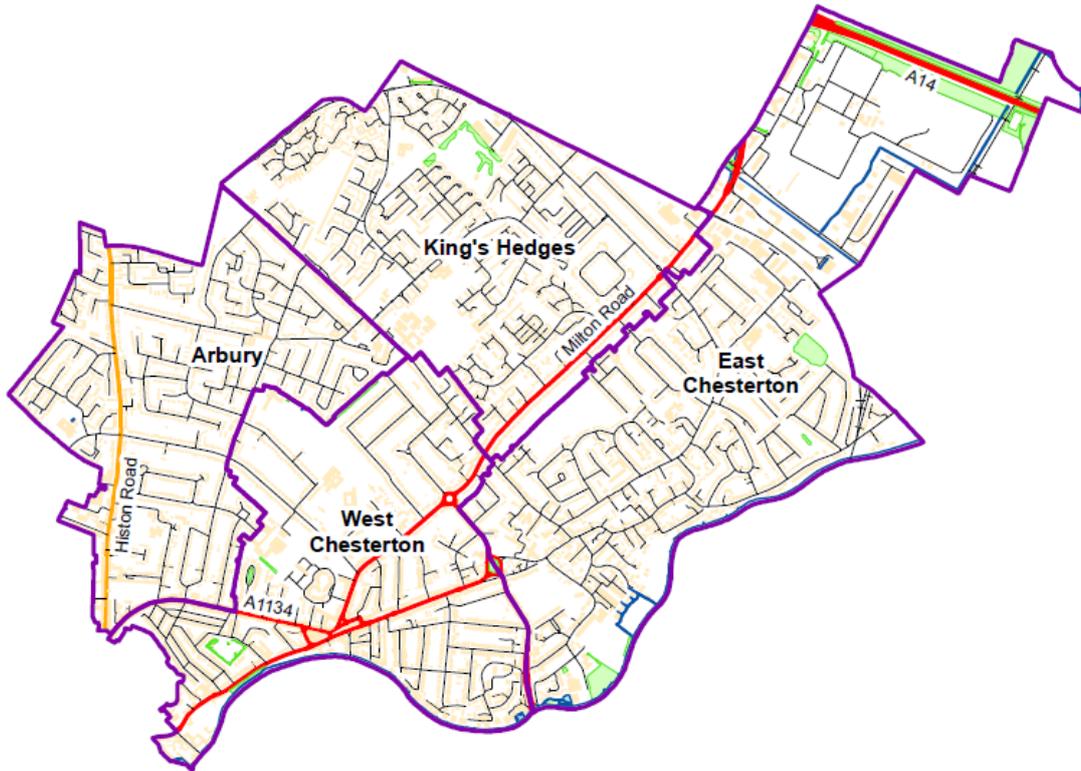


# Neighbourhood Profile

## Cambridge City North – November 2021

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



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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 10 June 2021, the committee recommended addressing the following local areas of concern:

- ASB and dangerous driving across the north of the city (including Fen Road and the High Street) and NO2 canisters;
- Street-based drug dealing, including cuckooing; 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 across the north of the city (including Fen Road and the High Street) and NO2 canisters**

Objective: Reduce instances of antisocial behaviour (ASB) and dangerous driving across the North of the City.

Action Taken: Dedicated patrols continue in locations highlighted by members of the community as being of concern, and officers from the Cambridge City North Team and colleagues in the Special Constabulary actively pursue drivers causing ASB or who drive poorly. Resourcing has been bolstered by a Special Sergeant, who volunteers almost full time hours as an additional resource for the North Team, and the introduction of a Safer Speeds Team provides further resources that can be bid for where roads issues are highlighted.

Current Situation: Since the last Area Committee in June, the North Team has continued to tackle this issue through Operation STAPLE, seizing 11 vehicles for various offences as well as successfully removing driving licences on medical grounds from drivers believed to be habitual drug users. Over 15 Notice of Intended Prosecutions have been issued to moped riders for various offences and Section 59 notices will be issued; breaches of these notices can result in the seizure of the vehicles. There are increased reports of noisy vehicles, not just in the North, but across the City itself. During patrols, where found, vehicles are stopped and checked, and riders and drivers are spoken with. We have found that these vehicles do not appear to have illegal modifications and are not adapted to be loud, but that they are manufactured in that way. As such, at this time, no offences relating to noise have been found to have been committed.

A [scheme](#) to tackle loud cars has been identified that has been successfully run in Kensington and Chelsea, and this has been highlighted to members of the public as a potential option to tackle this antisocial behaviour. This scheme could also be used against motorbikes and mopeds, and does not necessarily require a police input as it uses static cameras, meaning it does not rely on vehicles to actually be stopped or drivers spoken to as tickets are issued by the local authority.

In addition, the North Team is working with Environmental Enforcement Officers to tackle littering and the dumping of NOS cannisters.

Lead Officer: PS EMMS

### **Street-based drug dealing, including cuckooing**

Objective: Tackle street based drug dealing.

Action Taken: As per previous updates, the North Team continues to monitor information received from local residents, either reported directly to us or to the Constabulary. By scanning this, we are able to identify people and locations to target, either through enforcement, education or partnership working.

Current Situation: Tackling drug dealing and county lines continues to be a priority for the whole of Cambridgeshire Constabulary, not just the North Neighbourhood Team. Since the Area Committee meeting in June, the North Team has executed five drugs act warrants at addresses, carried out just under 70 stop searches, and made seven arrests for drug supply, ten for possession, and seized in excess of £10,000 in cash and over £2,000 of assorted drugs in the process.

