

# Neighbourhood profile update Cambridge City East 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 the six months of June 2016 to November 2016, compared to the previous six months (December 2015 to May 2016) and the same six months in 2015 (June 2015 to November 2015); and
- Information provided by the Safer Neighbourhood Policing team and the City Council's Safer Communities team.

## 2 CURRENT PRIORITIES

At the East Area Committee meeting of 07 July 2016, the committee recommended adopting the following priorities:

- Continue to target the supply of controlled drugs;
- Continue to target street based anti-social behaviour (ASB) in and around Mill Road; and
- Retain speed checks

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

<b>Continue to target the supply of controlled drugs</b>	
<b>Objective</b>	To continue with the work against the supply of controlled drugs. Our strategy is to identify and prosecute offenders, and to safeguard the vulnerable individuals and areas in the community.
<b>Action Taken</b>	<p><b><u>STATISTICAL ANALYSIS</u></b></p> <p>According to CrimeFile (our Crime recording system), drug offences have accounted for <u>just over 3% of all net crime</u> recorded in the east of the City since the last area committee meeting (66 drug offences out of 1755 recorded in the East City area). Further scrutiny of our custody records then goes on to suggest that 54 Cambridge residents have been arrested for drug offences during this same period. These offences range from ‘simple possession’ to ‘cultivation of cannabis’ and ‘possession with intent to supply’ but only include instances where a person has been physically brought into custody – out of custody disposals (such as penalty notices, fines and summons) are not included – so this figure is likely to be much higher.</p> <p>One of the (many) inferences you can draw from these figures is that officers are continuing to robustly address drug offences.</p> <p><b><u>ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY</u></b></p> <p>Since restructuring in September 2016, ‘Neighbourhood Policing’ at Parkside has now evolved into two different themes of work:</p>

- 'Partnership teams' have been focussed on rehabilitating drug users and working with support agencies, such as Inclusion and the Drug and Alcohol Action Team. These teams are also continuing to focus on individuals who harbour drug dealers (under the 'Operation Hexman' mantra). Those residents who are legitimately vulnerable are supported, and those who permit access for their personal gain are prosecuted and their housing providers informed. Local PCSOs continue to monitor and engage with these individuals and addresses, and will proactively respond to any new intelligence received where appropriate.
- 'Prevention teams' are our proactive/enforcement officers: they have been seeking out the drug dealers and mapping their distribution networks. Although we have recently experienced an increase in group-related violence, a number of key arrests have been made and weapons have been taken off the street. These teams adopt an intelligence-led/proactive approach to this work and continue to yield some significant custodial sentences (and cash seizures) in Court; most of which are regularly covered by the local media. These officers also conduct prison visits of known nominals, and have a good line of communication with other forces, to ensure fluid information-sharing.

In addition to these two bespoke teams, all frontline officers in Cambridge are expected to brief themselves at the beginning of every tour of duty; to ensure they know where to focus their patrols, and which nominals are engaged in crime and/or ASB.

### **DRUG HOTSPOTS**

We continue to conduct enhanced visible patrols in the areas known for drug use, in a bid to disrupt and deter this activity. Recent examples have been Mill Road cemetery, Coleridge recreation ground and various public toilets across the east of the City. We make good use of our partner agency contacts to ensure any drug paraphernalia is cleared promptly, and officers now have keys to gain entry to the majority of most public toilets

	<p>across the City. We are also able to make use of re-deployable CCTV cameras as and when appropriate.</p> <p><b><u>PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT</u></b>  Our resident drug expert witness (Gav Guy) has been busy working with local schools and youth groups; warning children, parents and staff about the very real dangers of drug use. These inputs are extremely informative, and complement our schools engagement strategy. We also continue to promote our work via social media and actively encourage the public to report any suspicious activity via 101 (non-emergencies), 999/112 (emergencies) or anonymously via <a href="http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org">www.crimestoppers-uk.org</a>.</p>
<b>Current Situation</b>	<p>This is a work in progress. Drug use is a national problem and we are not at significant variance with any other comparable city. Although we have achieved some extremely positive results over recent months, drug dealing unfortunately remains a lucrative and attractive pastime for certain individuals in the community. Our proactive work will continue, and will be closely supported by our preventative and rehabilitative work.</p>
<b>Lead Officer</b>	<p>Sergeant Ian Wood, Cambridgeshire Constabulary</p>

