

Neighbourhood profile update Cambridge City West/Central Neighbourhood

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1 INTRODUCTION

Aim

The aim of the Neighbourhood profile update is to provide an overview of action taken since the last reporting period, identify ongoing and emerging crime and disorder issues, and provide recommendations for future priorities and activity in order to facilitate effective policing and partnership working in the area.

The document should be used to inform multi-agency neighbourhood panel meetings and neighbourhood policing teams, so that issues can be identified, effectively prioritised and partnership problem solving activity undertaken.

Methodology

This document was produced using the following data sources:

- Cambridgeshire Constabulary crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) incident data for December 2012 to March 2013, compared to the previous reporting period (August to November 2012) and the same reporting period in 2011/12.
- City Council environmental services data for December 2012 to March 2013, compared to the same reporting period in 2011/12; and
- Information provided by the Safer Neighbourhood Policing Team, Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service and the City Council's Safer Communities Section.

2 CURRENT PRIORITIES

At the West/Central Area Committee meeting of 10 January 2013, the committee recommended adopting the following issues as priorities:

- Cycle crime, including dangerous cycling and theft of cycles;
- Over-ranking of the taxi rank in St. Andrew's Street; and
- ASB in the Grafton Centre / Christ's Pieces area.

The Neighbourhood Action Group, at its meeting of 17 January, assigned the actions to be taken and the lead officers for each of the priorities. The tables below summarise the action taken and the current situation.

Cycle crime, including dangerous cycling and theft of cycles	
Objective	Reduce dangerous cycling and theft of pedal cycles in the West and Central areas.
Action Taken	<p>The Lights Instead of Tickets (LIT) campaign has continued throughout the last reporting period. The total number of Fixed Penalty Notices (£30 penalty) has now reached 1350 across Cambridge with approximately 80% voided through the LIT scheme. Action has also been taken in respect of dangerous cycling by both the City Centre team and colleagues from the Special Constabulary. For example, on 6 February 2013 colleagues from the Special Constabulary issued 25 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs), and on 26 and 27 March 2013, the City Centre team issued 75 FPNs mainly for offences of contravening road traffic signs and cycling the wrong way down one-way streets.</p> <p>A combination of prevention and enforcement work has been undertaken to combat the theft of pedal cycles. Pedal cycle crime reduction surgeries have been conducted by the West team Police Community Support Officers, for example, at Burlton Road, the Buttery and at the Sigdwick Site. Other pro-active tactics have been employed by the City Centre and West team and the high profile activity in relation to the LIT scheme and dangerous cycling has also had a positive deterrent effect. Hotspot areas have been targeted and intelligence developed to enable the execution of search warrants in respect of stolen cycle. In total, 24 arrests for pedal cycle theft have been made during the reporting period.</p>
Current Situation	The LIT scheme and other pro-active tactics have had a positive impact on dangerous cycling and road safety. Whilst theft of pedal cycles have decreased compared to the previous reporting period (231 thefts compared to 390), they remain

	higher than the same period last year (199 thefts). In addition, the seasonal peak for pedal cycle thefts is approaching and more work needs to be conducted around this crime type.
Lead Officers	Sergeant Andrea Gilbert / Sergeant Jayne Drury Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Over-ranking of the taxi rank in St. Andrew's Street	
Objective	Reduce over-ranking at the taxi rank in St Andrew's Street.
Action Taken	<p>This priority is currently being led by the City Council and supported by the police. The County Council have just completed a consultation, which explores utilising the Drummer Street rank more effectively and possibly introducing an electronic system that will notify drivers when a space becomes available on the St. Andrews Street rank. Once the results of the consultation have been considered and a decision made on implementation, the City Council will commence staged enforcement action.</p> <p>In the interim period, the police have been sending the message that over-ranking is not acceptable by issuing non-endorsable Fixed Penalty Notices (£30 penalty) to those drivers found over-ranking on the St. Andrews Street rank. Since the commencement of this priority, the City Centre policing team have issued 50 Fixed Penalty Notices to those taxis that have committed the offence of causing an unnecessary obstruction. The City Centre team will continue with this tactic.</p>
Current Situation	It is recommended that this remains a priority to allow the County Council to implement the new traffic management scheme and for the City Council to commence their enforcement strategy.
Lead Officer	Robert Osbourn Cambridge City Council

ASB in the Grafton Centre / Christ's Pieces area	
Objective	Reduce ASB in the Grafton Centre / Christ's Pieces area
Action Taken	High profile and plain clothes patrols have focused on this area and searches and arrests have been made for possession of drugs and other offences. A dedicated operation took place in March with some impressive results. There were 21 stop searches for drugs offences and 4 arrests for drugs. Officers also dealt with begging offences, arrested 1 person for shoplifting and another for breaching a restraining order. Full use was made of the direction to leave power (s27, Violent

