



NE1 GHOUBRHOOD POLICING

Supporting local communities, targeting crime together

Cambridge City West Neighbourhood Profile Update

January 2008



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1 Introduction

Aim

The aim of the neighbourhood profile update is to identify ongoing and emerging crime and disorder issues in the neighbourhood in order to facilitate effective policing and partnership working in the area.

Purpose

The purpose of the neighbourhood profile update is to provide up-to-date information on neighbourhood issues to multi-agency neighbourhood panels and neighbourhood policing teams, so that issues can be identified and effectively prioritised.

Methodology

This document was produced using the following data;

- Crime and incident data from November to December 2007, with data from September to October 2007 and November to December 2006 for comparison.
- Interviews with the neighbourhood policing teams, January 2007.
- Records of actions regarding priority areas, January 2007.
- Cambridge City Council, City services data, November to December 2007.

2 Executive summary

Total crime and disorder has reduced greatly in the neighbourhood area during November and December. There has however been an emergence of thefts from motor vehicles in the Newnham ward. The neighbourhood team have also highlighted that there has been an increase in cold callers and rouge traders, particularly targeting the elderly.

3 Previous issues identified and actions taken

Crime and ASB on Lammas Land

- There has been little crime and disorder in the area of Lammas Land.
- Officers now have possession of a key to lock the car park during the evening if there are no vehicles present.

Shed burglaries in the Castle ward

- Analysis of shed burglary over the past year was carried out, and hotspot areas were highlighted, both in the Castle ward and in Newnham.
- Crime prevention advice has been distributed to areas falling within the hotspot areas.
- A community event has been organised when PCSOs, the Fire Service, and representatives from Cambridge City Council, including the City Rangers, enforcement service and youth team will offer community support and crime

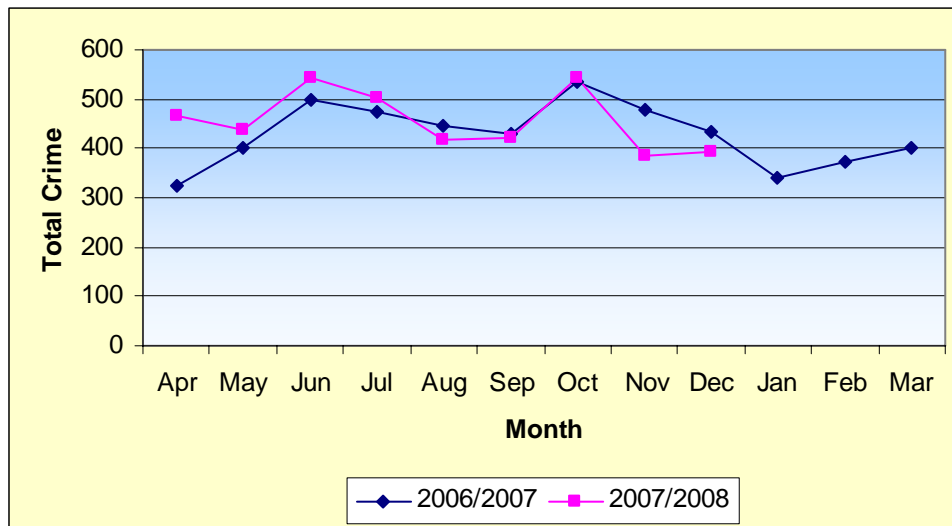
prevention advice. It will take place on valentines day and is named 'Love My Neighbourhood'.

Violent Crime associated with the night time economy – specific focus on Parkers Piece ice rink

- Operation Sodium ran throughout the run up to Christmas and New Year, providing high visibility, foot patrols across the City Centre and Green Areas.
- Licensed premises were visited early in the evening, showing revellers that there was a large police presence and discouraging disorder.
- CCTV was used to identify trouble makers at an early stage, with officers dispersing them from the City Centre.
- Officers and PCSOs worked closely with the security at the Ice Rink, identifying problem individuals and banning them from the site. Seizures were made of alcohol and cigarettes from under aged youths. A "passive drugs dog", which indicates when a person is in possession of drugs was used on three evenings, focussing on the Ice Rink. Drugs were seized from a number of youths and arrests made.
- One youth searched by the Ice Rink was arrested after a "knuckle duster" was found in his pocket.
- A "Triage Tent" operated on 21st December and 31st December (the two peak nights of the year for A+ E admissions. Early medical intervention was provided for those who had drunk to excess, taking some strain off A+E.

