

Neighbourhood profile update Cambridge City West/Central Neighbourhood

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Creating a safer
Cambridgeshire



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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 January 2016 to May 2016, compared to a previous like reporting period (August 2015 to December 2015) and the same reporting period in 2015; 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 11 February 2016, the committee recommended adopting the following priorities:

- Continuation with licensed premises enforcement visits
- Violent crime in the city centre
- Traffic junction enforcement (all road users)
- Cycle theft

The Neighbourhood Action Group assigned the actions to be taken and the lead officers for each of the priorities. The tables below summarise the actions taken and the current situation.

Continuation with licensed premises enforcement visits	
Objective	To continue with enforcement visits to licensed premises
Action Taken	Cambridge police's licensing officer has worked with city council partners to address any emerging issues in this area. This has included an increase in weekend licensing visits at key times and follow-up visits following incidents at premises to offer support, and advice as appropriate. The licensing officer, supported by the local PCSOs, has been proactive in engaging with licensed premises, including those with off-licences, on the run up to the significant events such as the traditional student gatherings on the green spaces, Strawberry and Midsummer Fairs.
Current Situation	To be advised at the meeting.
Lead Officer	Sergeants Kevin Misik and Ian Wood, Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Violent crime in the city centre	
Objective	To continue to tackle alcohol-related violent crime in the city centre
Action Taken	Over this recording period we have continued to work to address the issue of alcohol related violent crime and ASB in the night time economy. Operation Connect, our weekly response to policing the city's night time economy at the weekend, continues to ensure that there are additional resources available to deal with the increased footfall and high profile events. The Connect patrols have involved working with partners from the city council, SIA-licensed door staff and the Street Pastors. In recent weeks, we

	<p>have seen additional staff, including local officers from the West/Central team, conducting patrols to ensure that people are able to enjoy, or avoid if they prefer, the Euro 2016 tournament.</p> <p>Whilst the team's engagement with the street life community is a core function, there has been an increase in the presence of street drinkers and beggars in the evenings, leading to increased calls for service. In particular, we have focused on a problematic individual who has caused issues and been intimidating, particularly towards the Street Pastors. Some effective work by officers has led to this offender being given 18 weeks in prison for a series of public order offences, as well as being given a Criminal Behaviour order to address his future behaviour.</p>
Current Situation	<p>Violent crime over this period shows a reduction. The trend for violent crime elsewhere in the city is showing an increase in recorded violence, but a reduction in serious assaults. Professionals working within the night time economy (SIA-licensed door staff, police and A&E staff at Addenbrooke's) are generally reporting that there are fewer incidents. Cambridge remains a popular place for people to visit in the evening and so we cannot be complacent and will continue to seek to drive down the level of incidents.</p>
Lead Officers	<p>Sergeants Kevin Misik and Ian Wood, Cambridgeshire Constabulary</p>

Traffic junction enforcement (all road users)	
Objective	To promote and improve road safety for all users
Action Taken	<p>This has been tackled as part of the wider road safety work that the West/Central team supported by the wider constabulary has been carrying out during the reporting period.</p> <p>The Community Speedwatch has grown and is now effective in a range of areas across the city and the West Central area is well represented. Laser speed enforcement has been conducted at a number of locations with the area with a variety of results.</p> <p>Concerns have been raised regarding the parking of taxis throughout the area, which in turn causes issues for the other road users. We are working with the Council's licensing team as we recognise the need for the ready availability of taxis, particularly in the night time economy, but cannot condone parking which causes an obstruction for cyclists or drivers.</p>

