

Neighbourhood Profile

Cambridge City North – June 2019



Wards: Arbury, East Chesterton, King's Hedges and West Chesterton

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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 on-going and emerging crime and disorder issues, and provide recommendations for future areas of concern 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 from November 2018 to April 2019, compared to the previous six months (May 2018 to October 2018) and the same six months last year (November 2017 to April 2018); and
- Information provided by the Safer Neighbourhood Policing team and the City Council's Safer Communities team.

2. Current Areas of Concern

At the North Area Committee meeting of 13 December 2018, the committee recommended addressing the following local areas of concern:

- Criminality in and around East Chesterton;
- County line drug dealing; and
- Road safety.

Lead officers and actions to be taken were agreed following the committee meeting. The work undertaken and current situation is detailed below.

Criminality in and around East Chesterton

Objective: To tackle criminal and antisocial driving along Fen Road and Water Street and build public confidence.

Action Taken: We have continued to undertake proactive patrols around Fen Road and Water Street, with an aim of increasing police visibility, intercepting antisocial and criminal driving and building an intelligence picture of the area. The proactive police work on this priority was initially carried in January, through the use of marked and unmarked police cars, as well as officers on foot flagging down vehicles. The aim of the high visibility patrols was to help build confidence and deter criminal and antisocial driving. Traffic Offence Reports were issued to those offending drivers who were stopped. Notices of Intended Prosecutions have been issued to registered owners of vehicles that had committed

offences but due to circumstances were not stopped at the time. Fen Road and Water Street has continued to be targeted by the Neighbourhood Police team and placed on its list of priority patrol areas.

In March, the Neighbourhood Police team, in conjunction with HM Revenue and Customs officers, carried out a day of action in the East Chesterton area. Officers carried out vehicle checks and dip tested fuel tanks for red diesel. Multiple vehicles were stopped and drivers were given words of advice regarding their driving. One vehicle was found using red diesel.

A warrant has been carried out in the area by the Impact team to target county lines drug dealing. The warrant resulted in an arrest for cannabis production and other drug related offences.

Social media output through Facebook, Twitter, ECOPS and resident engagement has continued to improve. Valuable input from residents and members of the public continues to help build the intelligence picture around criminality in the area.

Current Situation: Police reporting between December 2018 and May 2019 shows nine calls relating to vehicles driving dangerously or in an antisocial manner along Water Street and Fen Road: four of these incidents included full registration numbers and descriptions of the vehicles, whilst the remainder provided only partial registration numbers and descriptions of vehicles and drivers. This demonstrates the great work that members of the public are doing to keep providing police with both useful and vital information that continues to be used to take action against driving offences.

The matter of dangerous driving in East Chesterton is not yet resolved. Continued work is still required by the police, relevant partners and the community to tackle the issue of dangerous and anti-social driving.

Lead Officer: Inspector Paul Rogerson, Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

County line drug dealing

Objective: To understand and target local county lines drug dealing.

Action Taken: In December 2018, street based drug dealing north of the Fort St George bridge in West Chesterton was identified as an area of concern. The situation at the time was that drug users, including but not limited to the street homeless, were attending Belvoir Road, De Freville Avenue and the connected streets in order to buy drugs.

Targeted high visibility and plain-clothed patrols were carried out by the Neighbourhood Policing team in the De Freville area between the time of the 13 December North area committee meeting and January. House visits were conducted by officers to residents that reported incidents to police in order to gain more information, photos and CCTV of possible offenders.

It was also recognised that information with regards to offenders in the West Chesterton area overlapped with reports in the Brunswick (City Centre) area. As a response, the Neighbourhood Police team, in partnership with the Impact team and other Cambridge City Neighbourhood Officers, carried out a two week tactical plan. Between the end of

December and January, two dealers were arrested and later found guilty of drug supply offences.

Through communication with Neighbourhood Watch leads in the West Chesterton area, a survey was sent out to residents in February to determine the perceived change in frequency of drug exchanges and persons waiting to pick up drugs in the De Freville area. The results of the survey, alongside the amount of reports to the police, showed a clear reduction in the frequency of witnessed incidents in the area. 76% of respondents to the survey said that, between November and February, the issues of drug dealing and antisocial behaviour in the area had greatly or slightly improved.

In March, the Neighbourhood team began Operation Carmel in the north of the City to tackle reports of street-based drug dealing. This was done by taking visible action, increasing patrols and engaging with local residents and communities to increase any potential gaps in our intelligence. The areas of Darwin Drive and Akeman Street, as well as Garden Walk and Victoria Road, were a focus for the team with further locations planned for the summer. Surveys were sent to residents for feedback and active patrols undertaken in the area. At the conclusion of the operation, areas were identified for specific attention, including additional street lighting, repairing street furniture and addressing insecurities found during an Environmental Visual Audit of the area.

Current Situation: Work done by Impact and Neighbourhood teams, along with partner organisations, is continuing. Continued engagement with local hostels, including supported housing in Garden Walk, 222 Victoria Road and 116 Chesterton Road has occurred with residents at hostels made aware that street dealing is being targeted.

