

Neighbourhood profile update Cambridge City West/Central Neighbourhood

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Creating a safer
Cambridgeshire



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CITY COUNCIL**

1 INTRODUCTION	2
Aim	
Methodology	
2 CURRENT PRIORITIES	3
3 PRO-ACTIVE WORK & EMERGING ISSUES	6
4 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	9
Current Crime & ASB Incident Levels by Ward	
Arson Data	
Environmental Services Data	
5 RECOMMENDATIONS	12

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 April to July 2013, compared to the previous reporting period (December 2012 to March 2013) and the same reporting period in 2012.
- City Council environmental services data for the period April to July 2013; and
- Information provided by the Safer 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 25 April 2013, the committee recommended adopting the following priorities:

- Over-ranking of the taxi rank in St. Andrew's Street;
- ASB in The Grafton/Christ's Pieces area; and
- Waste risk management and security in Market ward.

The Neighbourhood Action Group, at its meeting of 7 May, assigned the actions to be taken and the lead officers for each of the priorities. The tables below summarise the action taken and the current situation.

Over-ranking of the taxi rank in St. Andrew's Street	
Objective	Address over-ranking at the taxi rank in St. Andrew's Street.
Action Taken	<p>The City Council's Licensing & Enforcement Team has been running a programme of enforcement checks each week and writing to drivers found to be over-ranking, to remind them that it is an offence which could, ultimately, lead to a review of their licence to drive a Hackney Carriage. In conjunction with this, the police have continued to warn drivers and issue non-endorseable Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) carrying a £30 penalty to those taxis over-ranked and causing an unnecessary obstruction. Officers have also issued FPNs to other vehicles that have been parked causing an obstruction on the rank.</p> <p>There has been some transfer of taxis to the rank at Market Hill, which has been re-marked and is now being used again; though this is not available between 10.00 and 16.00, due to the traffic restrictions in the central area. Drivers were encouraged to use the Market Hill rank in a newsletter sent to all taxi drivers in July.</p> <p>This priority has also been supported by the Fire Service and Cambridge Green Watch have spent more than six hours visiting the taxi rank and, when appropriate, engaging with drivers regarding access widths required for emergency vehicles.</p>
Current Situation	Partnership work continues to impact on this problem and although over-ranking still occurs, the issue is not as bad as it was, though there is still work to be progressed within the County Council's longer term traffic management plan.
Lead Officer	Robert Osbourn Cambridge City Council

ASB in The Grafton/Christ's Pieces area	
Objective	Address ASB in The Grafton/Christ's Pieces area.
Action Taken	<p>ASB in The Grafton and Christ's Pieces area (and in fact in most green spaces) has seen an increase over the last reporting period. The period of warm weather experienced in July has had a significant effect on this type of behaviour. Noise complaints (loud music and parties in gardens, etc.) form a significant part of this increase.</p> <p>The West/North border of Cambridge has also suffered an increase in the presence of street drinkers, particularly in the Jesus Green/Mitchum's Corner area. Sadly in July there were two drug related deaths and three further admissions to hospital. Arrests were made in connection with these deaths and two people remain on bail pending enquiries. All those affected were part of a street drinking group.</p> <p>Pro-active work has been undertaken to tackle the sale of alcohol to those who are already drunk. A caution for selling alcohol to an intoxicated street drinker has been given to one shopkeeper. Evidence has also been gathered of other licensing act breaches and a licence review is planned for one off-licence. The police are determined to take action against those who sell alcohol to those already intoxicated.</p> <p>Increased patrols have been undertaken throughout the afternoons and early evening around Lammas Land and the Mill Pond. These areas are popular for underage drinking and large groups have in the past gathered in these areas once the schools have closed for the summer. Whilst we have still seen plenty of people enjoying the green spaces we have only received a few isolated complaints from the public. Two complaints were received regarding persons camping in Newnham. These tents were cleared by Streetlife Officers and City Council Enforcement Officers.</p> <p>Fire Service crews, when returning from calls, have devoted a considerable amount of time on preventative checks of the common and park areas and, where appropriate, issued fire safety advice to BBQ users in those areas. The impact of this activity may have led to the reduction in the number of bin fires in those areas so far this summer.</p>
Current Situation	ASB in green space areas (particularly Jesus Lock area) remains an issue of concern and would benefit from further work.

