

# Neighbourhood profile update Cambridge City North Neighbourhood

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Creating a safer  
Cambridgeshire



**CAMBRIDGE  
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 September to December 2013, compared to the previous reporting period (May to August 2013) and the same reporting period in 2012.
- City Council environmental services data for the period September to December 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 Team.

## 2 CURRENT PRIORITIES

At the North Area Committee meeting of 3 October 2013, the committee recommended adopting the following priorities:

- Continue the prevention and enforcement work to reduce cycle theft
- Combat dangerous / no lights cycling as autumn / winter approaches
- Tackle drug dealing in the North area.

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

<b>Continue the prevention and enforcement work to reduce cycle theft</b>	
<b>Objective</b>	Continue the prevention and enforcement work to reduce pedal cycle theft
<b>Action Taken</b>	<p>Operation Huntsman was launched on 1 August 2013. This police operation had several strands: to provide a highly visible, flexible and mobile response to crime and ASB; and 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 <i>Immobilise</i> at various events across the City.</p> <p>The North team supported Op Huntsman and undoubtedly the North area reaped the benefits of its activity with both thieves and handlers being successfully targeted. For example, a search warrant was executed at an address on the North and two brothers were caught working on stolen pedal cycles, swapping parts around. There are currently a handful of known and habitual cycle thieves in the North, split between drug-users and opportunist thieves. The North team are regularly visiting both suspected thieves and handlers to ensure that pressure is maintained to disrupt and deter their activities.</p>
<b>Current Situation</b>	Theft of pedal cycles has been reduced from 133 offences last year to 90 offences in this reporting period. The seasonal peak for cycle theft has also passed. Preventing and investigating cycle theft remains core police business.
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Sergeant Jason Wragg, Cambridgeshire Constabulary

<b>Combat dangerous / no lights cycling as autumn / winter approaches</b>	
<b>Objective</b>	Combat dangerous / no lights cycling in the autumn and winter months
<b>Action Taken</b>	The North team and officers from the Special Constabulary have targeted this issue focussing on pinch points and areas of

	local risk. While Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued for a range of offences, many 'offenders' have taken advantage of the lights instead of tickets (LIT) scheme thereby avoiding a £50 fine for cycling without lights.
<b>Current Situation</b>	Safer cycling issues continue to be a concern and cover a range of topics from inadequate road signage and ambiguous road layout to offending behaviour by both cyclists and other road users. Observations from officers who have undertaken the work would indicate that more cyclists have lights than not and the message appears to be slowly getting through.
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Sergeant Jason Wragg, Cambridgeshire Constabulary

<b>Tackle drug dealing in the North area</b>	
<b>Objective</b>	Tackle drug dealing across the North area
<b>Action Taken</b>	<p>The North team have addressed the supply of both Class A drugs and cannabis. Local knowledge and a persistent approach have resulted in a series of excellent results; the majority of cases are still going through the court process which unfortunately precludes detailed comment.</p> <p>Class A drug dealers in the North of Cambridge appear at the moment to be divided into two groups: established local dealers; and those who travel from London. As far as local dealers are concerned, the North team have put a great deal of effort into identifying the locations and modus operandi of three local dealers. Action against the first local dealer resulted in the recovery of a firearm, stolen laptop and a large quantity of money. Work against the second and third dealers resulted in the recovery of several thousand pounds worth of crack cocaine and heroin. The most serious dealer of the three had quite an organised operation. The North team caught his 'runner' with £700 worth of drugs, a few weeks prior to his capture, which gives some idea of the scale of his effort.</p> <p>By comparison, catching the dealers from London has been relatively easy. Often, they are quite young in age and look out of place or even appear lost in Cambridge. They tend to secrete the drugs by swallowing them or by placing them into a body cavity in the hope of preventing arrest and prosecution. The North team have arrested six of these offenders during the last reporting period. Two of them were detained in police detention under the authority provided by section 152 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988. Individuals detained under such an authority are subject to regular medical checks and constant</p>

