

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 the five months of June 2018 to October 2018, compared to the previous five months (January 2018 to May 2018) and the same five months the previous year (June 2017 to October 2017); 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 5 July 2018, the committee recommended adopting the following priorities:

- Drug dealing, associated begging and anti-social behaviour; and
- Dangerous driving by coaches on Queen’s Road at key times on Saturdays.

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.

Drug dealing, associated begging and anti-social behaviour	
Objective	To deal with street-based anti-social behaviour across the Market ward.
Action Taken	<p><u>Overview</u> (Insp Paul Rogerson): Actions involve addressing symptoms of our city’s substance misuse problems. Police are a key stakeholder in the enforcement and prevention arm of a city-wide partnership responsibility to address this serious “causal factor” of crime and disorder. The updates provided are a small window into the wider prevention work being carried out across our city.</p> <p>Cambridge Community Safety Partnership (CSP) has two relevant priorities for 2018/19:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Safeguarding people against violence and exploitation; and □ Identifying and responding to vulnerable locations. <p>The police remains committed to investing resource primarily in tackling route causes with partners for long term gain, with a secondary focus on short term gains from enforcement. This approach is carefully balanced with our statutory duty to protect the most vulnerable, which in this case can often be those who cause communities the most harm. It is important to understand that the visible symptoms of substance misuse issues (homelessness, begging and ASB) are not necessarily best tackled using methods many members of the public might expect.</p> <p><u>Policing role and responsibilities</u> Sgt Mišík: Tactical plan holder PC Ritchie Ashmead: Problem solving lead PC Lee Nutbeam: Tactical lead</p>

City Centre Team: Operational actions are carried out by a wide variety of police officers and police staff (PCSOs)

Insp Paul Rogerson: reporting officer to the CSP

Updates

Strategic: As part of its plan to support the most vulnerable people and places, Cambridge CSP has commissioned a Market Ward Working Group which is to tackle ongoing themes aligned with:

- Retail;
- Leisure; and
- Street based ASB (which includes this priority).

A new geographical working area has been defined, aligned with that of the Greater Cambridge Partnership, recognising that identified themes, City Council and police's tactics are consistent over the same area. The area includes Mill Road and areas around the railway station.

Tactical (Sgt Mišík): As well as the high visibility work that is carried out by both the police and the City Council's Street Enforcement officers, there is a large amount of unseen work which is carried out to address the issues, and to support and redirect some of the vulnerable people who are engaged in this kind of behaviour. There is a regular Street Life Working Group meeting, which is made up of a number of different partners ranging from the police and City Council, to various other support and housing providers. The aim of this group is to address the needs of the most problematic individuals who are causing issues, and in turn this reduces the problems that they cause. If this engagement doesn't deal with the issues, then the enforcement agencies who are part of the group go on to discuss, and work in partnership to deal with, the problematic behaviour via a range of tactics. These tactics tend to fall into two groups, either those addressing problematic locations or those addressing individuals.

The work of this group is well embedded and chaired by City Council officers. There have been a number of successes in diverting people into support and accommodation, and thus reducing the street presence and the associated issues that they cause. As well as this group, there is another broader ranging working group that brings together key practitioners together which allows for the appropriate exchange of information and to allow us to understand what each other do

and how we can work together. This group allows for people to know who can help with their problems and to look into potential medium to long term solutions to the underlying problems.

Operational (Sgt Mišík): Problematic locations are addressed by a number of different measures ranging from the placement of temporary CCTV cameras by the City Council, to the use of police dispersal powers. There have been a number of notable successes with the use of these powers, for example one dispersal order led to 5 people being dispersed from an area which has been suffering from issues. One of the people came back and was arrested for breach of the order and sent to court. This highlights the importance of reporting issues. Whilst we may not attend every report, it helps us to use this community intelligence to target our work effectively.

