

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:

- Crime and Incident data, from December 2011 – March 2012 and as a comparison, data from December 2010 and March 2011, and August 2011 – November 2011
- Information from the Neighbourhood Policing teams, April 2011
- Community intelligence
- Environmental data from Cambridge City Council for the period December 2011 – March 2012, compared with the same period the previous year.

2 PREVIOUS PRIORITIES

At the neighbourhood panel meeting on 5th January 2012, the following issues were adopted as priorities. The tables below summarise action taken and the current situation regarding the priorities that were set:

Speed enforcement activity to support the implementation of 20 mph speed limit, including evening activity (Central)	
Objective	Speed enforcement in support of the 20mph limit
Action Taken	<p>In total, 36 hours of officer time was spent on this priority. The times varied throughout the day and evening. All the 20 mph roads were covered at some stage. The operational guidelines set meant that those travelling at 24 to 31 mph were stopped where safe and practicable and given verbal advice. Where that was not possible many were sent a Speedwatch letter. Those travelling between 32 and 34 mph were given an Endorseable Fixed Penalty Notice. Those travelling at 35 mph in a 20 mph zone were only eligible for a summons, although no vehicle was tracked travelling at that speed.</p> <p>In total, 17 Endorseable Fixed Penalty Notices were issued (12 of those in Maid's Causeway) for those travelling between 32 and 34 mph. In excess of 300 drivers were spoken to and 50 are in the process of receiving Speedwatch letters. In addition there were countless other drivers who were exceeding the speed limit, but which it was not practicable to stop. Other offences dealt with included: no vehicle excise licence; no insurance; using a mobile phone while driving, and a cannabis warning.</p> <p>The majority of people stopped for both advice and Endorseable Fixed Penalty Notices claimed they were not aware of the speed restrictions and had not seen the signs. It was the perception of officers that the majority of traffic on all roads checked was travelling at between 24 to 30 mph. Frequently the road layout and traffic flow meant that checks could not be conducted, e.g. safe places to stop vehicles and talk to drivers, frequency of buses (Parkside) and volume of traffic. This meant that officers deployed to deal with this issue were prevented from doing so by factors outside their control.</p>
Current Situation	Achieving speed reduction has to be the overall goal. This priority involved a considerable investment of police resources. However, the results illustrate that there remains a significant

	driver behaviour issue which enforcement alone will not change. Unless 20 mph enforcement is coupled with road engineering and education activity it is unrealistic to expect speeds to be brought down in the long-term by police action alone. The police will continue to monitor the 20 mph limits which will enable them, if necessary, to direct enforcement activity to those areas of greatest risk.
Continue or Discharge?	Discharge as a police priority until after the Citywide consultation regarding extension of the 20 mph limits has been concluded.

Alcohol and group related ASB in The Grafton area and consider The Grafton area as part of the wider problem currently under review (Central).	
Objective	To reduce alcohol and group-related anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the City and Grafton area.
Action Taken	<p>Positive enforcement action has been taken in respect of this issue that was also adopted as a Divisional police priority for several weeks (which brought extra resources into the equation in addition to Neighbourhood Officers). Extensive use was made of the power to disperse under s27 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 and numerous arrests were made for a range of offences, including begging, public order offences, theft and assault.</p> <p>Partnership action with the City Council resulted in a particular hot-spot area behind Parkside Pool being fenced off. This had a significant effect on street drinking group dynamics and helped to reduce ASB.</p> <p>In train with the enforcement action, the police also considered applying for a Dispersal Order and entered into consultation over this. In the end no formal request was made for an Order due to the considerable reduction in ASB.</p> <p>The police and City Council have also developed a new group to manage Streetlife issues, which include new working practices to better manage performance data, professional opinion and community perception. Enhanced information sharing and training is also being developed with the help of the City Council. This will enable a swifter response to any future early signs of street drinking and associated ASB.</p>

Current Situation	Whilst street drinking does remain an issue there has been a significant reduction in street drinking and associated ASB within Market Ward. In addition to the data in other sections of this report, further Police data for Market Ward for the months of January and February 2012 shows these to be the lowest two months for ASB for the past two years. A monthly comparison shows ASB for February 2012 (77 offences) to be 30.6% lower than February 2011 (111) offences.
Continue or Discharge?	Discharge

