

# Neighbourhood profile update Cambridge City West/Central 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 August to November 2014, compared to the previous like reporting period (April to July 2014) and the same reporting period in 2013.
- City Council environmental services data for the period August to November 2014, compared to the same reporting period in 2013; 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 4 September 2014, the committee recommended adopting the following priorities:

- Operation Safe Passage
- Street-based ASB in city centre
- Extension of vehicle obstruction of pavements expanded to include other physical obstructions such as cycles, etc.
- Cycle theft

The Neighbourhood Action Group, at its meeting of 11 September 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.

<b>Operation Safe Passage</b>	
<b>Objective</b>	Address road safety issues for all road users.
<b>Action Taken</b>	<p>This operation has been on-going since the last area committee meeting, and has enjoyed support from the Roads Policing Unit up until recently. In excess of 900 Traffic Offence Reports have been issued in the city between 1 September and 1 December 2014. This figure does not include occasions where officers have given words of advice or fixed speed camera offences; similarly it does not reflect the number of vehicle seizures or breath tests administered on top of this figure.</p> <p>We have responded to reports of HGVs illegally taking short-cuts through Maid's Causeway. Local residents have been proactive in combatting this issue; they have been given our full support when challenging transport managers about their drivers' behaviour. Two members of the City team have been tasked to identify a mutually-convenient date for supportive high-visibility patrols to be conducted.</p> <p>We have responded to reports of persons cycling on the pavement in and around the Parker Street area. The City team has been tasked to speak to these cyclists, the majority of whom they have found to be students at Parkside Community College. We are working with the school to educate the riders and have found that the improvement in road marking on Parkside has improved this situation somewhat, but we will continue to patrol this area and challenge anyone we see riding on the pavement.</p>

	<p>We have been in close dialogue with the Cambridge Hackney Carriage Association (CHCA) and the Council Enforcement Team about the current taxi issues affecting the City Centre. Crime prevention advice has been submitted for inclusion in the CHCA monthly newsletter and we are keen to explore the opportunity of installing CCTV in taxis to promote both driver and customer safety. Two members of the Team have been tasked to identify points of contact for all taxi firms across the County, and we have all actively challenged drivers who over-rank; particularly around the Drummer Street and St Andrew's Street areas. We have also sought support from officers, participating in foot patrols over the weekend evenings, when the incidence of this phenomenon is at its peak, and have started to go out on patrol with members of the Council Enforcement Team where feasible. I am currently exploring an advertising campaign to highlight the dangers associated with taxi touts and have sought buy-in from both Cambridge City Council and Cambridge Business Against Crime (CAMBAC) to support this. We have also run two successful taxi tout operations in the City Centre where officers have worked in conjunction with the Enforcement Team, which has seen a number of taxi drivers prosecuted. I am pleased to report that Cambridge clearly does not have the same problems associated with taxi touting as other comparable towns and cities that I have worked in, but we will continue to monitor this problem nevertheless.</p>
<b>Current Situation</b>	<p>Due to the transient nature of many of the cyclist in the city, this is an ongoing piece of work, however I have met with the Casualty Reduction Officer, Council Road Safety Team and Central Ticket Office Manager to discuss whether there would be scope for a Cycling Diversionary Scheme to be introduced (similar to a Driving Diversionary Scheme). There is a national scheme due to be introduced within the next 18 months. We also used this meeting as an opportunity to discuss general cycling proficiency and whether there would be scope to introduce this to a wider audience, beyond local primary and secondary schools. I am currently in dialogue with Bikeability to discuss the mechanics of how this could potentially work.</p>
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Sergeant Ian Wood, Cambridgeshire Constabulary

<b>Street-based ASB in city centre</b>	
<b>Objective</b>	To continue to tackle street-based ASB in the city
<b>Action</b>	Over the period since the last report there have been number

