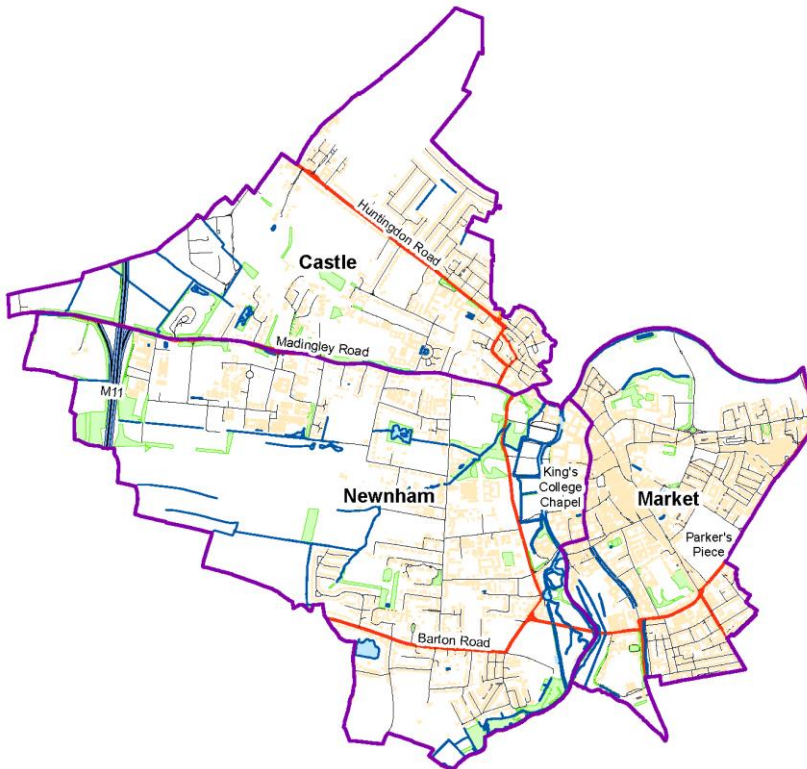


# Neighbourhood Profile

## Cambridge City West/Central – November 2021

**Wards: Castle, Market and Newnham**



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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 17 June 2021, 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.

However, following discussions at that meeting, the police took away the following local areas of concern on which it will be reporting on in this profile and at the meeting:

- Road safety, focussing on pedal cycles/scooters going the wrong way and other road safety issues in the area;
- Begging, focussing on aggressive begging and working with the City Council on injunction work around passive begging; and
- Policing of the green spaces and the night time economy, working on the safeguarding of the people who are using these spaces.

Lead officers and actions to be taken were agreed following the committee meeting. The work undertaken and current situation relating to the revised local areas on concern is detailed below.

## **Road safety, focussing on pedal cycles/scooters going the wrong way and other road safety issues in the area**

Objective: To promote road safety and deal effectively with breaches of the law.

Action Taken: There are a number of different interrelated issues that are addressed under this issue. We receive significant support in dealing with these issues from the Special Constabulary, with particular thanks to SSgt Chris PALMIUS. This work continues to address the issues which are caused by the many delivery vehicles and, more recently, electrically assisted cycles which are effectively considered in law to be the same as pedal cycles.

We are also looking into ways to deal with the issues caused by loud and inappropriately driven mopeds and smaller motorcycles. At this time, we are working with the CCTV operators to obtain evidence and are looking at the best way to progress this. One of the major issues is the noise that these adapted vehicles make and clearly CCTV does not record this evidence. 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 (ASB). This scheme could also be used against motorbikes and mopeds, and does not necessarily require police input as it uses static cameras, meaning that it does not rely on vehicles to actually be stopped or drivers spoken to as tickets are issued by the local authority.

The team has also been spending considerable time stopping and educating cyclists within the pedestrianised area about the right way to cycle, most notably along Sidney Street outside Sidney Sussex college. The team could spend almost all day every day speaking with cyclists in this area, which leads us to wonder if the signage is effective enough if so many people are not noticing it.

Also, PC LEY on the team has continued to run her operation around the use of electric scooters, which seeks to address the issues that are associated with these. A number of scooters have been seized for inappropriate use. In addition, we are making use of a scheme to feed back to Voi Scooters when their scooters are being inappropriately used, and this has led to users having their accounts suspended where their use, whilst not crossing the threshold into a traffic offence, has breached the terms and conditions of use.

Current Situation: These issues are still taking place, and the actions taken to address them will continue to be part of the team's core activities.

Lead Officer: PS 686 MISIK

## **Begging, focussing on aggressive begging and working with the City Council on injunction work around passive begging**

Objective: To address issues of begging within the City Centre, both in terms of aggressive and passive begging.