Lead Officer	Sergeants Andrea Gilbert and Jayne Drury Cambridgeshire Constabulary
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Waste risk management and security in Market ward	
Objective	Address risks and security issues related to waste.
Action Taken	<p>The City Council's Waste Enforcement Officers and Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service repeated last spring's campaign to engage with and promote waste risk management and security with retailers and others.</p> <p>Joint Fire Service and City Council surveys have been undertaken in various city centre areas on different evenings. The primary source of waste in the streets was that collected by the City Council from businesses and litter picked in the open spaces but left overnight in the parks for collection in the morning.</p> <p>Evidence gathered during these surveys was submitted to the relevant council departments and work has been undertaken to improve the situation.</p>
Current Situation	<p>There has been much improvement with the issue of red bags left on Market ward open spaces overnight. The City Council Response Team works until 8pm from Wednesday through to Sunday and they undertake a sweep of the open spaces between the hours of 5pm and 8pm collecting bags, litter picking and emptying bins. The only exception to this is if they are called to deal with an emergency. It is possible that the odd bag is left out on a Monday and Tuesday, but again this is only on the odd occasion when an operative is working without a vehicle.</p> <p>The City Council has also undertaken its own survey with regards to Blue trade waste bags left on the street overnight and are working with the refuse team to overcome the problems, by reviewing working practice and agreement around collection times.</p> <p>Our work so far has shown a reduction in City Council bags left overnight, although it is acknowledged that there is still more to do. Once the issues have been addressed with City Council customers, the Council will be inviting the private sector refuse collection companies to work with them along the same lines to further improve the situation. Enforcement action will be considered against those in breach of legislation, when appropriate evidence is available.</p>

Lead Officer	Jim Meikle Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service
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3. PRO-ACTIVE WORK & EMERGING ISSUES

- Safer Communities Section was contacted by residents of Radcliffe Court in Market ward regarding youths gaining access to the private terraces within the complex. The youths appear to be gaining access by jumping onto different parts of the adjoining buildings. An ASB officer and police officer visited the area and met with a resident to discuss the concerns. Flyers have been delivered to all flats encouraging residents to report concerns. This is an on-going piece of work, with investigations taking place on how to prevent the youths gaining access.
- Good reductions of total crime in Market ward.
- Good reductions in non-dwelling burglary, criminal damage and violent crime in Market ward. Otherwise most other crime categories are stable.
- Although the theft of pedal cycles is stable in Market ward, the seasonal peak period for cycle crime is approaching.
- ASB in Market Ward saw an increase linked to the hot weather in July.
- The West area has seen an increase in the total number of crimes recorded and also in the total number of ASB incidents (linked to the July hot spell).
- The Castle and Newnham wards have seen an increase in non-dwelling burglaries. A male was arrested and charged with several of these offences. This person received a prison sentence which has resulted in a dramatic reduction in this type of offence.
- Theft of pedal cycle in the West has seen an increase with the seasonal peak for cycle theft approaching.
- Operation Huntsman was launched on 1 August 2013. This police operation has several strands: to provide a highly visible, flexible and mobile response to crime and ASB; and to address issues of dangerous and irresponsible cycling. It will ensure that the tactic of deploying officers on cycles becomes a regular sight in Cambridge. Whilst Huntsman is pro-active, it also has a crime reduction focus. It will promote education around cycle theft prevention and highlight the value of registering property online via Immobilise at neighbourhood surgeries and other events. Alongside

this, local officers have continued to target cycle theft resulting in 6 arrests across the West area.

- Community intelligence was received regarding an address on the King's Court development which was being used to smoke and supply drugs. A warrant was executed and two people were arrested. A quantity of Class B drugs were seized from the property along with other paraphernalia used in the distribution of drugs.
- An operation has been agreed with the City Council's Licensing & Enforcement Team to target private hire vehicles illegally plying for business in the City.
- Operation Sodium patrols continue and August has seen extra officers deployed over the weekends to deal with the seasonal increase in night time economy issues. The significant reductions in violent crime are evidence of the effectiveness of this operation.
- The Traffic Light System, for the management of licensed premises in the city, continues to be Green (meaning premises are operating safely). This is an indication of the excellent partnership work between all groups involved, including CAMBAC Nightsafe members, CCTV, the police, the Street Pastors and the City Council's Licensing and Enforcement Team.
- Unfortunately the good weather in July prompted the unlicensed punt operators to return to King's Parade to sell tours leaving from Garret Hostel Lane. The operators contend that by selling a walking tour and offering a free punt journey that they are not required to have a commercial punt licence. The police are continuing to work with the Cam Conservators and City Council to clarify this issue. To that end, several operators will appear in court at the end of August to answer the allegation of unlawful operation.
- The City Team have been working with a local resident to deal with the issue of Heavy Commercial Vehicles illegally using Maid's Causeway in contravention of the loading exemption. Letters have been sent to the commercial transport managers of these companies highlighting the contravention. Extremely positive responses have been received from these companies indicating that they will work with the police to stop the practice.
- CCTV continues to support the work of the West and City Teams with excellent pro-active observations on crime in action. For example, in June three people were arrested for going equipped to steal after CCTV observed their suspicious behaviour around cash machines. They were

found to be in possession of a 'skimming' device. These people are currently on bail.