As well as working around locations, we have carried out targeted work around individuals. Again, there are a number of tactical options that both we and the City Council are able to use to tackle issues, including civil injunctions which can be used to address behaviour which is anti-social but doesn't cross the line into criminal offences. At this time, the police are assisting the City Council's Safer Communities team in evidence gathering in relation to a number of individuals across the city. The work of the police around this is twofold: the team take robust enforcement action against highlighted offences ranging from begging to theft offences, and whilst doing this work, the team continues to build the evidence and apply for Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBOs) which can be used to address the problematic behaviour of the individual and provide respite for the public. Again there has been some headline successes with this kind of work, and a number of persons with CBOs have been handed short prison sentences for breaches. Underlying all of this work is the hope that our action will not only deal with the issues, but also encourage the person in question to seek and accept help and support.

As well as this, the community intelligence which is gathered from the public is reviewed and used to target the relevant enforcement work. There have been a number of significant arrests as a result of this type of intelligence, which has included seizures of large amounts of drugs and cash.

The City Centre team, in partnership with the City Council's

	<p>Safer Communities team, meet fortnightly to discuss and prioritise the actions of the City Centre team around these issues and to identify what actions we can take in partnership to address identified problematic individuals and locations.</p> <p>It is worth noting that when talking about visibility we are talking about not only officers out on patrol but also using a variety of online methods, such as Twitter and eCops, to highlight the work that is being carried out.</p>
Current situation	<p>This continues to be a key strand of the work carried out by the City Centre team. There are processes and plans in place to continue to assess and take action on the information received from the public.</p> <p>There is a need to understand how the information that the parties involved receive will be used and actioned. There is a fundamental difference between actionable information, which will see direct action, and community intelligence, which allows the agencies to build a more complete understanding of the issues and where the appropriate resources can be targeted to achieve the best results. Continued reporting of incidents and concerns allows us to build a more complete picture.</p> <p>There are also other issues that we are not able to solely affect, for example, the giving of money directly to people who are begging which, in a large number of cases, funds drug habits. This education work will be key in addressing the underlying issues that drive these issues.</p>
Lead Officers	Sergeant Kevin Mišík & Inspector Paul Rogerson, Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Dangerous driving by coaches on Queen's Road at key times on Saturdays	
Objective	To deal with issues caused by the high number of coaches on Queens Road.
Action Taken	<p>Having reviewed this action, the police request that a review is commissioned of the suitability and capacity of bus parking to support our City's tourism economy.</p> <p>The City Centre team has been briefed around this issue and officers have been patrolling the area at relevant times. Officers have, where appropriate, engaged with coach drivers to provide education and to deal with any issues encountered.</p> <p>Observations and feedback:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Problems identified do not constitute dangerous driving: a small number of obstruction offences have been enforced. Some symptoms of the current limited bus facilities do tend to lead, in a minority of cases, to hazardous situations on the affected roads, for example, bus drivers using a facility which is unfit for purpose. ❑ Bus parking is anecdotally suggested by bus drivers to be insufficient. ❑ Bus drivers also agree that many of the places used around the city are hazardous for them and their customers to use. ❑ Police patrols can be useful; it has formed part of the City Centre team's day to day tasks for many years. Use of police resources to "enforce" or "supervise safety" is not a fit and proper solution for the current risk, nor is it a sustainable long term solution. <p>It is respectfully requested that this matter is considered by the area committee as a current public safety risk which needs to be registered with the local authority and county council.</p>
Current Situation	As above.
Lead Officer	Inspector Paul Rogerson, Cambridgeshire Constabulary

3 PRO-ACTIVE WORK & EMERGING ISSUES

Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Night time road safety:

- ❑ Following Operation Astrigal, the City Centre team will be committing to regular road safety enforcement over the coming darker months.
- ❑ Events will seek to tackle statistically identified fatal and serious injury road traffic collisions, for example, no seat belts, no lights, jumping red lights, and mobile phone use.
- ❑ **The committee is asked to influence this work by making suggestions for locations which should be around junctions.**

Night time economy:

- ❑ The Street Pastor scheme is facing an uncertain future with current funding possibly coming to an end. A priority for the local partnership is to ensure this valuable scheme can continue.
- ❑ Operation Connect will continue to operate with the police working with CAMBAC and the street pastors over Christmas.
- ❑ There will be increased demand over Christmas on the local police team as footfall increases in the city.

