

Neighbourhood Profile

Cambridge City West/Central – November 2020



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 10 September, the committee recommended addressing the following local areas of concern:

- Anti-social behaviour in King Street/Willow Walk;
- Anti-social behaviour in open and green spaces; and
- Night time economy/alcohol related disorder.

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

Anti-social behaviour in King Street/Willow Walk

Objective: To deal with ongoing/persistent issues of anti-social behaviour (ASB) in both King Street and Willow Walk areas.

Action Taken:

King Street: There have been a series of ongoing issues, dating back to the first period of Coronavirus lockdown, in the area linked to street drinking and the associated ASB. Following a review of the incidents, the team was able to understand who and what were causing the issues. Given the nature of the people concerned, we needed to understand what the draw was for them to come to the area. There appeared to be a link with the sale

of high strength/low cost alcohol and the ASB. Visits have been conducted to licensed premises in the area, in partnership with both the police licensing officer and the City Council's licensing team, where advice was given around the items that were being sold and the issues in the area. As well as these actions, there has also been an increase in high visibility patrol work from the team.

Willow Walk: There have been issues identified around this location. It is likely that this increase is linked to changes brought about due to the Coronavirus restrictions. Cllr Tim Bick set up an online meeting with various stakeholders, including the police and the City Council, and the residents in the area, to discuss the ongoing issues and to understand what actions the stakeholders were able to do to address their concerns. Currently, stakeholders are investigating the viability of a Re-deployable CCTV camera at the location. As well as these actions, targeted patrol work has been carried out in the area.

Current Situation: Work is ongoing.

Lead Officer: PS 686 Kevin MISIK, Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Anti-social behaviour in open and green spaces

Objective: To deal with issues of anti-social behaviour on the open and green spaces within the area.

Action Taken: Whilst this is an area where, historically, the issues have occurred during the summer months, the changes that have come about with the Coronavirus pandemic have changed the way in which some spaces are being used within the City.

To deal with these issues, we are conducting targeted patrols to ensure that any anti-social behaviour is robustly dealt with. We are also dealing with breaches of Coronavirus regulations, most notably as we have now entered a second period of Lockdown. The Constabulary has obtained additional funding from the Government to carry out additional patrols. There have also been challenges with younger people meeting up in groups, after college or during the evening, and we are working with colleges and the City Council to educate these younger people about compliance with the regulations. This work has been carried out, not only by the City Centre team, but also with support from the wider city policing team and the Special Constabulary.

Given the current Coronavirus situation, these issues are often linked to the night time economy and alcohol-related disorder, and as such there is an overlap with the policing of them. The Constabulary has issued a large number of tickets for regulation breaches.

Current Situation: This continues to be a key area of business for the police.

Lead Officer: PS 686 Kevin MISIK, Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Night time economy/alcohol related disorder

Objective: To ensure that the night time economy is safe and free from anti-social behaviour.

Action Taken: There have been a large number of changes in a very short amount of time within the night time economy, primarily in terms of hours of business and the number of people that it can accommodate. This has led to a number of challenges; a prime example being the development of 'secondary queues' where people who are being turned away from the venue, due to it being full, are deciding the wait outside. The City Council are deploying marshals to assist in ensuring that these queues are appropriately distanced. We have worked with the City Council to understand and deal with these changes. We have conducted licensing visits to all of the venues to help them be safe, in line with regulations, and to ensure that they understand the role that they play in ensuring that Cambridge remains a safe place in the evenings. The licensed venues have all taken action to ensure that the people who are coming into their venues are able to socialise in a safe and compliant nature.

As well as this preventative work, we continue to run an evidence-based and phased response to the night time economy (Op CONNECT). We analyse data to understand when busier weekends occur and ensure that there are the appropriate resources in place to deal with any issues which are identified. Each week, feedback is provided to the City Centre team, who use this information to engage with various partners to ensure that any identified issues are dealt with and, when appropriate, update the plan for the following week.

Current Situation: Currently, the venues are closed and remain so until the beginning of December. We are anticipating that, when the venues re-open, the environment will be busy and, given the time of year, that there will be a number of challenging dates ahead. Again, we will continue to work in this key area with the support of our partners and the wider police family.

Lead Officer: PS 686 Kevin MISIK, Cambridgeshire Constabulary

3. *Proactive Work and Emerging Issues*

Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Presently, the work of the team is very fluid. The challenging operating environment of the Coronavirus pandemic has caused some of our main areas of business to open and close on a number of occasions. We continue to work towards dealing with the main issues within the area, be they linked with the night time economy, retail, street-based anti-social behaviour, or within the various residential areas in the area.

Cambridge City Council

The City Council's Community Safety Team (CST) has continued to work with partners to provide a responsive service regarding reported incidents of anti-social behaviour throughout the initial lockdown and to date.

The CST is a key partner to the work being undertaken by the City Council to house the homeless within the City, and has been the link in terms of making sure that all incidents reported, with regards individuals on the streets, are being fed into the Coronavirus partnerships meetings.

As the Lockdown was lifted and footfall increased, some individuals began to have a presence in the City Centre, begging or rough sleeping in doorways, and these individuals have been targeted for support and enforcement interventions, as appropriate. One individual has been issued with a Community Protection Warning and we are working with partner agencies to ensure the individual in question uses the accommodation available to them and has the support they need to move away from a street-based lifestyle. Another individual is currently being considered for a civil Injunction due to their persistent and problematic behaviour impacting on the wider community.

We have continued to highlight anti-social behaviour (ASB) issues in open spaces and have liaised with partners through the strategic forums of both the multi-agency problem solving group and the street life working group, with a view of asking for focused work or intervention, as appropriate.

We are currently working with the police and the community to tackle concerns relating to ASB on Fair Street and Willow Walk, and recently attended the residents, meeting organised by Cllr. Bick.

In October, Cambridge City Council was delighted to learn that its Cambridge Street Aid initiative won the Transforming Lives category of the national 2020 Municipal Journal Awards.

During Lockdown, we saw a decrease in donations, due to low footfall in the City, and an increase in grant applications. Unfortunately, due to the increased number of grants required during the pandemic we have temporarily closed applications. However, the £3,500 raised during our second annual Street Aid Week in October, and the positive publicity arising from the MJ Award, has helped to bolster the funds and we hope to re-open the application process soon.

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.