) and S72)

RELEVANT POLICIES

North Norfolk Core Strategy (Adopted September 2008):

Policy SS 1 (Spatial Strategy for North Norfolk)

Policy SS 6 (Access and Infrastructure)

Policy SS 7 (Cromer)

Policy EN 2 (Protection and Enhancement of Landscape and Settlement Character)

Policy EN 4 (Design)

Policy EN 5 (Public realm)

Policy EN 8 (Protecting and enhancing the historic environment)

Policy EN 13 (Pollution and hazard prevention and minimisation)

Policy CT 5 (The Transport Impact of New Development)

Policy CT 6 (Parking Provision)

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2021):

Chapter 2 (Achieving sustainable development)

Chapter 4 (Decision-making)

Chapter 7 (Ensuring the Vitality of Town Centres)

Chapter 8 (Promoting healthy and safe communities)

Chapter 12 (Achieving well-designed places)

Chapter 14 (Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change)

Chapter 16 (Conserving and enhancing the historic environment)

Supplementary Planning Documents

Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (December 2008)

North Norfolk Landscape Character Assessment SPD (2021)

MAIN ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

- 1. Principle of development**
- 2. The effect on the character and appearance of the area**
- 3. The effect on local amenity**
- 4. Highway safety**

APPRAISAL

1. Principle

The site lies within the settlement boundary of Cromer, which is designated as a 'Principal Settlement' by Policy SS 1 and SS 7 of the Adopted North Norfolk Core Strategy. The site also lies within the 'Town Centre' designation where external alterations are supported in principle subject to compliance with relevant core strategy policies.

2. Design and visual impact

The proposal seeks the reinstatement of 8 CCTV cameras and the installation of 3 new cameras and 3 new antennas for transmission purposes. The CCTV cameras will largely be placed on existing CCTV columns and streetlights with one new column proposed (Runton Road Car Park) and the new antenna will be located on existing streetlights along the A149 (Mount Street and Runton Road).

The cameras proposed are NanoBeam devices with a fibreglass housing, measuring c. 189mm (7.44 inch) in diameter and c. 125mm (4.92 inch) in depth. With regards to the antennas these use line-of-sight based communication, using frequencies of around 2.5 Ghz (similar to mobile phone signal). The cameras are proposed to be located at least 3-4 metres high from street level on the smaller lamp columns and higher on the existing CCTV posts in the town. Given the proposed size, materials and locations of the cameras and antennas within Cromer, there is not considered to be any significant negative visual impact associated with the scheme.

The proposed cameras are located within the Cromer Conservation area and also within the setting of several listed heritage assets. Conservation and Design officers were consulted and offered no objection to the proposals.

The application is therefore considered to comply with Adopted Core Strategy Policies EN 2, EN 4 and EN 8 in terms of design and visual impact.

3. Amenity

The proposal is largely to reinstall a number of CCTV Cameras within Cromer Town Centre with 3 additional locations proposed as there have been instances of anti-social behaviour where the applicant would have benefitted from the use of CCTV. The applicant has previously engaged with Norfolk Constabulary to discuss the locations where coverage would be most valuable.

The Council is also aware that there have been recent incidents of vandalism and anti-social behaviour in the Cromer area, including destruction of Council assets such as public toilets which is detrimental to the community. Environmental Health Officers consider that the proposed CCTV cameras should help to discourage such activity or better ensure that perpetrators can be brought to suitable justice.

Policy EN 5 requires that within areas designated as Public Realm proposals will be expected to enhance the overall appearance and usability of the area, the proposal would require some refurbishment of the existing CCTV infrastructure (poles) visually enhancing the appearance of several existing CCTV locations within the town centre.

The cameras would be predominantly located within Town Centre or Public realm locations with only camera location 10 (at the junction of Bernard Road overlooking Cadogan Road Carpark) being located within a designated residential area. The cameras are intended only to monitor public realm areas and there will be no usage of the system to monitor private property. The system would be operated by the Town Council who are registered with the Information Commissioner's Office. The footage collected may be shared when necessary with North Norfolk District Council, Norfolk County Council, Norfolk Constabulary, Insurance Companies, Ombudsman and regulatory authorities, Courts and tribunals, and other prosecuting authorities.

Images captured will not be kept for more than 28 days unless there are circumstances which require them to be kept for longer, for instance where a crime is being investigated.

Overall, the application is considered to comply with Policies EN 4 and EN 5 of the Adopted North Norfolk Core Strategy in terms of amenity.

4. Highway Safety

It is not expected that this proposal will have an impact upon parking provision in town or traffic movement.

On this basis, the proposal is acceptable under Policy CT 5 and Policy CT 6 of the Adopted North Norfolk Core Strategy as well as Chapter 9 of the NPPF (2021).

Conclusion and 'Planning Balance'

The proposal is considered acceptable in terms of principle, design, highways and amenity with public benefits identified from the refurbishment of existing CCTV poles as well as safer public spaces.

The issues raised in letters of representation (summarised above) have been considered. Officers consider that they do not raise material considerations which outweigh the recommendation to approve.

No consultees have raised objections to the proposals.

The application therefore accords with the relevant policies of the adopted Development Plan as listed above.

RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVAL subject to conditions to cover the matters listed below

- Time (3 years)
- Development in accordance with the approved plans
- Materials

Final wording of conditions to be delegated to the Assistant Director – Planning