

BBC

“Litter Cam” is Watching You

NN 1303 AD

- 1 Surveillance is rapidly becoming a massive growth industry and the thirst to watch people is becoming more and more big business. But we ask this? Are we really happy with the way society is going?
- 2 Fines are now on the cards for anyone filmed throwing litter out of their car. AI and car registration recognition are being combined to watch for the villains and send them a penalty notice in the post. Does this sound like a good idea to you - in this climate of increasing government control?
- 3 All of us good citizens, would not dream of dropping litter anywhere, whether it is possible to be seen or not. I, myself, have been guilty - I admit - to letting a banana skin go, albeit out of sight, in the hedge - but I see that as organic matter returning straight to organic matter.
- 4 Inspired by CONNECT member Mike Boyes - who regularly sweeps his local lanes with his wife clearing all unsightly litter - in my pocket, on every walk out now, goes a plastic bag. Wherever Helen and I roam, we collect what other people have left and then dispose of it where it should have been put in the first place.
- 5 Is clearing up after other people's mess the right way forward though? No - but it is a start. If we all walked out with a plastic bag in our pockets, there would be a marked and positive impact on the environment. But, let's be honest, there is no one single answer to this problem in society and I know - without any doubt whatsoever - that surveillance cameras are NOT THE WAY FORWARD.
- 6 And there are several reasons for saying that:
 1. When would there be enough cameras?
 2. How would they ever be positioned in the right places?
 3. Once word gets out - the litter bugs will simply be more discreet
 4. Surveillance of people is definitely not the society I wish to live in...

There is plenty enough already - and most of it is not even known to us. Plus, I don't buy Jeremy Paxman's idea - No Guilt No Problem.
- 7 The way forward for me is probably the hardest and the slowest to accomplish. It is the education of everyone - starting with the youngest - that littering is just not the behaviour. And that's not because you get fined if you do - but rather, you would not even dream of it.
- 8 It's a bit like - Not beating up your gran. You don't do it because of a likely police station visit, or a thump from someone bigger - but rather, it is just not in you to do such an awful thing.

9 Anyway, do any of us want to live in a police run state - where every move you make is watched. Sting sang once - “Every move you make - I’ll be watching you”. He must have known something! Personally, I will not let this happen on my watch!

Source: Tetbury Connect: [Magazine](#)

[LINK](#): The 'Litter Cam' that's Watching You



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