



Cambridge City Council
West Central Area Committee

Date: Thursday, 26 November 2020

Time: 6.30 pm

Venue: This is a virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams

Contact: democratic.services@cambridge.gov.uk, tel:01223 457000

Agenda

- 1 Welcome, Introduction and Apologies for Absence
- 2 Declarations of Interest
- 3 Minutes (Pages 3 - 10)
- 4 Matters and Actions Arising From the Minutes (Pages 11 - 14)

Items for Discussion

- 5 Open Forum
- 6 Policing and Safer Neighbourhoods (Pages 15 - 20)
- 7 City Centre Recovery
Oral report from the Head of Environmental Services on the current and planned city centre recovery in light of coronavirus restrictions.
- 8 Mutual Aid activity
Oral update to the area committee on the work of the mutual aid groups covering the West/Central area.
- 9 Walking and cycling consultation and proposals
Update from the Greater Cambridge Partnership on projects in the West/Central area specifically Covid 19 experimental road closures and the Greenways and Madingley Road cycleway scheme.

City Councillors: Matthews (Chair), Porrer (Vice-Chair), Bick, Chadwick, Gehring, Hipkin, Martinelli and Payne

County Councillors: Harrison, Nethsingha and Richards

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- Email: democratic.services@cambridge.gov.uk
- Phone: 01223 457000

WEST CENTRAL AREA COMMITTEE

10 September 2020

6.30 - 9.00 pm

Present

Area Committee Members: Councillors Matthews (Chair), Porrer (Vice-Chair), Bick, Chadwick, Gehring, Martinelli, Payne, Harrison and Nethsingha

County Councillors Harrison, Nethsingha and Scutt

Officers:

Head of Streets and Open Spaces: Joel Carré

Community Engagement and Enforcement Manager: Wendy Johnston

Anti-Social Behaviour Officer: Maureen Tsentides

Committee Manager: Gary Clift

Other Officers in Attendance:

Police Sergeant: Kevin Mišík

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL

20/12/WAC Election of Chair and Vice Chair - WCAC

Councillor Martinelli proposed and Councillor Gehring seconded Councillor Matthews as Chair. There being no other nominations, Councillor Matthews was appointed Chair for the remainder of the municipal year.

Councillor Matthews proposed and Councillor Payne seconded Councillor Porrer as Vice Chair. There being no other nominations, Councillor Porrer was appointed Vice Chair for the remainder of the municipal year.

20/13/WAC Welcome, Introduction and Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Hipkin and County Councillor Richards.

The Committee noted the recent resignation from the city council of Rod Cantrill. Members placed on record their appreciation of the work Rod had done on the Council over the last 16 years, amongst other roles as Chair of this Committee.

20/14/WAC Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

20/15/WAC Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2020 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

20/16/WAC Matters and Actions Arising From the Minutes

The action sheet was noted, updated and can be viewed on the link: <https://democracy.cambridge.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=117&MId=3883>

20/17/WAC Open Forum

Members of the public asked a number of questions, as set out below.

1. A member of the public raised the following issues:

Histon Road Area Residents' Association HRARA has for a long time pointed out the health dangers in connection with air pollution and especially particulates and requested proper monitoring on Histon Road not only for emissions but also for particulates. In our question to the NAC meeting last week, HRARA was referring to the latest Cambridge Air Quality Annual Status Report for the period 2019 to March 2020 where in the Executive Summary is written:

Air pollution is associated with a number of adverse health impacts. It is recognised as a contributing factor in the onset of heart disease and cancer. Air pollution causes diseases of the heart and lungs, contributes to poor public health and shortens life. Additionally, air pollution particularly affects the most vulnerable in society: children and older people. There is also often a strong correlation with equalities issues, because areas with poor air quality are also often the less affluent areas. Air pollution is harmful for human health at all levels, including below the legal limits, so it is important to do what we can to

continue to improve air quality. Public health data indicates in 2017, 47 deaths in Cambridge (5.6%) could be attributed to Particulate Air Pollution.

HRARA asked: 47 deaths in 2017 – how many today? Most likely in the Arbury Area often described as a deprived area. What is one life worth?

HRARA asks the officers in GCP and/or Cambridge City Council to provide facilities and tools to continue monitoring particles as well as emissions particularly in the deprived areas in Arbury along Histon Road.

The answer from the councillors was:

In any event there is little to be gained by what would need to be significant investment in further monitoring around this project as set out above.

Today, a further report regarding Air Quality in UK was received

The Good Law Project has launched a landmark legal case to force the UK government to urgently review its Clean Air Strategy in light of a growing body of evidence suggesting that there is a link between air pollution and COVID-19.

