

Neighbourhood profile update Cambridge City West/Central Neighbourhood

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Creating a safer
Cambridgeshire



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CITY COUNCIL**

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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 2013, compared to the previous reporting period (April to July 2013) and the same reporting period in 2012.
- City Council environmental services data for the period August to November 2013, compared to the same reporting period in 2012;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 5 September 2013, the committee recommended adopting the following priorities:

- Tackle ASB in the Jesus Lock / Mitcham's Corner / Lammas Land / Fitzroy Street area
- Reduce theft of pedal cycles and dangerous cycling
- Address waste management in market ward.

The Neighbourhood Action Group, at its meeting of 10 September, assigned the actions to be taken and lead officers for each of the priorities. The tables below summarise the actions taken and the current situation.

Tackle ASB in the Jesus Lock / Mitcham's Corner / Lammas Land / Fitzroy Street area	
Objective	Reduce ASB
Action Taken	<p>Operation Sodium patrols have continued to take place each weekend targeting the anti-social behaviour (ASB) caused by the night time economy. These patrols are supported by officers from the Special Constabulary and colleagues from the Safer Neighbourhoods Teams.</p> <p>Street-based ASB, linked to street drinking, has been targeted in a number of ways. Joint patrols have been undertaken with enforcement officers from the City Council. These have targeted rough sleeping hotspots frequently used by street drinkers, many of whom do have accommodation to return to. Other areas, such as Lammas Land, have also been the subject of patrols.</p> <p>Evidence gathering work in respect of the Pink Elephant off-licence in Milton Road has resulted in a call for a review of its premises licence. The premises has acted as a major draw for street drinkers in the Mitcham's corner and Jesus Lock areas. A licensing review hearing will be held on 13 January 2014.</p> <p>Officers have worked closely with the County Council's Chronically Excluded Adults team to encourage some of the more problematic street drinkers to engage with support services and ultimately get into accommodation. One of the street drinkers had been living and drinking on the streets for many years. Whilst he still has a street presence, it is greatly reduced. Due to the problematic and threatening behaviour of one street drinker, Bryan Cook, an Anti-Social Behaviour Order has been obtained against him. This prohibits him, amongst</p>

	<p>other things, from purchasing alcohol in any licensed premises within Cambridge, entering most of the historic area of Cambridge (except to attend pre-arranged appointments at certain locations) and possessing any unsealed container of alcohol in a public place within the city of Cambridge.</p> <p>Officers are currently conducting patrols to target street begging offences in the run up to the festive season. Whilst these patrols are primarily about enforcement and deterrence, officers also use this as an opportunity to issue advice on accommodation options and support for substance abuse. So far, five people have been reported for begging and a further two arrested and given bail conditions not to enter the city centre. Two other arrests have been made in connection with allegations of assault. The begging operation appears to be having a positive effect with officers currently reporting a reduction in street begging compared to last year.</p>
Current Situation	Although the figures for violent crime and street-based ASB have reduced compared to last year, this issue is one which requires sustained effort.
Lead Officer	Sergeant Kevin Misik, Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Reduce theft of pedal cycles and dangerous cycling	
Objective	Reduce pedal cycle theft and tackle dangerous cycling
Action Taken	<p>Operation Huntsman was launched on 1 August 2013. This police operation had several strands: (1) to provide a highly visible, flexible and mobile response to crime and ASB; and (2) to address issues of dangerous and irresponsible cycling. Whilst Huntsman was pro-active it also had a crime reduction focus which saw it promote the value of registering pedal cycles on Immobilise at various events across the city.</p> <p>The months of August, September and October traditionally see a spike in the theft of pedal cycles across the city. Operation Huntsman and its various tactics, ranging from a publicised mock cycle theft to raise awareness of suspicious behaviour to regular stop checks of pedal cycles, sought to reverse this trend. As a result of this concerted action, 39 arrests were made for theft of pedal cycles. Arrests were also made of those who attempted to dispose of stolen pedal cycles on ebay. One example being that, in December, Sergeant Street arrested a man from Stevenage for selling a £1,000 pedal cycle stolen from Cambridge. A further 13 other cycles suspected stolen were also seized from his address and</p>

