CARDIGAN'S move to introduce a Closed Circuit TV system to the town took on the appearance of being a financial lame duck on Thursday night.

The town council, which has committed £4,000 towards the capital costs of the scheme that Ceredigion County Council is financing cannot afford a penny more.

Its members in effect had the wind taken out of their sails on learning that they are now being expected to invest an additional £2,000 a year to help meet the revenue charges for the project.

The bad news concerning the need for 'extra' cash for the £75,000 for a scheme designed to help combat crime and the fear of it in and around the town centre was delivered by Philip Ellis, the county council's development manager.

The £75,000 project is also being funded through a Home Office grant. Grant aid is also being provided by the county council and the town’s Chamber of Trade.

But in questioning the cost effectiveness of the scheme, mayor-elect Cllr Mair Morris expressed concern that for an annual outlay of £9,000 they would only be able to monitor the streets on Friday and Saturday nights.

The council decided to suggest to the county council that the £4,000 already allocated by them be instead switched from the capital to revenue budget for the scheme.

They will further suggest to the county council that they ask the Dyfed-Powys Police Authority to consider lending financial assistance to it because of the considerable benefit the police stand to derive from a CCTV system in Cardigan.

• The chairman of Cardigan Chamber of Trade, Jayne Pegg, reacted by accusing Ceredigion of unfairly changing the goalposts.

“IT IS very disappointing for the traders and people of Cardigan to say the very least,” she said.