Multiple studies from around the world have suggested that there is a [link between poor air quality](#) and both the occurrence and severity of COVID-19.

The government's current [Clean Air Strategy](#) aims to reduce the number of people exposed to air pollution, however the strategy has been widely criticised for failing to recognise any meaningful targets on particulate matter (PM2.5) – one of the most harmful pollutants to human health.

In an environmental context, this means that a lack of full scientific knowledge should not delay remedial steps when a threat of serious or irreversible damage to the environment or human health has been identified.

The lawyers have requested a response from the Secretary of State for Environment and Rural Affairs by September 16.

Also:

Asphalt is a significant source of air pollution in urban environments, according to a new study published in the journal Science Advances.

They found that when asphalt is exposed to moderate solar radiation it results in a 300% increase in secondary organic aerosols (SOA). SOA is a major contributor to particulate matter (PM2.5) an air pollutant which is known to have negative impacts on public health.

The researchers also found that asphalt emissions doubled when the temperature increased from 40C to 60C — levels the material often reaches in summer.

With all this background we would like to repeat our question: What is a life worth?

HRARA asks the officers in GCP and/or Cambridge City Council to provide facilities and tools to continue monitoring air pollution, particles as well as emissions, particularly in the deprived areas along Histon Road.

Members asked if the air quality monitors could be targeted. The Head of Environmental Services advised the Committee the cost of monitors were around £50k and £20k to maintain and although at a local resident level there are much cheaper alternative monitoring stations, these are less reliable and not what the local authority would use. The Head of Environmental Services would follow up the issues raised with the Greater Cambridge Partnership about the issues raised (nb: the same question was put to the North Area Committee on 3 September).

Action Point: Head of Environmental Services

2. A member of the public raised the following issue

My question is about pavement parking. At East road, about a minute's walk from the police station, there is constant blocking of the pavement by two or three cars. This is getting REALLY BLATANT and bad now. The owners i'm sure are aware they shouldn't be doing it, because I have occasionally seen people put notices on the car to complain. I have seen people in buggies going into the busy road and a wheelchair user really struggle to get past.

The law being broken is obstruction of the highway, (it's not a parking offence because there are no yellow lines). I see that obstruction HAS to be enforced by the police. This is a REALLY clear case of obstruction so it would undoubtedly not be contested. It is also breaking the law to drive on the pavement, but I see that a police officer has to catch the person in the act so that is a waste of time.

I see the Cambridge Newspaper covered this over a year ago but nothing seems to be done as it goes on day after day after day:

<https://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/news/cambridge-news/disgraceful-parking-cambridge-pavement-camcycle-16872397>

I assume the cars are for the people living at the flats. I am sorry if they don't have proper parking, but it's not on to just be lazy and block the pavement. They should do what everyone else has to do, namely pay for a garage or walk a bit further. It's ridiculous that sensible measures like Mill road to make it

easier to walk in the covid age is in place but this spot on east road is so terrible.

The police must drive past this hundreds of times per week, but nothing seems to be done. Why is this carrying on? If the police could please just walk round the corner and ticket each car for obstruction of the highway, even for a couple of days, the perpetrators will soon get the message.

Please can councillors ask for some targeted enforcement in this place please. A few tickets costing the people £60 or whatever will soon solve the problem!

County Councillor responded that the matter had been referred to the County Council Parking Enforcement team (it was not a police matter) for actioning and the double yellow lines had recently been re-painted so it was quite clear to anyone that parking should not be taking place at that location.

3. A member of the public raised the following issue

Travellers had arrived on land on the McManus Estate and the issue had been with the Council and what measures were being taken.

Councillor Payne advised that this had occurred at the same time last year and that it was at a location close to the local primary school. Councillor Payne had raised with officers if there were any mitigation measures through environmental improvements.

The Head of Environmental Services advised the committee that the land in question was in private hands and so it was a matter for the landowner. The council will monitor and review but to date there had been no reports of anti-social behaviour. Any action needed to be proportionate and reasonable. He undertook to take the issue away and report back to the Committee.

4. A member of the public asked if there were any plans for the city council to remember local historian and city council street sweeper Allan Brigham who has recently passed away. The member of the public put forward the suggestion of a blue plaque on the site of the old Council Depot on Mill Road. County Councillor Scutt replied that the Leader of the Council had been approached already and she would pass on the idea and thanked the member of the public for their suggestion.

20/18/WAC Policing and Safer Neighbourhoods

Police Sergeant Misik highlighted the police activity since the Committee last met in March.

