

Neighbourhood profile update Cambridge City West/Central Neighbourhood

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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 December 2013 to March 2014, compared to the previous reporting period (August to November 2013) and the same reporting period in 2012/13.
- City Council environmental services data for the period December 2013 to March 2014, compared to the same reporting period in 2012/13; and
- Information provided by the Safer Neighbourhood Policing team and the City Council's Safer Communities team.

2 CURRENT PRIORITIES

At the West/Central Area Committee meeting of 9 January 2014, the committee recommended adopting the following priorities:

- Wider road safety priority ensuring better road safety for all road users focusing on the following: Children's road safety, particularly targeting areas around the schools during peak times; Cycling in the city; Ticketing all road users when stationary that encroached on designated 'no waiting' areas, motorists straying into cycle stop boxes at junctions and cross hatchings; Focusing on speed enforcement in risk areas, including the 20 mph zones in the city; Over-ranking of the taxis
- To continue to tackle ASB in the city

The Neighbourhood Action Group, at its meeting of 16 January 2014, 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.

Wider road safety priority ensuring better road safety for all road users focusing on the following: Children's road safety, particularly targeting areas around the schools during peak times; Cycling in the city; Ticketing all road users when stationary that encroached on designated 'no waiting' areas, motorists straying into cycle stop boxes at junctions and cross hatchings; Focusing on speed enforcement in risk areas, including the 20 mph zones in the city; Over-ranking of the taxis	
Objective	Address road safety issues for all road users
Action Taken	<p>The City Centre and West teams have worked hard during the past reporting period to impact on what is a broad range of issues.</p> <p>The City Centre team has worked closely with residents and businesses operating heavy commercial vehicles following complaints about the contravention of the 7.5 tonne weight limit on Newmarket Road and Maid's Causeway. Positive action has been taken with drivers who were found to have breached this limit. The City team has also sought to educate the companies themselves who in turn have been actively involved in educating their drivers as to where they should and should not be driving in the city. As a direct result there has been a reduction in the number of vehicles coming along these restricted routes.</p> <p>The City Centre team has been instrumental in the development and implementation of Operation Safe Passage.</p>

Originally this was a ten-week city-wide initiative which involved targeting 10 roads in Cambridge where statistically it was shown (using collision data as the guide) there was greater risk to road users.

Therefore on a daily basis, between 7.30am and 9.30am, police officers were deployed in order to maintain a highly visible presence. Their remit was to stop any road user who was committing an offence. This included cyclists going through red lights, drivers encroaching cycle boxes, speeding, cyclists without lights, drivers using mobile telephones and construction and use offences.

During the first ten weeks of the operation the following results were recorded:

- ❑ 17 x Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) for cycling on pavement
- ❑ 12 x FPNs for cycling through a red light
- ❑ 1 x FPN for vehicle parked on zig-zags
- ❑ 11 x FPNs for vehicles with defective lights
- ❑ 2 x FPNs for number plate offences
- ❑ 52 x Vehicle Defect Rectification Notices for vehicle lighting offences
- ❑ 1 x Penalty Notice for Disorder for a Section 5 Public Order offence
- ❑ 7 x FPNs for no seatbelt
- ❑ 5 x FPNs for vehicles contravening a red light
- ❑ 1 x Vehicle Defect Rectification Notice for a defective wing mirror
- ❑ 2 x vehicle seizures and prosecution for driving with no insurance
- ❑ 6 x FPNs for drivers using mobile phone
- ❑ 6 x Lights Instead of Tickets notices for cyclists with no lights
- ❑ 1 x prosecution for driving otherwise than in accordance with a licence
- ❑ 3 x FPNs for excess speed
- ❑ 4 x notices for vehicle excise duty offences
- ❑ 1 x prosecution for driving whilst disqualified

Roads in the City/West area included in the operation were: Fen Causeway; East Road (outside Grafton Centre and at its junction with Gonville Place); Mitcham's Corner; and Downing Street (at its junction with Tennis Court Road).

Such was the success of the operation that it has been

	<p>extended for a further ten weeks. The locations in this second phase have been based around the numbers of complaints or concerns which have been received from members of the public.</p> <p>Roads in the City/ West area and the results so far are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Sidney Street – 50 FPNs to cyclists contravening the one way direction ❑ Maid's Causeway – 9 FPNs given for variety of offences (excess speed and lighting offences) ❑ Victoria Avenue – 8 FPNs (3 for excess speed and 5 for lighting offences) ❑ Queen's Road (junction with Silver Street) – 5 FPNs (2 for driving whilst using a mobile phone, 1 for vehicle excise duty offence, 1 for contravention of a traffic sign, 1 for a lighting offence) <p>The City Centre team has also been working to resolve the numerous complaints received regarding the unnecessary obstruction caused by taxis over-ranking in St. Andrew's Street. Enforcement action has been taken in respect of this issue which has resulted in 35 FPNs to taxi drivers for causing an unnecessary obstruction and 7 FPNs to private vehicles for causing an obstruction by being parked in the taxi rank. There is a marked improvement on St. Andrew's Street, however the problem appears to have now moved to Emmanuel Road. In response, the City Centre team are moving their resources and will continue target the problem.</p> <p>In addition to the over-ranking issue the team also conducted a day of action in partnership with Cambridge City Council focussing on both taxi and private hire vehicles to ensure compliance with construction and use regulations. This resulted in 43 vehicles being checked. In total 4 vehicles were suspended from use, and taken off the road. Five drivers were reported for offences and a number of others issued with VDR forms.</p>
Current Situation	Whilst the issue of road safety continues to be a challenge it would be of benefit to continue further work in this area. As stated above Operation Safe Passage remains on-going.
Lead Officer	Sergeant Paul Street, Cambridgeshire Constabulary

