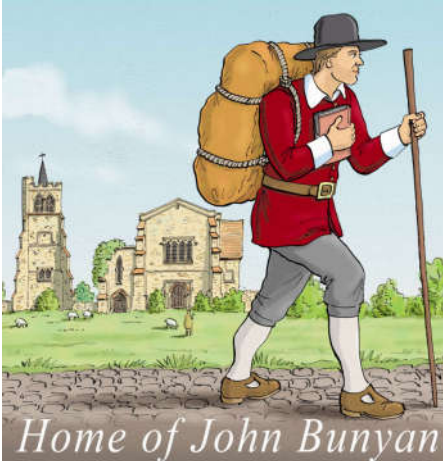




ELSTOW PARISH COUNCIL: CCTV POLICY

1. This Policy should be read with reference to the Data Protection Act 2018, Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 (PFA), the Human Rights Act 1998 (HRA), the Secretary of State's Surveillance Camera Code of Practice (SC code) and the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) CCTV Code of Practice.

2. Background & Introduction

Under the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 and Data Protection Act 2018 the processing of personal data captured by CCTV systems is governed (including images identifying individuals). The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has issued a Code of Practice on compliance with legal obligations. The use of CCTV is covered by the Act, regardless of the number of cameras or how sophisticated the equipment is, and Elstow Parish Council adheres to the ICO's Code of Practice.

Elstow Parish Council is committed to informing the public about the presence of and operation of CCTV. This Policy is available on the Elstow Parish Council's website so that all stakeholders are clear about how CCTV is utilised.

Access to personal information recorded through CCTV cameras is restricted solely to the Data Protection Officer appointed by Elstow Parish Council.

3. Objectives and targets

This CCTV Policy explains how Elstow Parish Council will operate its CCTV equipment and comply with the current legislation.

The Elstow Parish Council uses CCTV equipment to provide a safer, more secure environment for members of the public and to combat vandalism and theft. Essentially it is used for:

- The prevention, investigation and detection of crime.
- The apprehension and prosecution of offenders (including use of images as evidence in criminal proceedings).
- Safeguarding the public, contractors, volunteers and staff.
- To protect members of the public and private property

The Elstow Parish Council does not use the CCTV system for covert monitoring.

4. Location

Cameras are in those areas where it has been identified there is a need and where other solutions are ineffective. The CCTV system is used solely for purpose(s) identified and is not used to routinely monitor law abiding members of the public indiscriminately. Signage will be used to alert members of the public that CCTV is being used.

Static cameras will be carefully positioned on public property so not to focus on private homes, gardens, and other areas of private property. Any camera that captures images that are on private property will be obscured.

Materials or knowledge secured as a result of CCTV will not be used for any commercial purpose.

Recordings will only be released to the media for use in the investigation of a specific crime and with the written authority of the Police. Tapes will never be released to the media for purposes of entertainment or documentary purposes.

5. Maintenance

The CCTV system is maintained by Elstow Parish Council and includes periodic maintenance inspections. Elstow Parish Council is responsible for:

- Ensuring that it complies with its responsibilities in relation to guidance on the location of the camera.
- Ensuring that the date and time reference are accurate.
- Ensuring that suitable maintenance and servicing is undertaken to ensure that clear images are recorded.
- Ensuring that the Data Protection Officer is trained in the use of the equipment.
- Ensuring that cameras are protected from vandalism in order to ensure that they remain in working order.

6. Identification

In areas of entrance to the village, the Council will ensure prominent signs are in place. The signs will:

- Be clearly visible and legible.
- Contain details of the organisation operating the scheme, the purpose for using CCTV and who to contact about the scheme.
- Be an appropriate size depending on context.

7. Type of equipment

The Elstow Parish Council's standard CCTV cameras record visual images only and do not record sound.

8. Administration

Elstow Parish Council is the Data Controller, and the Data Protection Officer has responsibility for the control of images and deciding how the CCTV system is used. The Council has notified the Information Commissioner's Office of both the name of the Data Controller and the purpose for which the images are used. Only the Data Protection Officer will have access to images and is aware of the procedures that need to be followed when accessing the recorded images. The Data Protection Officer is trained, will perform his or her duties pursuant to the Parish Council CCTV Administrative Policy and is aware of responsibilities pursuant to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) CCTV Code of Practice:

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-data-protection/encryption/scenarios/cctv/>

Access to recorded images is restricted to the Data Protection Officer and recordings will be

accessed as prescribed by the Parish Council CCTV Administrative Policy in the event of an incident.

