

Neighbourhood Profile Update Cambridge City West/Central Neighbourhood

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**Steve Poppitt, Safer
Neighbourhoods
Inspector**

**Lynda Kilkelly, Safer
Communities Manager,
Cambridge City Council**



Creating a safer
Cambridgeshire



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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 incident data for April to July 2012, compared to the previous reporting period (December 2011 to March 2012) and the same reporting period in 2011;
- City Council environmental services data for April to July 2012 compared to the same reporting period in 2011; and
- Information provided by the Neighbourhood Policing Teams and the City Council ASB Team.

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2 PREVIOUS PRIORITIES

At the West Area Committee meeting on 26th of April 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 in support of the 20mph limit	
Objective	Speed enforcement in support of the 20mph limit
Action Taken	<p>Enforcement activity focused on those areas which police professional opinion indicated either presented the most risk to vulnerable road users or which in other respects conformed more closely than others to Department of Transport guidance on urban speed management. Those that did not were, at this time, not subject to enforcement.</p> <p>16 hours of officer time has been spent on speed enforcement. Enforcement activity has taken place in Park Terrace, Jesus Lane, Pembroke Street, Tennis Court Road, Downing Street, Trumpington Street and Emmanuel Road. A total of 43 Endorseable Fixed Penalty tickets have been issued for excess speed. The slowest offender was travelling at 24mph and the fastest at 36mph.</p>
Current Situation	<p>Motorists continue to speed in the 20mph areas. No improvements have been made to signage, road engineering or education. Until 20mph roads are largely self-enforcing then it is wholly unrealistic to expect police activity alone to bring speed down. This is not an objective the police alone can achieve and is therefore not an efficient use of their resources to expect them to do so.</p> <p>Simply altering a sign without making it clear to all drivers who may use the road will risk high levels of offending and many unaware of their behaviour, who may well have complied if made aware.</p> <p>National guidance to local authorities on installing adequately engineered 20mph limits/zones is unambiguous in not supporting unclear or inappropriate 20mph limit/zone or an increased demand on police forces to carry out routine enforcement where there is, in the opinion of the police, insufficient interventions to make the limit obvious to visiting motorists and achieve a high level of self-enforcement.</p>
Continue or Discharge?	<p>Discharge Discharge as a police priority until the Citywide consultation regarding extension of the 20mph limits has been concluded.</p>

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Anti-social cycling in the West/Central area	
Objective	Take positive action against anti-social cycling
Action Taken	<p>3 surgeries have been held in the West area of the City. 20-30 members of the public attended each and advice was provided regarding cycle crime, safer cycling and cycling offences.</p> <p>Patrols targeting cyclists have been carried out across the City as officers believe that the safety of all cyclists is a concern not just those in the West area of Cambridge. To ensure that the West area has had its priority addressed additional patrols have been carried out in Grange Road, Magdalene Street, Castle Street and Sidgwick Avenue. These additional patrols concentrated on the junctions that officers have identified as being most problematic in relation to cyclists ignoring the lights or deeming themselves to be pedestrians and crossing as such. These patrols resulted in 28 tickets being issued for cycling on footpaths, 39 tickets for failing to adhere to a red light and 17 tickets for failing to display lights after dark.</p> <p>The West team have worked with the police Casualty Reduction Officer who has attended meetings in colleges and schools to promote safer cycling. This work will continue as university and college students arrive for the new academic year.</p> <p>Following consultation with Cambridge Cycling Campaign and Cambridge City Council, the police have launched the 'Lights Instead of Tickets' (LIT) campaign. This campaign has been launched to coincide with the evenings drawing in and therefore has only been running since 1st August 2012. The campaign is aimed at using enforcement to educate cyclists to make them safer whilst cycling rather than just issuing them with a fine. Any cyclist issued with a ticket for failing to display lights will have the opportunity to have the ticket voided providing they purchase and fit a set of cycle lights to their cycle. The results of this campaign will be fed back at the next West Area meeting.</p>
Current Situation	<p>The nights are beginning to draw in and the potential for cyclists cycling after dark coming to harm will increase. New students will arrive from September through to October and will bring an influx of new cyclists to the City. The LIT campaign has only been running for a short period and needs to be given the opportunity to have its impact felt.</p>

