

Neighbourhood Profile

Cambridge City North – November 2019



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

Produced by:

Cambridgeshire Constabulary:

- Inspector Paul Rogerson
- Sergeant Shawn Emms

Community Safety Team, Cambridge City Council:

- Lynda Kilkelly, Community Safety Manager
- Sarah Steggle, Senior Community Safety Officer (Anti-Social Behaviour)



Creating a safer
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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 data received from the following sources:

- The Safer Neighbourhood Policing Team for the area;
- The City Council's Community Safety Team;
- The general public, via online and telephone crime and intelligence reporting; and
- Consultation with elected Ward and County members.

2. Current Areas of Concern

At the North Area Committee meeting of 13 June 2019, the committee recommended addressing the following local areas of concern:

- ASB and dangerous driving on Fen Road;
- Street based drug dealing; and
- Youth and knife crime.

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

ASB and dangerous driving on Fen Road

Objective: To address ASB and dangerous driving on Fen Road

Action Taken: Building on previous work where proactive patrols were undertaken in and around Fen Road (when resourcing allowed), the Cambridge City North Team formalised these into a dedicated operation (Op HELVELLYN) to run until the end of 2019, tackling the ongoing issues highlighted at the last North Area Committee meeting.

Since its inception in July, Op HELVELLYN has been running with officers from the North Team, response officers and officers from the special constabulary carrying out dedicated patrols in the area at key days and times. The timings of these patrols have been

determined through analysis of calls for service in the area in the preceding six months. This ensured that limited resources were used most efficiently. The purpose of Op HELVELLYN was to raise police visibility, reassure the public and curb offending.

With a regular police presence in the area, the North Team has not just raised police visibility with a view to reassuring residents that we are taking action, but has also successfully deterred drivers from acting in an anti-social manner or committing road traffic offences. Visibility has been magnified using social media as this enables us to inform residents across the city and wider area that we are tackling the problem. Through use of traditional and new media, we continue to receive valuable input from both members of the public and local residents, meaning we can hone our patrols and make them ever more efficient, allowing us to ensure resources are where they need to be when they are needed.

Since 11 July 2019, officers have spent in excess of 60 hours on overt patrols on Fen Road alone, resulting in seven vehicles being seized, ten tickets issued for motoring offences (such as not wearing seatbelts and using mobile phones) and two arrests made.

Current Situation: During the six months prior to Op HELVELLYN, there were over 40 calls for service regarding Fen Road including ten road related calls, one road traffic collision and two vehicle nuisance calls. Since the start of Op HELVELLYN in July 2019, police have received 32 calls for service regarding Fen Road that have resulted in incidents being raised. Of these only one has been road related (concern for an overgrown hedge blocking the path). One was a reported road traffic collision and one was a report of vehicle nuisance (work is ongoing to issue a S59 Police Reform Act notice to the driver and vehicle).

In addition to Op HELVELLYN, the North Team has worked closely with Highways England and PC Jon Morris, our Traffic Casualty Reduction Officer, to look at the actual vehicle use within Fen Road. To this end, a Speed Data Recorder (SDR) was placed on Fen Road, near to the junction with Izaak Walton Way, between Monday 20 September 2019 at 13:00 and Sunday 27 September 2019 at 11:59 to monitor traffic speed, type and frequency. Initial findings suggested a high level of compliance by road users; however, a discrepancy in the numbers of vehicles recorded travelling eastwards compared to those travelling westwards has resulted in the data having to be discounted. Work continues to resolve this discrepancy and a second data recording period is to be sought. When we have this, we will seek to publicise it. A new SDR was installed on 14 November 2019 and we are awaiting results.

Further enquiries with Highways England (HE) reveal that the current speed restriction measures are the most suitable. A report from HE states that *“full width humps had been removed previously at the request of the local residents due to the excessive noise caused by the larger vehicles accessing the industrial estate (skip lorries for example). This is also a bus route and any full width feature would require a 3.70m plateau to prevent buses grounding out by straddling the feature lengthwise. I do not believe this would be possible for the majority of this road due to the location of property accesses”*.

From a policing perspective, it is not clear what more we can do. Whilst a police presence clearly reduces calls for service and reassures the public, with the other demands on our

limited resources, it is difficult to see how we can justify the continuation of this level of police presence for years to come. Op HELVELLYN has resulted in allocating the equivalent of one full-time officer spending their entire duty at Fen Road for two weeks and in return we have seen an average of a single ticket issued for every six hours of patrol time. The geography of Fen Road plays a part and if the crossing was removed, it is possible the issues would subside. Of course, this is expensive and likely impractical. Whilst police can support enforcement in the area, we feel that partners and residents are best placed to organise together and investigate longer term solutions that will reduce the need for enforcement. This would include (but not be limited to) well thought-through signage and a Local Highways Initiative bid.

Lead Officer: Sergeant Shawn Emms, Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Street based drug dealing

Objective: To understand and target street-based drug dealing

Action Taken: Following its success earlier this year, Op CARMEL has been adapted to be a rolling operation targeting areas right across the city, with several areas targeted within the North. By analysing information gathered from crime and incident reporting, Facebook groups, community intelligence and police information systems, we identify 'hot spots' of activity and then target a new area every month.

Having created a focal point for our activity, we conduct street-based community consultation to ensure we understand problems in that area, ensure people know how to report in future and clarify with people what we do with that information.

Officers from across the Cambridge Neighbourhood Teams run the operation, tackling reports of street-based drug dealing alongside activity from colleagues such as the Southern Impact Team and partner agencies such as the City Council's Community Safety Team.

