



Monday, 29th December 2008

- ▼ News
  - Kettering
  - Corby
  - Wellingborough
  - Rushden
  - Job Losses
  - First World War Roll of Honour
  - Crime updates
  - Dennis Binks - our online clairvoyant
  - Get Active campaign
  - Back the bid for a university
  - Video News
  - Remember Our Fallen Heroes
  - Telegraph People Online
- ▼ Sport
  - Diamonds
  - Kettering Town FC
  - Corby Town FC
  - Rothwell Town FC
  - Northampton Town FC
  - Leicester City FC
  - Eagle Bitter UCL
  - Football news
  - Northampton Saints
  - Local Rugby
  - Football news
  - Horse Racing
- ▼ Entertainment
  - Gardening
  - Country Walks
  - Showbiz
  - Spree
  - Music
- ▼ Your Say
  - Contact Us
  - Letters
  - Your Pictures
  - Have Your Say Online
- ▼ Classified
  - Family
  - Announcements
  - Exhibitions
  - Public Notices

## Battle to stop women selling sex on the streets

Spy camera to be used in fight against prostitution

Published Date: 26 February 2008

A Hi-tech camera costing £50,000 has been put up as part of a drive to stop prostitutes selling sex on the street.

The CCTV camera has been put up in the Quorn Way area of Northampton, a section of town used by prostitutes and kerb crawlers.

The aim of the camera is to stamp out kerb crawlers, with anyone driving around the area to pay for sex now liable to be caught on camera.

Sgt Paul Valentine, of the Castle Ward Safer Community Team, said: "The new camera was paid for by the Caspar and Neighbourhood Renewal Board and cost £50,000.

"The major point of putting it in at that location was our ambition to have no street sex working in Northamptonshire.

"From a policing point of view it enables us to monitor every single car that uses that area of the town. If you are using that area to engage in street sex then the police will know about it.

"It sends out a message that all kerb crawlers will be caught."

Caspar chairman Joe Joyce said the organisation had also paid for a second camera to monitor 'general nuisance' in the Spring Boroughs area.

He said: "They are positive tools as part of the fight against crime generally, not just kerb crawlers. We're very happy to help them.

"Within two hours of one going online, operators had detained four youths for vehicle crime. If the cameras are monitored and used correctly they're a fantastic tool and we're very pleased with them."

Speaking at a meeting of Semilong Community Forum, a member of support group Sex Workers Around Northampton (Swan) said: "The camera is up to stop prostitution. It's not there to police prostitutes. It's there as a safety measure, to discourage kerb-crawlers and to tackle demand."

Northampton Borough Councillor Tony Clarke (Ind, Castle), said: "It makes sense to use technology to discourage kerb-crawlers and in many ways cameras can do the job the police have been doing for some time."



Camera to be used to fight prostitution

**"If you are using that area to engage in street sex then the police will know about it"**

Sgt Paul Valentine



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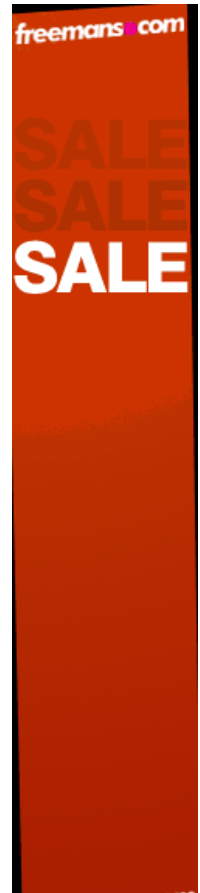
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