	The PCSO's have continued to provide a presence at the major junctions within the area, which has served to promote appropriate use of the junctions and the red cycling boxes at them. Enforcement levels have been low as a high visibility jacket tends to make drivers focus a bit more. We are keen to work towards making the roads safe for all users, targeting specific offenders rather than any one group of users.
Current Situation	This work continues and the number of people involved in Speedwatch grows.
Lead Officer	Sergeants Kevin Misik and Ian Wood, Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Cycle theft	
Objective	To tackle cycle theft in the Central & West areas
Action Taken	<p>Over the recording period, we have had a number of successes with persistent cycle thieves who have been committing a large amount of crime across the West/Central area of the city. They are currently on court bail awaiting sentencing. As well as taking enforcement action we have made an application to the court for a Criminal Behaviour Order to impose conditions on one of the offenders in a hope of reducing their current criminal behaviour.</p> <p>As well as the work around the offenders, the West/Central team has been carrying out targeted patrolling of vulnerable locations with the area. We have been working with a number of partners within the University of Cambridge to prevent further offences and where possible to detect offences that have happened.</p> <p>We have also been working toward passing a strong cycle crime prevention message out to key location and events. This is in conjunction with work within the second hand cycle sector.</p>
Current Situation	Cycle crime has always made up a significant volume of the overall crime in the city and the West/Central area sees the highest volume. There are a number of cases ongoing which we hope to be able to report on at the meeting.
Lead Officer	Sergeant Ian Wood, Cambridgeshire Constabulary

3 PRO-ACTIVE WORK & EMERGING ISSUES

Cambridgeshire Constabulary

The key themes for West/Central have been described above – night time economy, road safety and cycle theft.

We have had emerging issues (such as a spree of graffiti offences and some youth disorder in the city centre) which we have focussed on and which have now stopped. Whilst we have not always been able to detect the offences, our focus has brought a stop to them.

We have seen an increase in thefts from vehicles during the period; a number of arrests have been made and some prosecutions are ongoing. The offences fall into two categories: opportunist thefts where drivers have left valuables on display, and targeted thefts from vans belonging to tradesmen, usually committed during the daytime. We have spent a lot of time visiting the sites across the area and trying to raise awareness with those involved in the construction business locally.

The summer sees an influx in tourists and overseas students; we will continue to provide high visibility policing in the city centre to ensure those that are living, working or visiting the city feel safe and we reduce opportunities for crime.

Cambridge City Council

The Safer Communities team has been liaising closely with the police and homelessness agencies to tackle problematic rough sleeping and begging in various locations, including the City centre. Persistent beggars or rough sleepers have been referred to the City Council's multi-agency task and target meeting for regular planning about their support needs and their progress when engaging with support services. Where appropriate, enforcement action for the most problematic individuals is also considered.

Council officers from Safer Communities team and Housing Advice have carried out two begging patrols, where they have engaged with beggars warning that begging is illegal and will not be tolerated in the City, at the same time informing them of the support available. They also gave individuals information cards with a map detailing the locations of support services. Police and Street Outreach staff supported the patrols, and were on hand if any immediate enforcement or support was required.

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	Jan 16 – May 16	13	35	252	13	1	72	354	235	96	555	1,626	533
		Aug 15 – Dec 15	30	56	261	15	4	40	357	217	110	554	1,644	449
		Jan 15 – May 15	23	77	279	7	3	36	348	243	102	550	1,668	432
WARDS	Castle	Jan 16 – May 16	3	7	19	1	1	12	39	2	8	30	122	54
		Aug 15 – Dec 15	13	13	21	1	2	21	32	0	18	32	153	42
		Jan 15 – May 15	8	19	13	1	0	11	31	0	16	24	123	43
	Newnham	Jan 16 – May 16	5	10	11	1	0	49	48	2	11	36	173	32
		Aug 15 – Dec 15	9	3	8	2	0	12	57	3	7	41	142	38
		Jan 15 – May 15	6	17	7	0	2	12	27	3	9	43	126	32
	Market	Jan 16 – May 16	5	18	222	11	0	11	267	231	77	489	1,331	447
		Aug 15 – Dec 15	8	40	232	12	2	7	268	214	85	481	1,349	369
		Jan 15 – May 15	9	41	259	6	1	13	290	240	77	483	1,419	357

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

- The previous priorities are all valid and may be still appropriate, but they are also long-term issues.

- We would welcome the views of the Committee.