

Neighbourhood profile update Cambridge City West/Central Neighbourhood

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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 anti-social behaviour (ASB) incident data for August to November 2012, compared to the previous reporting period (April to July 2012) and the same reporting period in 2011.
- City Council environmental services data for August to November 2012, compared to the same reporting period in 2011; and
- Information provided by the Neighbourhood Policing Team, Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service and the City Council's Safer Communities Section.

2 CURRENT PRIORITIES

At the West/Central Area Committee meeting of 23 August 2012, the committee recommended adopting the following issues as priorities:

- Anti-social cycling in the West/Central area;
- ASB in the Grafton Centre area; and
- Emergency vehicle obstruction.

The Neighbourhood Action Group, at its meeting of 30 August, assigned the actions to be taken and the lead officers for each of the priorities. The tables below summarise the actions taken and the current situation.

Anti-social cycling in the West/Central area	
Objective	Reduce anti-social cycling in the West & Central areas.
Action Taken	<p>Fresher events at the majority of the colleges were attended by officers from the West team. Officers discussed cycle safety with the students along with crime prevention and personal safety. Officers remained available to provide information on the law in relation to cycling throughout each event. Officers attended the Freshers Fair that took place on Parkers Piece with cycle safety being the priority. The team took part in a safer cycling course in partnership with the City Council. The training took part across Cambridge City centre and enhanced the team's knowledge and ability to deliver advice about safer cycling.</p> <p>Officers have carried out targeted patrols around cycle storage facilities close to the colleges and the City Centre. The main focus has been to reduce cycle crime but officers have also issued cycle safety advice and reminded cyclists of their obligations within the law where appropriate.</p> <p>Special Constabulary have supported the team dealing with cyclists contravening red lights and cycling on the footpath. For the red light offences, 49 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) have been issued and for cycling on the footpath offences, 76 FPNs have been issued.</p> <p>The Lights Instead of Tickets (LIT) campaign was launched on 1 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 cyclists issued with a FPN for cycling without lights is offered the opportunity to purchase a set of lights and have their FPN voided. This campaign was</p>

	launched as a direct result of the issue of cycling without lights being raised at the Area Committees. Since the beginning of the scheme, 754 FPNs have been issued across Cambridge City with 81% voided through the LIT Scheme. This now means that 603 cyclists now have lights as a direct result of the campaign.
Current Situation	Difficulties caused and faced by cyclists in Cambridge are challenging and emotive issues. The LIT scheme continues to operate and the police have launched Operation Pedalo over the Christmas period to impact further on anti-social cycling.
Lead Officers	Sergeant Andrea Gilbert / Sergeant Jayne Drury Cambridgeshire Constabulary

ASB in the Grafton Centre area	
Objective	Reduce anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the Grafton Centre area.
Action Taken	<p>On 26 September, ASB officers from City Council's Safer Communities Section attended a Willow Walk residents meeting in order to discuss ASB associated with the hostel and arranged for the re-deployable CCTV to be installed in Fair Street for a temporary period. The CCTV was in place between 14 September and end of October. The Section continues to liaise with the hostel, residents and the police. No further incidents have been reported.</p> <p>The City Centre team have targeted the area with both high visibility and plain-clothes patrols on a daily basis. Regular engagement with the staff at Willow Walk and nearby residents has ensured a better information flow about issues and concerns. Jimmy's night shelter is now open all day, which has also helped to discourage groups congregating near to the Grafton area.</p> <p>A problem with street drinkers begging for food from the street traders on Fitzroy Street was identified which encouraged groups to assemble. The police have worked with the traders to discourage this practice, which has resulted in less group gathering.</p> <p>The regular use of the direction to leave power (s27) for those who frequent the benches at the Fitzroy Street entrance to the Grafton Centre has also helped to discourage the formation of groups. Clearly the cold weather has also been a factor in the reductions in the numbers of street drinkers sitting on the benches.</p>

