

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 the seven months of November 2016 to May 2017, compared to the previous seven months (April 2016 to October 2016) and the same seven months last year (November 2015 to May 2016); 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 07 December 2016, the committee recommended adopting the following priorities:

- Issues (e.g. anti-social behaviour) relating to rough sleeping and working in partnership with other agencies to address these;
- Violence within the city centre; and
- Anti-social behaviour of road users.

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.

Issues (e.g. anti-social behaviour) relating to rough sleeping and working in partnership with other agencies to address these.	
Objective	Address issues relating to rough sleeping and working in partnership with other agencies.
Action Taken	<p>Joint action has been taken on this priority by Cambridge City Council and Cambridgeshire Constabulary.</p> <p><u>Cambridge City Council</u> The Safer Communities team has worked closely with the Lion Yard management and partner agencies in order to deal with the encampment on Fishers Square which was occupied by rough sleepers. A combination of support and low-level enforcement was utilised to encourage them to accept the accommodation made available to them. Support was given to assist them with the storage and removal of their belongings. The individuals have now been accommodated and the area has been cleared.</p> <p><u>Cambridgeshire Constabulary</u> The general themes that get reported in the central ward are: 1. Complaints from business premises regarding rough sleeping and begging, and associated belongings in shop doorways. 2. Reports of rough sleeping and begging in car parks close to pay machines. As part of our wider street-life engagement strategy, officers routinely engage with persons found begging or sleeping rough in the city centre, signposting them to supportive agencies. Persistent, disruptive individuals are reported for offences and local city officers are seeking and secured additional sanctions</p>

	<p>at court, such as Criminal Behaviour Orders, against problematic repeat offenders under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act.</p> <p>Officers routinely deploy to the city centre early in the morning to engage with rough sleepers, checking on their welfare prior to requesting them to move away from shop entrances and fire exits, to reduce their impact on local businesses. Beggars who position themselves next to pay machines in car parks are, again, proportionally dealt with by police.</p> <p>Environmental Visual Audits (EVAs) have been carried out by the Community Safety Officer. These are an excellent opportunity for agencies to work together to tackle an issue. This has proved effective in Cambridge, most recently to help to tackle the problems relating to London drug dealers and homeless issues in and around bin stores in residential areas. Some recent EVAs have been conducted with the City Council's Safer Communities team and an Enforcement Officer.</p>
<p>Current Situation</p>	<p><u>Cambridge City Council</u></p> <p>The Safer Communities team continues to receive daily complaints about the level of begging in the city. Where an individual is rough sleeping, we are working with the support agencies to tackle this issue and assist the individual with accommodation; however many of the people who beg have accommodation. Through the multi-agency Street Life Working Group, we are currently working with 7 people who beg that are particularly persistent and not engaging with the support available. Four of these people have accommodation. The remaining 3 are refusing options available because they feel the need to beg to fund their addictions; however, we will continue to work with them to achieve solutions.</p> <p>We are aware that people who beg are targeting members of the public picnicking on the green spaces at lunchtime. We plan to promote Cambridge Street Aid during these times in order to encourage the public not to give money on the streets. We are also promoting Street Aid at many public events in the city. We are attending Pubwatch meetings to raise awareness within the night time economy and as a result the Kuda nightclub is keen to help us promote Street Aid to their student customers and will put information in their Freshers' Packs.</p> <p><u>Cambridgeshire Constabulary</u></p> <p>There is still a steady volume of calls for service in the area, as (especially in the warmer months) we see an increase in rough</p>

	sleepers and beggars. Police will continue to conduct directed patrols in this area and work in partnership with agencies, including the newly-appointed Cambridge City Council Street Life Enforcement Officer to reduce the amount of rough sleepers within the city. Police will ensure robust but fair enforcement action within the city centre, thus reducing the frequency of associated anti-social behaviour.
Lead Officer	Lynda Kilkelly, Cambridge City Council / Sergeant Kevin Misik, Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Violence within the city centre	
Objective	Address violence within the city centre
Action Taken	<p>Continued crime prevention, vulnerability and personal safety advice is being delivered to university students and international colleges by the Community Safety Officer and the University Liaison Officer, to facilitate the safety of students within the city.</p> <p>Operation Connect is the police's ongoing response to managing the city centre's weekend Night Time Economy (NTE). Engagement with partnership agencies and other significant NTE personnel and businesses is key to the success of this operation. Up to date briefings provide other NTE partners with relevant information ensuring there is joined up working. The aim of this operation is to reduce alcohol-related violent crime and anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Continued police engagement with licensed premises is carried out to ensure that their businesses work towards their licensing objectives; one being prevention of crime and disorder. The Police Licensing Officer and Cambridge City Council's Enforcement Officers conduct joint visits to licensed premises to ensure compliance with licence conditions and provide relevant advice.</p>
Current Situation	The above preventative work will continue to provide advice to assist in reducing the frequency of violent incidents.
Lead Officers	Sergeant Kevin Misik, Cambridgeshire Constabulary
Anti-social behaviour of road users	
Objective	Address the anti-social behaviour of road users.
Action Taken	<p>Our Community Speedwatch scheme is still an option for residents in Cambridge and we would welcome any enquiries about what this entails and how local residents can get involved (www.cambs.police.uk/roadsafety/speedwatch).</p> <p>This work also includes the installation of 'Traffic Data Monitoring' equipment in reported hot-spot areas, which helps</p>