To continue to tackle ASB in the city	
Objective	Reduce ASB
Action Taken	<p>Since the last Area Committee meeting, the West and City Centre teams have continued to work in partnership with a range of agencies to address antisocial behaviour (ASB) in the West/Central area. They have also been supported in this work by colleagues from the Special Constabulary. There are two distinct strands to this work. The first has its focus on the night time economy and second on street-based ASB more commonly associated with street drinking and begging.</p> <p>Within the night time economy under Operation Sodium, enhanced patrols have been deployed in the city centre over the weekends in support the work of the City Centre team. Aimed at reducing alcohol-related violent crime and antisocial behaviour, the Op. Sodium patrols work together with the city centre venues, door staff, CCTV, Street Pastors, Nightsafe and taxi marshals to monitor and, where necessary, address the behaviour of the people using the city centre during the evening and overnight.</p> <p>Work has continued on a number of fronts with people leading a street-based life style in Cambridge. There have been a number of key successes since the last meeting which have included obtaining an Antisocial Behaviour Order (ASBO) against Mark Guy who had been persistently begging around the city. He is now prohibited from approaching or communicating with anyone in anyway whatsoever at any ATM or payment machine in Cambridge in order to beg. In addition to the ASBO, work is on-going with support services in order to help address his offending. Further ASBO applications are in the pipeline for others. Convictions have been obtained in some notable begging cases, including Brian Glide (the 'chess' beggar).</p> <p>Work with the City Council against street-based begging has resulted in 31 prosecutions across the city centre. High visibility patrols targeting begging hotspots complements other work which is being conducted in partnership with the City Council, a range of homeless support services and the University of Cambridge Homelessness Society to address the root cause of begging issues in the city.</p> <p>There was a successful review of the premises licence at the</p>

	Pink Elephant Off Licence, Milton Rd on 13 January 2014 after concerns about licensing practices contributing to crime and ASB. Additional conditions have been attached to the licence to break the link with intoxicated street drinkers. This was a significant cause of ASB in the Jesus Green area.
Current Situation	<p>There has been an overall reduction in ASB of 10.6%, or 39 fewer incidents, in comparison to both the previous reporting period and this same period in 2012/13.</p> <p>There has been an overall reduction in violent crime of 26%. This equates to 51 fewer crimes in comparison with the previous reporting period and by 16%, or 28 fewer crimes, in comparison with the same period in 2012/13. The most significant reductions have again been in the Market ward where 43 fewer violent crimes were recorded.</p> <p>Whilst the activity and results from the previous reporting period are good, it should be noted that the seasonal peak for both street-based and night time economy ASB is approaching. This work should be continued into the Spring and Summer.</p>
Lead Officer	Sergeant Kevin Misik, Cambridgeshire Constabulary

3 PRO-ACTIVE WORK & EMERGING ISSUES

- City Council's Safer Communities team is continuing to liaise with the police, the managing agents for Radcliffe Court and the lessors of the adjacent property, to endeavour to minimise the impact that free-runners have on those residents of Radcliffe Court who find their presence an upsetting disturbance. Although it is a difficult site to secure from those determined to access the roof area, we are continuing to liaise with both Accent and W.H. Smith to ensure they are aware of residents' concerns and also that they look for ways to dissuade access to this site. We will continue to monitor this case, as we are aware that the improved weather may result in the appearance of more free-runners.
- City Council's Safer Communities team has been investigating reports of antisocial behaviour in the Grafton Street area, Sidney Street, Market Street, Burlton Road, East Road (by the shops) and touting on King's Parade. We continue to work with residents, police and other agencies to prevent further disturbances.
- There has been a reduction in overall crime of 3% (40 fewer crimes) in comparison with the previous reporting period. The majority of this

reduction was seen in the Market ward where 35 fewer crimes were recorded.

