

Elm Parish Council

CCTV Policy

1. Introduction - including Data Protection Principles

This policy is to control the management, operation, use, and confidentiality of the CCTV system located at:

- i. Begdale Playing Field and car park

The policy has been prepared taking due account of General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. This policy will be subject to periodic review by the Parish Council to ensure that it continues to reflect the public interest and that it and the system meets all legislative requirements.

**(Due to the Data (Use and Access) Act coming into law on 19th June 2025, the Information Commissioner's guidance is currently under review and may be subject to change, Council will amend this policy accordingly, as appropriate).

The CCTV Scheme is registered with the Information Commissioner under the Terms of the Data Protection Act 2018. Registration Reference: ZA256431

Elm Parish Council accepts the seven key data protection principles based on the Data Protection Act 2018 which state that Data must be:

1. Fairly and lawfully processed;
2. processed for limited purposes and not in any manner incompatible with those purposes;
3. adequate, relevant and not excessive;
4. accurate;
5. not kept for longer than is necessary;
6. processed in accordance with individuals' rights;
7. secure.

2. Statement of Purpose

To provide a safe and secure environment for the benefit of those who might visit, work or live in the area. The system will not be used to invade the privacy of any individual, except when carried out in accordance with the law. The scheme will be used for the following purposes:

- to reduce the fear of crime by persons using facilities at Begdale Playing Field, so they can enter and leave the buildings and facilities without fear of intimidation by individuals or groups;
- to reduce the vandalism of property and to prevent, deter and detect crime and disorder;
- to assist the police and other Law Enforcement Agencies with identification, detection, apprehension and prosecution of offenders by examining and using retrievable evidence relating to crime, public order or contravention of byelaws;
- to deter potential offenders by publicly displaying the existence of CCTV, having cameras clearly sited that are not hidden and signs on display in areas being monitored;
- to assist all "emergency services" to carry out their lawful duties.

3. Changes to the Purpose or Policy

A major change that would have a significant impact on either the purpose or this policy of operation of the CCTV scheme will take place only after discussion and resolution at full Council meeting.

4. Responsibilities of the Owners of the Scheme

The Parish Council retains overall responsibility for the scheme.

5. Management of the System

Day-to-day operational responsibility rests with Council's Data Controllers in conjunction with any Councillor authorised to do so by resolution of full Council.

Any breaches of this policy will be investigated by the Parish Clerk and/or Deputy Clerk and reported to the Parish Council.

A CCTV system prevents crime largely by increasing the risk of detection and prosecution of an offender. Any relevant tape or digital evidence must be in an acceptable format for use at Court hearings. This policy must be read and understood by all persons involved in this scheme and individual copies of this policy will therefore be issued for retention. A copy will also be available for reference in the secure recording areas.

6. Control and Operation of the Cameras, Monitors and Systems.

The following points must be understood and strictly observed by operators:

1. Operators must act with integrity and not abuse the equipment or change the pre-set criteria to compromise the privacy of an individual.
2. The position of cameras and monitors have been agreed following consultation with the Parish Council and security consultants in order to comply with the needs of the public.
3. No public access will be allowed to the monitors except for lawful, proper and sufficient reason, with prior approval of the Parish/Deputy Clerk. The Police are permitted access to tapes and prints if they have reason to believe that such access is necessary to investigate, detect or prevent crime. The Police are able to visit the Parish office to review and confirm the Parish Council's operation of CCTV arrangements. Any visit by the Police to view images will be logged by the operator.
4. Operators should regularly check the accuracy of the date/time displayed.
5. Digital records should be securely stored to comply with data protection and should only be handled by the essentially minimum number of persons. Digital images will be erased after a period of 31 days.
6. Images will not normally be supplied to the media, except on the advice of the police if it is deemed to be in the public interest. The Parish Clerk/Deputy Clerk will inform the Chair of the Council of any such circumstances.
7. As records may be required as evidence at Court, each person handling a digital record may be required to make a statement to a police officer and sign an exhibit label. Any images that are handed to a police officer should be signed for by the police officer and information logged to identify the recording and showing the officer's name and police station. The log should also show when such information is returned to the Parish Council by the police and the outcome of its use
8. Any event that requires checking of recorded data should be clearly detailed in the logbook of incidents, including Crime Nos. if appropriate. See Appendix A.

9. Any damage to equipment or malfunction discovered by an operator should be reported immediately to the Council Chairman. The company responsible for maintenance should also be contacted and the call logged advising details of the outcome. When completed, any repair to the system should be logged showing the date and time of completion.
10. Any request by an individual member of the public for access to their own recorded image must be made on an 'Access Request Form' and is subject to a standard fee of £10.00. Forms are available from the Parish Council Office and will be submitted to the next meeting of the Parish Council for consideration and reply, normally within 40 days. (see Appendix B).
11. If images of third parties are included with the images of the person who has made the access request, consideration will be given to whether or not the release of these images would involve an unfair intrusion into the privacy of the third party. If necessary, arrangements will be made to disguise or blur the images in question, this work may need to be contracted out to another organisation.

7. Accountability

Copies of the CCTV Policy are available in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, as are any reports that are submitted to the Parish Council *providing it does not breach security needs*.

The Police will be informed of the installation and provided with a copy of this CCTV Policy.

Any written concerns, complaints or compliments regarding the use of the system will be considered by the Parish Council, in line with the existing complaints policy.

Elm Parish Council has considered the need for using CCTV and has resolved that it is required for the prevention and detection of crime and for protecting the safety of members of the public. It will not be used for other purposes.

Elm Parish Council will conduct an annual review of the use of the CCTV system, See Appendix C.

To be completed by those authorised to monitor the CCTV system;

8. I have read the above policy and agree to abide by these instructions.

Signed Print Name

Date/...../.....

(Data Controllers are issued with their own copy of this policy and shall sign to confirm receipt and compliance.)

Adopted: 8 October 2025.

Reviewed annually or more frequently where appropriate.

Next review date: May 2027.

APPENDIX C

Annual Review

The CCTV system and images produced by it are controlled by Elm Parish Council. The Council is responsible for notifying the Information Commissioner of the existence of the CCTV system and its purpose (which is a legal requirement of the Data Protection Act 2018).

Elm Parish Council has considered the need for a CCTV system and has resolved on the installation of such a system in order to assist with the prevention and detection of crime and for protecting the safety of members of the public; it will not be used for any other purpose. The Parish Council conducts an annual review of the use of the CCTV system, details as follows;

Check	Checked (Date)	By	Date of Next Review
Notification has been submitted to the Information Commissioner and the next renewal date recorded.			
There is at least one named individual who is responsible for the operation of the system.			
A system has been chosen that produces clear images and which law enforcement bodies (usually the police) can use to investigate crime. These images can easily be taken from the system.			
Cameras have been sited so that they provide clear images.			
Cameras have been positioned to avoid capturing the images of persons not visiting Begdale Playing Field area.			
There are visible signs showing that CCTV is in operation. Where it is not obvious who is responsible for the system, contact details are displayed on the sign(s).			
Images from this CCTV system are securely stored, where only a limited number of authorised persons may have access to them.			
The recorded images will only be retained long enough for any incident to come to light (e.g. for a theft to be noticed) and the incident to be investigated.			
Except for law enforcement bodies, images will not be provided to third parties.			
The Parish Council knows how to respond to individuals making requests for copies of their own images. If unsure, the operator/s knows to seek advice from the Information Commissioner as soon as such a request is made.			
Regular checks are carried out to ensure that the system is working properly and produces high quality images.			