

Neighbourhood Profile

Cambridge City East – June 2022

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 2 December 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: There continues to be a city-wide operation in place to tackle anti-social driving across the entire city. This operation is heavily supported by the special constabulary who now have a dedicated team of volunteer officers committed to speed monitoring operations and other actions targeting anti-social driving.

East team officers have remained focused on the issues around e-scooter usage and their anti-social use. We have been able to address the use of 'VOI' scooters by working with

the company. They have been able to offer us an app whereby we can report users of VOI scooters for offences such as riding with two people on board, riding on pavements and riding through red lights, as well as others. Once reported to VOI via this app, the user's account is reviewed and can be suspended or completely blocked, depending on the offence, removing the rider's ability to use the scooters in future. An added benefit of this is that it does not require that we stop the rider. We simply report the scooter's location at a certain time, together with the ID number on the rear of the scooter, and this is sufficient, meaning even those that fail to stop can be dealt with. We have had a number of successes with this app and continue to make use of it on a regular basis.

In relation to privately-owner e-scooters, we continue to prefer an education over enforcement approach. There is a significant amount of misinformation out there about the legality of these scooters and their use, and where possible, we try to educate those we interact with as to the actual law. Many people are operating under the assumption that they are legal on roads, or if you have a driving licence, or some other variation of the truth. Only by education can we fairly impact upon the usage of these vehicles. To date, this approach has meant we have had to seize very few of these e-scooters, although there have been occasions where enforcement has been necessary.

Current Situation: A significant number of road-related offences require officers to be present at the time the offence is ongoing, which means we need to be able to respond to up-to-date reports of where the issue is currently the most impactful. With that in mind, residents are encouraged to keep reporting any issues they witness or by which they are affected. Whilst we may not be able to respond to every individual report, this allows us to identify locations on which to focus and identify patterns within the reports which may help to identify specific repeat offenders. We can also use these reports to determine if there is an underlying cause to certain types of antisocial behaviour, for example, regular speeding in a road with no traffic calming measures, or vehicles gathering at certain times because of a lack of CCTV, etc. Once we identify these underlying issues, we can then work with partner agencies to address them.

Lead Officer: A/PS MUNDAY

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: As part of the ongoing, city-wide operation to tackle cycle theft, officers in the east area regularly carry out both uniformed and plain-clothed patrols in areas known to be vulnerable to cycle theft.

As well as this, we have worked with the other area teams within the city to address those offenders who are active in the handling and selling of stolen bikes. These individuals will generally have networks that spread across the city and are not limited to one specific area of the city. Therefore, this collaboration between teams is imperative to address the issue. One of the standout successes that has come from this is the issuing of a Criminal Behaviour Order to a known prolific cycle thief, who has since been arrested for breaching this Order and received a custodial sentence. As well as this, another individual who

already had a Criminal Behaviour Order, had theirs extended and a was given a 16-week custodial sentence after they were seen to attempt to steal a bike.

There is also collaborative work currently ongoing with the Metropolitan Police, to address groups of individuals who have been entering the city by train to steal cycles before leaving the county.

Current Situation: Cycle crime continues to be a significant issue within the city and we continue to address this both at the point of the theft and at the point stolen bikes are sold on. As ever, an emphasis needs to be put on initial prevention by means of the use of locks and effective cycle racks to lock cycles to; and the use of national crime property databases, such as the National Bike Register and Immobilise, to register bicycles.

Lead Officer: A/PS MUNDAY

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: There are two very distinct types of drug dealing active in the east area, and in the city. First is 'County Lines' drug dealing, which is people travelling into the city from outside of the county in order to deal. Ownership of this issue sits with a dedicated team; the Neighbourhood Support Team (NST). This team proactively targets these individuals, working alongside other forces with an intelligence-led approach. This team has been actively working within the east area and, following the locating and arrest of any dealers, will then liaise with the East team. We will then take on the long-term issues that may have resulted from this individual. This can include, but is not limited to: the safeguarding of any young people exposed to the activity; the closure or securing of any addresses used; or follow-up activity/patrols in areas highlighted as a concern.

