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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 Area Committees, multi-agency neighbourhood action groups 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:

- Crime and Incident data, from and as a comparison data from December 08 – March 09, August 08 – November 08 and as a comparison December 07 – March 08.
- Information from the Neighbourhood Policing teams, April 2009.
- Cambridge City Council, City Services data, December – March 2009.

2. Previous Priorities & Engagement Activity

Previous Priorities

At the Area Committee meeting on 8th January 2009, the following issues were adopted as priorities. The tables below summarise action taken and the current situation regarding the priorities which were set:

1. Vehicle anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the City Centre - Bus, Taxi and Cycle related	
Objective	Reduce vehicle anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the City Centre - Bus, Taxi and Cycle related
Action Taken	<p>This priority has involved Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Cambridge City Council and Legion Parking.</p> <p>From January, patrols have been carried out on a regular basis in St Andrews Street and Magdalene Street. These were the areas reported to be causing the most concern for users of the city centre. Vehicles (including cycles) were monitored.</p> <p>The initial phase of the campaign was to educate users of the city centre, making them aware of offences that they may be committing. Letters were sent to the registered keepers of offending vehicles advising them of the action that was being taken by Police and drawing their attention to the offences. In addition to this, letters were sent to bus companies and for publication within the taxi drivers newsletter advising them of the priority and the action that would be taken by police.</p> <p>The next phase was to issue fixed penalty tickets to drivers and cyclists for offences that they were seen committing. Police have issued 520 non-endorsable (no points on licence) tickets to car drivers. 119 for unnecessary obstruction, 133 for parking in disabled bays. In addition to this some drivers have been reported for summons. During joint patrols with Legion Parking 208 tickets were issued for a variety of offences including 141 for parking on double yellow lines and 38 for parking in disabled bays.</p> <p>53 tickets have been issued to cyclists across the city. 24 for cycling on the footpath, 15 for no lights and 14 for contravening traffic signs.</p>

Current Situation	<p>Police are continuing to receive complaints from the public regarding cyclists and drivers in the city centre.</p> <p>Ongoing work with taxi associations, Cambridge City Council and other organisations to find a longer term solution to the problem. The education of cyclists will remain ongoing due to the turnover of students in the area.</p>
Continue or Discharge?	Continue

2. Fear of Crime in Newnham ward

Objective	Reduce fear of Crime in Newnham ward
Action Taken	<p>The Neighbourhood Policing team have continued to carry out high visibility patrols in Newnham. Following reports of robberies in the area plain clothes patrols were carried out. Two offenders were arrested and subsequently charged with these offences.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood team have ensured that councillors within the ward have been contacted when a crime series was identified and were kept updated with action taken. Ecops and NHW coordinators have also been updated with action taken in the area.</p> <p>Following reports of offences, neighbouring residents have been visited by members of the team to ensure that they were aware of the incident and provided with crime prevention advice.</p>
Current Situation	Residents have voiced satisfaction with the service that they are receiving from the police. No complaints have been received during this period.
Continue or Discharge?	Discharge. Engagement and reassurance is a fundamental part of Neighbourhood Policing and this will continue without the need for this to be set as a priority.

3. Tackle Cycle theft across the city centre	
Objective	Reduce Cycle theft
Action Taken	<p>Surgeries have been held in locations where a high number of thefts have been reported offering security advice and promoting 'Immobilise'.</p> <p>Cycle security has been promoted during the teams monthly surgeries. Patrols have continued in areas with high reports of cycle thefts with stop checks being carried out on persons behaving suspiciously.</p> <p>A number of arrests have been made over the last few weeks in relation to cycle thefts.</p>
Current Situation	In March the number of cycle thefts reported was the highest for approximately 18 months. There is an ongoing operation running to bring offenders to justice.
Continue or Discharge?	Continue – focus to be on work with partners to encourage cyclists to register their bicycles on schemes such as 'Immobilise'.

Alcohol related violent Crime

Although not adopted as a neighbourhood priority this remains a key issue for the neighbourhood and an ongoing priority for the Community Safety Partnership. Work undertaken since the last Area Committee includes:

- Additional funding allocated by the Community Safety Partnership for the extension of the Taxi Marshalling pilot. Marshals were deployed on the last weekend (Friday and Saturday nights) in the months of January, February and March and also covered the return of university students to the city following the Christmas holiday period. Positive reports have been received from the public, members of the taxi industry and the police.
- Cambridge Street Pastors launched on 27th March, with 22 volunteers commissioned to operate as Street Pastors. Weekly patrols to commence in the city centre every Friday night to provide help and assistance to those in need on a night out.

