



Introduction

In response to concerns raised by residents, local businesses, and Sussex Police regarding anti-social behaviour, vandalism, and crime within the parish, Steyning Parish Council are consulting on the introduction of a new CCTV system to help improve safety in key public areas of the town. Residents are invited to share their views on the proposal via the Parish Office or the online consultation form.

- The proposed locations for the initial cameras are Fletcher's Croft, the Memorial Playing Fields and parts of the High Street. There would also be the option to use small mobile units in specific problem areas, such as fly-tipping hotspots.
- The aim of the scheme is to help deter anti-social behaviour, support police investigations, protect public facilities, increase safety and provide reassurance to residents and visitors.
- Cameras would only monitor public spaces such as pedestrian routes, car parks and access points, and would not be aimed at private homes. All footage would be handled lawfully and in line with data protection rules, with strict controls on who can view recordings.
- The system would be managed by trained council staff and neighbourhood wardens, working in partnership with Sussex Police where necessary. Independent oversight, a clear complaints process and regular transparency reporting would also be in place.

This is a proportionate, community-focused proposal to enhance safety, protect facilities, and improve quality of life in Steyning.

Crime statistics clearly demonstrate that anti-social behaviour, criminal damage, and violence occur in public areas — particularly around playgrounds, car parks, and High Street public spaces. CCTV will provide a **visible deterrent**, support investigations, and reassure residents and visitors.

Have your say: Please respond via the Parish Office or online consultation form.



Why CCTV?

In the Steyning, Bramber, Upper Beeding, Ashington & Woodmancote policing area (Sussex Police, November 2025) over the past 12 months there have been 621 reported crimes.

The most common offences include:

- **Violence & sexual offences** – 156 reported
- **Shoplifting** – 144 reported
- **Anti-social behaviour** – 85 reported
- **Criminal damage & arson** – 66 reported
- **Public order offences** – 44 reported

The CCTV proposal is guided by three objectives: **Making public spaces safe; Supporting policing and enforcement; Protecting community assets.** CCTV can help to:

- Deter anti-social behaviour and criminal activity.
- Provide evidence to support prosecutions.
- Protect public assets and facilities.
- Reassure residents and visitors.
- Enhance quality of life and community confidence.

Cameras will be located to focus on public areas, pedestrian routes, car parks and entry/exit points and not private homes.

Standards applied to any installed system:

- **Lawful, fair, transparent processing:** images will be processed only for the purposes set out in this consultation.
- **Limited retention:** recordings will be deleted after a defined retention period unless required for an ongoing investigation or legitimate purpose.
- **Access control:** only named officers and authorised policing staff may view footage; all access will be logged and audited.
- **Independent oversight:** an independent review mechanism (eg. independent visitors or an advisory panel) will be established to review compliance, mirroring good practice elsewhere.
- **Community complaints:** clear complaints and redress route will be provided and published.

Operational management & partnership with Sussex Police

- **Primary monitoring responsibility:** Steyning Parish Clerk / Deputy Clerk and Neighbourhood Wardens.
- **Limited access and auditability:** Any viewings or footage disclosures for investigations will be recorded and justified in accordance with the published Code of Practice.

- **Sharing with Sussex Police:** A formal, auditable route will share footage with Sussex Police where required for policing purposes (investigation, evidence or emergency response).
- **Requests, subject access and complaints:** individuals seeking access to footage of themselves should make a request to SPC in writing.
- **Independent oversight & transparency:** the Council will publish a DPIA summary, a CCTV Code of Practice and annual transparency reports showing the number of times footage was accessed, disclosed to police and subject to complaint. An independent reviewer or advisory panel will carry out dip-checks on compliance and publish findings as appropriate.
- **Training & competency:** named monitoring officers will receive formal training on privacy, data protection, secure evidence handling and the Council's obligations under this Code of Practice. Training will be refreshed periodically and recorded.
- **Professional monitoring (optional):** the Council may review options for professional monitoring or video-verification services at a later date; any such change would require separate approval, a DPIA update and publication of the change.

Costs

Cost of installation

The Council plans to install the CCTV equipment in phases with the coverage being dependent upon the results of the consultation process. The capital cost for the first phase will be in the region of £18,000.

Cost of antisocial and criminal behaviour on SPC assets

There are financial consequences associated with antisocial behaviour, including the need for more maintenance of equipment, buildings, fixtures and fittings, or potentially the replacement of these items. To give two examples of this, the Council has had to maintain/ re-attach or replace soap dispensers in our public toilets five times in the period October 2025 to January 2026. The equipment involved is relatively cheap but, when labour and other staff time is taken into account, it has a cost in the region of £450.

Our many Children's Play Areas are unfortunately often targeted with four fires being lit on the play surfaces in two locations in the last four years, and again as an example, the replacement of the basket swing on the MPF, which had been attacked on multiple occasions by a large knife or saw cost £2,136.00, plus fitting, to replace.

The annual cost of maintaining our 8 Play Areas is now approximately £5,250.00.

Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)

In order to comply with legislation, there will need to be a DPIA undertaken by the Parish Council.

This will address: purpose and necessity; location/privacy mapping; retention; storage and security; access controls; impacts on / mitigations of privacy and clear operational rules for mobile deployments.