	<p>supervision. In both the instances mentioned the individuals 'produced' the drugs through natural bodily processes. This is a considered and proportionate tactic used only in very specific circumstances to combat determined drug dealers. It sends out a clear message that Cambridge is no light touch when it comes to drug dealing.</p> <p>When people have complained about "drug dealing", the North team has responded. For example, when residents reported a strong smell of cannabis in a stairwell at a block of flats, the North team executed a search warrant and recovered plants and growing equipment. The North team are now working with Hundred Housing Society to repossess the property concerned.</p> <p>The North team's principle successes in respect of cannabis has come from good proactive police work. For example, recently whilst on foot patrol, a North team officer noticed a key in the door of a flat of note. A knock on the door was answered, with a consequent waft of cannabis and the male at the address was found tending a room full of cannabis plants. Another address in the same block was accessed following a stop-search of an individual and £3000 worth of cannabis was recovered along with a quantity of money.</p>
<p><b>Current Situation</b></p>	<p>Information continues to flow regularly from the community to the North team regarding drugs. The successes outlined above have a positive impact on the community as well as reducing the availability of drugs and associated criminality. More work can be done in this area.</p>
<p><b>Lead Officers</b></p>	<p>Sergeant Jason Wragg, Cambridgeshire Constabulary</p>

### 3 PRO-ACTIVE WORK & EMERGING ISSUES

- The City Council's ASB officers have organised a regular (3 times a year) King's Hedges residents meeting, focussing on ASB in the area, which is attended by residents, local businesses, councillors (ward and County), local PCSOs, housing officers and other relevant agencies. These meetings are held at Lawrence Way Community Centre.
- City Council ASB officers served a Notice Of Seeking Possession on a problematic City Homes tenant causing ASB in their home and the wider community in the King's Hedges area.

- ❑ City Council ASB officers continue to liaise with local police, businesses and residents to address concerns about ASB in the North of the City, for example, Arbury Court, Hazelwood Close and Chesterton High Street. Arbury Court in particular is being looked at as a possible hot spot. There is also a new referral to look at concerns around High Street Chesterton.
- ❑ Good reduction in ASB.
- ❑ Good reduction in total crime.
- ❑ Successful review of premises' licence at the Pink Elephant off licence, Milton Road on 13 January 2014 after concerns about licensing practices contributing to crime and disorder. Additional conditions have been attached to the licence to break the link with intoxicated street drinkers.
- ❑ Dwelling burglary has increased. Detectives and other colleagues at Parkside are currently working on addressing this spike. One prolific burglar was charged with multiple offences in December 2013 and another was recalled to prison for breaching the terms of his prison licence. Increased pro-active patrols of the North area are currently taking place.
- ❑ Violent crime has increased and this is linked, in part, to local rivalry between groups of young men who are known to the police. Positive police action has resulted in arrests and the two ringleaders are currently awaiting sentencing for offences. As a result the groups' dynamics have been disrupted and their membership has dissolved.
- ❑ Theft from shops has seen a good reduction compared to the last quarter. This may well be linked to the work against drugs.
- ❑ There has been a good reduction in criminal damage which ties into the increased patrolling of parks and other green spaces by the North PCSOs.
- ❑ 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](http://www.cambsnhw.org.uk)
- ❑ Cambridge City Police have launched their own Twitter account: @CambridgeCops
- ❑ Cambridgeshire Police has launched Neighbourhood Alert to enhance communication with neighbourhoods.

- The police are exploring how they could utilise the ***Shape Your Place*** website to improve community engagement and will include the results of consultation in the next profile in May 2013.
- The North team continues to hold its community engagement surgeries at Arbury Court (last Wednesday of every month 11am till 1pm) and Tesco Express, High Street Chesterton (last Tuesday of every month 1pm till 3pm).
- Several reports of anti-social driving on Fen Road have been received over recent weeks.