- Pubwatch meeting was held and attended by a representative from Addenbrookes Emergency Department to discuss key issues and share information.
- Operation Sodium, high visibility patrols, continue in the city centre on Friday and Saturday night. Often complemented by other agencies including Cambridge Business Against Crime (CAMBAC) and city council licensing officers.

Engagement Activity

Multi agency engagement day held in the Castle area. Agencies involved include the Fire Service, Trading Standards, City Council and Police. Officers were on hand to meet residents and offer advice on crime prevention. In addition to this locks and other security devices were available to be fitted free of charge at residents home addresses.

Monthly engagement meetings are being held across the Neighbourhood. These are advertised through the Constabulary website: <https://www.cambs-police.co.uk/myneighbourhood/diarydates.asp>

Surgeries have been held at shire hall to promote cycle security and to promote immobile. A laptop was available to those attending the surgery in order that they could register immediately.

Members of the team have visited local cub groups to engage with the children and offer personal safety advice.

Visits have been made to the local nursery. Interactive activities were organised aimed for the age group of children attending the nursery in order to promote road safety and raise awareness of potential dangers.

3. Emerging Issues

Neighbourhood trends

Total crime in City West has fallen compared to the previous period, and is at a lower level than the same period last year. Despite this decrease, dwelling burglary offences have seen an increase across the Neighbourhood. This reflects an increase observed divisionally. As a result, this was made a divisional policing priority which continues to be enforced presently (despite having seen reductions in offences across the whole sector).

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) incidents were lower than the previous period, however, this remains higher than that reported in the same period last year.

Newnham

- Total crime in Newnham has fallen over the 4 month period from 183 in the previous period to 174 currently. However, the graph indicates that offence levels are following a seasonal increase typically associated with longer daylight hours and warmer weather.
- Dwelling burglary offences have increased during the 4 month period to 27 offences from only 6 offences in the previous period (2 in December, 3 in January, 10 in February and 12 in March). Sixteen of these offences targeted college premises' throughout February and March. A series of offences also targeted residential properties in the area of Owlstone Road, which were likely to be linked to college burglaries as the dates and times coincided.
- Non-dwelling burglaries have fallen during the period. Most of which also targeted University properties and College grounds.
- Robbery offences have increased during the period due to a series of offences which occurred in February where 2 offenders targeted students in both the Newnham and Castle wards. These offenders have subsequently been arrested and charged with these offences (as well as robbery offences in Castle and Market wards).
- In the previous update, vehicle crime was identified as an emerging issue. This has subsequently reduced in the latest period compared to both the previous period and the same time period last year.

- ASB remains consistent with the previous period. Incidents were varied with no particular trends noted in incident type, nature or location.
- Between December and March there were 7 reports of abandoned vehicles in the ward. This included one, which was not on site following inspection and one, which was removed and taken to a compound.
- Between December and March there were 16 reports of fly tipping in the ward. All were removed within 24 hours. Three warning letters were sent (Two to domestic and one to a trade offender). Lammas Land Recycling Centre was a hotspot during this period (7 incidents) and this resulted in one of the formal warning letters being sent.
- 23 derelict cycles were dealt with between December and March. Madingley Road Park & Ride (5 on one occasion) was a hotspot during this period.
- 16 items of graffiti were removed between December and March, three of which were offensive. Granchester Meadows (4, from signs) and Madingley Road (4, from green utility boxes) were the hotspots during this period). The offensive graffiti was found on one occasion in December at the Paradise Nature Reserve.

Castle

- Total crime in the ward has increased from 154 offences reported in the previous period to 172 reported over the 4 month period. Increases particularly observed in both dwelling burglaries and non-dwelling burglaries.
- Dwelling burglary offences have increased from 12 in the previous period to 24 reported during the 4 month period. Similar to the Newnham burglary offences, 10 of these targeted college or student properties.
- Non-dwelling burglaries have also increased to 16 offences from only 3 offences reported in the previous period. The majority of the offences occurred in January with 8 offences reported (4 in December, 1 in February and 3 in March). In addition, offences also tended to target college premises.
- Robbery offences in Castle are linked to the series in Newnham which offenders have been arrested and charged. In addition, 1 of the offenders in these series has been charged for some of the robberies identified in a series on Jesus Green/Midsummer Common in Market ward.