The second type of dealing is the more local 'home-grown' dealing, which are individuals who drug deal within the city and who are based here long-term. This includes those young individuals within the area who are being led on a path to drug dealing and are starting to come to police attention for drug-related activity. These can require more long-term solutions as their removal from the county is not a natural result, as it would be for County Lines dealers. When dealing with young people who have become involved in this world, we will engage with partner agencies, make use of specialist departments within the force, and make use of policing powers where necessary, such as Community Protection Notices/Orders, Community Behaviour Orders, gang injunctions, and court orders where applicable.

Current Situation: There has been a noticeable increase in both County Lines and home-grown drug dealing activity in the east of the city, and in response we have had a number of successful interventions. We have been able to take a very robust stance against this activity in the east and continue to do so. What is imperative however is that we continue to receive information from those in the community. It is this information that allows us to build a picture of what is happening in the East area and direct our activity in response.

Lead Officer: A/PS MUNDAY

3. Proactive Work and Emerging Issues

Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Our proactive work will continue to focus on the areas of concern identified.

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, police neighbourhood teams and other partner agencies when tackling complex cases. We will consider preventative, supporting and enforcement action as appropriate, depending on the nature and risk level of the case.

Since the last reporting period, the CST has obtained an anti-social behaviour (ASB) injunction for 12 months to tackle issues associated with an address in the Romsey area. We are also seeking possession of a property in Coleridge following reports of ASB and noise nuisance.

The CST has been receiving complaints of ASB, including street drinking and begging, in a bus stop in the Abbey area, and are working with support agencies and police to resolve this issue.

Residents have been reporting an increase in youth-related ASB in the Coleridge area centred around the Walpole Road shops and nearby green space. The CST has carried out a letter drop, door knocks and referred issues raised to the multi-agency Problem Solving Group (PSG). We are also exploring estate improvements and applying for a CCTV camera. We are also working with partners in the police to identify the youths involved.

Due to ongoing concerns in relation to youth-related ASB in the Barnwell area, we are currently working with the police and partner agencies to identify those involved and take appropriate action. A number of young people and their parents have been spoken to and advice given about consequences and keeping safe. The area is also discussed at the monthly PSG to ensure all agencies involved are aware and relevant information is shared so appropriate action can be taken. The CST and the local PCSOs have met with a number of residents to discuss their concerns and offer advice on how to report ASB and what action can be taken to deal with their concerns.

We continue to lead on the Cambs Against County Lines project, to raise awareness about child criminal exploitation and County Lines issues. A number of "Train the Facilitator" sessions have been delivered to professionals in the east of the city, so that they are able to deliver the project in their own areas. Visit [Cambs Against County Lines](#) for more information, including links to resources.

Save Our Cycles – Linked to the Cambridge Community Safety Partnership, the multi-agency Cambridge Cycle Crime Prevention Task Group is chaired by Cambridge City

Council. The Task Group, which includes Camcycle, businesses, the two universities and the police, launched a [Save Our Cycles](#) campaign for the public to encourage locking and registering cycles.

A Road Safety Day of Action, held on 8 June, during [National Bike Week](#), was organised by [Vision Zero Partnership](#), which aimed to raise public awareness about road safety. The events took place at two locations in the city: outside Tesco on Newmarket Road (between 10am to 2pm), with child car seat checking, [Road Victims Trust](#) and [Speedwatch](#); and outside Boots on Sidney Street (between 12pm to 4pm). Agencies supporting the events included the police (for [bike marking](#)), [Camcycle](#) (raising awareness about [Save Our Cycles](#)), [Outspoken Cycles](#) (providing free bike maintenance checks), [Voi](#) (electric e-bikes and scooters) and members of the Community Safety Team, as well as Darryl Preston, the Police and Crime Commissioner.

We would also like to remind you of one of the Cambridgeshire police's Watch schemes, [Community Speed Watch](#), where communities themselves can become involved in making the roads safer in Cambridge.

4. Additional Information

At the neighbourhood level, the [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.