- ❑ There has been an overall reduction in cycle theft of 29% (92 fewer crimes) in comparison with the previous reporting period. Although the Newnham ward has remained stable both Castle and Market wards have seen reductions, with the Market ward seeing 78 fewer cycle thefts.
- ❑ There has been an overall increase in theft from motor vehicles by 19 crimes in comparison with the previous reporting period. This increase has been recorded across all three wards although it should be noted that the overall number is still relatively low. Pro-active work to target this issue is already taking place.
- ❑ Plans are in place for community events which are to take place during the summer, including Strawberry Fair and Midsummer Fair. Work has already begun to ensure Caesarian Sunday passes with the minimum of community impact.
- ❑ A Shape Your Place blog has been set up for members of the public who can't attend the West Central meeting in person to highlight issues.

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	Dec 13 - Mar 14	19	28	146	8	4	38	229	237	46	517	1272	330
		Dec 12 - Mar 13	10	17	174	7	1	31	230	237	60	476	1255	370
		Aug 13 - Nov 13	17	34	197	9	2	19	321	253	54	406	1312	369
WARDS	Castle	Dec 13 - Mar 14	10	6	5	1	1	9	36	3	4	34	109	31
		Dec 12 - Mar 13	5	5	11	0	1	11	39	3	8	24	107	31
		Aug 13 - Nov 13	12	12	7	0	0	5	49	3	4	23	115	38
	Newnham	Dec 13 - Mar 14	4	9	3	2	0	21	31	2	3	31	106	11
		Dec 12 - Mar 13	1	4	9	1	0	11	29	0	5	19	79	15
		Aug 13 - Nov 13	3	9	9	0	1	10	32	1	5	35	105	17
	Market	Dec 13 - Mar 14	5	13	138	5	3	8	162	232	39	452	1,057	288
		Dec 12 - Mar 13	4	8	154	6	0	9	162	234	59	433	1,069	324
		Aug 13 - Nov 13	2	13	181	9	1	4	240	249	45	348	1,092	314

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DATA

Castle

Abandoned vehicles

- ❑ December 2013 to March 2014: 7 reports, which included
 - 1 vehicle not on site following inspection
 - 5 CLE26 notices issued to offenders on behalf of the DVLA for not displaying a valid tax disc on a public highway
 - 1 vehicle held pending further investigation
- ❑ Hotspots: Storey's Way (5)
- ❑ December 2012 to March 2013: 5 reports

Fly tipping

- ❑ December 2013 to March 2014: 8 reports, which included
 - 1 formal warning letter issued to domestic offenders
 - 2 requests for waste transfer documentation from trade offenders
- ❑ Offences at Castle Street accounted for 1 of the formal warning letters sent
- ❑ Hotspots: None
- ❑ December 2012 to March 2013: 11 reports

Derelict cycles

- ❑ December 2013 to March 2014: 9
- ❑ Hotspots: None
- ❑ December 2012 to March 2013: 2

Needle finds

- ❑ December 2013 to March 2014: 2
- ❑ Hotspots: Castle Street (2) - St. Giles Church.
- ❑ December 2012 to March 2013: 0

Newnham

Abandoned vehicles

- ❑ December 2013 to March 2014: 14 reports, which included
 - 4 vehicles not on site following inspection
 - 1 vehicle subsequently claimed by their owners
 - 8 CLE26 notices issued to offenders on behalf of the DVLA for not displaying a valid tax disc on a public highway
 - 1 vehicle impounded on behalf of the DVLA for not having a valid tax disc
- ❑ Hotspots: Clerk Maxwell Road (4)
- ❑ December 2012 to March 2013: 5 reports

Fly tipping

- ❑ December 2013 to March 2014: 19 reports, which included
 - 3 formal warning letter issued to domestic offenders
- ❑ Offences at The Fen Causeway accounted for 3 of the formal warning letters sent
- ❑ Hotspots: None
- ❑ December 2012 to March 2013: 7 reports

Derelict cycles

- ❑ December 2013 to March 2014: 12
- ❑ Hotspots: None
- ❑ December 2012 to March 2013: 5

Needle finds

- ❑ December 2013 to March 2014: None
- ❑ Hotspots: None
- ❑ December 2012 to March 2013: None

Market

Abandoned vehicles

- ❑ December 2013 to March 2014: 1 report, which included
 - 1 vehicle not on site following inspection
- ❑ Hotspots: Burleigh Place (1)
- ❑ December 2012 to March 2013: 7 reports

Fly tipping

- ❑ December 2013 to March 2014: 43 reports, which included
 - 3 formal warning letters issued to domestic offenders
 - 1 formal warning letter issued to trade offenders
 - 2 verbal warnings
 - 11 requests for waste transfer documentation from trade offenders
- ❑ Offences at Corn Exchange Street accounted for 1 of the formal warning letters sent
- ❑ Hotspots: None
- ❑ December 2012 to March 2013: 69 reports

Derelict cycles

- ❑ December 2013 to March 2014: 64
- ❑ Hotspots: Fitzroy Street (3), Market Hill (6)
- ❑ December 2012 to March 2013: 76

Needle finds

- ❑ December 2013 to March 2014: 2
- ❑ Hotspots: King Street (2)
- ❑ December 2012 to March 2013: 22

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▣ Street-based ASB
- ▣ Operation Safe Passage