A member of the public asked about street begging in general and not just located in the city centre. PS Misik reported that most street beggars were known to the police and that reporting either by phoning (which it was acknowledged was not always easy to do if at the location of where the begging is taking place) or via the website was the police's recommended way for the public to report.

The Chair raised the issue of car windows being broken in Clerk Maxwell Road. PS Misik advised that the police were aware of anti-social behaviour and drug dealing in the area and had patrolled there.

Cllr Bick supported a continuation of a police priority regarding the anti-social behaviour around Willow Walk and King Street. Cllrs Bick and Gehring raised issues associated with anti-social behaviour on open spaces (eg. Midsummer Common, Lammas Land). Cllr Chadwick referred to dangerous driving in Canterbury Street, being used as a cut through. Members discussed the continuing problem of moped drivers at speed across the city centre, particularly for food delivery.

In response to questions about the police priorities during Covid, it was acknowledged that they will continue to adapt.

The Committee agreed on the following priorities:

- Anti-social behaviour in King Street/Willow Walk
- Anti-social behaviour in open and green spaces
- Night time economy/alcohol related disorder

20/19/WAC WCAC - Environmental Report

The Enforcement and Community Engagement Manager introduced the report.

Cllr Bick asked:

What enforcement can be done for businesses which do not lock waste bin lids (thereby attracting scavenging)?

The Enforcement Manager advised that the Council can apply fixed penalty notices (under section 47 of the Environment Protection Act), Members/the public do need to report it to the team.

An update on the dog warden service distribution across the Wards?

The Enforcement Manager was in the process of reviewing which officers covered which wards. There were two people covering Market/Newnham but they were not restricted by ward boundaries (although each ward did have a named contact)

Is there a downturn in recycling?

The Enforcement Manager would find this information out from the waste service and report back.

Action by: Enforcement Manager

A boards nuisance with social distancing in the city centre. The Enforcement Manger agreed and the officers were responding when incidents were reported to them.

In conclusion, the Vice Chair on behalf of the Committee placed on record its appreciation of the work of the streets and open spaces team during the lockdown and the continuing challenges the team face on a daily basis.

20/20/WAC City Centre Recovery Plan

The Head of Environmental Services gave an information update. The Committee noted the following:

Work was on-going on planning to consult on extending the Traffic Regulation Order for the King's Parade barrier. A report to Scrutiny Committee was due for early 2021.

A proposal for the Market Square project was expected for Scrutiny Committee in early 2021 with a public consultation in early spring.

Consideration is being given of locating some market traders on Peas Hill to assist with social distancing requirements.

The meeting ended at 9.00 pm

CHAIR

Committee Action Sheet – West/Central Area Committee

Meeting Date: 10/09/20

Updated on: DD/MM/YY

Agenda item: Cycle theft from central train station cycle park// Minute reference: 19/25/wcac q3

- Action: Councillors Matthews and Martinelli to continue to monitor/be involved with efforts to improve cycle security.
- Progress:
 - Meeting with Greater Anglia in August where agreement on an Area Management Plan was achieved.
 - Council will convene a cycle crime task group involving the police, cycle groups and other interested partners and including Neighbourhood Watch representative).

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Agenda item: Castle Mound // Minute reference: 20/5/WAC

- Action: Councillor Chadwick to monitor Suffolk County Council progress on determining rights of way and town green status.
- Progress:
 - Noted that Suffolk CC deferred a decision in the summer and have not yet confirmed when it is to be re-considered.

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Open Forum

- Action: Travellers on the McManus Estate-Head of Environmental Services to receive update and report back to Ward Councillors. Also to investigate mitigation measures to avoid repeat same time next year.
- Lead Member: Councillor Payne
- Progress:
- Action: Air pollution on Histon Road- Head of Environmental Services to follow up the issues raised and co-ordinate with response to North Area Committee (as it was also raised at that Committee).
- Lead Member: Councillor Matthews
- Progress: Update 30 September 2020 Histon Road has two diffusion tubes which provide a monthly data point for Nitrogen