<b>Continue to target street based anti-social behaviour (ASB) in and around Mill Road</b>	
<b>Objective</b>	<p>Target street-drinking and alcohol-related ASB in and around Mill Road</p>
<b>Action Taken</b>	<p><b><u>STATISTICAL ANALYSIS</u></b>  Since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016 to the current time of writing (12<sup>th</sup> December), roughly 25% of all calls to the police concerning Mill Road have been attributed to the streetlife community; so this is clearly an area of business that we still need to be focussing on.</p> <p>Further to Sgt Norden's observations back in July, although the City has experienced an unprecedented increase in the streetlife community over recent months, the volume of calls for service has remained relatively stable.</p> <p><b><u>ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY</u></b>  We continue to conduct high visibility patrols in key ASB hotspots, in a bid to disrupt and deter crime and anti-</p>

social behaviour. Officers now routinely patrol with body-worn video cameras and are expected to obtain details of any ASB perpetrators (if they are unfamiliar with them), so we can keep up-to-date with this transient community. Dispersal notices are being routinely issued (where appropriate), and summons files for begging offences are submitted on a regular basis. Our information sharing protocol with the Council's Safer Communities team is much improved and we continue to work together to address the most problematic nominals. Furthermore, licenced premises' checks take place on a regular basis and any underperforming venues are managed on the Cardiff model (a traffic-light system which documents how licensed premises should be responsibly managing the sale of alcohol). We also routinely support the Border Enforcement Agency and Trading Standards with checks in this area.

Thanks to the ongoing engagement work conducted by our streetlife officers and partner agencies, we have a good overview of who is socialising where, and are slowly starting to understand why they participate in anti-social behaviour. A good recent example of this was a male with mental health issues whose behaviour was rapidly deteriorating, resulting in multiple offences being committed in the Mill Road area. Rather than prosecute him for a series of low-level public order and drug offences, we sought support from the mental health team and managed to find him the appropriate medical intervention that he desperately needed.

### **ASB HOTSPOTS**

The Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) covering the area continues to be a proportionate and effective remedy to ASB. We are also working with partner agencies to address the problems caused by homeless people sleeping at the rear of Parkside Pool. We acknowledge that Mill Road cemetery is still a magnet for anti-social behaviour, due to its secluded location. In addition to our targeted patrols, we have worked with the Council Asset Development Officer and offered a free site security survey of the area; and have given advice about appropriate security measures and signage. Our advice is now being reviewed by the Diocese, but we understand that locking the site overnight is

	<p>(unfortunately) not a viable option.</p> <p>As previously mentioned, officers now have keys to the majority of public toilets across the city and will routinely check these whilst out on patrol, if it is believed they are being used by the homeless community and/or for drug taking. Officers are also equipped with the contact details of partner agencies that can facilitate a quick clean of the area as and when necessary.</p> <p><b><u>PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT</u></b></p> <p>Cambridge is an extremely welcoming and supportive City to the homeless community, but unfortunately this fact is clearly being exploited by a few dishonest individuals. We continue to make use of local and social media to promote our efforts surrounding ASB relating to the streetlife community and officers have been tasked to advise members of the public about alternative means to support the streetlife community, rather than giving them money. We have devised promotional material in a bid to combat begging. We also actively endorse and promote the City Council's <a href="#">Cambridge Street Aid</a> initiative.</p>
<b>Current Situation</b>	Ongoing. Thanks to the hard work of local streetlife officers and partner agencies, we have a very good understanding of which nominals are causing these issues and (most importantly) we have strategies in-place to hold them to account for their actions. We will continue to support the legitimately vulnerable, and are making best use of our community contacts to achieve this goal.
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Sergeant Ian Wood, Cambridgeshire Constabulary

<b>Retain speed checks</b>	
<b>Objective</b>	Promote road safety
<b>Action Taken</b>	<p><b><u>STATISTICAL ANALYSIS</u></b></p> <p>Since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016 to the current time of writing (12<sup>th</sup> December), officers have responded to 217 road-related incidents in the east of the City. These incidents range from road traffic collisions, parking issues and highway obstructions, and account for less than 2% of all net calls received (9361). However, this does not include the proactive stops that officers make and does not take into account any traffic offence reports or summons issued.</p>

We now routinely make use of 'traffic monitoring data boxes' to monitor average speeds, when a suspected speeding hotspot is highlighted to us. One pertinent example was Devonshire Road back in mid-July, where 275 vehicles were scanned during the course of a mid-week day, of which 19% were found to be speeding.