	<p>Daily patrols have also focused on the hot spot street drinking locations and numerous arrests have been made. Anti-social behaviour orders with geographical exclusions as part of their conditions have been obtained on conviction for offenders – for example, Jason Allum, Colin Grierson and Samantha Kiff.</p> <p>The City Centre team have engaged more with the businesses on Burleigh Street to support them and to encourage reporting of incidents. Shops have reported that they have seen a decrease in the amount of ASB.</p> <p>A licensing operation has been undertaken by the police to tackle alcohol sales by local off licences to intoxicated persons. Evidence was obtained as a result of this operation and the premises licence of Norfolk News & More is to be formally reviewed by the Licensing Authority. The police also successfully opposed the granting of an alcohol licence to the Adana Mini Market in East Road because of the impact this would have on alcohol-related crime and ASB in the Grafton Centre area.</p> <p>The City Council carried out a review of street based ASB and presented it to the Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Committee in October (the review can be found on the City Council website), as a result a series of cross party and multi agency workshops will be held in February to examine options and solutions to the issues being raised.</p>
Current Situation	ASB has reduced in the area, but more work needs to be undertaken to ensure sustainability of the progress to date.
Lead Officers	Sergeant Andrea Gilbert / Sergeant Jayne Drury Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Emergency vehicle obstruction	
Objective	Raise awareness and explore solutions
Action Taken	<p>On 17 November 2012, the Fire & Rescue Service, police and other agencies (except Highways) conducted a pre-published surgery in Hardwick Street and an environmental audit.</p> <p>Residents attending the surgery expressed concerns about vehicular access and parking in their streets. Some mentioned a residents' only scheme, but there were concerns this would impact upon businesses in the area. Many thought that a restricted parking period coupled with a disable parking provision around the shops would solve some of the issues.</p>

	<p>During the audit it was found that access for fire appliances and ambulances was severely restricted in Hardwick Street, Derby Street, Granchester Street and Owlstone Road. Hydrants in all streets were impeded by the road surface and were difficult to find, with poor signage.</p> <p>Residents in Eltisley Avenue were advised by the police and fire service staff of the risks relating to parking over hydrants and the penalties for doing so. All of the residents spoken to understood the issue, moved their vehicles and undertook to spread the message. However they all were unaware of the presence of the hydrants.</p> <p>During the audit period, shoppers / visitors were seen to leave their vehicles in the area and walk towards the city centre. Residents indicate that commuters do the same. Some residents thought that a parking scheme would provide enough capacity for locals. There were also a substantial number of residents who would oppose such a scheme if proposed.</p>
Current Situation	Fire & Rescue Service, Cambridgeshire Highways and the local County Councillor are meeting at the location on 19 December 2012 to discuss the issue further. It is felt that more awareness raising and education about the issues is needed.
Lead Officer	Jim Meikle Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service

3 PRO-ACTIVE WORK & EMERGING ISSUES

- There have been good reductions in ASB and violent crime. Total crime has increased, but this is mainly due to an increase in cycle theft in the West area, which is centred on the colleges. Dwelling burglary has seen an increase in the Newnham area, but disruption work has stopped further offences.
- Personal robbery has increased slightly, but these are random offences across the City area. Of the nine offences, five resulted in the offenders being arrested and charged. There was one business premises robbery at Ladbrokes.
- Pro-active work continues to combat the theft of mobile phones from the City's clubs and pubs. Arrests of offenders have been made (the majority of who are travelling criminals from London and the West Midlands area). This crime type is part of an emerging national trend, but has seen a decrease compared to the same period last year (150 offences compared to 181).
- Theft from vehicle has seen an increase in Newnham, which is mainly centred on the Grange Road and Wilberforce Road area. Pro-active and high visibility patrols have disrupted offending.

- The City team have identified, through proactive patrols and intelligence, that Christ's Pieces is a common location for drug use and dealing. Arrests for possession and cannabis warnings have been given. One male in particular was identified as being heavily involved in this behaviour. He was a resident at Manor Place. A warrant under the Misuse of Drugs Act was executed and several people were arrested. Drugs and stolen property were recovered. The investigation continues, but in the interim the resident has been evicted.
- The over-ranking of taxis continues to be a problem at St. Andrew's Street. The City team are working with the City Council on this issue.
- Patrols have been carried out in relation to soliciting on Histon Road. Three males have been reported for soliciting a female for sexual services and will be appearing in court at the beginning of 2013. One female has been arrested and charged with breaching her Anti Social Behaviour Order in relation to the area. A summons file is underway for a fourth male that will result in a summons to court.

4 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

CURRENT CRIME & ASB INCIDENT LEVELS BY WARD

			Dwelling Burglary	Other Burglary	Violent Crime	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>Aug 12 – Nov 12</i>	23	33	203	10	1	35	390	229	66	542	1532	386
		<i>Aug 11 – Nov 11</i>	11	37	233	4	5	31	364	212	65	533	1495	541
		<i>April 12 – July 12</i>	15	25	225	5	6	27	295	201	79	534	1412	403
WARDS	Newnham	<i>Aug 12 – Nov 12</i>	14	9	3	0	0	21	52	0	7	33	139	18
		<i>Aug 11 – Nov 11</i>	5	6	7	0	2	11	40	0	12	33	116	36
		<i>April 12 – July 12</i>	6	7	9	0	1	14	47	0	6	34	124	24
	Castle	<i>Aug 12 – Nov 12</i>	4	6	17	2	0	10	62	3	8	30	142	39
		<i>Aug 11 – Nov 11</i>	4	7	13	1	1	9	44	1	9	22	111	45
		<i>April 12 – July 12</i>	1	2	8	0	3	4	29	1	4	39	91	36
	Market	<i>Aug 12 – Nov 12</i>	5	18	183	8	1	4	276	226	51	479	1251	329
		<i>Aug 11 – Nov 11</i>	2	24	213	3	2	11	280	211	43	479	1268	460
		<i>April 12 – July 12</i>	8	16	208	5	2	9	219	200	69	461	1197	343

