

Neighbourhood Profile

Cambridge City West/Central – December 2019



Wards: Castle, Market and Newnham

Produced by:

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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 West/Central Area Committee meeting of 20 June 2019, the committee recommended addressing the following local areas of concern:

- Street-based ASB around The Grafton Centre and Park Street car park areas;
- Anti-social activity on the green spaces in the area; and
- Anti-social and illegal moped driving, specifically through bus gates in city centre.

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

Street-based ASB around The Grafton Centre and Park Street car park areas

Objective: To deal with issues of street based ASB in and around The Grafton Centre and its car parks, and the Park Street car park area.

Action Taken: There is an ongoing operation which is aimed at dealing with street based ASB across the city called Op Ferndale. Whilst this covers the whole city, much of the work is centred around key locations, a few which are in the West Central area. There are several different streams of work which target both key problematic locations and individuals. Over the reporting period, there have been some key multi-agency work which has been carried out. An environmental visual audit was carried out by one of the force's Crime Prevention Officers, which has produced several recommendations as to how to

make the location less susceptible to anti-social behaviour (ASB). The same work has been carried out with the Park Street car park.

As well as this preventative work, we have carried out enforcement action of several different types. This has included use of police dispersal powers at the location which is used to target persistent ASB. Furthermore, there have been several offenders who have been dealt with for offences either at the car parks or relating to staff from these locations. Two offenders have been convicted and handed Criminal Orders to stop them from returning to the car parks to protect the people who work and use them from abuse.

Current Situation: Whilst there continues to be some offending at the locations, there has been a reduction of reports in the relevant areas.

Lead Officer: PS 686 Kevin Misik

Anti-social activity on the green spaces in the area

Objective: To deal with reports of ASB across the green spaces in the West Central area.

Action Taken: Over the reporting period, there have been a series of high visibility and plain clothed patrols of the main green spaces in the area. The reporting period covered the main school holiday period and the patrols were tailored to deal with the increase number of people who were using the spaces during this peak time. The patrols were carried out in the areas, not only by the city centre team, but also supported by the wider city police team most notably during the night-time economy, again most notably over the summer period. There were only a couple of notable trends over the period; these were both identified around Parker's Piece, and this led to some short-term patrol plans resourced by the city centre team with support from the wider team. These plans involved high visibility patrols which resulted in several misuse of drugs searches. Over the reporting period there have been no trends outside those expected due to seasonal variations.

Current Situation: With the ongoing cold weather, there has been a reduction in the number of people using the green spaces and as such the reports of ASB have reduced.

Lead Officer: PS 686 Kevin Misik

Anti-social and illegal moped driving, specifically through bus gates in city centre

Objective: To address issues with mopeds entering and using the pedestrianised area around the city centre/market area.

Action Taken: The issues around appropriate access to the pedestrianised areas are complex. There are several relevant stakeholders who have had to be identified as being involved in this situation beyond the moped riders themselves. There are several reasons that they are coming into the area, mostly driven by food delivery. Officers from the team have engaged with a wide range of businesses involved to explain the issues, and a number of them have put in place operational measures to reduce the number of people who are being drawn into the area due to this business model. As well as this, the City Council wrote to two companies on 28 November regarding this and contact has been

made directly with these delivery companies to highlight these issues, and to point out the risks and penalties that their drivers could be subject to if they breach these orders.

As well as the preventive work that has been carried out, there has been enforcement to target the riders who breach this order. The work continues with a range of partners to look for a long-term solution to the situation. As well as bespoke patrols that have been carried out, these are now part of the day to day work of the city centre team and riders are being regularly dealt with.

Current Situation: This work will continue as at this time there is no long-term solution available to prevent these issues. This is a situation which cannot be solved by simple prosecution.

Lead Officer: PS 686 Misik

3. *Proactive Work and Emerging Issues*

Cambridgeshire Constabulary

The team continues to work within the three main streams of work: retail crime; night-time economy; and street-based anti-social behaviour. Each of these areas of work continues to highlight issues within the area.

We continue to review areas of concern on a fortnightly basis and adapt our work to address these issues.

There are still reported issues around the Maid's Causeway area (on both sides of the road) of drug related issues.

There also continue to be issues, particularly linked to the cold weather, around vulnerability within the street life community.

Cambridge City Council

The City Council's Community Safety Team is a key partner in tackling street community-related anti-social behaviour within the City. The Team continues to work closely with the police and support partners, such as street outreach services, in tackling complex cases. Our approach to street related ASB cases is always to look at prevention and support, with enforcement as the last resort in the more problematic and persistent cases, as we know that this client group can have complex and entrenched needs.

During the last reporting period, ASB Officers within the Team issued community protection warning letters to at least two individuals within the city centre area. In the coming months, we will focus on work around key identified individuals who have continued to cause anti-social behaviour in and around the City Centre area, including The Grafton.

Blackmore Head Yard (between the Mitre and Baron of Beef public houses) had been a focus of congregations and anti-social related behaviour pertaining to the street community and was discussed within the street life working group. As a result of these reports, the

police used their powers under ASB legislation and placed a Dispersal Order for 48 hours on this area. This, together with warning letters, has brought some improvement to this area.

As part of our partnership work around problem solving in hotspot areas, ASB Officers in the Team and a police Community Officer carried out three environmental visual audits at Jordan's Yard, King's Parade and Sydney Sussex Street. Any recommendations from these will be worked through involving relevant stakeholders.

The Community Safety Team has been involved in the assessing of individuals on the street for the purposes of accessing hostels and churches as part of the Severe Weather Emergency Procedures.

We continue with our commitment to promoting Street Aid as a positive alternative to giving money 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. Over £90,000 in donations from the public has now been raised and over 250 individuals have received grants.

The Public Spaces Protection Order (Touting) 2016, which prohibits verbal touting for punt tours in certain areas of the city centre, was reviewed in September 2019 and has now been extended to September 2022.

4. *Additional Information*

At neighbourhood level, the 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. The specific link for Cambridgeshire Constabulary is: <https://www.police.uk/cambridgeshire/>

5. *Recommendations*

Due to the cancellation of the area committee meeting of 5 December, and the intervening gap between that date and the area committee meeting of 5 March, we ask that the committee advise, following discussions, on local areas of concern for focus until the next reporting meeting (being 18 June).