



Organisation Name	Little Chalfont Parish Council
Project Name	Installation of CCTV equipment in Little Chalfont Nature Park
Funding Stream	Local Infrastructure
Total Cost of project	£7,200.00
Amount of Match Funding	£1,000.00 (awaiting HoB decision for £2,500)
Amount being applied for	£3,700.00 (to be reviewed following HoB decision)
Amount suggested	To be discussed by the board

### Project Summary

A small minority of young people are causing problems by vandalising park furniture, bird boxes and using the park for drug taking. This causes distress to users and is stopping some from visiting the park. Actions, including visits by police officers, have failed to stop the problem. CCTV will go a long way to identifying the perpetrators and minimising, if not eliminating, the problem.

The Nature Park is an important part of Little Chalfont's 'Visit Chilterns Strategy' and we need to eliminate as far as possible any anti-social behaviour.

This project is viewed as an important safety investment for all users. Solar powered CCTV equipment for the Nature Park in Little Chalfont, will be a community asset, owned by a charitable trust and maintained by the parish council. It was opened in June 2016 providing a tranquil and learning experience for those who visit. It is accessible to all, irrespective of age or ability.

There is no electricity connection in the park so solar power will be used. Four cameras will cover different parts of the park including the entrance area. The cameras will be mounted on two high towers and have the ability to download high quality recordings.

The whole community and visitors from further afield will benefit. Those who will particularly benefit include our older residents who may feel threatened, mothers/parents who do not want to expose their children to poor behaviour and those using the park for educational purposes.

Children from primary schools and the younger uniformed groups are frequent visitors to the park. The park is a regular destination for pupils from Stony Dean (SEN) School in Amersham whose head teacher has agreed that the park achieves its aims i.e. to promote wellbeing, to connect with nature, for educational purposes, for mental health and outdoor exercise.

Examples of vandalism:



## How does the project address local priorities?

### **Coronavirus recovery and ongoing support**

The park is an ideal place for people, living within walking distance, to visit during any lock-down or when recovering from physical and mental health issues as a result of coronavirus.

### **Village and town centre revival**

The park is very close to the village centre. People from outside the immediate area who visit the park will often patronise local shops. The park is an important part of Little Chalfont's 'Visit Chilterns Strategy' and we need to eliminate as far as possible any anti-social behaviour.

The CCTV system will encourage more people to visit the park and therefore the shops and other businesses.

### **Green issues and the environment, Health and wellbeing of young people:**

The park is a perfect example of a place where local people can both support, and benefit from, the environment and enjoy aspects of nature that are unlikely to be found elsewhere locally.

## How does the project align with the values, objectives and corporate priorities of Buckinghamshire Council?

**Strengthening our communities:** The Nature Park is an ideal place to visit, either alone or, when allowed to meet with other people. It is frequently used by schools and uniformed organisations and also by the 'Simply Walk' group which helps bring people together.

The park also provides an ideal opportunity for local residents to volunteer. Much of the work in the park is carried out by volunteers (currently about 10) who enjoy the outdoors and nature. This results in a greater community spirit as people, from a variety of backgrounds and with a variety of skills, work together for the benefit of everyone who visits the park. Another volunteer looks after the website and other social media activities.

Recently, a new volunteer schools liaison officer has been appointed to work with local schools and academies and encourage children to make use of the valuable natural environment of the nature park. The CCTV system will help to provide security for those working in the park as well as those who use it for recreation.

**Improving our environment:** The park contains a rare wildflower meadow which is professionally maintained and there are many examples of trees, flowers and grasses including some rare plants such as British natural daffodils.

Additionally, there is a wide range of fauna, invertebrates (mini-beasts), reptiles, mammals and birds. A bug hotel is a great attraction for younger visitors but recently it was vandalised.

The CCTV system will help to protect these various and special assets.

**Protecting the vulnerable:** Elderly people and those with mental health issues find the park a place of peace but can be scared from visiting if there is a threat of unacceptable behaviour.

The CCTV system will help to reduce incidents in the park which prevent peaceful enjoyment.

## How does the project achieve value for money?

### **Chosen supplier: Matrix Fire + Security**

Tower and two cameras to cover entrance to nature park £3600

Tower and two cameras to cover play area of nature park £3600

The maintenance contract costs of £190.00+VAT per annum will be covered by the Parish Council.

2 signs will provide information compliant with the Data Protection Act

A second quote was obtained by Sparkx and came in slightly cheaper, however upon review by the Parish Council, the cameras would not provide the resolution needed for facial recognition and therefore the equipment would be unsuitable for the task required at the nature park.

The Parish Council have tendered with Matrix before and they will be doing the CCTV work in the Beel Close underpass. They are a very reputable company, are competitive and know the type of equipment needed for the requirements.

An application to the Heart of Bucks Foundation for £2,500 will reach a decision by March 2021.

The Parish Council are keen to complete the project by the end of March as the agreed £1,000 allocated from their budget is from the current financial year's accounts.

Matrix have a lead time of about 3 weeks so the project could, all being well, be done before the end of the financial year if funding is approved.

#### Community Board Coordinator comments

The Nature Park is an important community facility and can provide many benefits to the whole local community as highlighted above, and in line with the priorities of the board.

It is suggested that, should funding be agreed, the Local Infrastructure Fund would be appropriate for this application. With the addition of CCTV, the Nature Park will provide a safe place for local people as well as visitors from the wider community to enjoy. The Parish Council and volunteers will feel more confident in encouraging its use to existing and new residents of the local area when acts of anti-social behaviour can be kept to a minimum, or eliminated.

The project was discussed in the Village and Town Centre Revival working group meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> November and overall the attendees were supportive of an application for funding.

The Community Safety Team have been made aware of the application and have stressed the importance of following data protection requirements by the ICO: <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/data-protection-self-assessment/cctv-checklist/> It is suggested that any funding should only be agreed on the basis that the necessary regulations and procedures are put in place.

The Parish Council have been in discussion with Thames Valley Police who would have access to recordings saved to memory cards, should a need arise. The CCTV will not be monitored but recordings can be accessed for a period of up to 28 days. The Parish Council are aware of requirements for storing data.

**The applicant will be required to agree to terms and conditions, which include a monitoring agreement, as discussed with the Community Board Coordinator before the fund will be formally awarded.**