



### **CCTV FOR FRAMLINGHAM TOWN CENTRE - 2022**

The Town Survey in 2019 demonstrated that 80% of respondents were in favour of CCTV in the town centre, and a further survey of 33 businesses in the town confirmed 31 of them also supported the introduction of the cameras.

The aim of CCTV would be to help reduce and solve crimes in the town centre, potentially expanding it across a wider area.

Following this a business case was drafted and the Town Council formally committed to installing CCTV cameras in the town centre. Advice was sought from the Police as where best to have CCTV and a map of the coverage was agreed (see above).

Plans began in late 2019 and it was hoped that the process would not take too long.....

Covid of course, threw a spanner in the works, and really slowed the process down. As almost all of the units are suspended from street lamp posts owned by the County Council drawing electricity from each one, permission would be needed from the County. Each column would need to be tested to see if they could handle the weight of the cameras - around 1kg.

To make matters even more interesting much of the work would be in the Conservation Area and several cameras would need to be mounted on listed buildings. This required both Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent from the District Council.

How to follow all the installation guidance with the least visual impact and the greatest effectiveness was a task taken on by the Town Council Highways committee, who then worked through tweaking the specification with a contractor until it complied with all the requirements from both District and County Councils.

At the very last moment - a day before the preferred contractor was given the final brief - the District Council felt unable to grant permission for a camera to be mounted in the Fore Street Car Park (no 62 in the plan) but fortunately the contractor was able to find a solution that allowed the rest of the cameras to 'see' the next one in line - an essential technical requirement of the system.

All being well the cameras should be installed by the end of this Summer.

How does it work? The images will be captured in a secure box in the Town Council office and stored and monitored in accordance with the latest legislation on capturing images in a public space. The Town Council will only share with the Police specific images or passages of film which could help in solving crimes.

Framlingham is very lucky in having far less crime than the national average but the effectiveness of the cameras will be monitored and analysed to see whether, and where, any more cameras might need to be installed.