- ASB incidents have increased from 50 incidents reported in the previous period to 72 in the current 4 month period. Incidents were concentrated in and around the Castle Street, Huntingdon Road, Oxford Road and Shelly Row area. ASB reports were varied and ranged from youths congregating and being a nuisance, harassment, to general ASB from inebriated people.
- Between December and March there were 9 reports of abandoned vehicles in the ward. This included two, which were not on site following inspection and three, which were removed and taken to a compound.
- Between December and March there were 19 reports of fly tipping in the ward. All were removed within 24 hours. 6 warning letters were sent to domestic offenders and a further case is ongoing.
- 33 derelict cycles were dealt with between December and March. Shelly Garden (8), Castle Street (4) and Haymarket Road (4) were hotspots during this period.
- 18 needles were removed between December and March. 15 of these were removed on one occasion near a bin cupboard at Honey Hill Flats in February.

Market

- Total crime has been further reduced during the period from 1538 offences to 1328 offences in the latest 4 month period and is much lower than the same period last year which reported 1437 offences.
- Dwelling burglary offences have increased during the period due to a series of offences which targeted University premises. Dwelling burglaries was declared a Divisional priority in January and is still being enforced despite the current low offence levels.
- Theft from motor vehicle offences have fallen to only 16 offences reported over the 4 month period and theft of motor vehicle offences remain low.
- Cycle theft has also been reduced in the latest period although offence levels still remain higher than the same period last year.
- Robbery offences remain pretty stable with the previous period but are at a higher level than that reported for the same period last year. This was due to a series of offences on Jesus Green/Midsummer Common which are

believed to be linked to the offenders arrested for the Castle and Newnham offences

- Violent offences have fallen during the 4 month period and are also lower than the same period last year. As expected, many of the offences are associated with the night-time economy as the majority of them occurred between 00:00hrs and 04:00hrs. Hotspots continue to be on Sidney Street and Regent Street.
- ASB incidents have fallen compared to the previous period. These also appear to be mainly associated with the night-time economy as most of the incidents occurred overnight (mainly between 19:00hrs and 05:00hrs). Similar to the violent offence reported in the ward, the hotspot locations were St. Andrews Street, Sidney Street, Regent Street and Parkside.
- Between December and March there were 12 reports of abandoned vehicles in the ward. This included six, which were not on site following inspection, three which were removed and taken to a compound and one which was later claimed by their owner.
- Between December and March there were 197 reports of fly tipping in the ward, an increase on the previous period (144). All were removed within 24 hours. One fixed penalty notice was issued to a trade offender. 9 Section 47 notices were issued to trade offenders. 17 warning letters were issued (12 to domestic offenders and 5 to trade) and waste transfer documentation was requested from 19 trade offenders. Hobson Street/Hobson Passage (12), Trumpington Street (13) and the area around Market Square, Market Street and Market Passage (21) were hotspots during this period.
- 325 derelict cycles were dealt with between December and March, a decrease on the previous period (445). St Mary's Passage (24), Sidney Street and Trinity Street (both 17) and Bridge Street and Trumpington Street (both 16) were the hotspots during this period.
- 893 reports of anti-social cycling occurred between December and March. Most of these occurred in Sidney Street (181), Trinity Street (170), Bridge Street (163), Market Street (123) and Petty Cury (112). These figures are provided by the city rangers who made a record every time they advise cyclists on safe cycling in the city,
- 11 items of graffiti were removed between December and March, a decrease on the previous period (42).