Access to the medium on which the images are recorded is documented. All staff are aware of the restrictions in relation to access and security, and disclosure of, recorded images.

9. Image storage, viewing and retention.

Recorded images will be stored in a way that ensures the integrity of the image and in a way that allows specific times and dates to be identified.

The Elstow Parish Council reserves the right to use images captured on CCTV where there is activity that cannot be expected to be ignored such as criminal activity, risk to others such as loss of life or injury. The Data Protection Officer will retain images for evidential purposes on a secure device belonging to the Parish Council. Where images are retained, the Data Protection Officer will ensure the reason for its retention is recorded, where it is kept, any use made of the images and finally when it is destroyed.

The Elstow Parish Council ensures that images are not retained for longer than is necessary. Once the retention period has expired, images are removed or erased.

10. Disclosure

Disclosure of the recorded images to third parties can only be authorised by the Data Controller pursuant to the Parish Council CCTV Administrative Policy. Disclosure will only be granted:

- If its release is fair to all individuals concerned.
- If there is an overriding legal obligation (e.g. information access rights).
- If it is consistent with the purpose for which the system was established.

All requests for access or for disclosure are recorded. If access or disclosure is denied, the reason is documented.

N.B Disclosure may be authorised to law enforcement agencies, even if a system was not established to prevent or detect crime, if withholding it would prejudice the prevention or detection of crime.

11. Subject Access Requests

Individuals whose images are recorded have a right to view images of themselves and, unless they agree otherwise, to be provided with a copy of the images. If the Elstow Parish Council receives a Subject Access Request under the General Data Protection Regulations 2018 it will comply with requests within 1 month. The Council may charge a fee for the provision of a copy of images. If the Council receives a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 it will comply with requests within 20 working days of receiving the request.

As a general rule, if the viewer can identify any person other than, or in addition to, the person requesting access, it will be deemed personal data, and its disclosure is unlikely as a Freedom of Information request.

Those requesting access must provide sufficient detail or if requested photographic evidence

to allow the operator to identify that they are the subject of the images, and for the operator to locate the images on the system. Requests for access should be addressed to the Data Controller.

Refusal to disclose images may be appropriate where its release is:

- Likely to cause substantial and unwarranted damage to that individual.
- To prevent automated decisions from being taken in relation to that individual.

12. Monitoring and evaluation

The Elstow Parish Council undertakes regular audits to ensure that the use of CCTV continues to be justified. The audit includes a review of:

- Its stated purpose.
- The location.
- The images recorded.
- Storage length.
- Deletion.

13. Period of Review

The efficacy of this Policy will be reviewed biennially by the Elstow Parish Council. If the Council decides to change the way in which it uses CCTV, it will inform the Information Commissioner within 28 days.

14. Guiding Principles

System operators should adopt the following 12 guiding principles:

1. Use of a surveillance camera system must always be for a specified purpose which is in pursuit of a legitimate aim and necessary to meet an identified pressing need.
2. The use of a surveillance camera system must consider its effect on individuals and their privacy, with regular reviews to ensure its use remains justified.
3. There must be as much transparency in the use of a surveillance camera system as possible, including a published contact point for access to information and complaints.
4. There must be clear responsibility and accountability for all surveillance camera system activities including images and information collected, held, and used.
5. Clear rules, policies, and procedures (Administrative Policy) must be in place before a surveillance camera system is used, and these must be communicated to all who need to comply with them.
6. No more images and information should be stored than that which is strictly required for the stated purpose of a surveillance camera system, and such images and information should be deleted once their purposes have been discharged.
7. Access to retained images and information should be restricted and there must be clearly defined rules on who can gain access and for what purpose such access is granted; the disclosure of images and information should only take place when it is necessary for such a purpose or for law enforcement purposes.
8. Surveillance camera system operators should consider any approved operational, technical

and competency standards relevant to a system and its purpose and work to meet and maintain those standards.

9. Surveillance camera system images and information should be subject to appropriate security measures to safeguard against unauthorised access and use.

Data Controller:

Elstow Parish Council

PO BOX 1548, Bedford MK44 5AX

ICO Registration: ICO:00016622155

Policy Adopted: July 2024