On 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016, a Community Speedwatch operation was conducted in Tenison Road where the average speed recorded was 26mph; 81 vehicles were checked, and only 1 was caught speeding.

This information corroborates the County Council's road traffic data figures and suggests that speeding is often not quite as prevalent as the public perceive, mainly due to traffic congestion in the City.

### **ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY**

**SOCIAL/LOCAL MEDIA:** We continue to promote our road safety activities through social and local media where appropriate, and are constantly seeking to promote the Community Speedwatch scheme (see below). As part of our schools engagement plan, we are able to direct students, parents and staff to the Council's preferred cycle training provider (Outspoken) in a bid to promote road safety and hazard perception skills to our new, current and future road users.

**COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH:** We continue to run Community SpeedWatch operations across the City, and would actively encourage members of the public to enrol; we provide the training and kit – all we require is your time. The 'Community SpeedWatch' scheme remains one of the most effective remedies for combatting speeding vehicles, for two reasons:

- 1) It provides a very visible reassurance that local residents and police care about road safety, and
- 2) It usually enables us to manage people's perceptions and expectations about the incidence of speeding in a specific area (either through data monitoring or operations themselves)

For further information, please see our website:  
<https://www.cambs.police.uk/roadsafety/speedwatch/>



**JOINT PATROLS WITH BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE:** We have an excellent working relationship with British Transport Police and have worked together on a number of projects, including cycle marking workshops and addressing parking issues. Although speed enforcement is not their usual remit, we will continue to address any anti-social road use in and around the curtilage of the railway station.

**SPECIALIST SUPPORT:** Our Roads Policing Unit colleagues are engaged in a number of national road safety schemes across the County (such as 'Operation Close Pass' and 'Don't Text and Drive'); they frequently conduct patrols in Cambridge and make Driving Improvement Scheme referrals where appropriate. We also have good links with the Council's Road Safety Team and Parking Enforcement Team, and regularly make referrals and engage in correspondence about common traffic issues. Furthermore, we have a bespoke Traffic Management Officer who regularly advises us about legislative issues surrounding amendments to traffic regulation orders and signage. Rather than responding reactively to road safety issues, we are now 'thinking outside the box' to see if there is potential to amend the local infrastructure in traffic hotspot areas. Although we are not the lead agency in these matters, a good example of this was when we referred Cllr Taylor to the 'Local Highways Improvement Initiative' aimed at improving parking in the Queen Edith's ward.

### **ENFORCEMENT STRATEGY**

We continue to conduct patrols of established accident hotspots during key times, as and when we are able to. These patrols are balanced against competing demands at the time and are evidence-led, and I have ensured that officers on my team are trained in the use of speed detection devices.

In line with ACPO guidance, we do not routinely enforce 20mph zones as they were intended to be 'self-enforcing' by the local authorities when they were introduced (usually achieved through the use of traffic-calming measures). A more detailed overview of the national police stance on this contentious matter can be found here (<http://www.roadsafetygb.org.uk/news/2709.html>),

	though we will look at requests on an evidenced case-by-case basis. When dealing with members of the public for traffic offences, our preference is to educate road users in the first instance (usually via a referral through to the Driver Improvement Scheme), and then prosecute persistent or obviously dangerous behaviour.
<b>Current Situation</b>	Road safety is everyone's responsibility and we will continue to enforce any breaches of the law as and when we are able to.
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Sergeant Ian Wood, Cambridgeshire Constabulary

### 3 PRO-ACTIVE WORK & EMERGING ISSUES

#### Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Since the last committee meeting, we have experienced a noticeable change in demand for certain areas of business in the East of the City:

- **Safeguarding Vulnerable Residents:** Although we cannot name specific individuals, we have been busy addressing a huge volume of crime and ASB relating to a few key individuals who have experienced a deterioration in their mental health and/or increase in their drug and alcohol dependency. Work is ongoing with partner agencies to address these cases, which would otherwise have a significant impact on the local community. We would request that this is considered as a priority for the next meeting please, as it ties-in with the **Mill Road ASB** theme.
- **Road Safety:** This is an ongoing issue. We would request that a more generic 'Road Safety' priority is adopted, so we can evidence the other areas of work we are routinely engaged in, rather than simply focussing on speed enforcement.
- **ASB on the CB1 development** (which has minor ramifications on the East as it falls within the purview of the South area) has now significantly reduced, following our targeted patrols of the area. We will be de-escalating our response to this issue, in the absence of any further reports.
- **Violent crime and theft:** The incidence of violent crime and generic theft in the East of the City has increased over the past calendar year, though this is largely attributable to a shift in our Home Office Crime Recording Standards. We would welcome the opportunity to highlight our work in this arena, if deemed appropriate.

#### Cambridge City Council

The Safer Communities team has been involved in a number of serious ASB cases in the East and action has been taken to address this, including the servicing of three Notices of Seeking Possession, one injunction, one tenancy undertaking and three Acceptable Behaviour Contracts. In addition to this, we applied to the court for possession of a property because of continued allegations of nuisance behaviour. The court case has been adjourned but in the meantime very strict conditions have been put in place to help to protect the wider community.

The team continues to liaise with police and support agencies in order to tackle rough sleeping and associated anti-social behaviour and drug use in East Road and St Matthew's Street garages. A number of the garages were rented out and had been broken into by rough sleepers and/or drug users. There was significant fire damage to one occupied garage, highlighting the

potential risk to occupants. In addition, there was also a significant risk to legitimate garage users who reported needles and drug paraphernalia amongst their possessions. As a result, the Safer Communities team secured possession of the garages and nine injunctions to prevent individuals using the garages as a place to sleep or use drugs were served. All the individuals were offered support with securing alternative accommodation.

In order to support the streetlife community to move away from a street-based lifestyle, the Safer Communities team, in partnership with colleagues in Housing Advice, has developed a new campaign called Cambridge Street Aid. Launched in November, it is a long term initiative to encourage members of the public to consider donating their spare change to Cambridge Street Aid, rather than giving directly to people on the streets. All money raised will be spent on helping people leave the streets behind. Support workers will be able to bid into the fund on behalf of their clients. More information about Cambridge Street Aid and how to donate can be found at [www.cambscf.org.uk/cambridge-street-aid.html](http://www.cambscf.org.uk/cambridge-street-aid.html)

Members of the Safer Communities team have also delivered training on the Prevent agenda to councillors from the East area and Safety Zone sessions to children from the east of the city.

## 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 East</b>	Jun 16 – Nov 16	97	60	340	19	15	123	359	165	150	427	1,755	721
		Dec 15 – May 16	56	73	283	19	8	93	292	116	156	394	1,490	640
		Jun 15 – Nov 15	90	79	252	6	16	62	322	118	150	368	1,463	623
<b>WARDS</b>	<b>Abbey</b>	Jun 16 – Nov 16	22	18	119	5	5	41	61	41	36	124	472	215
		Dec 15 – May 16	23	25	114	6	3	37	44	29	61	101	443	168
		Jun 15 – Nov 15	23	20	89	2	6	23	50	42	44	97	396	171
	<b>Coleridge</b>	Jun 16 – Nov 16	22	21	62	4	2	27	39	39	32	86	334	149
		Dec 15 – May 16	10	20	64	4	3	17	40	18	29	94	299	102
		Jun 15 – Nov 15	12	21	54	0	3	14	46	7	32	78	267	106
	<b>Petersfield</b>	Jun 16 – Nov 16	34	10	99	6	3	25	206	53	36	152	624	246
		Dec 15 – May 16	10	15	59	7	0	19	159	44	39	134	486	250
		Jun 15 – Nov 15	33	23	82	3	2	12	182	52	48	122	559	250
	<b>Romsey</b>	Jun 16 – Nov 16	19	11	60	4	5	30	53	32	46	65	325	111
		Dec 15 – May 16	13	13	46	2	2	20	49	25	27	65	262	120
		Jun 15 – Nov 15	22	15	27	1	5	13	44	17	26	71	241	96

## **5 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- ❑ Safeguarding vulnerable residents (including Mill Road ASB)
- ❑ Road safety
- ❑ Combatting violent crime and theft