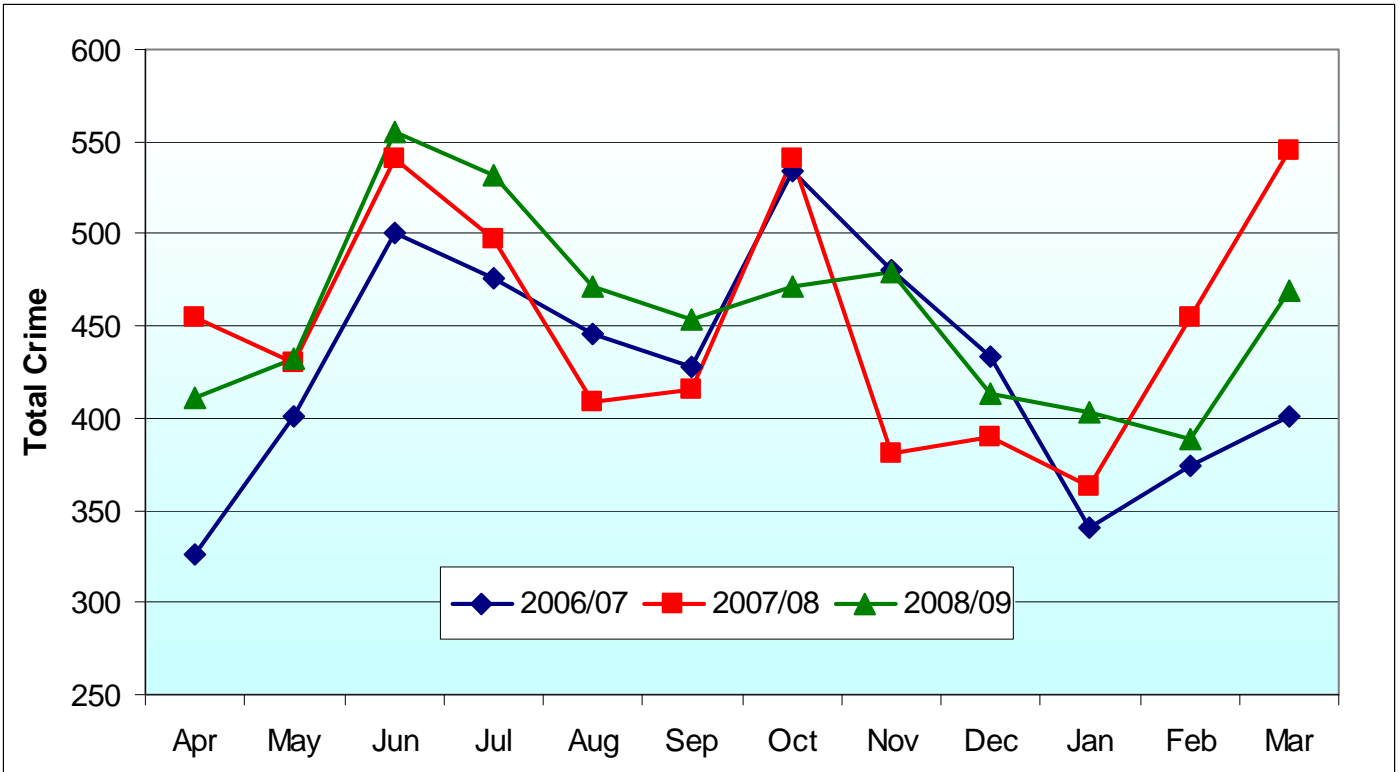
- 86 needles were removed between December and March. This included 29 which were removed during routine checks from the Grafton West Car Park and 24 from Fair Street, in particular from the sand/gravel bin. The total also includes 15 needles, which were removed on one occasion in February from the path at Park Parade.