	Crime Reduction Act 2006) to discourage the formation of unruly groups and 8 directions to leave were issued. Licensing intelligence work was also undertaken and one off-licence was caught selling to an intoxicated street drinker; decisions regarding these premises are still under consideration. Intelligence has also been gathered about the sales practices of other licensed premises. This intelligence will be used to direct further work in this important area.
Current Situation	It is felt that the new licensing conditions of News & More have helped to reduce street drinking and ASB in the Grafton area. Coupled with prolonged cold weather and the police operation in March these have had the effect of achieving a reduction on last year's ASB figures. However, seasonal street drinking is about to gather momentum and this will require the full effort of the team to manage and further work in this area is recommended.
Lead Officers	Sergeant Andrea Gilbert / Sergeant Jayne Drury Cambridgeshire Constabulary

3. PRO-ACTIVE WORK & EMERGING ISSUES

- Following reports of rough sleeping in the garages at Malcolm Place, City Council ASB officers and the police carried out door-knocking in the area and spoke to residents and businesses about their concerns. The businesses reported concerns about rough sleepers in the private car park behind the shops and the litter left by them. They were given advice on how to report rough sleeping and agreed to do so. Residents were leafleted with information on how to report ASB in the area. PCSOs are carrying out regular checks of the garages and encouraging rough sleepers to engage with support. Rough sleeping in the garages is discussed as a regular agenda item at the City Council's monthly Task and Target meetings.
- There have been good reductions in overall crime and ASB, particularly in the areas of dwelling burglary, violent crime, theft from vehicle and criminal damage.
- Although pedal cycle crime has decreased compared to the last reporting period it still remains comparatively high.
- Personal robbery has remained low. These are random offences across the City area. Worthy of note is that a male was charged with the robbery, which occurred on Christmas day in Eden Street.

- The police continue to work very closely with Cambridge Business Against Crime (CAMBAC) to combat shoplifting offences and several good arrests have been made of organised crime groups who have targeted Cambridge. For example, on 4 April 2013, acting on information provided by keen-eyed PCSOs, three offenders were stopped in a vehicle by the police and found to be in possession of £1,500 of goods stolen from City Centre stores. The month of April also sees the start of a Cambridgeshire-wide initiative to reduce shoplifting.
- The police have worked with the Cam Conservators and the City Council in respect of the punt touts on King's Parade and the use of unlicensed punts from Garret Hostel Lane. Several chauffeurs were summonsed for using unlicensed vessels and in January and March appeared at Cambridge Magistrates' Court. So far 7 offenders have been found guilty and have received fines of over £13,000 between them. This has sent a clear message that unlicensed tours will not be tolerated. Since the convictions in January there has been no touting of the unlicensed punt tours on King's Parade. This will have a very positive effect on businesses and also the ability of the public to walk down King's Parade without being harassed.
- Last May, a significant number of students attended "Caesarian Sunday" on Jesus Green. This event generated complaints regarding excessive alcohol consumption, anti-social behaviour and litter. This year a clear message has been given by the police and the university that a recurrence of this behaviour will not be tolerated and plans are already in place prevent this.
- Cambridge City continues to be the destination for travelling offenders who target the City's nightclubs and bars to steal mobile phones. Arrests continue to be made against these criminals and in March five people from Northampton were arrested in connection with the theft of 15 mobile phones. They were all remanded in custody.

4 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

CURRENT CRIME & ASB INCIDENT LEVELS BY WARD

			Dwelling Burglary	Other Burglary	Violent Crime	Robbery	Theft of Vehicle	Theft From Vehicle	Cycle Theft	Theft From Shop	Criminal Damage	Other Crime	TOTAL CRIME	TOTAL ASB
AREA	City West	<i>Dec 12 – March 13</i>	11	16	173	7	1	30	231	239	74	482	1,264	370
		<i>Dec 11 – March 12</i>	25	30	156	4	6	45	199	251	98	537	1,351	388
		<i>Aug 12 – Nov 12</i>	23	33	203	10	1	35	390	229	66	542	1,532	386
WARDS	Newnham	<i>Dec 12 – March 13</i>	1	4	9	1	0	11	29	0	5	19	79	15
		<i>Dec 11 – March 12</i>	10	7	3	0	0	23	34	0	15	24	116	17
		<i>Aug 12 – Nov 12</i>	14	9	3	0	0	21	52	0	7	33	139	18
	Castle	<i>Dec 12 – March 13</i>	5	5	11	0	1	11	39	3	8	24	107	31
		<i>Dec 11 – March 12</i>	9	1	7	0	4	10	28	2	17	25	103	28
		<i>Aug 12 – Nov 12</i>	4	6	17	2	0	10	62	3	8	30	142	39
	Market	<i>Dec 12 – March 13</i>	5	7	153	6	0	8	163	236	61	439	1,078	324
		<i>Dec 11 – March 12</i>	6	22	146	4	2	12	137	249	66	488	1,132	343
		<i>Aug 12 – Nov 12</i>	5	18	183	8	1	4	276	226	51	479	1,251	329

