

# Neighbourhood profile update Cambridge City North 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<sup>1</sup>:

- Cambridgeshire Constabulary crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) incident data for the six months of May 2018 to October 2018, compared to the previous six months (November 2017 to April 2018) and the same six months last year (May 2017 to October 2017); and
- Information provided by the Safer Neighbourhood Policing team and the City Council's Safer Communities team.

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<sup>1</sup> CORA is no longer providing data for Section 4 of this report

## 2 CURRENT PRIORITIES

At the North Area Committee meeting of 21 June 2018, the committee recommended adopting the following priorities:

- ❑ Criminality in and around East Chesterton;
- ❑ County line drug dealing; and
- ❑ Summer and hot weather ASB in green and open spaces

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

<b>Criminality in and around East Chesterton</b>	
<b>Objective</b>	To tackle criminal and antisocial driving along Fen Road and Water Street and build public confidence.
<b>Action Taken</b>	<p>Proactive police work on this priority was initially undertaken in May 2018, through 11 targeted patrols during the month. Standing speed guns as well as marked and plain car patrols were utilised and residents engaged with. Section 59 markers were put on vehicles driving antisocially and offenders were reported for inconsiderate driving and driving with no insurance. Two vehicles were seized for having no insurance.</p> <p>Between June and August there was a period of less proactivity in this area owing to summer priorities. Since the beginning of September 2018, however, the Neighbourhood Police Team have been in Water Street and Fen Road twice a week: seizing offending vehicles, issuing tickets, points and fines to offenders and building up the intelligence picture. In this case, proactive work has produced better results than simply aiming to respond to incidents. Driving offences without injury or collision are often not graded as requiring immediate attendance by police control rooms and as such we found ourselves unable to catch offenders or capture useful information simply by attending incidents.</p> <p>Social media output through Facebook, Twitter and ECOPS, as well as resident engagement has improved. Bi-monthly police surgeries in Chesterton began in November at the Haymakers pub but will change location throughout the year ahead in order to be accessible and varied. The Partnership aims to improve the highlighting of its actions and continue this proactivity going</p>

	forward.
<b>Current Situation</b>	<p>Police reporting between 01 June – 21 November 2018 shows six calls in over this period relating to vehicles along Water Street, all bar one containing registration plates and descriptions, which is testament to the work of residents in spreading the news of what information police need to action driving offences. One of these reports led to a vehicle being seized owing to it being driven with no insurance. In Fen Road, we had five calls over the same period relating to dangerous driving, again with the majority containing full details of vehicles.</p> <p>The bottom line is that the problem of dangerous driving in Chesterton is not yet solved. Work is still needed by all partners and the community to curb people’s dangerous driving habits. A review of speed calming measures, improved education, engagement and visibility of all members of the Partnership is likely what is needed alongside the enforcement of driving offences.</p> <p><b>An update on the redeployable CCTV camera on Fen Road can be found in Section 3 of this report, under Cambridge City Council.</b></p>
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Inspector Paul Rogerson, Cambridgeshire Constabulary

<b>County line drug dealing</b>	
<b>Objective</b>	To understand and target local County lines drug dealing.
<b>Action Taken</b>	<p>Most police work around county lines is done by the Impact Team, rather than the Neighbourhood Police Team, which is the case across the County. Local neighbourhood teams feed in intelligence to assist the Impact Team in identifying problem areas. Intelligence is often gathered from key partners and the community.</p> <p>Partnership work with the City Council’s housing provider and other housing associations has allowed the eviction of a number of individuals known for drug dealing and linked to County lines issues over the past six months. Where information is received that drug dealing is occurring in the wider area other than a specific address, the Neighbourhood Police Team carry out plain clothes patrols in order to identify and catch offenders, although this is only successful if the dealing is frequent and regular. As a team, we have undertaken high visibility patrols in a number of hotspot areas.</p>

<b>Current Situation</b>	<p>An identified area of emerging street drug dealing is in the streets north of the Fort St George Bridge in West Chesterton. There have been a number of drug users, including but not limited to the street homeless, attending Belvoir Road, De Freville Avenue and the connected streets in order to buy drugs. There is a perception that this may increase other criminality such as burglary, making the community feel less safe in spite of the absence of an actual rise in crime.</p> <p>Work done by Impact and Neighbourhood Teams, along with partner organisations, is continuing. The Neighbourhood Police Team need help from the community in order to act, possibly through setting up a neighbourhood watch team, which has been identified as important to the residents in West Chesterton.</p> <p>Engagement with local hostels, including 222 Victoria Road and 116 Chesterton Road, has occurred with residents at hostels made aware that street dealing is being targeted.</p> <p>Residents of West Chesterton have requested advice from Police with regards to how they can best protect themselves and the security of their property. Kate Thwaites, Community Safety Officer (Police), will be leading on this.</p>
<b>Lead Officer</b>	<p>Inspector Paul Rogerson, Cambridgeshire Constabulary</p>

