

Neighbourhood Profile

Cambridge City North – September 2020



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

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 North Area Committee meeting of 27 February 2020, 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 tackle criminal and antisocial driving along Fen Road and Water Street and build public confidence.

Action Taken: This has been an area committee priority since 2018. Proactive police work on this priority was initially undertaken in May 2018, with a series of targeted patrols. Between June and August 2018 there was a period of less proactivity in this area owing to summer policing priorities but in September 2018, with a rise in reporting, the Neighbourhood Police Team patrolled Water Street and Fen Road twice a week; seizing offending vehicles, issuing tickets, points and fines to offenders and building up the intelligence picture. Proactive work from 2018, and into 2019, under the umbrella of Operation Helvellyn produced better results than simply aiming to respond to incidents. This was because driving offences without injury or collision were (and remain) frequently

marked as not requiring immediate attendance by the police control room. As such we found ourselves unable to catch offenders this way alone.

In January 2020, after a period of lower demand, Operation Camplight began following a series of criminal damages involving the use of ball bearings on Water Street, Fen Road and Green End Road. Formalised and targeted patrols at key times took place with numerous stop/searches and vehicle checks carried out. One of the vehicles involved was identified and found abandoned in Milton by police. Residents assisted in our enquiries by providing images and CCTV footage. During the patrols, vehicles were seized for driving with no insurance, driving on a provisional licence only and eight stop/searches were carried out, leading to the seizure of ball bearings.

Liaison with Highways has been ongoing with regards to the current measures in place on Fen Road. A meeting between Highways and police took place on Fen Road in October 2019. Highways have been asked for an update as of 6 August, with regards to changes made in the area. A Speed Data Recorder (SDR) was placed on Fen Road in September 2019 for a week by police. The data captured by this showed broad speed compliance on the road with no significant speeding problem compared to any other similar road in Cambridge. What this suggests is that the problem is more likely to be the manner of driving (overtaking, revving, drivers not being in proper control of the vehicle) as well as associated antisocial behaviour (ASB) and criminal offences, rather than speed. The data also confirmed that Fen Road is a particularly busy traffic route throughout the day. Another SDR is due to be installed this year.

As per the minutes of the February 2020 committee meeting, Cllr. Gerri Bird agreed to investigate signage. Cllr. Ian Manning has been looking into inadequate bollards present on the cycle path leading from Moss Bank onto the Cambridge North Railway site, after consultation with police.

Current Situation: Looking at police calls placed between February and August 2020 in Fen Road and Water Street shows the following incidents raised following calls to police:

- Four police generated (i.e. when a vehicle is being seized or recovered by police and an incident is created for the logistics of this);
- 20 vehicle nuisances (variety of call types but primarily vans and motorbikes); and
- Three highways obstructed (all three were vehicles parked/stopped inconsiderately in the road).

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, bollards and developments is ongoing in the area (such as the new cycle bridge and North East Cambridge development) as well as improved education, engagement and visibility of all members of the partnership, is what is needed alongside the enforcement of driving offences.

Lead Officer: PS Shawn Emms, Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Street based drug dealing

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

Action Taken: The policing of county lines drug dealing across the county is primarily led by a specialist team. However, the Neighbourhood Police Team also works in building and acting on reliable intelligence on their patch. In 2019, we started Operation Carmel, focusing our resources on one hotspot area at a time. These locations have so far included Garden Walk, Hilda Street (and the surrounding streets) and Buchan Street, and yielded positive feedback from residents. Again, we rely on reporting and intelligence from the community to accurately identify these hotspots. Since February 2020, we have placed four closure orders on various problematic addresses in the North of the City, banning all visitors to the property, and in one case in Grasmere Gardens, on the tenant, for three months at a time. This was done both to provide respite for residents, and to tackle the criminality and antisocial behaviour (ASB) at each address.

In May 2020, an address in Crawford Close, Buchan Street was entered by the neighbourhood team after several drug users were seen outside it. After using powers of entry, £7,000 worth of drugs were seized, and two county lines drug dealers arrested and charged.

Current Situation: Partnership work with Cambridge City Council's City Homes and other housing associations allows us to assist with the eviction of tenants who have allowed or taken part in drug dealing. These connections with housing associations also allow us to identify and protect the vulnerable people who are repeatedly taken advantage of by county lines dealers and other criminals. This year, our contact with these vulnerable tenants was formalised into more regular, consistent visits, which has been working well. Again, members of the community can assist us greatly by highlighting who they are concerned about through the formal reporting channels, or when they see us out and about.

