

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF TRANSPORT MAJOR PROJECTS

REPORT OF MEETING TO DISCUSS SECURITY AT PARK AND RIDE SITES

At the request of the NET Development Board, a meeting was held at the Depot with the tram operator and the Police to discuss security at NET park and ride sites.

The Police reported that recorded crime at all of the sites except for Phoenix Park was low and not of undue concern to them. Whilst the figures for Phoenix Park had shown a downward trend from July to November there had been a significant rise in December. This fell back again in January. The majority of crime involves theft from cars.

As a result of the above evidence the Police and the tram operator are focusing on ways of improving security at the Phoenix Park and Ride site, however it is believed that the level of crime is related to the area in which the site is located (similar occurrences are being reported at a nearby hotel) compounded by the fact that there is little daytime activity in the immediate vicinity.

All the NET park and ride sites currently have CCTV coverage, the cameras being monitored from the tram operational control room. There are a total of 81 cameras across the tram system and it is therefore not practical for all of the cameras to be monitored constantly. However one screen in the control room does constantly show views at Phoenix Park. Any incidents witnessed are reported to the Police by ringing 999, giving them equal priority to other emergency calls. There are also direct lines to Police Headquarters, as prescribed in law, to enable the police to contact NTC.

NTC and the Police are not aware of any problem in the protocol between them for the reporting of crime, and video evidence is made available to the Police on request.

Initiatives already undertaken by the Police at Phoenix Park have included the erection of signs reminding motorists to lock their cars and to keep valuables out of sight and the noting of registration numbers of cars with valuables on view with the owners then being made aware. Some offenders have been caught by the police.

A number of measures are currently being investigated by the tram operator to improve security at the site. These include:

- Provision of "fishbowl" cameras to conceal the direction in which the cameras are pointing.
- Change from analogue to digital recording to give improved quality images and to enable easier searching for recorded incidents.
- Installation of a barrier at the entrance / exit.

As most of the reported incidents involve theft *from* rather than *of* vehicles, the latter measure is unlikely to be cost effective.

The Safer Car Parks Award is currently being applied for by Arrow.

In conclusion, there is not considered to be a fundamental security problem at the NET park and ride sites. The number of recorded incidents at Phoenix Park has been greater than at other sites and it was agreed that efforts would continue to be focused on this site with a package of measures. However, it is important that the crime figures are viewed from the perspective of the number of users (estimated average 1000 per day at this site) so that people are not put off using the site.

It is encouraging to note that a recent article in the Nottingham Evening Post reported very positively on the initiatives being taken by public transport organisations including NTC and the City and County Councils to tackle on-vehicle anti-social behaviour, including the appointment of a dedicated investigations unit. A copy of the article is appended.

It is recommended that this report be noted.

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