

10.2.22 - NHW Bulletin from Brian Wickins:-

Meeting with Chiselborough PCSO

The Parish Council arranged a meeting with our PCSO, Beatrice Batham, which I attended, and the following points were raised.

I have summarised them below for your information.

1. Drones

I, and the Parish Council, have received a number of complaints recently about drones flying over villager's property and this was discussed with the PCSO. They have checked the legal position and Beatrice has forwarded us the following:

I have spoken with our Drones Officer for Avon and Somerset Constabulary he has advised me of the following:

It's the weight of the drone! 250g is the key here. Most drones that you will see are under this. These are in law toys. (Civil Aviation laws) These can fly over people but not crowds and can fly within 50m of people. There are no laws to stop them and they are not registered on any system. They should be, however, in line of sight with their drones and within 500m of them.

Above 250g then this becomes a crime to be within 50m of people that's above and to the side of them and property. Pilots number should be on the drone.

If you are concerned about a drone being over the weight limit or being within the 50m distance then, if you feel safe to speak with the drone handler, you could approach them to ask about the drone and mention that you are feeling uncomfortable or intimidated by their use of it. Hopefully they will move away from the area although if they are acting lawfully they do not have to stop.

If you do not feel safe to approach them and you believe they are breaking the law – please call us.

In regards to recording and data privacy again this would be dealt with by the ICO.

My view is that for the layman it is difficult to determine the weight of a drone flying overhead, so would follow the PCSO's advice. If you are unhappy with one being flown overhead and if you feel safe, approach the handler.

You can ask how much does the drone weigh?

Then take it from there. If they bring it down and show you, you know what your rights are and if in any doubt call the police non emergency number 101.

If they are evasive or abusive or refuse to give you any information, please do not get involved in any way but call 101 to report the incident.

If you do not feel safe, better to be safe than sorry, so if the drone and/or its flying patterns concern you, call 101 to report the incident.

2. CCTV and Audio Enabled CCTV

CCTV systems equipped with an audio facility were discussed and Beatrice reported back with the following:

Audio CCTV. The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) deal with matters regarding CCTV and Data Privacy Laws. They have a very useful guide: Domestic CCTV systems - guidance for people using CCTV | ICO I have rang and spoken with the ICO and they have advised that they do not have any specific guidance on audio CCTV. However, if you could give me the names and address of the people who are using audio CCTV in the village I will pop round and pass on a bit of advice to them directly.

Two main points came out of the CCTV discussion:

- Has the CCTV system got an audio-recording facility? Audio recording is very privacy-intrusive, so in most cases where householders use audio enabled CCTV, the owner should disable audio recording.
- Regarding standard CCTV's the owner should let people know they are using CCTV by putting up signs saying that recording is taking place, and why.

If any anybody has any concerns regarding either of the two points above, please contact me and I will follow it up the PCSO.

Regards

Brian Wickins

Chiselborough NHW Coordinator