<b>Taken</b>	<p>positive results. Action has been taken against a key recidivist who has been causing issues for a number of businesses in the city centre, mostly restaurants who have seating areas outside. As a result of his behaviour he has now been served with two injunctions which seek to regulate his behaviour, and he breached one of these twice within 24 hours and as a result of these he received a 12 week prison sentence. As well as this, another member of the street life community has been sentenced to 18 weeks in prison for persistently breaching his ASBO. These two prison sentences has meant that the people who live and use the city centre now have a break from their anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>We have been working with a wide range of other agencies to deal with issues identified. We have worked with the City Council to continue to address the issues of begging within the city centre, we are also being supported by members of the Special Constabulary who have been trained and are now conducting directed patrols to deal with these issues.</p> <p>We have also worked with the Street Outreach team to highlight and divert people from rough sleeping and into appropriate support and accommodation. This has resulted in a male and his family moving into accommodation and put an effective end to the anti-social behaviour he was causing.</p> <p>As well as the work to deal with street drinking, we have continued to dedicate resources to deal with issues with the night time economy in the city centre. Again we are ably supported by the Special Constabulary.</p> <p>As well as dealing with the issues as they are happening and providing a presence, our planning and licencing team are reviewing the new licences as well as extensions where there is evidence to suggest that there is a risk of disorder attached to the application.</p> <p>The City Centre team and Operation Connect Patrols have been focussing their attention on Sussex Street, where groups of foreign students have been gathering late at night, causing upset and annoyance to local residents. PC Browne was tasked to liaise with local residents to ascertain the size and scope of the issue and to reassure residents that action was being taken. We have quickly identified that Sussex Street was colloquially referred to as 'Spanish Corner' amongst Spanish</p>
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	<p>students and that after consultation with them, we have identified that Market Square was the preferable location to move these groups to. Our Crime Prevention Officer is in dialogue with various language schools and the local Spanish community to convey this message.</p> <p>We have conducted regular patrols in and around New Square in response to complaints from residents of groups of youths using the grass areas to congregate. We have robustly challenged any ASB that we have encountered, and now have a better intelligence picture as to who is frequenting these areas. The groups that we have spoken to have generally responded very well (particularly when tasked to pick up litter that has been left) and local residents have engaged well with us too. Our Crime Prevention Officer has been asked to see if there is any scope to increase the number of neighbourhood watch participants locally in this area as well, but the cold weather seems to have quelled this issue.</p> <p>We have received information that certain individuals and groups have been collecting charitable donations without the proper permits in the city centre area. In response, we have conducted plain-clothed patrols around key areas and have been in consultation with the Council's Marketing team to identify how best to secure a successful prosecution. Work into this is continuing, and we are unable to furnish any further details on this yet for fear of compromising our efforts thus far.</p>
<p><b>Current Situation</b></p>	<p>On 1 December 2014, Cambridgeshire Constabulary introduced an 'Alcohol Diversion Scheme' (ADS) for persons arrested for alcohol-related crime. Much like a Speed Awareness course, ADS can be offered as an alternative disposal mitigating the full £90 fine for first-time offenders and highlighting the potential ramifications of their actions.</p> <p>In response to a number of complaints about aggressive or obstructive street pedlars in Petty Cury, we have been in consultation with the Council's Market Management team and are currently reviewing the pedlars permits that we issue. Our aim is to ensure that background checks conducted are more robustly, and to ensure that there is a proper review system in place for persons who flout the conditions of their permit. Work into this is on-going.</p>
<p><b>Lead Officer</b></p>	<p>Sergeant Kevin Misik, Cambridgeshire Constabulary.</p>