Lead Officer: PS EMMS

### **Youth and knife crime**

Objective: Reduce youth and knife crime

Action Taken: Since the last Area Committee meeting, the North Team has made three arrests for knife and weapons offences; these have been as a result of proactive patrols and stop searches rather than being sent to incidents that have been called in.

Current Situation: As with street-based drug dealing, tackling all forms of violence, including knife and youth crime, remains a force priority and a core function of police work. We have begun to attend schools again in person, giving crime advice and carrying out presentations around knife crime and exploitation. A plan is being drawn up, specifically to provide a full multi-agency approach to those young people involved in knife crime and those at risk of becoming involved in knife crime. This is still in the planning stage, but it is hoped that it will involve input from schools and partner agencies who we continue to engage with, and where appropriate will result in the diversion of young people away from the carrying of knives and weapons.

Lead Officer: PS EMMS

### **3. *Proactive Work and Emerging Issues***

#### **Cambridgeshire Constabulary**

In August, we held the first North Cambridge Online Consultation Meeting, with residents of the four North Wards of Cambridge joining the meeting. A survey was sent out prior to the meeting and was active for two weeks with over 200 responses received. From these results, and discussions in the online meeting, a number of areas were identified that the community felt were suitable for a police response. Top of the list of residents' concerns were drugs and cycle crime, with top locations for concern being Fen Road and Green End Road.

In addition to the ongoing work to tackle drugs and antisocial driving, as mentioned previously, we are also tackling cycle crime. Since residents highlighted it as being a cause for concern for them, and despite cycle crime making up only 3.9% of all crime reported in North Cambridge, suspects for cycle theft have accounted for 16% of all arrests by the North Team since the consultation.

Another issue raised was lack of visibility of local officers. The North Team are out in their Wards every day they are on duty, and patrols are based on feedback from the community as to where they would like us to be. Recent patrols have included vehicle-related antisocial behaviour in and around Chesterton, concentrating on Elizabeth Way. A number of school visits have been completed with more being planned over the next few weeks. In addition, schools and Covid vaccine/testing centres receive regular visits from uniformed officers to reassure those using the facilities.

#### **Cambridge City Council**

The Community Safety Team (CST) continues to take proactive action where there are reports of anti-social behaviour (ASB) or nuisance behaviour, and works in close partnership with other agencies, such as housing providers, mental health services and the police neighbourhood teams when tackling complex cases. We will consider preventative, supporting and enforcement action as appropriate, depending on the nature and risk level of the case.

During the last reporting period, the CST has been involved in dealing with cases and reports and have acted as appropriate, including:

- Serving two Notices of Seeking Possession on two households in Arbury for antisocial behaviour (ASB).
- Court action pending for an injunction on a tenant who is causing ASB to immediate neighbours and locality of the property in Arbury.
- A tenant in Arbury is causing ongoing ASB in the neighbourhood. Despite the ASB Officer working closely with the tenant's support worker to look at preventative measures and ensuring all alternative options have been explored, the ASB has continued and therefore there is now court action pending for outright possession of the property.
- We conducted two Environmental Visual Audits with the police at the Pulley Park and Nun's Way recreation ground, following complaints of ASB in those areas. The ASB Officer continues to work with the police and other agencies in addressing concerns in those areas.
- The Community Safety Team (CST) has worked closely with staff at Brownsfield Community Centre and the Streets and Open Spaces Team to address reports of young people causing issues at the community centre. The height of the hedges along the pathway has been reduced, opening up the site and making it visible from the footpath. The bramble, undergrowth and combustible debris in the wooded area has been cleared, keeping the trees and making it a much more appealing part of the grounds, more open and less conducive to young people gathering there. There are also further plans to increase the height along the boundaries to both the community centre's garden and the Cooks Close boundaries which should discourage young people from climbing onto the community centre's roof.
- Reports of begging on Histon Road are currently being discussed at the Streetlife Working Group – a fortnightly multi-agency meeting with support agencies working with individuals involved.
- The CST is aware of a number of addresses where vulnerable individuals may be taken advantage of by others. When we become aware of these issues, we work with partner agencies to ensure the victim is supported in reporting the concerns. If they do not wish to do so, we will monitor the situation through regular multi-agency meetings to assess and review the situation on an ongoing basis and ensure appropriate safeguarding is put in place where possible.
- Further to one of the questions from the June 2021 North Area Committee, an ASB Officer arranged a meeting with representatives from the Chesterton Methodist Church and nursery to discuss reported incidents of ASB and consider options, including redeployable CCTV (R-CCTV). Following those discussions, it was considered that R-CCTV was not necessary, however, further advice and support was given.
- As reported in the last profile, the CST has been leading on the Cambs Against County Lines project to raise awareness about county lines and criminal exploitation in the City, both for school aged children, professionals and adults. A film and post show resource pack has been developed and we have started to deliver this in

schools. We have shown the film to almost 200 students at a school in the North of the City so far. This resource has been very well received and we are hoping to deliver sessions in more schools across the City and to the wider community over the forthcoming months.

#### **4. *Additional Information***

At the 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 map'; and 'statistics'. This gives a good overview of issues within the local area. To access the local area's relevant data, type "Cambridge" into the search engine on the homepage and then select the relevant area (Cambridge City Centre policing team, Cambridge – North policing team, or Cambridge – South policing team).

#### **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.