Address anti-social cycling and reduce the incidence of cycle thefts across the area (West/Central)	
Objective	Address anti-social cycling and reduce the incidence of cycle thefts across the area (West/Central).
Action Taken	<p>Whilst dealing with cycle offences is part of everyday policing activity, Safer Neighbourhood Officers, with assistance from members of the Special Constabulary, have conducted a series of initiatives to focus on cycling offences both in the City Centre and in the West area. In total, 103 Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued for offences of no lights, contravening red traffic lights (Northampton Street) and cycling on footpaths. In addition innumerable cyclists have been stopped and advised by Police Community Support Officers for cycling without lights.</p> <p>Combating cycle theft is part of the day-to-day work of the City Centre team who focus on pro-active enforcement activity as well as offering crime reduction advice. Cycle crime reduction events have been held recently at the Shire Hall, Newnham College and other locations. The team use all opportunities to deliver these simple messages about how to prevent cycle theft and also seek to promote the value of getting people to use the Immobilise property registration system to record their cycle details on. Patrols are also carried out at vulnerable and hotspot locations for cycle theft within the City. Police have increased information sharing with the City Council Rangers on recovered cycles and also reviewed the suggestion of putting photos of found cycles on the internet (has been tried in the past and found to be too bureaucratic). A total of 78 people have been arrested for theft of a pedal cycle in the City from the 1st of January 2012 to date. Arrests continue to be made as</p>

	a result of routine stop checks and other enquiries and by information from CCTV.
Current Situation	<p>Cycling without lights and anti-social cycling remains a problem within Cambridge. Further work on this in relation to educating foreign students is also underway.</p> <p>There has been a significant decrease in cycle theft in the City Centre and West area. Offences have decreased from 1208 in 2010/11 to 911 in 2011/12 which represents a decrease of 25%. Cycle theft in Cambridge as a whole dropped last year by 748 offences or 26.5%. This is the combination of a number of factors: Operation Northwood (the police operation which resulted in 60 convictions and made a significant impact on the ability to dispose of stolen property in the City); and continued work by the City Centre team and other Safer Neighbourhood Teams.</p>
Continue or Discharge?	Continue activity with regards anti-social cycling but Discharge activity with regards cycle thefts.

Update on prostitution in Histon Road

The Safer Neighbourhood Team have continued to patrol this area as promised at the last Area Committee meeting. Since the January meeting, police patrols have resulted in one female being given a caution for soliciting for the purposes of offering services as a prostitute and one male being reported for soliciting the services of a prostitute. Police perception is that this location does not represent the problem it did a few months ago either in terms of scale of activity or frequency. Recent convictions and on-going court cases arising from the previous police operation last year continue to help with deterrence.

3 EMERGING ISSUES

For a number of months there has been increased theft of mobile phones from people from within the busiest City licensed premises. Analysis reveals in excess of 350 offences. Peak time for offending is between 23:00 and 02:00 on Thurs, Fri and Saturday nights. Recent evidence reveals that offenders may commit multiple offences in one night at one premise. There is an action plan already running on this and good working with both Cambridge Business Against Crime and CCTV. Some arrests have been made and offenders have been found to be in possession of up to ten stolen mobile phones. There is further work to be conducted to combat this offending and

making it a neighbourhood priority would give it extra partnership focus and impetus. It is recommended therefore that this is adopted as a priority for the City neighbourhood.

4 NEIGHBOURHOOD TRENDS

Recorded crime in the West area remains the same as the previous year (1351) but is down on the previous reporting period (1495). Reports of anti-social behaviour have fallen significantly to 388 in comparison with 514 in previous year and 541 in the previous reporting period.

NEWNHAM

Crime

- Overall crime levels remain consistent with previous periods.
- Theft from vehicle offences has increased from 11 in the previous reporting period to 23. This is also an increase on 2010 and 2011 figures.

ASB

- Notable decrease in reported incidents.

Environmental Services Data

- Between December 2011 and March 2012, there were 3 reports of abandoned vehicles in the Ward compared with 5 during the same period the previous year. This included 1 vehicle, which was not on site following inspection. In addition, 1 CLE26 notice was issued to an offender on behalf of the DVLA for not displaying road tax on a public highway, which will result in a fine issued by the DVLA. There were no specific hotspots during either period.
- Between December 2011 and March 2012, there were 10 reports of fly tipping in the Ward compared with 6 during the same period the previous year. There was sufficient evidence to issue 1 formal warning letter to domestic offenders. Lammas Land (4) was the main hotspot during the current reporting period. Again Lammas Land (4) was the main hotspot during the previous year.
- Between December 2011 and March 2012, 5 derelict cycles were dealt with compared with 13 during the same period the previous year. There were no specific hotspots during the current reporting period. Lammas Land (4) was the main hotspot during the previous year.
- Between December 2011 and November 2012, nil needle finds were reported compared with 11 during the same period the previous year. During the previous reporting period the 11 needles were removed from Grantchester Meadows.

CASTLE

Crime

- Small reduction in overall recorded crime.

ASB

- Reduction in reported incidents.

