



To: West/Central Area Committee  
24<sup>th</sup> June 2010

Report by: The Director of Community Services

Wards affected: Market ward

Subject: 1. Up-date on agreed actions in the Historic City Centre as an alternative to the use of s.30 powers.  
2. The police review of the existing s.30 Order covering the Grafton Centre, Parker's Piece and Christ's Pieces area.

## 1. Executive summary

- 1.1 This report follows that submitted to the West/Central Area Committee on 8<sup>th</sup> April when issues relating to a Dispersal Order under s. 30 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 were discussed. Consideration of a Dispersal Order was in respect of the historic City Centre.
- 1.2 The report contained a summary of the analysis received from Cambridgeshire Constabulary saying that the police did not propose to implement an Order at that time. However, certain recommendations were proposed in the alternative namely that:
- 1.3 **ASB related to streetlife activity would remain as a Neighbourhood Priority as the spring and the better weather approached.**
- 1.4 **The police would give the historic City Centre local priority status to ensure the area received regular patrols and an increased police presence.**
- 1.5 **A request would be made to Streetscene to carry out, on a trial basis, a greater level of litter picking / street cleansing in the areas most affected.**
- 1.6 **Residents and members of the retail trade would be asked to report all incidents of ASB to the police on 03454564564 and request to be given an incident number.**
- 1.7 **The police and the City Council would monitor the situation closely in readiness for 'fast tracking' the implementation of a s.30 Dispersal Order if the situation were to deteriorate.**

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is requested to note the progress made over the above actions and a situation of marked improvement in the City centre area.

- 2.2 The Committee is asked to comment upon the Police proposal relating to the current s.30 Dispersal Order covering the Grafton Centre, Parker's Piece and Christ's Pieces area, due to come to an end at midnight on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2010.
- 2.3 With regard to the above, the Committee is asked to note the information given in paragraph 6.

### 3. Background

- 3.1 In April 2010, the Constabulary gave consideration to the implementation of a Dispersal Order under section 30 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 in relation to the historic City Centre in Market Ward. This followed complaints of anti-social behaviour associated primarily with the streetlife community and mainly over the summer and into the autumn of 2009
- 3.2 Despite anecdotal reports to the contrary, research and analysis of data showed that streetlife ASB incidents in the Market Ward were significantly lower than baseline findings in areas where s.30 legislation has previously been applied in the City.
- 3.3 As a result it was felt that based on the available evidence, the tests of necessity, proportionality and appropriateness required to accompany a Dispersal Order, could not be met.
- 3.4 The Police and City Council put forward certain alternative proposals that would address the concerns expressed by local retailers and residents. The following section updates Members on the progress made.

### 4. Update Report

- 4.1 **ASB related to streetlife activity would remain as a Neighbourhood Priority as the spring and the better weather approached**
- 4.2 Following on from formal agreement at the West Area Committee in April that anti-social congregation in public spaces in Market Ward would remain a neighbourhood priority, the Neighbourhood Action Group confirmed the Police as owners of the continuing priority action plan. Successful partnership work and community engagement has continued through the subsequent period, the results from which will be presented at the next City West Committee on 26<sup>th</sup> August where a scheduled Safer Neighbourhoods presentation is time-tabled.
- 4.3 **The police to give the historic City Centre local priority status to ensure the area received regular patrols and an increased police presence in the area.**
- 4.4 As part of the policing response forming the agreed partnership action, an increase in visible and effective policing presence has occurred in the target area and adjacent areas in preparation for any displacement. This has involved securing support from a wide range of departments within the local policing Division, whose work has been informed through briefing by City West Neighbourhood Staff and Streetlife specialists. This has ensured a consistent and effective response to all reported incidents.

