

## Cheltenham Borough Council

### Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee 4<sup>th</sup> November 2002

#### Cheltenham Town Football Club - Promotion to Nationwide League Division 2 and any impact on Cheltenham in relation to Community Safety Issues

#### Report of the Community Safety Manager

#### 1. Summary and recommendation

- 1.1 This report reviews and assesses issues arising from the promotion of Cheltenham Town Football Club to the Nationwide League Division 2 which are likely to impact on Cheltenham as a town, e.g. parking/traffic congestion/anti-social behaviour.
- 1.2 **I therefore recommend that details and actions as set out in the report be noted.**

#### 2. Background

- 2.1 Following the promotion of Cheltenham Town Football Club to the Nationwide League Division 2, discussions commenced with the police and the football club relating to any potential community safety issues. On Wednesday 3 July 2002, a meeting was held between Cheltenham Borough Council and Police to determine the impact of any such issues on the town e.g. parking/traffic congestion/anti-social behaviour.

Paul Baker, Chairman, Cheltenham Town Football Club was invited but was unable to attend at the last minute.

The following resulted from the discussion:

- there are no plans to install CCTV along Winchcombe Street to link with Whaddon Road at the present time;
- the installation of CCTV cameras along Winchcombe Street, including at Pittville Gates is not warranted at the moment due to very low reported crime incidents or anti-social behaviour. Winchcombe Street, however, has potential as a link road for criminal activities between the town centre and Whaddon and as such would be reconsidered as and when further funding became available;

- The Community Safety Co-ordinator was requested to pursue whether funding for CCTV linking Whaddon Road to the town centre CCTV system could be obtained from the Football Foundation. (An information pack on this has now been received and the Community Safety Co-ordinator is liaising with the Police Football Liaison Officer, to see if this is appropriate);
- Chief Inspector Mike Barton indicated that mobile CCTV vehicles provided under the 'Streetsafe' Initiative would be available to the division very shortly and could be used as an element in the policing of football matches. (The vehicles have now been delivered, and will be operational in November 2002);
- Following allegations of bad car parking around the football ground, Chief Inspector Barton later confirmed that a Traffic Warden will patrol the area on match days.

2.2 Since the beginning of the season Cheltenham Town Football Club have played six home games of which four have been classified as 'Category C', requiring considerable police resources. None of the six games have resulted in any significant trouble and no complaints have been received, although they have attracted an odd comment of 'over policing.'

At each match a traffic warden has been deployed in the area to deal with parking and any associated problems. In addition, on at least one occasion, a police main road motor cyclist has also been deployed to assist with any traffic problems, including parking.

2.3 Invitations to attend this meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee have been extended to representatives of the police and Cheltenham Town Football Club

### 3. Implications

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| 3.1 | <b>Financial</b>  | none at this stage as external funding will be sought should CCTV be found to be necessary. |
| 3.2 | <b>Legal</b>  | none  |
| 3.3 | <b>Personnel</b>  | none  |
| 3.4 | <b>Equal opportunities, social justice and anti-poverty</b> | none  |
| 3.5 | <b>Environmental</b>  | none  |

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**Background papers** none

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**Accountability** Lloyd Surgenor, cabinet deputy, public and environmental protection