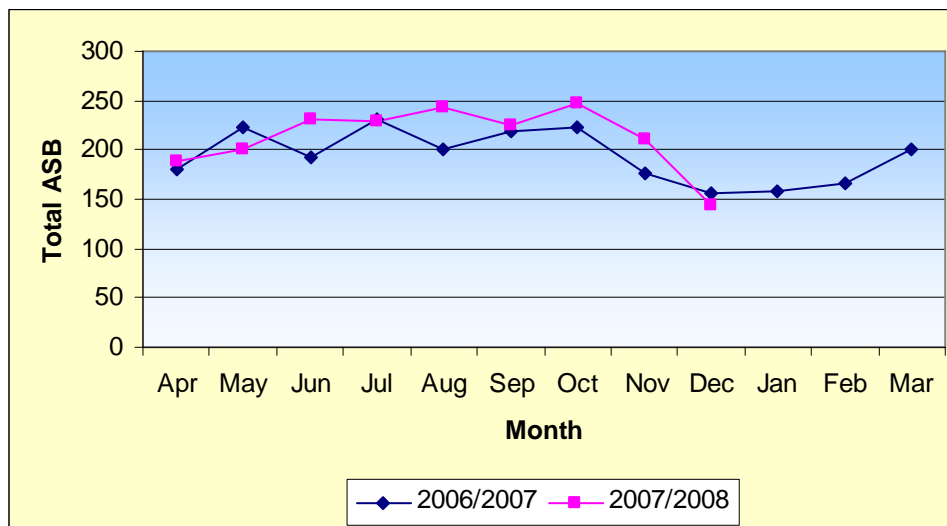
4 Neighbourhood trends in crime and disorder

Crimes by month, City West Neighbourhood Area, April 2006 to December 2007



- Crime levels are currently low in the neighbourhood, dropping to a trough following a peak during October. The levels are low both when compared to the previous update period and when compared to the same period in 2006.

ASB incidents by month, City West Neighbourhood Area, April 2006 to December 2007



- ASB has fallen sharply when compared to the 2 months preceding this update. The level of offending during November remained high seasonally, however during December the number of incidents fell below the number of incidents during December 2006.

5 Trends in crime and disorder by ward

Newnham

- Total crime and disorder have been especially low in the Newnham ward, with only 59 crimes and 20 ASB incidents reported during the 2 month period.
- There has however been an increase in thefts from motor vehicles, with 15 offences occurring, compared to 11 during both the same period last year and the previous update period. The majority of these offences took place in the Newnham croft area and predominantly featured items left on display in vehicles. Theft from vehicles has continued to be an issue in the ward during January.
- The council dealt with 10 flytippers in the Newnham ward during the period, with Lammas Land being a particular hotspot. 2 formal warning letters were sent by the council's Public Realm Enforcement Team to domestic offenders following evidence found at Fen Causeway.
- 7 Derelict Cycles were removed by the Council, including three from Coe Fen.
- There were 9 cases of abandoned vehicles investigated by the council, leading to the removal and impoundment of 1 vehicle.

Castle

- Total crime has decreased by 46% in the ward when compared to the previous update period, with 70 offences compared to 130 during the previous period. This decrease in offences included reductions in each of shed burglary, violent crime, cycle crime and criminal damage.

- Dwelling burglary has been relatively high during the period, with 11 offences reported, this is an increase from 3 offences during the previous update period, however it is slightly below the number of offences during the same period last year. Offences occurred across the period with no notable pattern or hotspot.
- Anti social behaviour has decreased slightly with only 23 incidents reported during the period.
- The council dealt with three incidents of flytipping, but there was insufficient evidence to take enforcement action.
- 6 derelict cycles were removed by the council
- 4 reports of abandoned vehicles were investigated by the council