Dioxide (NO₂) concentrations and are part of our passive NO₂ network of more than 70 locations across the City. Nitrogen dioxide concentrations are the reason for our designating an Air Quality Management Area for central Cambridge and remain close to national objective levels in some city locations although in recent years have generally been below the annual mean objective of 40ug/m³. In terms of the Histon road tubes levels are in the mid to high 20s over Page 4 the last few years so well below the objective. Particulate matter which is measured at two size fractions (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) at a limited number of fixed monitoring stations in the City and South Cambridgeshire appears to be of more concern to residents and has a stronger association with health impacts. A monitor is operated by Highways England at the Junction of Histon Road and Huntingdon Road required by the DCO for the A14 improvement project. South Cambridgeshire district Council also run monitoring stations on Huntingdon road near Girton and within Orchard Park. In terms of a City the Size of Cambridge this is a very comprehensive monitoring provision for particulate matter. There are legal health based objectives only for PM₁₀ in the UK and monitoring in the City shows we are well within those objectives at sites with far greater local emissions than those experienced at Histon Road. Our advice therefore is that the monitoring in place is sufficient to give a good measure of any significant impact of the work and the likelihood is that concentrations of key pollutants will remain well within the current legal healthbased objectives' Page 5 The Principal Scientific Officer has also provided some additional comment re: HRARA questions about particulate air pollution: Public health data indicates in 2017, 47 deaths in Cambridge (5.6%) could be attributed to Particulate Air Pollution. HRARA asked: 47 deaths in 2017 – how many today? Answer: 'The data this is based on is derived from a Public Health England Study using 2017 figures for excess mortality due to PM_{2.5} levels. There isn't any more recent data and Public Health England's role is now uncertain following Govt. announcements earlier this year. No local authority has the resources or access to medical data necessary to calculate the mortality figures independently. Current levels of particulate matter monitored in Cambridge are similar or lower than levels in 2017 and so derived mortality figures are likely to be similar or lower than in 2017 also.

- Action: Parking enforcement on East Road. To be monitored in response to public comment.
- Lead Member: County Councillor Harrison
- Progress:

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Neighbourhood Profile

Cambridge City West/Central – November 2020



Wards: Castle, Market and Newnham

Produced by:

Cambridgeshire Constabulary:

- Inspector Edward McNeill
- Sergeant Kevin Misik

Community Safety Team, Cambridge City Council:

- Lynda Kilkelly, Community Safety Manager
- Sarah Steggles, Senior Anti-Social Behaviour Officer



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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 on-going and emerging crime and disorder issues, and provide recommendations for future areas of concern 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 data received from the following sources:

- The Safer Neighbourhood Policing Team for the area;
- The City Council's Community Safety Team;
- The general public, via online and telephone crime and intelligence reporting; and
- Consultation with elected Ward and County members.

2. Current Areas of Concern

At the West/Central Area Committee meeting of 10 September, the committee recommended addressing the following local areas of concern:

- Anti-social behaviour in King Street/Willow Walk;
- Anti-social behaviour in open and green spaces; and
- Night time economy/alcohol related disorder.

Lead officers and actions to be taken were agreed following the committee meeting. The work undertaken and current situation is detailed below.

Anti-social behaviour in King Street/Willow Walk

Objective: To deal with ongoing/persistent issues of anti-social behaviour (ASB) in both King Street and Willow Walk areas.

Action Taken:

King Street: There have been a series of ongoing issues, dating back to the first period of Coronavirus lockdown, in the area linked to street drinking and the associated ASB. Following a review of the incidents, the team was able to understand who and what were causing the issues. Given the nature of the people concerned, we needed to understand what the draw was for them to come to the area. There appeared to be a link with the sale

of high strength/low cost alcohol and the ASB. Visits have been conducted to licensed premises in the area, in partnership with both the police licensing officer and the City Council's licensing team, where advice was given around the items that were being sold and the issues in the area. As well as these actions, there has also been an increase in high visibility patrol work from the team.

Willow Walk: There have been issues identified around this location. It is likely that this increase is linked to changes brought about due to the Coronavirus restrictions. Cllr Tim Bick set up an online meeting with various stakeholders, including the police and the City Council, and the residents in the area, to discuss the ongoing issues and to understand what actions the stakeholders were able to do to address their concerns. Currently, stakeholders are investigating the viability of a Re-deployable CCTV camera at the location. As well as these actions, targeted patrol work has been carried out in the area.

Current Situation: Work is ongoing.

Lead Officer: PS 686 Kevin MISIK, Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Anti-social behaviour in open and green spaces

Objective: To deal with issues of anti-social behaviour on the open and green spaces within the area.

Action Taken: Whilst this is an area where, historically, the issues have occurred during the summer months, the changes that have come about with the Coronavirus pandemic have changed the way in which some spaces are being used within the City.

To deal with these issues, we are conducting targeted patrols to ensure that any anti-social behaviour is robustly dealt with. We are also dealing with breaches of Coronavirus regulations, most notably as we have now entered a second period of Lockdown. The Constabulary has obtained additional funding from the Government to carry out additional patrols. There have also been challenges with younger people meeting up in groups, after college or during the evening, and we are working with colleges and the City Council to educate these younger people about compliance with the regulations. This work has been carried out, not only by the City Centre team, but also with support from the wider city policing team and the Special Constabulary.

