New CCTV system comes under fire

LAMPERTER'S new CCTV system has come under fire from councillors.

The cameras are now working and the official launch takes place on Tuesday, 16 July.

But councillors say there are many questions that have been left unanswered and that they have been "hoodwinked about the whole thing.

Councillors are concerned that the CCTV systems won't be manned 24 hours a day and that the times when it is manned will be too early to catch any of the trouble that starts after the pubs close.

Cllr Dorothy Williams said: "We were told cameras wouldn't be static, and I understood there would be someone there at all times.

"These big fights that happen in town, they won't occur early in the night. I think we've been hoodwinked about the whole thing."

Deputy Mayor Cllr Hag Harris said: "As I understand it we need clarification on a few points.

"First, are the cameras recording all the time? If so, is there the ability to check if something has happened?"

"Secondly, what are the periods of time when the CCTV cameras will be manned?"

"Third, if something is happening in Aberystwyth, can the Lampeter system be linked at the same time?"

"I'm getting fed up of getting two different answers, we need clarification. I don't like being made to look like a fool."

Cllr Greg Evans said: "Twelve hours of filming is not good enough. When we want to Aberystwyth we were told it would be more than twelve hours.

"I'd like these questions sorted out before the official launch."

Cllr Kasia Ramsay added, "What if the cameras are running from noon to midnight? There are a lot of incidents that happen after midnight. We have got to ask them what time they plan to have operation there."

County Cllr Ivor Williams told the council that all of the cameras were now on and fully working and that all of the operators had been trained to operate the system.

There are six cameras overlooking Lampeter, including one near the university, and the pictures will be fed to the main system in Aberystwyth, where the screens will be watched by operators for part of the day, and the rest of the time the cameras will be turned onto a specific spot, constantly recording, but a monitor at Aberystwyth Police Station will mean Lampeter will permanently be watched by its very own Big Brother.

The system has cost the council £19,600, with £1,000 being paid by the university.

Councillors were also concerned that the system may not be legal, as there were no signs to inform people that CCTV was in operation.

Cllr Evans said: "What is the point of paying for these cameras if they are not even legal?"

Cllr Richard Marshall put some of the concerns: fears at rest when he said, "The CCTV system is proving worthwhile. I have been sent to jobs by the operators and they were after malinger!

"As a result things that could've happened haven't, because we arrived in time, so it is working as a deterrent.

"Let's hope the good results continue."