Market

- Total crime in the Market ward has decreased when compared to the previous period (from 745 offences to 648 offences).
- There has been a substantial decrease in violent crime, with 113 offences occurring, specifically there was a reduction in robbery during the period, with 6 offences occurring as opposed to 17 during the previous period and 15 during the same period last year. A large number of patrols have been carried out to tackle alcohol related crime, and if this reduction is to continue, these extra patrols are essential.
- Theft from shop has been relatively high during the period, however traditionally the build up to Christmas is a busy time for shoplifting, thus this increase was to be expected. Boots was the busiest shop for thefts, followed by Debenhams and Marks and Spencer.
- Anti social behaviour has also decreased during the period, with 311 incidents reported. Over a third of the ASB (at least 116 incidents) specifically made reference to alcohol consumption¹.
- There were 61 fly tips removed by the council during the period. An investigation continues by the council's Public Realm Enforcement Team with a trade offender and waste transfer documentation has also been requested from a further trader.
- The council also removed 119 derelict cycles from the ward during the period.
- 10 items of graffiti were removed by the council.
- There were 49 vagrancy reports, with Market Hill the busiest location (4 reports).
- Three reports of abandoned vehicles were investigated by the council, resulting in the removal of two vehicles.
- Fifty five needles were safely removed by the council, with Christ's Pieces, Jesus Green and the Grafton Centre West car park the locations with the greatest numbers of needles found.

6 Recommendations

It is recommended that the current priorities for the Neighbourhood remain. These are:

- Crime and ASB on Lammas land
- Shed burglaries in Castle ward
- Violent Crime associated with the night time economy

It is also recommended the following issue is adopted as a Neighbourhood priority:

¹ A keyword search was made within the incident text for 'drink', 'drunk', 'alcohol' or 'intox'.

- Cold calling in areas with elderly residents

The emerging issue of theft from motor vehicles in Newnham ward should be monitored.

7 Appendix²

Total City West neighbourhood crime by ward

Ward	Nov to Dec 07	Sep to Oct 07	Nov to Dec 06
Newnham	59	92	85
Castle	70	130	113
Market	648	745	715
Total	777	967	913

Total City West neighbourhood crime by offence type

Crime Type	Nov to Dec 07	Sep to Oct 07	Nov to Dec 06
Dwelling Burglary	19	16	34
Other Burglary	11	31	39
Violent Crime	123	182	152
Robbery	6	22	19
Theft of Vehicle	7	14	10
Theft from Vehicle	29	27	29
Cycle Theft	138	228	176
Theft from Shop	144	128	133
Criminal Damage	64	74	71
Other Crime	242	267	269
Total Crime	777	967	913
Anti Social Behaviour	354	471	332

Total Newnham ward crime by offence type

Crime Type	Nov to Dec 07	Sep to Oct 07	Nov to Dec 06
Dwelling Burglary	2	8	12
Other Burglary	0	8	13
Violent Crime	6	8	7
Robbery	0	5	3
Theft of Vehicle	0	6	3
Theft from Vehicle	15	11	11
Cycle Theft	17	21	14
Theft from Shop	1	0	0
Criminal Damage	3	9	7
Other Crime	15	21	18
Total Crime	59	92	85
Anti Social Behaviour	20	40	30

² Robbery figures in the tables are included both within the robbery and violent crime sections

Total Castle ward crime by offence type

Crime Type	Nov to Dec 07	Sep to Oct 07	Nov to Dec 06
Dwelling Burglary	11	3	13
Other Burglary	1	12	12
Violent Crime	4	10	10
Robbery	0	0	1
Theft of Vehicle	2	3	3
Theft from Vehicle	6	9	11
Cycle Theft	25	46	33
Theft from Shop	0	0	4
Criminal Damage	13	24	12
Other Crime	8	23	15
Total Crime	70	130	113
Anti Social Behaviour	23	29	33

Total Market ward crime by offence type

Crime Type	Nov to Dec 07	Sep to Oct 07	Nov to Dec 06
Dwelling Burglary	6	5	9
Other Burglary	10	11	14
Violent Crime	113	164	135
Robbery	6	17	15
Theft of Vehicle	5	5	4
Theft from Vehicle	8	7	7
Cycle Theft	96	161	129
Theft from Shop	143	128	129
Criminal Damage	48	41	52
Other Crime	219	223	236
Total Crime	648	745	715
Anti Social Behaviour	311	402	269