Given the current Coronavirus situation, these issues are often linked to the night time economy and alcohol-related disorder, and as such there is an overlap with the policing of them. The Constabulary has issued a large number of tickets for regulation breaches.

Current Situation: This continues to be a key area of business for the police.

Lead Officer: PS 686 Kevin MISIK, Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Night time economy/alcohol related disorder

Objective: To ensure that the night time economy is safe and free from anti-social behaviour.

Action Taken: There have been a large number of changes in a very short amount of time within the night time economy, primarily in terms of hours of business and the number of people that it can accommodate. This has led to a number of challenges; a prime example being the development of 'secondary queues' where people who are being turned away from the venue, due to it being full, are deciding the wait outside. The City Council are deploying marshals to assist in ensuring that these queues are appropriately distanced. We have worked with the City Council to understand and deal with these changes. We have conducted licensing visits to all of the venues to help them be safe, in line with regulations, and to ensure that they understand the role that they play in ensuring that Cambridge remains a safe place in the evenings. The licensed venues have all taken action to ensure that the people who are coming into their venues are able to socialise in a safe and compliant nature.

As well as this preventative work, we continue to run an evidence-based and phased response to the night time economy (Op CONNECT). We analyse data to understand when busier weekends occur and ensure that there are the appropriate resources in place to deal with any issues which are identified. Each week, feedback is provided to the City Centre team, who use this information to engage with various partners to ensure that any identified issues are dealt with and, when appropriate, update the plan for the following week.

Current Situation: Currently, the venues are closed and remain so until the beginning of December. We are anticipating that, when the venues re-open, the environment will be busy and, given the time of year, that there will be a number of challenging dates ahead. Again, we will continue to work in this key area with the support of our partners and the wider police family.

Lead Officer: PS 686 Kevin MISIK, Cambridgeshire Constabulary

3. *Proactive Work and Emerging Issues*

Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Presently, the work of the team is very fluid. The challenging operating environment of the Coronavirus pandemic has caused some of our main areas of business to open and close on a number of occasions. We continue to work towards dealing with the main issues within the area, be they linked with the night time economy, retail, street-based anti-social behaviour, or within the various residential areas in the area.

Cambridge City Council

The City Council's Community Safety Team (CST) has continued to work with partners to provide a responsive service regarding reported incidents of anti-social behaviour throughout the initial lockdown and to date.

The CST is a key partner to the work being undertaken by the City Council to house the homeless within the City, and has been the link in terms of making sure that all incidents reported, with regards individuals on the streets, are being fed into the Coronavirus partnerships meetings.

As the Lockdown was lifted and footfall increased, some individuals began to have a presence in the City Centre, begging or rough sleeping in doorways, and these individuals have been targeted for support and enforcement interventions, as appropriate. One individual has been issued with a Community Protection Warning and we are working with partner agencies to ensure the individual in question uses the accommodation available to them and has the support they need to move away from a street-based lifestyle. Another individual is currently being considered for a civil Injunction due to their persistent and problematic behaviour impacting on the wider community.

We have continued to highlight anti-social behaviour (ASB) issues in open spaces and have liaised with partners through the strategic forums of both the multi-agency problem solving group and the street life working group, with a view of asking for focused work or intervention, as appropriate.

We are currently working with the police and the community to tackle concerns relating to ASB on Fair Street and Willow Walk, and recently attended the residents, meeting organised by Cllr. Bick.

In October, Cambridge City Council was delighted to learn that its Cambridge Street Aid initiative won the Transforming Lives category of the national 2020 Municipal Journal Awards.

During Lockdown, we saw a decrease in donations, due to low footfall in the City, and an increase in grant applications. Unfortunately, due to the increased number of grants required during the pandemic we have temporarily closed applications. However, the £3,500 raised during our second annual Street Aid Week in October, and the positive publicity arising from the MJ Award, has helped to bolster the funds and we hope to re-open the application process soon.

4. Additional Information

At neighbourhood level, the [POLICE.UK](https://www.police.uk) website allows for swift access to local crime and anti-social behaviour data at street level. The website can display crimes on a map as well as in chart format, along with trend lines. The three most important sections within this website are: 'overview'; 'crime'; and 'view detailed statistics'. This gives a good overview of issues within the local area.

5. Recommendations

None are advised. We seek views from this committee on those local areas of concern that the police and partner agencies can work together to action and report on at the next reporting committee meeting.