<b>Extension of vehicle obstruction of pavements to include other physical obstructions such as cycles, etc.</b>	
<b>Objective</b>	Address pavement obstructions.
<b>Action Taken</b>	<p>We have responded to concerns about inconsiderate parking in the areas in and around Paradise Street and Victoria Street. Foot patrols in the vicinity have been increased and staff have been asked to robustly respond to any parking violations that they encounter. The team has also spoken with local residents about our presence and intentions where appropriate as I am aware that deliveries and visitors to local addresses may be impeded as a consequence of our intervention. As a simultaneous action, I have also spoken to the Council's Parking Enforcement team to request that their patrols are focussed on these areas too; however, we are both aware that parking restrictions in certain areas only apply from 0900-1700hrs (Monday to Saturday), and as such our patrols are being focussed accordingly.</p> <p>We have responded to reports of HGVs parking on the pavement and obstructing the carriageway in Wheeler Street. PCSO Taylor has been in consultation with local businesses to advise that any inconsiderate parking will be challenged and that the turning area of Peas Hill would be a more sensible place to park (albeit a slightly further walk for drivers to off-load from). We again have notified the Council's Parking Enforcement team of this issue, and we will continue to challenge any dangerous or inconsiderate parking.</p> <p>A recent change in legislation has permitted PCSOs to issue Traffic Offence Reports (TORs) to drivers. All city centre PCSOs have had a recent training input about how to conduct this process, and how to achieve 'best evidence'. Similarly, some of our PCSOs have been trained in the use of hand-held speed enforcement equipment.</p>
<b>Current Situation</b>	Following consultation with the Cambridge Hackney Carriage Association and the Council's Enforcement team, we have been issuing warning letters to members of the public who have been illegally parking in taxi ranks, particularly around the Market Hill area. To date, we have not issued a warning letter to the same vehicle twice, which suggests that the tactic is slowly working.
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Sergeant Ian Wood, Cambridgeshire Constabulary

<b>Cycle theft</b>	
<b>Objective</b>	To continue to tackle cycle theft in the city.
<b>Action Taken</b>	<p>During the reporting period, we have continued to work with the other teams in the city to address this city wide issue. Warrants have been carried out at the addresses of a number of cycle handlers across the city which has had varying degrees of success. In one of the warrants, 14 cycles have been recovered and considerable number had come from students at Cambridge University.</p> <p>The officers on the West team have highlighted a number of patterns in the times and location of the offences and have carried out some directed patrols in reaction to these both to disrupt the offences and also in attempt to catch the offenders. This work is still on-going.</p> <p>We have also been working with the colleges to promote the Immobilise scheme to their new students, to help them secure and safeguard their cycles.</p> <p>Also during the Lights Instead of Tickets (LIT) scheme, all people stopped were given advice to sign up to the Immobilise scheme as well as advice as to securing their cycle.</p> <p>We have now initiated contact with both the British Transport Police and the Metropolitan Police's Cycle Crime team, and have good dialogue with other problem solving team supervisors around the city concerning cycle thieves and handlers. I have made enquiries with Immobilise, Bike Register and Selectamark to see if their products could be promoted more extensively throughout Cambridge (with a focus on the colleges) and am reviewing how we have historically conducted bike-marking workshops in the past. We also now have access to a promotional 'Wrapped Cycle' that we may roll-out for future street surgeries, to promote public awareness about this issue.</p> <p>The City Centre team has been conducting plain-clothed patrols in the city centre on a near-daily basis since the beginning of November, tasked to locate and identify bicycle thieves and handlers. This work has been both proactive (where officers have actively sought to locate thieves) and reactive (responding to intelligence received and dealing with persons in custody) and an operational order has now been formalised to ensure buy-in from the Special Constabulary to</p>

	<p>assist in this endeavour. Again this operational order has only recently been introduced so its success has yet to be quantified.</p> <p>The City Centre team has been tasked to check for bicycles that have not been properly secured, and are now in the habit of checking for bicycle frame numbers when officers stop and search people. To highlight the scale of our officers' intervention, Parkside Property Office has taken receipt of 92 seized bicycles and 93 found bicycles from 1 September to 1 December 2014 alone.</p>
<b>Current Situation</b>	The work is on-going. There is still cycle crime but the level is down slightly.
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Sergeant Kevin Misik, Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

### 3 PRO-ACTIVE WORK & EMERGING ISSUES

- The City Council's Safer Communities team has dealt with four reports in Market ward, all regarding street life issues, including rough sleeping. Advice was received to report these directly to the street life team at the police. We informed the street life officers and referrals were also made to the monthly Task and Target group for any necessary follow-up action.
- The Safer Communities Team are currently leading on a pilot looking at potential new management models for supporting those that are homeless or vulnerably housed and at risk of anti-social behaviour due to substance or alcohol misuse or mental health issues. Currently nine individuals (out of a potential twelve) have been referred to the pilot. Of those nine, three have disengaged, however the remaining six continue to engage with the co-ordinator and their keyworkers in order to identify gaps in their service provision.