	<p>enquires into these are currently on-going. This priority has seen a reduction in pedal cycle theft from 390 offences last year to 322 offences in the same reporting period this year.</p> <p>The Lights Instead of Tickets (LIT) scheme is used by officers in Cambridge on a daily basis. This priority has been supported by officers from the Special Constabulary who have thus far issued 218 Fixed Penalty Notices for no lights and various other road traffic offences.</p>
Current Situation	<p>Whilst cycle theft will always be an issue for Cambridge the current trend is downward and the seasonal peak has passed. However, dangerous cycling and safer cycling does remain an issue and should be considered as a part of a larger priority on road safety, which would include motor vehicles.</p>
Lead Officer	<p>Sergeant Paul Street, Cambridgeshire Constabulary</p>

Address waste management in Market ward	
Objective	<p>Address waste risk management and security in Market ward</p>
Action Taken	<p>City Council's Waste Enforcement Officers and Cambridge Fire and Rescue Service's Green Watch have continued last spring's campaign to engage with and promote, with retailers and others, waste risk management and security. Changes of collection times and promotion of risk avoidance messages has reduced the amount of waste left out overnight in the city centre and consequently the number of fires.</p>
Current Situation	<p>Waste Enforcement Officers and Green Watch are continuing, as part of business as usual activity, to undertake duty of care inspections on premises to ensure the improvements are maintained.</p>
Lead Officer	<p>Jim Meikle, Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service</p>

3 PRO-ACTIVE WORK & EMERGING ISSUES

- As reported in the previous profile, City Council's ASB Officers were contacted by residents of Radcliffe Court in Market ward regarding youths gaining access to the private terraces within the complex. Working in partnership with the police and the property company, the issue has now been resolved.
- Good reduction in crime compared to same period last year, particularly in Market ward.

- ❑ Anti-social behaviour levels reduced compared to same period last year.
- ❑ Good reduction in theft from vehicles.
- ❑ Good reduction in pedal cycle theft across all wards.
- ❑ Violent crime stable.
- ❑ Increase in shoplifting in Market ward which the city centre team responded to with a plain clothes operation over a 10-day period in November. This resulted in the team making 12 arrests, issuing 6 fines and 2 Court summonses. In addition there were 41 stop searches conducted under the authority of s1 Police & Criminal Evidence Act 1984 for stolen and prohibited articles. The activity of organised shoplifting gangs was disrupted and one prolific local shoplifter, James Brudenell, was sentenced to 5 months in prison.
- ❑ In November, the city centre team supported the City Council Licensing Enforcement team with an operation to deal with licensing offences committed by private hire vehicles. This resulted in 16 private hire vehicles being stopped and those found committing licensing breaches were reported.
- ❑ Cambridge City Police has drawn up a new service level agreement with Neighbourhood Watch and are seeking to build on the already good relationship with members to increase scheme numbers even more. Anyone interested in finding out more should visit www.cambsnhw.org.uk
- ❑ Cambridge City Police has launched its own Twitter account @CambridgeCops.
- ❑ Cambridgeshire Police have launched Neighbourhood Alert to enhance communication with neighbourhoods.
- ❑ Enhanced patrolling of Cambridge City is taking place during the day and at night in the run-up to and over the festive period. In addition, and for the ninth year running, a night time care venue will be in place in the city centre on key nights over the festive period. Operating from St. Columba's Church in Downing Street, the facility will be staffed by the East of England Ambulance Service, a medical team from 254 Medical Regiment, the Cambridge-based Army Reserve Unit, St. John Ambulance, Street Pastors and the police.
- ❑ The police are exploring how they could utilise the Cambridge ShapeYourPlace website to enhance community consultation.

- Although it was reported in the press in October, it is worth noting the imprisonment (for six years) of Michael O'Loughlin who committed a robbery in Eden Street on Christmas Day last year.
- Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service's Green Watch have spent more than 11 hours visiting the St. Andrew's Street taxi rank and engaging with drivers regarding access widths required for emergency vehicles to be able to access the city centre unhindered. The efforts do appear to have deterred over ranking.