Lead Officer: Inspector Paul Rogerson, Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

Road safety

Objective: Enforcement of road traffic offences in North Cambridge with an aim to improve road safety.

Action Taken: In addition to the targeted area of concern of dangerous and antisocial driving in East Chesterton, the issue of road safety was voted as a specific area of concern for the Neighbourhood Police team. As a part of everyday patrols in the North of Cambridge, officers continue to look out for motor and driving offences including, but not limited to, careless and/or dangerous driving, use of mobile phones whilst driving, driving without seatbelts, failure to obey traffic signs and/or signals and vehicle defects.

Similarly to the action taken on Water Street and Fen Road, marked and unmarked police vehicles have been utilised to stop and intercept driving offences across the North of Cambridge to not only enforce road traffic offences but educate road users.

The North Neighbourhoods team has been issuing: Traffic Offence Reports for witnessed offences; Vehicle Defect Rectification Scheme tickets (which gives the opportunity for a road user driving with a minor defect on their vehicle to avoid prosecution if they provide evidence they have rectified the defect within 14 days); Notice of Intended Prosecutions and words of advice to drivers and cyclists in the North of Cambridge over the last six months.

Current Situation: Likewise to the area of concern relating to dangerous and antisocial driving in East Chesterton, road safety in the North area will continue to be a concern to the neighbourhood team with enforcement and further education as the principal method to tackle the issue.

Partnership work and reports from members of the public that identify offenders and locations of concern will further allow police to action and target problem areas. A review of speed calming measures, improved education, engagement and visibility of all partnership members will help improve road safety in the North.

Lead Officer: Inspector Paul Rogerson, Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

3. *Proactive Work and Emerging Issues*

Cambridgeshire Constabulary

The Neighbourhood Policing 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 the local organisations.

Fen Road – this continues to be an issue and the Neighbourhoods team will continue to take action against antisocial and dangerous driving 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 have 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 – Following street-based drug dealing being highlighted as an area of concern at the last area committee, proactive work will continue to be carried out with the Impact team and partners to tackle the problem. After an area has been targeted by police this sometimes results in displacement of the issue to another area, therefore continued information from partners and members of the public is vital to stay on top of the 'hot spots'. Operation Carmel will continue to run in the North of the City to encourage reporting and help build the evolving intelligence picture.

Road Safety – Cambridge City remains a relatively safe place to commute in a car or cycle, with many roads adapted to cater for both. However, like many other UK cities, it is congested at times and suffers 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 cycles often feeling more vulnerable. Recent Killed or Seriously Injured and collision data tends to indicate the harm is most likely around road junctions, owing to human error. The Neighbourhood Police team possesses 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 concerns voiced by local communities, which 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 public awareness or revised road layouts, are required to implement an effective long term solution.

Cambridge City Council

Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) Officers within the City Council's Safer Communities team continue to take proactive action where there are reports of ASB or nuisance and work closely with Police and other partners when tackling complex cases. We will consider preventative, supportive and enforcement action as appropriate, depending on the nature and risk level of the case.

During the last reporting period, ASB officers have been involved in dealing with a number of high level cases and have taken action as appropriate including:

- County Court action resulting in a suspended possession order against a tenant involved in serious nuisance in Linden Close;
- Ongoing casework associated with serious ASB in Darwin Drive;
- Preventative work with a tenant involved in ASB that could put their tenancy at risk, resulting in them agreeing to sign an undertaking promising to abide by their tenancy conditions;
- Preventative work to reduce ASB in Gilbert Close and Fordwich Close;
- Multi-agency meetings to address ASB concerns in Garden Walk and the Meadows Community Centre;
- ASB workshops for Years 5 and 6 at the Grove School, talking to the young people about behaviour, when it might become anti-social, how it can affect people and what young people can do if they have concerns;
- Partnership working with the police, housing providers and parents/guardians, with 6 young people signing up to Acceptable Behavioural Contracts to address ASB in Arbury Court.
- Partnership working with the police, fire and rescue service and housing providers, within the remit of the Problem Solving Group, to tackle serious drug-related ASB in Ashfield Road and Dundee Close; and
- Evidence gathering, with a view to applying to Court for committal proceedings against a prolific perpetrator of ASB and exploitation who continues to breach their ASB injunction, obtained by the City Council, which excludes them from Molewood and Hazelwood Close.

	City North			Arbury			East Chesterton			King's Hedges			West Chesterton		
	11/18 – 04/19	05/18 – 10/18	11/17 – 04/18	11/18 – 04/19	05/18 – 10/18	11/17 – 04/18	11/18 – 04/19	05/18 – 10/18	11/17 – 04/18	11/18 – 04/19	05/18 – 10/18	11/17 – 04/18	11/18 – 04/19	05/18 – 10/18	11/17 – 04/18
Cycle Theft															
Theft from Shop															
Criminal Damage															
Other Crime															
Total Crime															
Total ASB															

5. Recommendations

The following local areas of concern are recommended for consideration:

- Antisocial and dangerous driving on Fen Road
- Street-based drug dealing