Action Taken: This area of work is one where the Police Team and the City Council's Community Safety Team have a long history of successfully working in partnership to deal with. The Police Team has reviewed the evidence from reports and identified the most

problematic individuals. We use an agreed scoring system to ensure a consistent approach in identification of risk and targeting enforcement action. These reviews have identified an individual whose behaviour is the most problematic within the City Centre and the Team has gathered the relevant evidence and completed an application to the courts for a Criminal Behaviour Order which will be used to address their behaviour. As well as this enforcement action, we have worked with a wide range of support agencies to ensure that they have the relevant help that they need to address any underlying reasons for their offending. At this time, we are waiting for this matter be heard by the courts.

As well as this work the Police has supported the City Council in applying for an injunction, ensuring that all relevant evidence and information is available to make the best decisions and present best evidence.

As well as this proactive application for criminal orders, we have also been carrying out target patrol work to prevent and deal with any offences that are discovered.

Current Situation (Police): These matters are being progressed to court and the work continues to be part of the core role of the City Centre team, working in partnership with the City Council.

Current Situation (City Council): The Community Safety Team is currently leading on a number of injunctions against a group of persistently problematic street individuals in the City Centre. The individuals identified for injunctions are reported to be harassing members of the public on a daily basis for money, often targeting vulnerable individuals and leading them to cashpoints to withdraw money.

Others are setting up their sleep sites or begging sites in high footfall locations claiming to be homeless and in need of spare change when they are refusing support from the agencies who are trying to assist them with support and accommodation.

These injunctions have not been taken lightly and have been considered necessary, not only to safeguard the wider community, but also the individuals who are putting themselves at risk of harm. Injunctive action has only been taken following careful consideration and persistent offers of support and alternative options for the people involved.

The street life community working group had taken preventative measures to address the behaviours, but these actions have not been successful, and the working group has therefore agreed to take action against the most persistently problematic people. Those involved in enforcement action have been known to services for a considerable length of time and most of them have accommodation available to them. Those that do not have accommodation have lost such because of behaviour or through not using it. The options and support offers remain in place and can be taken up at any time.

Lead Officers: PS 686 MISIK and Sarah Steggles (City Council)

## **Policing of the green spaces and the night-time economy, working on the safeguarding of the people who are using these spaces**

Objective: To ensure that both the night-time economy (NTE) and the green spaces within the City are safe for people to use.

Action Taken: The policing of the green spaces within the City Centre and the NTE is a regular and significant part of the activity of the wider policing team within the City. As well as the active patrol work that the team carries out, we are also responsible for the longer term planning and management of the safeguarding work.

Our response to this is called Operation CONNECT. This has a number of major parts both involving targeted and high visibility police patrol work, as well as a large amount of partnership work with a number of different agencies ranging from the Constabulary's and City Council's licencing departments to Cambridge Business Against Crime (CAMBAC), and various charities and venues in the City. This work is driven by the desire to provide a safe NTE for everyone who comes to Cambridge and there are a number of things that the various partners do to make sure this happens. During Freshers' Week each year, the City Centre Team provides talks of various types, both in person and virtually, to the two Universities to provide new students with advice on a safe night out.

On Fridays and Saturdays each week the Street Pastors are out in the NTE and provide not only the Night Safe Venue, where people can go to obtain low level help and support, but also mobile safeguarding patrols as well.

There have been a number of joint licensing visits completed to review the venues, to ensure that they are working towards their licensing objectives and safeguarding the people that are using their venues. There have been examples where staff at the venues visited had acted swiftly and appropriately to safeguard their clients and help the police deal robustly with offenders. The venues have access to CAMBAC radios which give them a direct link with each other as well as the police and the CCTV operators, to ensure that they can quickly and effectively communicate issues as they occur.

As well as this proactive work, we also conduct targeted patrol work within the NTE. Each year the data is reviewed, the weekends are graded in terms of the risk of disorder, and a bespoke policing operation is put in place to deal with the issues expected. Officers who are committed on this operation are briefed around previous issues and provided relevant feedback to ensure that any issues from the previous week are able to influence the following week's patrols as well and to take any slow time licensing enforcement or advice that is required.

CAMBAC is currently in the process of organising safeguarding and vulnerability training for various people who work in this environment, which is being supported by the police and the City Council.

CAMBAC also provides Taxi Marshalls to manage the queues at the taxi ranks which can often be a flash point for disorder. The feedback on this system is very positive.

The safe management of the NTE has wide and varied group of people working within it, all of whom are committed to making Cambridge a safe city

Current Situation: This continues to be a key work for the team and continues to be the core work of the team and our partners.

Lead Officer: PS MISIK

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

#### **Cambridgeshire Constabulary**

Nothing further to report.

#### **Cambridge City Council**

Rough sleeping and drug use in car parks are increasing and we are working with partner agencies to ensure individuals are safeguarded and any risks to the rough sleeper, staff or member of public are minimised.

We are also working with partner agencies to deal with reports of street drinking and antisocial behaviour associated with the street community in Sidney Street. This work is ongoing. Some of those involved are included in the injunction application and this may have a positive impact on reducing the issues in the area.

Cambridge Street Aid week was held In October with a number of awareness raising stalls across the City, including in the Market Square and Grand Arcade. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic we were unable to hold the major fundraising event of the week and therefore focussed on awareness raising.

### **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.