ARSON DATA

Period: August to November 2012

Deliberate fire summary data:

Incident	Refuse	Bin	Vehicle	Residential	Non residential
Newnham	0	0	0	0	0
Castle	0	0	0	0	0
Market	0	3	0	0	0

General	Bin, refuse and vehicle fires both deliberately and accidentally ignited have reduced very substantially from a quarterly average of 14 fires eighteen months ago. Whilst the adverse weather during the summer has undoubtedly had an impact, the continuous dedicated partnership working during business hours and night economy to reduce the risk and raise awareness has been very effective.
Newnham	None
Castle	None
Market	Three bins set on fire between 23:00 and 00:01 in the vicinity of Christ's Pieces.
Comments	The risk continues to prevail as despite the efforts of partners commercial waste collections continue to be made out of hours. Operators attribute the necessity of early morning collection upon restricted access and access control authorities will not adjust access controls to permit collection at other times. Operators will not undertake evening collections due to working agreements with staff. Therefore refuse continues to be left in the street that can be ignited and/or used as weapons of crime. During Christmas and New Year sales period the amount of refuse/risk significantly increases.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DATA

Newnham

Abandoned vehicles

- August to November 2012: 3 reports, which included
 - 2 vehicles not on site following inspection
 - 1 CLE26 notice issued to offenders on behalf of the DVLA for not displaying road tax on a public highway
- Hotspots: None
- August to November 2011: 13 reports

Fly tipping

- August to November 2012: No reports
- Hotspots: None
- August to November 2011: 11 reports

Derelict cycles

- August to November 2012: 10
- Hotspots: Newnham Road (3)
- August to November 2011: 24

Needle finds

- August to November 2012: None
- Hotspots: None
- August to November 2011: None

Castle

Abandoned vehicles

- August to November 2012: 3 reports, which included
 - 1 vehicle not on site following inspection
 - 1 CLE26 notices issued to offenders on behalf of the DVLA for not displaying road tax on a public highway
 - 1 vehicle held pending further investigation
- Hotspots: None
- August to November 2011: 7 reports

Fly tipping

- August to November 2012: 10 reports, which included
 - 1 formal warning letter issued to domestic offenders (Castle Street)
- Hotspots: Castle Street (5)
- August to November 2011: 14 reports

Derelict cycles

- August to November 2012: 13
- Hotspots: None

- August to November 2011: 24

Needle finds

- August to November 2012: 31
- Hotspots: Histon Road (30) - One incident of 30 used needles found by a member of council staff around the rubbish bins and immediately removed
- August to November 2011: None

Market

Abandoned vehicles

- August to November 2012: 7 reports, which included
 - 4 vehicles not on site following inspection
 - 1 vehicle subsequently claimed by their owners
 - 1 CLE26 notice issued to offenders on behalf of the DVLA for not displaying road tax on a public highway
 - 1 vehicle impounded on behalf of the DVLA for not having valid road tax
- Hotspots: None
- August to November 2011: 5 reports

Fly tipping

- August to November 2012: 58 reports, which included
 - 2 formal warning letter issued to domestic offenders
 - 1 formal warning letter issued to trade offenders
 - 2 requests for waste transfer documentation from trade offenders
- Offences at Miltons Walk accounted for 2 of the formal warning letters sent
- Hotspots: Burleigh Street (4), Market Hill (5), St Andrew's Street (4), Trinity Street (3)
- August to November 2011: 152 reports

Derelict cycles

- August to November 2012: 220
- Hotspots: All Saints Garden (3); Beavlands Court (3); De Freville Avenue (4); Downing Street (5); Drummer Street (14); East Rd (5)
- August to November 2011: 430

Needle finds

- August to November 2012: 41
- Hotspots: Grafton West car park (12) - One incident of 12 new needles found and reported by a member of public; Grafton East car park (20) - Two separate incidents consisting of 10 used needles found by car park cleaner. In all instances, the needles were removed immediately.
- August to November 2011: 27

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Anti-cycling in the West/Central areas
- Anti-social behaviour in the Grafton Centre area
- Emergency vehicle obstruction