## 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
<b>AREA</b>	<b>City North</b>	<i>Sep 13 – Dec 13</i>	72	41	170	10	12	56	90	44	94	190	779	403
		<i>Sep 12 – Dec 12</i>	31	72	131	4	11	65	133	41	138	189	815	466
		<i>May 13 – Aug 13</i>	47	24	163	9	17	43	93	76	129	196	797	557
<b>WARDS</b>	<b>Arbury</b>	<i>Sep 13 – Dec 13</i>	16	7	42	1	1	9	19	10	20	59	184	78
		<i>Sep 12 – Dec 12</i>	5	10	27	1	3	6	32	6	18	53	161	116
		<i>May 13 – Aug 13</i>	16	8	45	2	6	7	28	22	29	49	212	132
	<b>East Chesterton</b>	<i>Sep 13 – Dec 13</i>	18	21	44	5	2	22	19	4	30	49	214	100
		<i>Sep 12 – Dec 12</i>	10	33	42	1	4	16	25	5	60	56	252	145
		<i>May 13 – Aug 13</i>	9	7	38	3	2	9	13	4	39	31	155	143
	<b>King's Hedges</b>	<i>Sep 13 – Dec 13</i>	20	8	61	4	7	13	15	23	29	43	223	141
		<i>Sep 12 – Dec 12</i>	11	23	42	2	3	31	25	23	44	45	249	124
		<i>May 13 – Aug 13</i>	9	6	54	3	4	17	12	41	35	61	242	159
	<b>West Chesterton</b>	<i>Sep 13 – Dec 13</i>	18	5	23	0	2	12	37	7	15	39	158	84
		<i>Sep 12 – Dec 12</i>	5	6	20	0	1	12	51	7	16	35	153	81
		<i>May 13 – Aug 13</i>	13	3	26	1	5	10	40	9	26	55	188	123



## ARSON DATA

Period: September to December 2013

### Deliberate/secondary fire summary data

Area	Refuse	Bin	Vehicle	Residential	Non residential
Arbury	0	2	0	0	0
East Chesterson	0	0	0	0	2
King's Hedges	0	0	0	0	1
West Chesterton	1	0	0	0	0

<b>General</b>	The level of fire-related ASB and arson continue to diminish
<b>Arbury</b>	Two fires in a single bin store causing damage estimated by City Homes in excess of £2,000
<b>East Chesterton</b>	Two fires involved in the commission of other crime
<b>King's Hedges</b>	One fire in the open involving fire play by identified young people
<b>West Chesterton</b>	Single fire involving building waste moved against the building and ignited by persons unknown

- Continued focus by partnership agencies upon deliberate fire-related ASB and arson issues have again, for the third successive reporting period, seen a reduction in the number of incidents. Corresponding calls for service from the emergency services in this respect have also reduced.
- The partnership continues to work closely with schools, churches and the community to identify young people at risk through involvement in fire play and experimentation.
- A mix of solutions have been employed to address this risk including two fire setter intervention scheme referrals, two family intervention referrals and five referrals to the 'Construct' project. The 'Construct' project is a Cambridge Community Safety Partnership-funded and Children and Young People's Participation Service-managed project designed to intervene with 'at risk' behaviour involving young people aged between eight and twelve years of age. They promote positive behavioural choices and respect for the community.

- Fires in the Arbury and West Chesterton wards occurred during the same short Christmas holiday time frame as a series of similar fires in Abbey Ward. There is no evidence to connect them; however no further fires of this type have occurred in the north of the city since.
- The two fires in East Chesterton involved the attempted destruction of property burgled from a nearby house and the destruction of a conservation area constructed within the Shirley School, Nuffield Road. The achievement of considerable effort on the part of pupils and staff at the school was destroyed in this needless act of vandalism.
- A single incident in King's Hedges related to the ASB on the part of identified youths referred to above.
- Emerging trends are two incidents where one car and one motor cycle were set on fire in King's Hedges and East Chesterton respectively. The last vehicle fire in area was in May 2013.
- There has been a spate of bin, shed and garage fires in the East Area over the Christmas period. There is no clear motive for these incidents. Whilst there has been no continuation of those events partners remain vigilant in the North Area to deter and detect any re-emergence of this activity in this area.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DATA**

