



NO CCTV

www.no-cctv.org.uk
NO CCTV ON THE COWLEY ROAD

Better community reduces crime, technology does not

Winter Newsletter 2007

NO-CCTV RELEASE REPORT

No CCTV has presented the case against CCTV on the Cowley Road in a 23-page Interim Report. The Report considers the use of surveillance cameras in the UK with particular reference to the proposed scheme in East Oxford.

The report focuses on media coverage, crime statistics, the climate of fear, the effectiveness of CCTV, the Home Office's national CCTV strategy, civil liberties concerns and some specific issues related to the East Oxford proposals.

!! Surveillance cameras clearly present a serious threat to privacy and civil liberties and the alleged trade-offs of safety or security are unproven and vastly outweighed by the risk of creating a police state." (Page 3)

No CCTV hope to produce an extended report early in the New Year. The British public need to wake up to the dangers of modern surveillance.

!! Anonymity is not a crime, in fact English common law is built upon a right to anonymity implicit in the right to walk down the street unchallenged provided you are not doing something specifically legislated against." (Page 13)

The report can be downloaded from the No CCTV website.

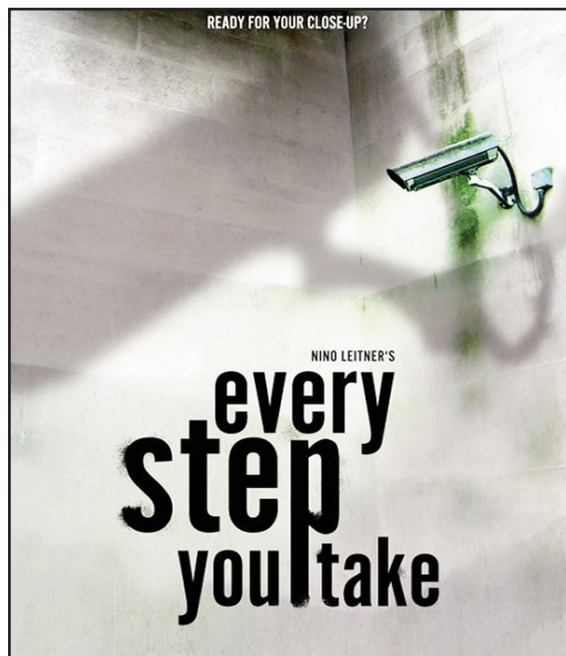
The National CCTV Strategy and the database state

The Home Office's 'National CCTV Strategy' released at the end of October reveals the government's plans to link CCTV into the database-state. The document lays out proposals to create CCTV networks and cross-match data from other databases which could be used for data-matching/mining and profiling: "It is hoped, in future, as technology is developed, that such a network will allow the use of automated search techniques (i.e. face recognition) and can be integrated with other systems such as ANPR [Automatic Number Plate Recognition], and police despatch systems to further increase the effectiveness of CCTV."

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Download our Interim Report into proposals for CCTV on the Cowley Road at:

www.no-cctv.org.uk/press



Austrian film-maker Nino Leitner's documentary 'every step you take' is about CCTV in Britain. The film is now available on DVD. For more details and to see a trailer visit:

<http://esyt.blogspot.com/>

Andrew Smith's CCTV Survey called into question by no-cctv.org.uk

Amongst other things the No-CCTV report unearths are the not so fair handed tactics of local MP Andrew Smith, who campaigned FOR surveillance cameras.

Smith sent a survey to households in streets just off the Cowley Road. At first the 79% in favour that Smith reported seemed like overwhelming support. But then No-CCTV looked at the letter that Smith sent with his questionnaire, it said: "CCTV cameras have substantially assisted the police in reducing crime and disorder in the city centre, and it is clear that extending the system along Cowley Road would carry great benefits". Loading the dice in this way is known as 'skewed contextualising'. Research done by Jason Ditton, of the Scottish Centre for Criminology, allowed the No-CCTV campaigners to unskew Smith's figures and show that somewhere between 39% and 59% were actually in favour. Perhaps this reduced number were in favour because Smith told residents that the Cowley Road had 35 pubs and clubs when in fact it has just 6 pubs and 29 restaurants/cafes (some of which are unlicensed), 19 take aways and one music venue. The campaigners at no-cctv.org.uk believe that there should be an informed debate; it seems Smith does not agree.