## 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 West/Central</b>	Aug 14 – Nov 14	27	36	181	12	5	54	404	200	81	450	1450	397
		Aug 13 – Nov 13	17	34	197	9	2	19	321	253	54	406	1312	369
		Apr 14 – July 14	13	29	184	4	1	36	334	248	65	476	1390	380
<b>WARDS</b>	<b>Castle</b>	Aug 14 – Nov 14	10	9	11	2	2	12	39	0	8	24	117	38
		Aug 13 – Nov 13	12	12	7	0	0	5	49	3	4	23	115	38
		Apr 14 – July 14	6	5	4	1	0	9	43	2	7	25	102	38
	<b>Newnham</b>	Aug 14 – Nov 14	9	14	2	0	1	36	43	3	5	42	155	30
		Aug 13 – Nov 13	3	9	9	0	1	10	32	1	5	35	105	17
		Apr 14 – July 14	3	11	6	0	0	21	49	4	7	26	127	28
	<b>Market</b>	Aug 14 – Nov 14	8	13	168	10	2	6	322	197	68	384	1178	329
		Aug 13 – Nov 13	2	13	181	9	1	4	240	249	45	348	1092	314
		Apr 14 – July 14	4	13	174	3	1	6	242	242	51	425	1161	314

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DATA**

### **Castle**

#### *Abandoned vehicles*

- August to November 2014: 3 reports, which included
  - 1 vehicle not on site following inspection
  - 1 vehicle subsequently claimed by their owners
  - 1 vehicle subsequently destroyed following non-payment of the DVLA fine
  - 1 vehicle held pending further investigation
- Hotspots: None
- August to November 2013: 1 report

#### *Fly tipping*

- August to November 2014: 6 reports, which included 3 formal warning letters issued to domestic offenders
- Offences at Chatsworth Avenue accounted for 3 of the formal warning letters sent
- Hotspots: None
- August to November 2013: 10 reports

#### *Derelict cycles*

- August to November 2014: 12
- Hotspots: None
- August to November 2013: 19

#### *Needle finds*

- August to November 2014: None
- Hotspots: None
- August to November 2013: 7

### **Newnham**

#### *Abandoned vehicles*

- August to November 2014: 1 report, which included 1 vehicle not on site following inspection
- Hotspots: None
- August to November 2013: 8 reports

#### *Fly tipping*

- August to November 2014: 2 reports, which included 2 requests for waste transfer documentation from trade offenders
- Hotspots: None
- August to November 2013: 9 reports

### *Derelict cycles*

- ❑ August to November 2014: 4
- ❑ Hotspots: None
- ❑ August to November 2013: 6

### *Needle finds*

- ❑ August to November 2014: None
- ❑ Hotspots: None
- ❑ August to November 2013: None

## **Market**

### *Abandoned vehicles*

- ❑ August to November 2014: 0 reports
- ❑ Hotspots: None
- ❑ August to November 2013: 2 reports

### *Fly tipping*

- ❑ August to November 2014: 16 reports, which included
  - 2 formal warning letters issued to domestic offenders
  - 2 formal warning letters issued to trade offenders
  - 5 requests for waste transfer documentation from trade offenders
- ❑ Offences at Miltons Walk accounted for 2 of the formal warning letters sent
- ❑ Hotspots: Miltons Walk (4).
- ❑ August to November 2013: 36 reports

### *Derelict cycles*

- ❑ August to November 2014: 24
- ❑ Hotspots: None
- ❑ August to November 2013: 41

### *Needle finds*

- ❑ August to November 2014: 3
- ❑ Hotspots: None
- ❑ August to November 2013: 18

## **5 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- ❑ Address alcohol related violent crime and ASB
- ❑ Tackle cycle theft
- ❑ Address a range of road safety issues, including parking, inconsiderate cycling and driving.