- Speedwatch has commenced once more in Maid's Causeway and the police are already supporting the scheme.
- The City and West Teams have supported numerous community events over the summer, including Strawberry Fair, Midsummer Fair and the Big Weekend.

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>April 13 – July 13</i>	17	46	171	3	4	45	349	219	67	455	1376	496
		<i>April 12 – July 12</i>	16	27	233	5	9	31	324	202	83	573	1503	439
		<i>Dec 12 – March 13</i>	16	21	184	7	2	41	270	242	82	506	1371	401
WARDS	Castle	<i>April 13 – July 13</i>	9	22	17	0	2	22	88	4	15	63	242	87
		<i>April 12 – July 12</i>	7	9	17	0	4	18	76	1	10	73	215	60
		<i>Dec 12 – March 13</i>	6	9	20	1	1	22	68	3	13	43	186	46
	Newnham	<i>April 13 – July 13</i>	5	15	12	0	1	8	42	4	10	23	120	47
		<i>April 12 – July 12</i>	1	2	8	0	3	4	29	1	4	39	91	36
		<i>Dec 12 – March 13</i>	5	5	11	0	1	11	39	3	8	24	107	31
	Market	<i>April 13 – July 13</i>	3	9	142	3	1	15	219	211	42	369	1,014	362
		<i>April 12 – July 12</i>	8	16	208	5	2	9	219	200	69	461	1,197	343
		<i>Dec 12 – March 13</i>	5	7	153	6	0	8	163	236	61	439	1,078	324

ARSON DATA

Period: April to July 2013

Deliberate/secondary fire summary:

Area	Refuse	Bin	Vehicle	Residential	Non-residential
Castle	0	0	0	0	0
Newnham	0	0	0	0	0
Market	6	1	0	0	0

Castle	No incidents.
Newnham	No incidents.
Market	Avoidable fires in Market Ward have decreased from eight to six over the reporting period. There has been one bin fire.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DATA

Castle

Abandoned vehicles

- April to July 2013: 3 reports, which included 3 vehicles not on site following inspection
- Hotspots: None
- April to July 2012: 8 reports

Fly tipping

- April to July 2013: 10 reports, which included 1 request for waste transfer documentation from trade offenders
- Hotspots: Victoria Road (3), All Saints Passage (4)
- April to July 2012: 2 reports

Derelict cycles

- April to July 2013: 1
- Hotspots: None
- April to July 2012: 13

Needle finds

- April to July 2013: 6
- Hotspots: Castle Street (3), Castle Park (2)
- April to July 2012: 2

Newnham

Abandoned vehicles

- April to July 2013: 3 reports, which included 3 vehicles not on site following inspection
- Hotspots: None
- April to July 2012: 12 reports

Fly tipping

- April to July 2013: 8 reports, which included 1 formal warning letter issued to domestic offenders
- Offences at Fen Causeway accounted for the formal warning letter sent
- Hotspots: Fen Causeway (3)
- April to July 2012: 5 reports

Derelict cycles

- April to July 2013: 1
- Hotspots: None
- April to July 2012: 12

Needle finds

- April to July 2013: None
- Hotspots: None
- April to July 2012: None

Market

Abandoned vehicles

- April to July 2013: 2 reports, which included 2 vehicles not on site following inspection
- Hotspots: None
- April to July 2012: 5 reports

Fly tipping

- April to July 2013: 37 reports, which included
 - 7 formal warning letter issued to domestic offenders
 - 1 formal warning letter issued to trade offenders
 - 6 requests for waste transfer documentation from trade offenders
- Offences at Parkside accounted for 3 of the formal warning letters sent
- Hotspots: Adam & Eve Street (7), Miltons Walk (6)
- April to July 2012: 62 reports

Derelict cycles

- April to July 2013: 12
- Hotspots: None
- April to July 2012: 725

Needle finds

- April to July 2013: 10
- Hotspots: Newmarket Road Abbey Church (5), Newmarket Road B&Q (2)
- April to July 2012: 10

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Tackle ASB in the Jesus Lock / Mitchum's Corner area
- Reduce theft of pedal cycles and dangerous cycling (seasonal peak for offending approaching in September/October)
- Address waste management in Market ward