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Continue or Discharge?	Continue
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Mobile phone thefts from City licensed premises	
Objective	Reduce mobile phone thefts from City licensed premises
Action Taken	In addition to local resources that have conducted high visibility patrols both inside and outside licensed premises, specialist plain-clothes teams have been working on this priority. Four pro-active arrests have been made of offenders who have either been from the London or Midlands area. Good partnership working has taken place with Cambridge Business Against Crime, CCTV and local licensed premises both to educate potential victims and to spot likely offenders. Posters are in premises warning customers of mobile phone thefts.
Current Situation	Although the thefts continue their number is decreasing from approximately 219 in the previous reporting period to 102 in this period.
Continue or Discharge?	Continue

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3 CURRENT CRIME & INCIDENT LEVELS BY WARD

			Dwell Burg	Other Burg	Violent Crime	Robbery	Theft of Vehicle	Theft from Vehicle	Cycle Theft	Theft from Shop	Criminal Damage	Other Crime	TOTAL CRIME	TOTAL ASB
N'hood	City West/Central	<i>April 12 – July 12</i>	15	25	225	5	6	27	295	201	79	534	1412	403
		<i>April 11 – July 11</i>	29	42	263	6	5	26	348	246	101	539	1605	573
		<i>Dec 11 – March 12</i>	25	30	156	4	6	45	199	251	98	537	1351	388
Wards	Newnham	<i>April 12 – July 12</i>	6	7	9	0	1	14	47	0	6	34	124	24
		<i>April 11 – July 11</i>	9	16	8	0	1	6	48	1	9	39	137	47
		<i>Dec 11 – March 12</i>	10	7	3	0	0	23	34	0	15	24	116	17
	Castle	<i>April 12 – July 12</i>	1	2	8	0	3	4	29	1	4	39	91	36
		<i>April 11 – July 11</i>	10	6	11	3	2	8	56	4	14	30	144	55
		<i>Dec 11 – March 12</i>	9	1	7	0	4	10	28	2	17	25	103	28
	Market	<i>April 12 – July 12</i>	8	16	208	5	2	9	219	200	69	461	1197	343
		<i>April 11 – July 11</i>	10	20	244	3	2	12	244	241	78	470	1324	471
		<i>Dec 11 – March 12</i>	6	22	146	4	2	12	137	249	66	488	1132	343

4 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DATA

Newnham

Between April 2012 and July 2012, there were 12 reports of abandoned vehicles in the ward compared with 14 during the same period the previous year. This included 5 vehicles, which were not on site following inspection and 2, which were subsequently claimed by their owners.

Between April 2012 and July 2012, there were 5 reports of fly tipping in the ward compared with 5 during the same period the previous year.

Between April 2012 and July 2012, 12 derelict cycles were dealt with compared with 9 during the same period the previous year. Barton Road (3) was the main hotspot during the current reporting period.

Between April 2012 and July 2012, no needles were reported compared with none during the same period the previous year.

Castle

Between April 2012 and July 2012, there were 8 reports of abandoned vehicles in the ward compared with 4 during the same period the previous year. This included 6 vehicles, which were not on site following inspection and 1, which was subsequently claimed by their owners. 1 additional vehicle is also currently pending further investigation. There were no specific hotspots during either period.

Between April 2012 and July 2012, there were 2 reports of fly tipping in the ward compared with 15 during the same period the previous year. Castle Row (3) and Pound Hill (3) were the main hotspots during the previous year.

Between April and July 2012, 13 derelict cycles were dealt with compared with 13 during the same period the previous year. Windsor Road (4) was the main hotspot during the current reporting period.

Between April and July 2012, 2 needles were reported compared with 9 during the same period the previous year.

Market

Between April 2012 and July 2012, there were 5 reports of abandoned vehicles in the ward compared with 7 during the same period the previous year. This included 3 vehicles, which were not on site following inspection. In addition, 1 CLE26 notice was 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 either period.