- 4.5 **A request be made to Streetscene to carry out, on a trial basis, a greater level of litter picking / street cleansing in the areas most affected.**
- 4.6 The City Council's StreetScene resources are deployed seven days a week and utilise shift-working patterns. This results in service provision generally being available from 6 am to 8 pm, every day of the year.
- 4.7 StreetScene operatives inspected and addressed the areas most affected by the street life community, having received details of locations from the Safer Communities Section following the April meeting of the Committee. However, StreetScene already has detailed, empirical knowledge of locations across the city which are associated with streetlife, consequently, there is already a heightened awareness of those areas most affected and of the need for effective cleansing regimes.
- 4.8 The increased cleansing that took place over the period in question included additional street sweeping, litter picking and litterbin emptying. Graffiti removal was also carried out where identified.
- 4.9 In addition to addressing the areas most affected, StreetScene also supported the "Make a Difference Day", organised by Love Cambridge and held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2010. Businesses were asked to nominate 'hotspots' requiring further attention. The areas identified and addresses were:
- King Street - cleaning the doorways of empty properties
  - Fisher Square - general 'tidy up'
  - Sussex Street - general 'tidy up'
  - All Saints Passage – removal of pigeon droppings
- 4.10 StreetScene viewed the co-operative working and the resulting outcomes of the trial and the Make a Difference Day as a tangible success. This was also the conclusion drawn by Love Cambridge and many of the participants who experienced the Make a Difference Day.
- 4.11 The cost of managing and delivering the trial was absorbed within the current service budget provision. However, should similar initiatives be planned, or a widening of the original scope of activities be required, this position will need to be reviewed.
- 4.12 **Residents and members of the retail trade requested to report all incidents of ASB to the police on 03454564564 and request to be given an incident number.**
- 4.13 Feedback from officers engaging with the community suggests that members of the public are making calls to the Police rather than contacting the CCTV control room or using other methods of reporting. It is therefore hoped that the information presented in forthcoming reports of activity and analysis in the areas will indeed be more inclusive
- 4.14 A trader based near the junction of Market Street and Sidney Street has logged ASB incidents in this location since 9 April 2010. From this date until 15 May he was on site between 10:00 am and 5:00 pm for a total of 28 days. He recorded

22 days in which there were incidents involving street drinkers. Of these incidents one involved a single individual while the remainder involved groups ranging in number between 2 to 14. The average size group per incident was around 6. Types of incident ranged from street drinking to swearing, intimidating begging, fighting, public urination and dog fighting.

- 4.15 This picture of a concentration of incidents around this location is confirmed by random (i.e. undirected or text-message prompted) CCTV evidence gathered between 19 and 30 April.
- 4.16 By contrast, on 17 days on which the trader has maintained a log in the period 16 May and 9 June there have been only four incidents, three of which involved only a single individual. The trader also recorded that the police promptly dealt with each incident.
- 4.16 This impression of a recently improving situation is supported by the count of street drinkers, which is carried out weekly by the Street Outreach Team. In the period August 2009 to February 2010, the team reported an average of 19 individuals a week engaging in street drinking at the time the count took place. By comparison, in the counts conducted during May 2010 this average had fallen to less than eight.
- 4.17 In addition, the CCTV Manager has reported a noticeable reduction in reported streetlife activity for the time of year.

## 5. Conclusion

- 5.1 The Committee is asked to note a situation where there has been a marked improvement. It is reasonable to assume that this has been due to the measures noted above.
- 5.2 It is also noteworthy that this change has taken place over a period of improving weather when it might be expected that the situation would be deteriorating.
- 5.3 The Committee is asked to note that there remains no evidence to justify the consideration of a s.30 Order for the historic city centre at this time.

## 6. Grafton Centre, Parker's Piece and Christ's Pieces

- 6.1 The section 30 Dispersal Order currently covering the Grafton Centre, Parker's Piece and the Christ's Pieces areas is due to come to an end on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. The Committee is asked to note that the police report and recommendation with regard to whether or not to continue with the Order will not be available in time for the publication date of this report.
- 6.2 It is anticipated that when the information is available it will be sent to Ward Councillors, retailers and residents who have expressed a particular interest prior to the West Central meeting to be held on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2010 when it will be discussed.
- 6.3 **NB.** At the last meeting of the West Central Area Committee members requested that an inter-agency report be brought to the Area Committee on the strategy,

progress and next steps in addressing the root causes behind the congregation of street drinkers in the City Centre which gives rise to complaints about anti-social behaviour. This report will be presented to the Committee at the August meeting.

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