Street-based drug enforcement:

The local team continues to adapt to drug-related issues from county lines and local dealers. The demand for drug use is closely linked to the street life community and goes hand in glove with ongoing work to:

- ❑ Reduce begging, ASB and homelessness;
- ❑ Reduce the harm to vulnerable in the street life community;
- ❑ Tackle the decreasing capability of businesses in The Grafton area to offer affective loss prevention; and
- ❑ Work with residents and ward councillors to increase confidence in the partnership and thus increase reporting.

Cambridge City Council

The City Council continues to Chair fortnightly multi-agency meetings where problematic and vulnerable street individuals are discussed. Police, accommodation providers and support agencies attend and agree action plans around the support of individuals and focus on hot-spot areas where the most reports are received.

The City Council has received numerous reports about rough sleeping, begging and drug-related activity in the Burleigh Street and Fitzroy Street area, in particular the pathway between Next and Starbucks. An ASB Officer and a PCSO visited businesses to gather information about their concerns and six individuals were identified as the most persistent and resistant to engaging. Injunction warning letters were given to a number of those individuals and they are no longer causing problems in that area. We have feedback from residents and businesses in the Grafton area that the situation has improved significantly since warning letters were issued. That said, the City Council is currently pursuing an injunction against one individual who is continuing to cause nuisance in spite of having accommodation and support available to them. We are aware that any targeted work in a specific area will potentially displace the issues elsewhere.

We are working closely with police and car park staff to deal with reports of drug-related activity in Grafton West Car Park and the side streets that lead to the Grafton Centre. Once we have identified individuals, we can consider the most appropriate course of action. New cashless payment machines, recently installed in the car parks may make it less lucrative to beg in those areas. We are also working with the police on tackling similar street-based ASB issues in Jordan's Yard and Park Street Car Park.

We reported, in the last area profile, that an additional street light was installed at the North Terrace end of Brunswick Terrace. The capital costs of the light came from the City Council's Safer City grant scheme, with revenue costs (electricity and maintenance) funded by the County Council. The light

became fully operational on 5 July. It is hoped that the new light will deter drug- and ASB-related activity in the area.

Cambridge Street Aid continues to grow and develop. The first two contactless donation terminals were launched on 19 July, one at Mandela House and one in the Visitor Information Centre. Four more terminals are in the pipeline. Members of the public can donate £3 with a single tap with their card or mobile. Since they were installed, approximately £630 has been raised. A Volunteer Co-ordinator has been recruited and will be in post soon: her role will be to recruit volunteers, to support the promotion of Street Aid and the contactless terminals, and to assist with public education around these issues. Representatives of Street Aid attended the City Council's Annual Volunteer Fair at the Guildhall and reported an overwhelming response from members of the public who attended and expressed an interest in supporting the scheme in some way.

4 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

CURRENT CRIME & ASB INCIDENT LEVELS BY WARD

Data currently unavailable, due to the implementation of a new IT system.

			Dwelling Burglary	Other Burglary	Violent Crime / *with injury	Robbery	Theft of Vehicle	Theft from Vehicle	Cycle Theft	Theft from Shop	Criminal Damage	Other Crime	TOTAL CRIME	TOTAL ASB	
AREA	City West/Central	Jun 18 – Oct 18			/ *										
		Jan 18 – May 18			/ *										
		Jun 17 – Oct 17			/ *										
WARDS	Castle	Jun 18 – Oct 18			/ *										
		Jan 18 – May 18			/ *										
		Jun 17 – Oct 17			/ *										
	Newnham	Jun 18 – Oct 18			/ *										
		Jan 18 – May 18			/ *										
		Jun 17 – Oct 17			/ *										
	Market	Jun 18 – Oct 18			/ *										
		Jan 18 – May 18			/ *										
		Jun 17 – Oct 17			/ *										

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

We seek views from this committee on those local issues that the police and partner agencies can work together to action and report on at the next committee meeting.