A serious fire at Kingsway flats in May caused understandable local concern and police took an active role both at the initial scene, and as investigators of the arson. Since the arson, we have been in Kingsway regularly, speaking to residents about their concerns and problematic addresses.

During the initial lockdown, drug dealers broadly adapted their methods, seeking to reduce their visibility, and as such there was a slight change in how we policed this priority during that time. Street-based drug dealing remains a force priority.

Lead Officer: Insp Paul Rogerson, Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

Youth and knife crime

Objective: To combat youth and knife crime reducing overall harm caused.

Action Taken: In 2020, a cohort of at-risk children were adopted onto Operation Romero. This mapped those thought to be on the fringes, or involved, in knife crime with risk levels: emerging, moderate and significant. This Operation is monitored by both the police and Local Safeguarding Children Board.

Transforming Lives began in February. This project, crafted by Sergeant Jim Stevenson, outlined an 11-week educational enrichment programme, aimed at young people who might be considered 'easily led' and therefore benefit from tailored personal safety advice. This project was unfortunately postponed after three weeks as the lockdown came into force.

Current Situation: As with street-based drug dealing, tackling all forms of violence, including knife and youth crime, is both a force priority and a core function of what we do. Youth and knife crime continues to be a focus for Cambridgeshire constabulary.

Lead Officer: PS Shawn Emms, Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

3. *Proactive Work and Emerging Issues*

Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Naturally, engaging with the public and, where required, enforcing Coronavirus legislation has been a priority for us between February and August. However, we have maintained much of our 'business as usual' neighbourhood work.

Cambridge City Council

Throughout the lockdown period, the Community Safety Team (CST) has continued to operate a frontline service. We have continued to provide a responsive service, using virtual options where appropriate, and would encourage residents to contact us with their concerns.

Due to several reports to the police, the CST carried out a letter drop in the Garden Walk area to which there was a large response. Consequently, the CST arranged a professionals' meeting with Sanctuary, Metropolitan and the police to discuss a unified approach to resolve issues. Since the meeting, the police have served a Community Protection Warning on an individual identified as causing a lot of the problems, and Metropolitan and Sanctuary are continuing to work with another individual. Following that meeting, the CST has received one other complaint regarding a Metropolitan tenant. The report was passed to them and they are dealing with the individual concerned.

The CST carried out three workshops for Years 4, 5 and 6 at Shirley School, with the local PCSOs, 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.

The CST obtained three interim injunctions from the County Court linked to a tenant in the King's Hedges ward and their family, to address serious antisocial behaviour (ASB) that is affecting the local community. Part of the conditions of the injunction excludes the tenant's family from Sackville Close and the surrounding area as they were causing serious ASB in the area. The injunction has been breached and so we are gathering evidence with a view to applying to the Court for committal proceedings against the perpetrators.

The CST obtained an extension on a Suspended Possession Order from the County Court to ensure that residents in Arbury are able to enjoy their home safely and in peace.

The Community Safety Team (CST) has received complaints about young people climbing onto the roof of Brownsfield Community Centre and are working closely with the police and staff at the Centre to address the issue.

The CST is working closely with the police to address a race crime in the East Chesterton ward and is looking at tenancy enforcement action on the perpetrator.

Two Notice of Seeking Possessions were issued to tenants causing nuisance to their immediate neighbours in the Arbury and King's Hedges wards.

The CST supported the Neighbouring Police Team in securing a partial Closure Order on a property in Carlton Way, following reports of serious nuisance and ASB. We continue to work closely with the police to ensure that antisocial behaviour (ASB) does not escalate once the closure is lifted. Tenancy enforcement action will be considered.

The CST has received complaints about the use of NOx cannisters, drugs and alcohol by visitors to Dundee Close. An Environmental Visual Audit was carried out with the police just prior to the lockdown which identified some areas of concern. Since then, the site has been chosen for the new housing pods and there is money to improve the whole close at the same time these will be installed. This will include landscaping and improved lighting on the parking areas and the small play area. The CST is working with the project manager and residents on how best to approach this. Proposals have been submitted to planning, with work hoping to be completed by the end of the year.

There has been an increase in reports in Carlton Way outside the One Stop, with street-based drinkers and potential drug dealing. The CST is working closely with the Neighbourhood Police Team and the Council's Licensing team to address this. The police have identified some of the individuals concerned, and the One Stop has agreed to stop selling alcohol to these individuals. The CST is also looking into the possibility of a temporary R-CCTV camera to be installed in the area.

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

None are advised. We seek views from this committee on those local areas of concern that the police and partner agencies can work together to action and report on at the next reporting committee meeting.