4. Recommendations

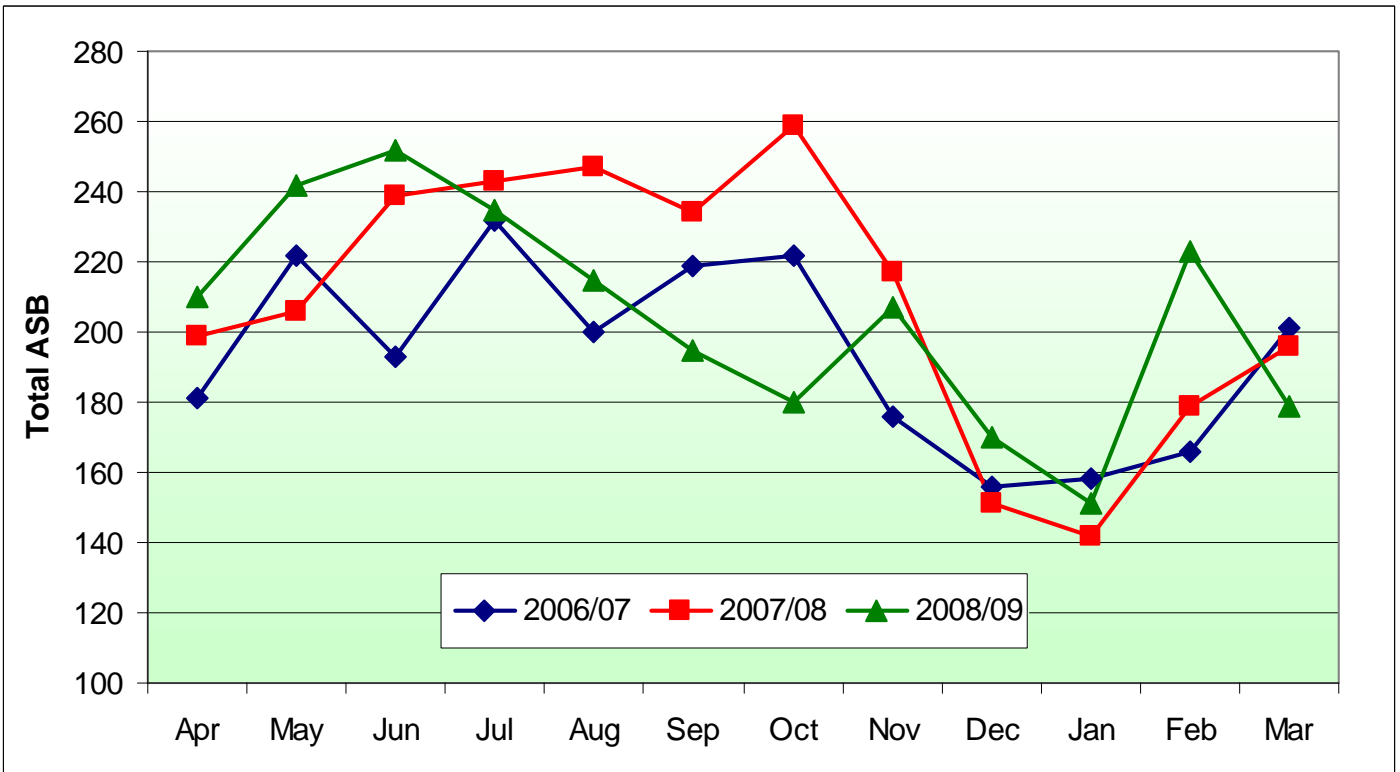
- ASB in Castle. Reports of ASB in Castle have increased by 44% (22 incidents) compared to the same period last year. Reports are likely to increase with the warmer months approaching.
- ASB by Vehicles in City Centre – to continue work against this priority. Police are continuing to receive complaints from the public regarding cycling and driving within the city. Positive response from the public to the action that we are taking in the city.

5. Current Crime and Incident Levels

Total Crime



Total ASB



Current Crime and Incident Levels in Neighbourhood, by Ward

			Dwell. Burg.	Other Burg.	Violent Crime	Robbery	Theft of Vehicle	Theft from Veh.	Cycle Theft	Theft from Shop	Criminal Damage	Other Crime	TOTAL CRIME	TOTAL ASB
Neighbourhood	City West	Dec 08 – Mar 09	69	52	248	35	9	53	252	317	123	516	1674	723
		Aug 08 – Nov 08	26	51	286	30	6	79	405	309	119	534	1875	797
		Dec 07 – Mar 08	26	50	311	12	14	87	218	341	127	555	1753	668
Wards	Newnham	Dec 08 – Mar 09	27	17	16	9	3	13	26	0	18	45	174	51
		Aug 08 – Nov 08	6	25	15	4	2	39	37	3	18	30	183	51
		Dec 07 – Mar 08	7	10	7	0	4	40	36	5	11	39	159	37
	Castle	Dec 08 – Mar 09	24	16	12	4	3	21	42	1	20	16	172	72
		Aug 08 – Nov 08	12	3	17	2	1	15	54	3	21	24	154	50
		Dec 07 – Mar 08	10	8	7	0	4	16	41	0	27	44	157	41
	Market	Dec 08 – Mar 09	18	19	220	22	3	19	184	316	85	442	1328	600
		Aug 08 – Nov 08	8	23	254	24	3	25	314	303	80	480	1538	696
		Dec 07 – Mar 08	9	32	297	12	6	31	141	336	89	472	1437	590