

Neighbourhood Profile

Cambridge City East – December 2021

Wards: Abbey, Coleridge, Petersfield and Romsey



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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 East Area Committee meeting of 24 June 2021, the committee recommended addressing the following local areas of concern:

- Anti-social Driving;
- Cycle theft; and
- Drug dealing and the protection of local young people – child criminal exploitation.

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

Anti-social Driving

Objective: To mitigate the impact of anti-social driving on residents in the East of the City, and to identify and act against repeat anti-social drivers.

Action Taken: The city-wide operation to target anti-social use of the roads remains in effect. In the East area of the city, we have made an effort to focus on the anti-social use of mopeds, low-power motor cycles and electric scooters (not mobility scooters), which seem to be the primary driver for most of the anti-social vehicle reports we receive. Much of this activity is currently carried out by volunteers from the special constabulary, using powers under Section 59 of the Police Reform Act 2002. Officers have been out in the

Riverside, Barnwell Road, Peverel Road, Ditton Fields, Thorpe Way and Dudley Road areas.

Current Situation: Residents are encouraged to keep reporting incidents of anti-social road use in their neighbourhoods. Although many road traffic offences need to be “found-committing” in order for a successful prosecution to take place, an accurate picture of where the primary focus for our patrols should be is essential, if the time we can devote to this issue is to remain effective and meaningful.

Lead Officer: PS453 Jim STEVENSON

Cycle theft

Objective: To reduce the impact of cycle theft on those living, working, and parking their bicycles in the East area of the City.

Action Taken: The city-wide policing operation targeting the organised theft of cycles, which began at the end of 2020, has continued since the last committee report. Cycle theft for Cambridge City as a whole remains well below the pre-pandemic level, with the total number of crimes recorded for Theft of Pedal Cycle in Cambridge being down 40% compared to the same period 2 years ago, and down by a third compared to the same period last year. Proactive activity using new tactics continued over the summer and enforcement action against identified handlers of stolen cycles has also been maintained. For the period July to October this year, Cycle Theft was no longer the largest recorded crime type for Cambridge City, although it still is probably one of the most under reported crime types in our professional opinion.

A multi-agency Cambridge Cycle Crime Prevention Task and Finish Group was set up in October 2020 to respond to increasing concerns about cycle crime. Cambridge City Council is the interim chair, with stakeholders from local businesses and various agencies, including the voluntary sector, working together. The Task Group has launched a [Save Our Cycles](#) campaign to encourage the locking and registering of cycles. In addition, work has taken place around infrastructure to identify opportunities for safety and security improvements. We continue our enforcement work and ask for cycle thefts to be reported [online](#) or by calling 101.

Current Situation: The situation remains that cycle crime is still one of the most prevalent crime types in Cambridge City. The fact remains that the most effective means of tackling cycle theft is still good crime prevention advice: in other words, the use of locks and effective cycle racks to lock cycles to; and the use of national crime property databases, such as National Bike Register and Immobilise, to register bicycles.

Lead Officer: PS2146 Chris BOCKHAM

Drug dealing and the protection of local young people – child criminal exploitation

Objective: To identify and disrupt the perpetrators of organised drug dealing, and to safeguard and divert young people at risk of becoming victims of criminal exploitation linked to drug dealing and County Lines.

Action Taken: The lead for enforcement activity against organised crime groups and County Lines organisations remains with the Neighbourhood Support Teams (NST). Support from the East Team for this activity comes mainly from information from the public, which is then researched and verified by the East Team officers to make sure that the intelligence acted on by the Neighbourhood Support Team is as accurate as can be. Other enforcement options, such as Closure Orders or Community Protection Notices, can then be used against verified addresses and regular offenders. The NST have been active in the Mill Road and Peverel Road areas, as well as across the Coleridge and Romsey wards, especially around the recreation grounds and green spaces. Supporting work from the East Team includes intelligence submissions about suspect people and vehicles, and preparatory work for another Closure Order to deal with an address where a series of County Lines dealers have been found and arrested.

Current Situation: Regular and verifiable information from the public remains a vital link in tackling this type of organised criminal activity. Community intelligence can be reported [online](#) or via [Crimestoppers](#).

Lead Officer: PS453 Jim STEVENSON

3. *Proactive Work and Emerging Issues*

Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Our proactive work will continue to focus on the areas of concern identified at the last area committee meeting.

Cambridge City Council

Further to the last neighbourhood profile in June this year, a temporary CCTV camera was installed at a location in the Petersfield ward. Since installation, there has been a reduction in reports of anti-social behaviour in the area.

There was also an application submitted for a temporary CCTV camera at a location in the Abbey ward, which, after the necessary checks, has now been installed.

Residents have been reporting an increase in youth-related anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the Abbey area, especially on Barnwell Road and Peverel Road. An ASB Officer, with support from a PCSO, held an ASB Surgery at the Abbey Hub, and has carried out a letter drop and door knocks, referring raised issues to the multi-agency Problem Solving Group. In addition, a number of parents of the young people involved have been written to or had meetings with the ASB Officer. The police are conducting patrols in the area and investigating a number of incidents reported to them. The police and Community Safety Team (CST) are working in partnership and involving other agencies, such as youth teams, to address these issues.

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, for school-aged children, professionals, and adults. A film and accompanying resource pack have been developed and we have started to deliver this in schools. To date, we have delivered these to almost 300 secondary school students in the City. 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.

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.