<b>Summer and hot weather ASB in green and open spaces</b>	
<b>Objective</b>	<p>Identify potential ASB hot spots over the summer months and use policing powers to reduce the impact on communities and local residents.</p>
<b>Action Taken</b>	<p>Hotspots over the summer were identified as Arbury Court and Dundee Close, based on calls to service.</p> <p>Dundee Close has had two separate ASB issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ The first, involving young adults in vehicles driving dangerously and parking up in order to use nitrous oxide canisters, litter and cause noise nuisance. We had five calls to service regarding this in June 2018. These incidents have been responded to both initially as calls for service come in, and in the longer term are being dealt with as part of the wider ASB issues in the Chesterton Area. Only one further call to service around this was received in September;</li> <li>□ The second issue is that groups of teenagers are congregating in the stairwells, littering and swearing. Foot</li> </ul>

	<p>patrols have been done in the area at relevant times, but no-one has been seen in the area. No further calls to service have been received since October.</p> <p>The problems in Arbury Court have involved large groups of young people aged 13-17 congregating in the area, especially in or near the library. Most of the group do not cause a problem except due to their sheer number and presence. However, a few core individuals have caused disruption to library staff and members of the public through intimidating behaviour, climbing on roofs, damaging trees and smoking cannabis. There has been one report of assault, which was dealt with as per police procedure. Where there has been no evidence of crimes being committed, police have responded to the ASB issues as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Regular patrols in the area by PCSOs and PCs, with the aim of identifying the main offenders, giving words of advice and trying to establish any underlying causes.</li> <li>□ Dispersal orders have been put in place, which were effective but can only be a temporary measure.</li> <li>□ Police have worked alongside the City Council's Safer Communities team to issue Acceptable Behaviour Contracts to the main perpetrators, with the understanding that if these are not adhered to the next step will be to look at Civil Injunctions.</li> <li>□ Romsey Mill has been contacted and are doing engagement work with the young people congregating in the area.</li> </ul> <p>There have also been some calls to service regarding ASB on Carlton Terrace and Campkin Road, which seems to be linked to the shops as they are a convenient place to congregate. Campkin Road and Carlton Terrace are routinely covered by neighbourhood patrols and, where appropriate, the shops have been spoken to and the licencing officer made aware of any issues.</p>
<p><b>Current Situation</b></p>	<p>There do not seem to be any current issues in Dundee Close, and any reports of dangerous or anti-social driving in the area will be covered by the Fen Road / Chesterton plan.</p> <p>Police are aware of Campkin Road and Carlton Terrace, however the issues here seem to be low-level and intermittent. We will continue to monitor the situation and take appropriate action, should the situation escalate.</p>

	<p>The issues at Arbury Court are on-going. This no-longer comes under the remit of summer ASB and we believe that this issue is driven more by lack of appropriate activities combined with peer pressure from a few key individuals. In some cases, this is likely exacerbated by lack of a suitable home environment. As such, police enforcement work needs to be supported by the community and other partner agencies including schools, the Council and Social Services.</p>
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Inspector Paul Rogerson, Cambridgeshire Constabulary

### **3 PRO-ACTIVE WORK & EMERGING ISSUES**

#### **Cambridgeshire Constabulary**

##### **Pro-active work**

The Neighbourhood Police Team continues to work proactively to identify potential offenders and vulnerable people in the north of the city involved in child sexual and criminal exploitation, domestic abuse, human trafficking and extremism. Where these issues come to light, officers make safeguarding referrals to the relevant specialist team and support any ongoing work where required, working with local organisations.

##### **Emerging issues**

Fen Road – this continues to be an issue and the Neighbourhoods Team will continue to take action against anti-social and dangerous drivers in the area. However, for any effective long term solution, broader partnership action is required and we recommend that this remains a priority. The police has powers, enabling them to deal with the day to day symptoms but these powers are not suited to combating the underlying problems.

Street based drug dealing – there appears to have been a shift in recent months with some elements of drug dealing moving out of private properties and becoming street based. This has a higher impact on local residents and has resulted in increased calls to police. Identified hot spots include the side streets off Victoria Road (Hilda Street and Fisher Street) and certain side streets off Chesterton Road between Elizabeth Way and Victoria Avenue (De Freville Avenue and Hamilton Road). The Neighbourhood Team is doing plain clothes and visible patrols to catch offenders and disrupt activity and is working with local residents to encourage reporting of issues and building an intelligence picture.