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Between April 2012 and July 2012, there were 62 reports of fly tipping in the ward compared with 89 during the same period the previous year. There was sufficient evidence to issue 6 formal warning letters to domestic offenders and 4 formal warning letters to trade offenders. In addition, 4 verbal warnings were issued. Adam & Eve Street (4), King's Parade (4), Park Street (3) were the main hotspots during the current reporting period. Adam & Eve Street (5) was the main hotspot during the previous year.

Between April 2012 and July, 725 derelict cycles were dealt with compared with 408 during the same period the previous year. City Centre (104) was the main hotspot during the current reporting period. Trinity Street (40) was the main hotspot during the previous year.

Between April 2012 and July 2012, 10 needles were reported compared with 43 during the same period the previous year. 3 were removed from Grafton West car park. During the previous reporting period 24 needles were removed from Midsummer Common.

5 PRO-ACTIVE WORK & EMERGING ISSUES

Deliberate Fires

The number of deliberate fires in the West/Central area, particularly those involving bins, refuse and vehicles during the night time economy have significantly reduced from the levels that occurred last year in the same period. The most significant factor likely to produce such an impact is the adverse weather reducing the presence in the streets.

The statistics are as follows:

- Business premises – 2
- Refuse in street – 1
- Bin contents – 1
- Vehicle – 1
- Residential building – 0
- Other – 0

There have been two house/accommodation fires in the Newnham & Castle Wards. Fire Service crews have reported access difficulties in the Newnham area bounded by Barton Road, Granchester Street, Road and Meadows. Appliance response times to house fires could be adversely impeded should they occur in the above area. Separate agenda item relating to this issue seeking the support of the committee for appropriate control measures to alleviate the issue.

Punting

The police have been working with the Cam Conservators and City Council to stop illegal punt tours from Garret Hostel Lane. 6 people have been issued a summons for having unlicensed boats on the river. Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs have commenced an investigation into the Income Tax and National Insurance contributions of the touts. The number of touts has reduced on Kings Parade.

Taxis

Enforcement activity on over-ranking in St. Andrews Street has been hugely increased. Drivers will receive a Fixed Penalty Notice for obstruction if they over-rank. An operation is also planned to target private hire vehicles picking up unlicensed fares.

Shoplifting

Plain clothes and uniform patrols have been conducted to tackle shoplifting. The police work closely with Cambridge Business Against Crime to share information about offenders. This excellent working relationship has led to the arrest of shoplifters caught in the act and has led to several prolific offenders being served "banning notices" from City Centre stores.

Alcohol related crime

A *YouTube* video has been made aimed at all students studying in Cambridge. It advises them about the hazards of excessive alcohol consumption, personal safety, medical care and how to avoid being a victim of crime. This will be shown to all students during Freshers Week. A task group has also been set up to ensure the correct messages are given to students during Freshers Week. Operation Sodium has been re-launched to focus on night-time economy licensing and alcohol related crime. The operation will ensure that there is a high profile police presence in the City Centre at key times during the evening and early hours. Regular visits to licensed premises and early intervention to stop trouble escalating are amongst the tactics to reduce the number of alcohol related crimes and incidents.

ASB Team activity

The ASB Team received a number of complaints about ASB associated with the street life community in and around the Fair Street and Willow Walk area. A meeting was organised by the local community and held at the Hopbine public house. Representatives from the ASB Team, Willow Walk hostel and Cllr. Bick attended to listen to the concerns and advised on what action could be taken. An application has been put in for redeployable CCTV in the area and it is expected to be in place end of August. Willow Walk is looking at their procedures for dealing with ASB that occurs outside of the hostel.

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The police and ASB Team received reports about youth-related ASB in Radcliffe Court. Young people were getting into the private residential area via fire escapes and various access points and then hanging around causing a nuisance to residents. Visits were carried out to the area and advice was given with regard to reporting incidents. Flyers were delivered to all flats detailing how to report incidents. Since the visit, the situation appears to have improved.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❑ Continue with action against anti-social cycling
- ❑ Continue with mobile phone theft reduction
- ❑ Unlicensed punt operators