

Neighbourhood Profile

Cambridge City West/Central – June 2019



Wards: Castle, Market and Newnham

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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 seven 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 West/Central Area Committee meeting of 29 November 2018, the committee recommended addressing the following local areas of concern:

- Drug-related behaviour in the Grafton Centre area as already discussed;
- Poor behaviour of cyclists and moped riders in the City Centre. This included speeding, lack of lights and cycling on pavements; and
- Night time road safety at the following junctions: Histon Road/Victoria Road and Chesterton Road/Magdalen Street.

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

Drug-related behaviour in the Grafton Centre area as already discussed

Objective: To understand and tackle the issues of drug-related behaviour around The Grafton and Maid's Causeway area.

Action Taken: This area has been our main focus with support from the wider policing team over the reporting period. Firstly, the concerns of members of the committee led to a review of the previous calls and work, which had been carried out in the area, and the effectiveness of that response. This review highlighted that there was an issue around the prioritisation and routing of the calls of this nature from that location. This discovery led to a change in working from the constabulary's call handling department. To allow for a more

effective response, calls from highlighted areas are sent to local deployable officers quicker. As well as this change, the intelligence picture was reviewed by the team and a number of key trends were identified and an operation was put in place to address this highlighted intelligence. This took a number of forms and ranged from high visibility work from the PCSO teams to direct action being taken against people selling drugs, by the Impact Team. This work also identified how the issues that were being suffered in this area fitted into the wider issues around the city. This allowed us to further target our work as well as understand how work at other locations around the city might affect the area in question. As well as the work to target the behaviour itself, the team has worked in partnership with a number of agencies, including the City Council's Safer Communities team, to address the underlying causal factors for this behaviour. This has included work to disperse the street-based begging activity from the area, as there is strong evidence to support that the majority of money given to people who are begging is used to obtain drugs. This ready supply of money and ready access to the drug market is happening in a relatively small footprint. This work has led to a reduction in reported issues in the area, most notably the residential parts of it.

Current Situation: There have been limited numbers of calls around this issue and the matter is constantly under review by a dedicated member of the team. The work to address the underlying issues also continues both by us and a number of partner agencies, most notably the City Council's Safer Communities team.

Lead Officer: Sergeant Kevin Misik, Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

Poor behaviour of cyclists and moped riders in the City Centre. This included speeding, lack of lights and cycling on pavements

Objective: To ensure that the shared spaces within the City Centre are safe for all people to use.

Action Taken: This work continues to be part of the day-to-day work of, mainly, the PCSOs within the team. They are regularly spending their time stopping and speaking to moped riders and cyclists when they encounter them whilst on patrol. All members of the team report spending time with this task whenever they are out on patrol.

Current Situation: The issues continue despite the work undertaken by the team. At this time there are highlighted issues around the Rose Crescent area which is being reviewed by one of the PCSOs within the team to see if there is any preventive work that can be undertaken by the team and our partners.

Lead Officer: Sergeant Kevin Misik, Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

Night time road safety at the following junctions: Histon Road/Victoria Road and Chesterton Road/Magdalen Street

Objective: To ensure that the users of the junctions around the West/Central area, notably the ones mentioned, are safe for all road users.

Action Taken: As well as the day-to-day patrol work, which the team carries out to address these issues, there is also an ongoing bespoke piece of work which is being carried out to

address the most problematic junctions around the City, based not only on the data the police holds around these junctions, but also information received from the public and councillors. This work is a series of pre-arranged operations at these key locations which, with the support of the Special Constabulary, deploy plain-clothed officers to identify offences at the locations highlighted and, with the support of the uniformed officers, deal with them.

Current Situation: This work continues and the dates for the operations are in place for the rest of this year. The objectives of the operation are as follows:

- Take visible action to tackle road safety during rush hours;
- Focus on data-driven enforcement, focused on improving safety at junctions; and
- Encourage communities, parishes, and wards to take positive steps to improve road safety by co-ordinating the long term problem solving in the form of a road safety plan. This work can be considered as part of the team's usual business. The team would be interested in any suggestions for areas that they could target going forwards.

Lead Officer: Sergeant Kevin Misik, Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

3. *Proactive Work and Emerging Issues*

Cambridgeshire Constabulary

The team continues to routinely review the main issues across the area and each member holds a portfolio for any ongoing issues: these range from the work we carry out in the night time economy to the issues around The Grafton centre. This allows the team to maintain a wide view of the issues.

At the moment, there are ongoing issues with street-based ASB around the Park Street car park area which is affecting the people who work and use the area.

There are also developing issues of anti-social moped riding and pedal cyclists around the Rose Crescent area.

Given the time of year, there will likely be an increase in anti-social issues around the green spaces in the area. There may be links to this with the previous issues around The Grafton area, given the proximity of Midsummer Common.

We continue to work around issues of Road Safety as described in the updates.

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 the police and other partner agencies 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 taken action as appropriate including:

- County Court action resulting in two-year injunctions excluding three problematic individuals from entering the Fitzroy Street and Burleigh Street area. Two of these individuals are now engaging with support agencies, have significantly reduced their drug use and are now accommodated. The third individual continues to have a visible presence, breaching the injunction on a daily basis. The City Council are therefore in the process of applying to court for a committal hearing.
- We continue to work in partnership with the police and support agencies to tackle issues relating to the street life community including Jordan's Yard, where we have a number of disruptive rough sleepers causing a significant impact on the wider community by being drunk and intimidating to those passing through the area. Five individuals have been issued with warning letters and support information and are currently subject to action plans which include supportive interventions and enforcement where appropriate.

Cambridge Street Aid: Updates

Cambridge City Council continues with its commitment to promote Street Aid as a positive alternative to giving spare change to individuals on the street. It has proved a successful way to engage with all sections of the community, including businesses and those with experience of street homelessness. We continue to receive positive feedback in relation to the scheme, including national interest from other districts keen to copy the model and an anonymous benefactor interested in funding further donation points. Over 150 individuals have now received grants and over £50,000 has been donated to the fund.

In order ensure consistent messaging and promotion of the scheme, the City Council has funded a part-time volunteer coordinator with the objective of recruiting a team of volunteers and Street Aid champions to help raise awareness of Street Aid and the support available to those on the streets.

Cambridge University students are amongst our new Champion volunteers, and they are organising their own events to raise money and awareness for Street Aid.

A sixth contactless donation point was funded and launched by the Grand Arcade in February. The "Friends of Street Aid" newsletter, which keeps interested parties updated on a monthly basis, was also launched at this time.

People with street life experience, who have benefitted from a grant, worked with the Council's Communication team to produce a video about Cambridge Street Aid and this will be available soon on YouTube.

A report will be presented to the Environment and Community Scrutiny Committee on 27 June 2019 on the Public Spaces Protection Order (Touting) 2016, which essentially prohibits verbal touting for punt tours in certain areas of the city centre. The PSPO will lapse on 14 September 2019 and the recommendation will be to extend its validity for a further three years.

	City West/Central			Castle			Market			Newnham		
	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:

- Street-based ASB around the Park Street car park area
- Anti-social activity on the green spaces in the area
- Anti-social activity around The Grafton