ARSON DATA

Period: December 2012 – March 2013

Deliberate fire summary:

Incident	Refuse	Bin	Vehicle	Residential	Non residential
NEWNHAM	0	0	0	0	0
CASTLE	0	0	0	0	0
MARKET	8	3	0	0	0

General	With the exception of Market ward, the numbers of deliberate fires in the area are reduced upon recent years mainly due to excellent partnership work to reduce these types of fire and the severe weather during this period.
Newnham	No incidents.
Castle	No incidents.
Market	There has been an increase of eight avoidable fires in this ward over the three recorded during the last reporting period, plus three additional bin fires.
Recommendations	Request that the campaign mentioned below is considered as a priority for the forthcoming spring and summer period.

Market ward

City council's waste enforcement officers and Fire & Rescue Service's "Green Watch" plan to repeat last Spring's campaign to engage with and promote waste risk management and security, with retailers and others. In addition to the life and property fire risk associated with unattended waste in the streets over night, there is also the use of bagged waste in anti-social and disorderly behaviour.

Councillors' support for the campaign, during the summer period, would assist with the efforts to reconcile commercial collection company's claims that, due to access issues, they have to collect waste early morning prior to 07:00. Retailers and other businesses state that it is not viable to have staff work between 05:00 and 07:00 hours just to deal with a waste collection.

The cost of these incidents to the Fire & Rescue Service alone (not including civic remedial costs) is a minimum of £4,400, which in the current financial

environment are avoidable costs that could contribute to the retention of services which may in the future be in jeopardy.

Open spaces

As the weather improves, the Fire & Rescue Service will add the open spaces around the City to their preventative patrols, engaging with the public with regards the dangers of bonfires, and where appropriate, the use and safe disposal of barbeque materials.

Emergency vehicle access to Grantchester area

Co-operative work continues with County highways with plans to ease access for fire appliances and ambulances to the area.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DATA

Newnham

Abandoned vehicles

- December 2012 to March 2013: 5 reports, which included
 - 3 vehicles not on site following inspection
 - 2 CLE26 notices issued to offenders on behalf of the DVLA for not displaying road tax on a public highway
- Hotspots: None
- December 2011 to March 2012: 3 reports

Fly tipping

- December 2012 to March 2013: 7 reports, which included
 - 1 requests for waste transfer documentation from trade offenders
- Hotspots: None
- December 2011 to March 2012: 10 reports

Derelict cycles

- December 2012 to March 2013: 5
- Hotspots: None
- December 2011 to March 2012: 5

Needle finds

- December 2012 to March 2013 2012: None
- Hotspots: None
- December 2011 to March 2012 2011: None

Castle

Abandoned vehicles

- December 2012 to March 2013: 5 reports, which included
 - 4 vehicles not on site following inspection
 - 1 vehicle subsequently claimed by their owners

- Hotspots: None
- December 2011 to March 2012: 7 reports

Fly tipping

- December 2012 to March 2013: 11 reports, which included
 - 2 requests for waste transfer documentation from trade offenders
- Hotspots: None
- December 2011 to March 2012: 12 reports

Derelict cycles

- December 2012 to March 2013: 2
- Hotspots: None
- December 2011 to March 2012: 11

Needle finds

- December 2012 to March 2013: None
- Hotspots: None
- December 2011 to March 2012: 3

Market

Abandoned vehicles

- December 2012 to March 2013: 7 reports, which included
 - 5 vehicles not on site following inspection
 - 2 CLE26 notices issued to offenders on behalf of the DVLA for not displaying road tax on a public highway
- Hotspots: None
- December 2011 to March 2012: 4 reports

Fly tipping

- December 2012 to March 2013: 69 reports, which included
 - 2 formal warning letter issued to domestic offenders
 - 5 requests for waste transfer documentation from trade offenders
- Hotspots: Burleigh Place (3), Market Hill (3), Market Street (3), Regent Street (4)
- December 2011 to March 2012: 162 reports

Derelict cycles

- December 2012 to March 2013: 76
- Hotspots: St. Andrew's Street (8)
- December 2011 to March 2012: 135

Needle finds

- December 2012 to March 2013: 22
- Hotspots: Napier Street (5), Salmon Lane (8)
- December 2011 to March 2012: 25

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❑ Theft of cycles
- ❑ Over-ranking of the taxi rank in St. Andrew's Street
- ❑ ASB in the Grafton Centre / Christ's Pieces area
- ❑ Waste risk management and security in Market ward