During the operation, specific actions are identified which can be taken to make an area less attractive to dealers, and apart from short term actions, like ensuring high visibility patrols to dissuade dealers from occupying an area and seeking to arrest them whenever possible, we look at longer term solutions which include (but are not limited to), mobile CCTV, removing visible barriers, such as overgrown hedges, increasing lighting or increasing natural surveillance, etc.

To date, Op CARMEL has targeted seven areas within the city, with further areas identified for future targeting and we continue to gather new data to steer future work. Officers assigned to Op CARMEL have carried out over 200 hours of dedicated foot patrols, and in excess of 500 households have been visited and offered the chance to complete surveys to seek their views on issues in their area. In October alone, as a result of Op CARMEL patrols, officers from the North team have arrested suspects for drugs offences as well as other crimes, seizing over £5000 worth of Class A drugs and in excess of £1000 in cash. We have secured several charges relating to drug offences and other suspects remain subject to active investigations.

Current Situation: Work continues to identify vulnerable geographical locations and a timetable has been drawn up identifying the next five or six locations where street-based drug dealing is occurring. By monitoring continued reporting and information from the community, we ensure that we deploy our resources appropriately. By working with partner organisations, the North Team continues to engage with local services and partners to make previously vulnerable areas more hostile to street-based drug dealing.

Lead Officer: Sergeant Shawn Emms, Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Youth and knife crime

Objective: To understand and effectively target youth and knife crime.

Action Taken: Anecdotally there has been an increase in both youth and knife crime within the North of Cambridge and across the wider city area. This is reflected nationally with concerns for the increased vulnerability of our young people in the face of a seeming willingness of some to carry weapons.

The seriousness of these concerns has been reflected by the adoption of child exploitation and serious street-based violence as two of the forces eight priorities for 2019. In response to these concerns, the North Team has undertaken targeted patrols by local officers with the aim of engaging with local community and youths. Officers from the North team have identified key offenders resulting in the most serious being dealt with for crimes ranging from harassment to robbery. As with Op CARMEL, we are also looking at the reasons certain areas attract anti-social behaviour and youth crime and we are working with the City Council's Community Safety Team and communities to 'design out' any environmental factors. We have also forged relationships with youth services (Romsey Mill Youth Group) and schools to identify most likely ring leaders and individuals most at risk.

Since September 2019, the North Team has arrested four young males for a series of violent robberies; three youths for a campaign of harassment, assaults and robberies; more than five youths involved in drug supply; and weapons including knives and imitation firearms have been seized.

Current Situation: Several separate initiatives are underway to manage the issues longer term, and these are being managed by officers other than those in the North Team in conjunction with partner agencies. We are currently in negotiation with a local school to deliver a program called *Transforming Lives* which has previously been run in the Huntingdon area over the last 12 months. *Transforming Lives* is an 11-week program designed to divert those children most at risk of becoming involved in criminality away from this path.

Individuals already identified as being heavily involved in criminality, whether it be drugs or street-based violence, are usually managed by existing specialist teams. However, where individuals are identified as being on the fringes of this behaviour (usually siblings or associates of already identified individuals), they will be managed by neighbourhoods or partner agencies under Op ROMERO. This operation is being developed in conjunction with the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and is being put in place to identify and work

with those children who are at 'emerging' or 'moderate' risk of harm. Currently in its early stages, individuals adopted to this scheme will be managed by schools, safeguarding leads, district Problem Solving Groups and local Neighbourhood officers. This is envisaged as a redevelopment of early intervention; working with schools, partner agencies and parents to identify and prevent at-risk individuals from being drawn into criminal and/or violent behaviour.

Lead Officer: Sergeant Shawn Emms, Cambridgeshire Constabulary

3. *Proactive Work and Emerging Issues*

Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Updates to be given at the committee meeting.

Cambridge City Council

The Community Safety Team continues to take proactive action where there are reports of ASB or nuisance and work closely with the 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, working in the Community Safety Team, have been involved in dealing with several high-level cases and have acted as appropriate, including:

- County Court action resulting in an outright possession against a tenant in Darwin Drive.
- A Notice of Seeking Possession was served on a tenant following reports of ASB at their property in Arbury. The ASB officer involved is also working closely with the tenant's support worker to look at preventative measures and ensuring all alternative options are explored before further enforcement action is taken.
- Due to numerous reports to Sanctuary Housing about ASB caused by people living in their properties on Garden Walk, the Community Safety Team arranged a residents' meeting with Sanctuary and Metropolitan Housing to listen to the residents and advise how to report ASB. Consequently, two months later we carried out door knocking with the local PCSOs in the area, and no further issues were raised.
- Two young people involved in ASB in Brimley Road and Hanson Court have signed Acceptable Behaviour Contracts.
- We are continuing working in partnership with the police in order to tackle the concerns around ASB in the Fen Road area and are in discussion with South Cambridgeshire District Council where the boundaries cross over.

Emerging issues: We are currently investigating complaints of ASB in Sackville Close, Albermarle Way, Aragon Close, Brackley Close and Dundee Close.

4. Additional Information

At neighbourhood level, the [POLICE.UK](https://www.police.uk) website allows for swift access to local crime and anti-social behaviour data at street level. The website can display crimes on a map as well as in chart format, along with trend lines. The three most important sections within this website are: 'overview'; 'crime'; and 'view detailed statistics'. This gives a good overview of issues within the local area.

5. Recommendations

Due to the cancellation of the area committee meeting of 28 November and the intervening gap between that date and the area committee meeting of 27 February, we ask that the committee advise, following discussions, on local areas of concern for focus until the next reporting meeting (being 11 June 2020).