### **Arbury**

#### *Abandoned vehicles*

- September to December 2013: 9 reports, which included
  - 7 vehicles not on site following inspection
  - 1 vehicle impounded on behalf of the DVLA for not displaying a valid tax disc on a public highway
  - 1 vehicle held pending further investigation
- Hotspots: None
- September to December 2012: 10 reports

#### *Fly tipping*

- September to December 2013: 82 reports, which included
  - 2 formal warning letters issued to domestic offenders
  - 1 formal warning letter issued to trade offenders
- Offences at Aylesborough Close and Hazelwood Close accounted for 2 of the formal warning letters sent
- Hotspots: Cockerell Road (4), Hazelwood Close (11)
- September to December 2012: 45 reports

### *Derelict cycles*

- September to December 2013: 15
- Hotspots: None
- September to December 2012: 9

### *Needle finds*

- September to December 2013: 23 (3 found in grounds of Good Shepherd Church, Mansel Way) (20 needles removed from Kingsway Flats, Carlton Way - Caretaker passed for secure disposal to City Council)
- September to December 2012: 5

## **East Chesterton**

### *Abandoned vehicles*

- September to December 2013: 11 reports, which included
  - 5 vehicles not on site following inspection
  - 2 vehicles held pending further investigation
- Hotspots: Logans Way (5)
- September to December 2012: 5 reports

### *Fly tipping*

- September to December 2013: 19 reports
- Hotspots: None
- September to December 2012: 12 reports

### *Derelict cycles*

- September to December 2013: 8
- Hotspots: None
- September to December 2012: 1

### *Needle finds*

- September to December 2013: 128 (62 needles found in a sharps box just past Moss Bank and were removed) (60 needles were removed from the offices of Hundred Housing Society, Nuffield Road, upon request)
- September to December 2012: 8

## **King's Hedges**

### *Abandoned vehicles*

- September to December 2013: 9 reports, which included
  - 7 vehicles not on site following inspection
  - 1 vehicle subsequently claimed by their owners
  - 1 vehicle impounded 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
- Hotspots: None
- September to December 2012: 10 reports

#### *Fly tipping*

- September to December 2013: 58 reports, which included
  - 2 formal warning letter issued to domestic offenders
  - 2 requests for waste transfer documentation from trade offenders
- Offences at Campkin Road accounted for 2 of the formal warning letters sent
- Hotspots: Atkins Close (3), Buchan Street (4), Campkin Road (5)
- September to December 2012: 50 reports

#### *Derelict cycles*

- September to December 2013: 4
- Hotspots: None
- September 2012 to December 2012 2011: 4

#### *Needle finds*

- September to December 2013: 1
- Hotspots: None
- September to December 2012: 2

### **West Chesterton**

#### *Abandoned vehicles*

- September to December 2013: 7 reports, which included
  - 3 vehicles not on site following inspection
  - 2 vehicle subsequently claimed by their owners
  - 1 vehicle impounded on behalf of the DVLA for not displaying a valid tax disc on a public highway
- Hotspots: None
- September to December 2012: 6 reports

#### *Fly tipping*

- September to December 2013: 20 reports, which included 1 formal warning letter issued to domestic offenders
- Offences at Milton Road accounted for 1 of the formal warning letters sent
- Hotspots: None
- September to December 2012: 16 reports

#### *Derelict cycles*

- September to December 2013: 7
- Hotspots: None

- September to December 2012: 4

*Needle finds*

- September to December 2013: None
- Hotspots: None
- September to December 2012: 4

## **5 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Tackle drug dealing in the North area
- Address road safety issues associated with cycling
- Address anti-social driving on Fen Road