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 13 – Nov 13</i>	17	34	198	9	2	19	322	252	54	411	1318	369
		<i>Aug 12 – Nov 12</i>	23	33	203	10	1	35	390	229	66	542	1532	386
		<i>Apr 13 – Jul 13</i>	12	31	159	3	3	37	307	215	57	432	1256	449
WARDS	Castle	<i>Aug 13 – Nov 13</i>	12	12	7	0	0	5	49	3	4	23	115	38
		<i>Aug 12 – Nov 12</i>	4	6	17	2	0	10	62	3	8	30	142	39
		<i>Apr 13 – Jul 13</i>	5	15	12	0	1	8	42	4	10	23	120	47
	Newnham	<i>Aug 13 – Nov 13</i>	3	9	9	0	1	10	32	1	5	35	105	17
		<i>Aug 12 – Nov 12</i>	14	9	3	0	0	21	52	0	7	33	139	18
		<i>Apr 13 – Jul 13</i>	4	7	5	0	1	14	46	0	5	40	122	40
	Market	<i>Aug 13 – Nov 13</i>	2	13	182	9	1	4	241	248	45	353	1,098	314
		<i>Aug 12 – Nov 12</i>	5	18	183	8	1	4	276	226	51	479	1,251	329
		<i>Apr 13 – Jul 13</i>	3	9	142	3	1	15	219	211	42	369	1,014	362

ARSON DATA

Period: August to November 2013

Deliberate/secondary fire summary data

Area	Refuse	Bin	Vehicle	Residential	Non residential
Castle	0	0	0	0	0
Newnham	0	0	3	0	0
Market	0	1	0	0	0

General	Rubbish fires in the city and open spaces have reduced to almost nil. The weather accounts for the open spaces.
Castle	No issues of concern.
Newnham	Three car fires. Theft of private vehicles from the city centre later abandoned in open fields and set on fire.
Market	One bin fire.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DATA

Castle

Abandoned vehicles

- August to November 2013: 4 reports, which included
 - 3 vehicles not on site following inspection
 - 1 CLE26 notice issued to offenders on behalf of the DVLA for not displaying a valid tax disc on a public highway
- Hotspots: None
- August to November 2012: 3 reports

Fly tipping

- August to November 2013: 8 reports
- Hotspots: None
- August to November 2012: 10 reports

Derelict cycles

- August to November 2013: 14
- Hotspots: None
- August to November 2012: 13

Needle finds

- August to November 2013: 2

- Hotspots: None
- August to November 2012: 31

Newnham

Abandoned vehicles

- August to November 2013: 8 reports, which included
 - 2 vehicles not on site following inspection
 - 2 vehicle subsequently claimed by their owners
 - 2 CLE26 notices issued to offenders on behalf of the DVLA for not displaying a valid tax disc on a public highway
 - 1 vehicle subsequently destroyed following non-payment of the DVLA fine
 - 1 vehicle held pending further investigation
- Hotspots: None
- August to November 2012: 3 reports

Fly tipping

- August to November 2013: 9 reports
- Hotspots: None
- August to November 2012: 0 reports

Derelict cycles

- August to November 2013: 6
- Hotspots: None
- August to November 2012: 10

Needle finds

- August to November 2013: None
- Hotspots: None
- August to November 2012: None

Market

Abandoned vehicles

- August to November 2013: 2 reports, which included
 - 1 vehicle not on site following inspection
 - 1 vehicle subsequently destroyed following non-payment of the DVLA fine
- Hotspots: None
- August to November 2012: 7 reports

Fly tipping

- August to November 2013: 38 reports, which included
 - 2 formal warning letter issued to domestic offenders
 - 1 verbal warning

- 2 requests for waste transfer documentation from trade offenders
- Offences at Miltons Walk accounted for 1 of the formal warning letters sent
- Hotspots: None
- August to November 2012: 58 reports

Derelict cycles

- August to November 2013: 51
- Hotspots: Peas Hill (7)
- August to November 2012: 220

Needle finds

- August to November 2013: 18
- Hotspots: St. Andrew's Street (11) used needles found near Norwich & Peterborough Building Society by member of public, reported to City Council and removed immediately.
- August to November 2012: 41

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Tackle street-based ASB
- Address road safety issues (pedal cycles & motor vehicles)