Environmental Services Data

- Between December 2011 and March 2012, there were 7 reports of abandoned vehicles in the Ward compared with 8 during the same period the previous year. This included 2 vehicles, which were not on site following inspection. In addition, 2 CLE26 notices were issued to offenders on behalf of the DVLA for not displaying road tax on a public highway, which will result in a fine issued by the DVLA. There were no specific hotspots during the current reporting period. Storeys Way (3) was the hotspot for the same period the previous year.
- Between December 2011 and March 2012, there were 12 reports of fly tipping in the Ward compared with 3 during the same period the previous year. There was no sufficient evidence to issue formal warning letters. There were no specific hotspots during either period.
- Between December 2011 and March 2012, 11 derelict cycles were dealt with compared with 11 during the same period the previous year. Windsor Road (4) and Sherlock Close (3) were the main hotspots during the current reporting period. There were no specific hotspots during the previous year.
- Between December 2011 and March 2012, 3 needles were reported compared with nil during the same period the previous year. 2 were removed from Grassmere Gardens and the other was removed from Castle Street.

MARKET

Crime

- Significant reductions in overall when compared with previous reporting period and year.
- Significant reductions in violent crime and cycle theft offence.
- Increases in other offences reflect thefts of mobile phones as mentioned earlier.

ASB

- Reduction in reported incidents: 343 compared with 460 in last reporting period and 525 last year.

Environmental Services Data

- Between December 2011 and March 2012, there were 4 reports of abandoned vehicles in the Ward compared with 22 during the same period the previous year. This included 2 vehicles, which were not on site following inspection and 1, which was subsequently claimed by the owner. There were no specific hotspots during either period.
- Between December 2011 and March 2012, there were 162 reports of fly tipping in the Ward compared with 100 during the same period the previous year. There was sufficient evidence to issue 4 formal warning letters to domestic offenders and 3 formal warning letters to trade offenders. In addition, 5 verbal warnings were issued and waste transfer documentation was requested from 10 trade offenders. Bridge Street (19), Sidney Street (13), Market Hill (12), St Andrews Street (11) and Market Square (9) were the main hotspots during the current reporting period. The offences at Bridge Street accounted for 1 of the formal warning letters being sent. Market Square (9), Market Street (7), St John's Street (7), Market Hill (6) and Market Passage (6) were the main hotspots during the previous year.
- Between December 2011 and March 2012, 135 derelict cycles were dealt with compared with 199 during the same period the previous year. Regent Terrace (21), St Andrews Street (17), Downing Street (10), Jesus Green (9), Emmanuel Street (7) and Lion Yard (7) were the main hotspots during the current reporting period. St Andrews Street (21), Market Hill (18), Downing Street (17), Guildhall (15), Market Street (18) were the main hotspots during the previous year.
- Approximately 1796 incidents of anti-social cycling occurred between December 2011 and March 2012, compared with approximately 2025 incidents during the same period the previous year. Hotspots during the current period included Sidney Street (439), Market Street (336), Bridge Street (329), Trinity Street (228) and Petty Cury (196). Hotspots during the same period included Sidney Street (473), Bridge Street (325), Trinity Street (298), Market Street (288) and Petty Cury (237).
- Between December 2011 and March 2012, 25 needles were reported compared with 15 during the same period the previous year. 20 were removed from Jesus Green and 5 were removed from Willow Place. During the previous reporting period 8 needles were removed from East Road and 4 were removed from Midsummer.

5 CURRENT CRIME AND INCIDENT LEVELS

			Dwell Burg.	Other Burg.	Violent Crime (excl. Robbery)	Robbery	Theft of Vehicle	Theft from Vehicle	Cycle Theft	Theft from Shop	Criminal Damage	Other Crime	TOTAL CRIME	TOTAL ASB
AREA	City West / Central	<i>Dec 11 – March 12</i>	25	30	152	4	10	45	199	251	98	537	1351	388
		<i>Dec 10 – March 11</i>	48	25	243	12	3	36	224	203	81	476	1351	514
		<i>Aug 11 – Nov 11</i>	11	37	229	4	5	31	364	212	64	538	1495	541
WARDS	Newnham	<i>Dec 11 – March 12</i>	10	7	3	0	4	23	34	2	15	18	116	17
		<i>Dec 10 – March 11</i>	19	3	7	1	1	12	20	2	9	27	101	41
		<i>Aug 11 – Nov 11</i>	5	6	7	0	2	11	40	0	12	33	116	36
	Castle	<i>Dec 11 – March 12</i>	9	1	7	0	4	10	28	0	17	27	103	28
		<i>Dec 10 – March 11</i>	21	8	10	2	0	12	33	2	10	24	122	38
		<i>Aug 11 – Nov 11</i>	4	7	12	1	1	9	44	1	9	23	111	45
	Market	<i>Dec 11 – March 12</i>	6	22	142	4	2	12	137	249	66	492	1132	343
		<i>Dec 10 – March 11</i>	8	14	226	23	2	31	393	288	90	434	1583	525
		<i>Aug 11 – Nov 11</i>	2	24	210	3	2	11	280	211	43	482	1268	460

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

The following Neighbourhood Priorities are recommended for consideration:

- Anti-social cycling in the West/Central area
- Mobile phone thefts from City licensed premises.