	us to respond to and analyse community concerns. Whilst out on patrol, officers and PCSOs have been tasked with dealing with cyclists, witnessed disobeying road signs or using their bikes in an anti-social manner. Main areas of concern are on the one way system in the city centre: Sydney Street, Trinity Street, St. John's Street and Market Street. Options available for dealing with offending parties are by way of education or issuing a fixed penalty ticket.
Current Situation	We will continue dealing with anti-social road users on a 'when needed' basis, but we would suggest that this priority can now be discontinued in lieu of a different priority.
Lead Officer	Sergeant Kevin Misik, Cambridgeshire Constabulary

3 PRO-ACTIVE WORK & EMERGING ISSUES

Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Street-based anti-social behaviour: As mentioned in the report there continues to be issues of this type. If this is adopted as a priority, officers would be completing enhanced patrols of hot-spot areas to address these issues.

Road safety: This work continues within the core business of the City Centre team. If this is adopted as a priority, this work would continue to be core business for the city centre team and would be supported by work from the wider constabulary.

Youth-related anti-social behaviour: Historically, there have been issues over the summer period within the Market ward with youth-related ASB. If adopted as a priority, this would take the form of increased patrols around highlighted areas and locations, for example the central library.

Alcohol-related violence and disorder: Historically, there have been issues of disorder within the night time economy. If adopted as a priority, this would consist of patrols to address these issues and partnership working to address ongoing issues.

Taxi issues: There have been a number of reports regarding issues around people parking inappropriately within taxi ranks and taxi drivers who are breaching road markings and other issues. If adopted as a priority, this work would consist of multi-agency working to address the issues as well as targeted high profile patrols.

Licensing issues: There are a large number of licensed premises in the city centre area. The appropriate management of these locations is vital to the creating a safe and pleasant city. If adopted as a priority, we would be able to work with our both statutory and no statutory parties to conduct visits to these premises to ensure compliance with the relevant licence conditions.

Cambridge City Council

The City Council has employed a new Public Realm Enforcement Officer who will work closely with partner agencies dealing with street-based ASB. The role involves attending begging and rough sleeping hotspots where there are complaints, giving warnings where necessary, gathering evidence for the relevant enforcement agency to take appropriate action, and signposting individuals to support agencies.

Since the City Council launched Cambridge Street Aid in November last year, over £15,000 has been donated with 14 applications for funding received from the homeless and street life community. The campaign has received very positive feedback from members of the public and the business community. We continue to promote the scheme as widely as possible. A promotional stall was set up in Lion Yard with the kind permission of Lion Yard management and raised £160 from passers-by. We have also attended a Pubwatch meeting to spread the word amongst the night time economy. This work is on-going and we welcome invitations to promote Street Aid.

We are looking into reports of ASB in and around the Study Inn, Castle Court (student accommodation) from noise associated with taxis collecting and dropping off students, students congregating outside the building causing a disturbance to other residents and littering. We will be working closely with partners to tackle this issue.

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	Nov 16 – May 17	19	25	444	5	4	76	145	3	39	97	456	104
		Apr 16 – Oct 16	15	25	416	1	3	81	148	7	38	126	488	155
		Nov 15 – May 16	17	28	365	4	2	78	129	5	28	100	431	112
WARDS	Castle	Nov 16 – May 17	12	10	23 (2 with injury)	3	1	39	76	2	19	49	234	62
		Apr 16 – Oct 16	5	15	26	0	1	27	73	4	15	51	217	92
		Nov 15 – May 16	8	15	27	1	2	25	52	2	15	47	194	66
	Newnham	Nov 16 – May 17	7	15	20 (3 with injury)	2	3	37	69	1	20	48	222	42
		Apr 16 – Oct 16	10	10	18	1	2	54	75	3	23	75	271	63
		Nov 15 – May 16	9	13	13	3	0	53	77	3	13	53	237	46
	Market	Nov 16 – May 17	8	61	401 (142 with injury)	19	1	29	643	351	112	740	2,365	795
		Apr 16 – Oct 16	12	24	370	13	8	15	494	260	115	700	2,011	632
		Nov 15 – May 16	8	27	325	16	2	16	342	305	111	692	1,844	597

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

There are 6 recommendations of which the Committee is asked to nominate their Top 3 for focus over the coming months.

(Further details on these recommendations are set out in Section 3)

- Street-based anti-social behaviour.
- Road safety.
- Youth-related anti-social behaviour.
- Alcohol-related violence and disorder.
- Taxi issues.
- Licensing issues.