The problems in these areas are likely exacerbated by location; they are side streets, out of the way of normal police routes when responding to other incidents, and are easily accessible both from the centre of town and from residential areas, including some nearby hostels where a higher proportion of residents are likely to be drug dependent. The street dealing is low level and unlikely to cause any risk to members of the public, but the activity can cause significant nuisance to residents in the area. Police response will be primarily looking to disrupt the activity. Partnership working could make the environment less conducive to this kind of activity through, for example, improved street lighting and limiting cut-through for vehicles and pedestrians.

Arbury Court – Youth ASB at Arbury Court has been mentioned as part of Summer ASB in Section 2 above. However, this issue has continued and



escalated despite students returning to school. The issues are caused by a large group of young people (aged 12-17) with a core group of ring leaders. As detailed above, police are escalating the action taken against the more persistent offenders, but believe that criminalization should be the last resort. We believe that the ASB issues caused are due to a lack of other activities available to this group, likely exacerbated by lack of space or support at home. As such, the police has initiated contact with schools and partner agencies, with a view to providing alternative activities and spaces for the young people to congregate, and are aiming to place some responsibility on the parents to curb their children's behaviour where the worst offenders are involved. The Neighbourhood Team believes there is space for partner agencies to do more work around providing activities for young people in the area and offering support and advice both to the young people and, where needed, their families.

Road Safety – Cambridge City remains a relatively safe place to commute in by car or bicycle, with many roads adapted to cater for both. It is, however, like many other UK cities, congested at times and suffering from some roads not designed to carry either the volume or mixture of traffic. As roads become busier, the environment becomes more hostile for all commuters, with those using bicycles specifically often feeling more vulnerable. Recent killed or seriously injured and collision data tends to indicate the harm is most likely around our junctions owing to human error.

The Neighbourhood Police Team holds a road safety traffic plan that can be put into operation near any junction deemed to be dangerous. These will be identified through a combination of data analysis of reported accidents and through concerns voiced by local communities, area and interest groups, that will help us to identify areas where there are a high number of perceived near-misses. Partnership working is required both to identify appropriate locations for police action and to consider whether any additional measures, such as road layout or public awareness, are required to implement an effective long term solution.

## **Cambridge City Council**

The Safer Communities team has investigated a number of serious cases of nuisance behaviour across the north of the city. Some of these cases have required enforcement action to be pursued. A mandatory Notice of Seeking Possession was served on one Council tenant and we are currently waiting for a court date to be able to seek possession. Two Civil Injunctions were granted in court against perpetrators of significant nuisance behaviour. In two other serious court cases, tenancy enforcement action was pursued through the court and possession orders on suspended terms were granted in both instances.

The Safer Communities team has been working with the CCTV Manager and Balfour Beatty regarding the installation of a re-deployable CCTV camera to address anti-social issues relating to driving and associated behaviour focussing on Fen Road. We were advised that the existing columns in the area were unable to support a wiring spur for a camera and would need to be replaced. As there was no budget within the Private Finance Initiative with Balfour Beatty to fund this, a City Council Safer City grant application was submitted and approved to fund the column. A suitable location was selected at the beginning of August; however there were issues with regards this location and an alternative had to be sought. The camera was installed on 28 November and is in operation. It should be noted that this is to be a temporary camera and is not live-streamed to or continually monitored by the CCTV Control Room. Images from the camera will be downloaded to check for specific evidence in consultation with the police.

4 **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** (Data currently unavailable, due to the implementation of a new IT system)

**CURRENT CRIME & ASB INCIDENT LEVELS BY WARD**

			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
<b>AREA</b>	<b>City North</b>	May 18 – Oct 18			/ *									
		Nov 17 – Apr 18			/ *									
		May 17 – Oct 17			/ *									
<b>WARDS</b>	<b>Arbury</b>	May 18 – Oct 18			/ *									
		Nov 17 – Apr 18			/ *									
		May 17 – Oct 17			/ *									
	<b>East Chesterton</b>	May 18 – Oct 18			/ *									
		Nov 17 – Apr 18			/ *									
		May 17 – Oct 17			/ *									
	<b>King's Hedges</b>	May 18 – Oct 18			/ *									
		Nov 17 – Apr 18			/ *									
		May 17 – Oct 17			/ *									
	<b>West Chesterton</b>	May 18 – Oct 18			/ *									
		Nov 17 – Apr 18			/ *									
		May 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.

We strongly advise that these issues are not chosen from existing force priorities or the core work of any one agency; instead the issues voted on should be those that require a multi-agency approach.