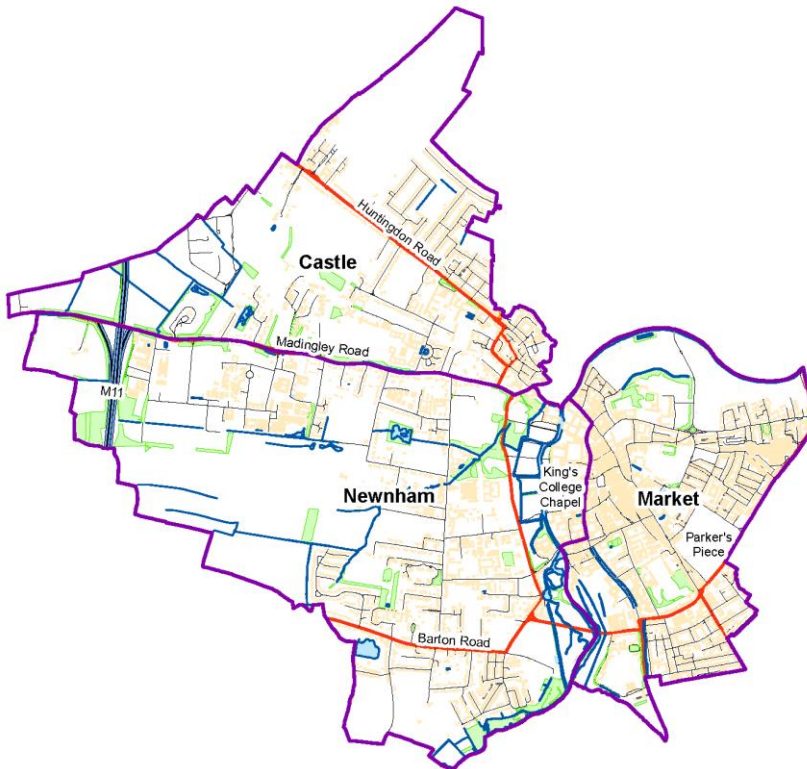


Neighbourhood Profile

Cambridge City West/Central – June 2023

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 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 24 November 2022, the committee recommended addressing the following local areas of concern:

- Drug dealing and associated anti-social behaviour, including threatening behaviour and safeguarding of young people;
- Road safety focussing on delivery mopeds and electric scooters illegally used on public highways, particularly those vehicles at night without lights;
- Street begging; and
- Supporting the new (police campaign) expected on drugs with focus on frequent users and the night time economy

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

Drug dealing and associated anti-social behaviour, including threatening behaviour and safeguarding of young people

Objective: To address county lines drug dealing and associated ASB and safeguarding concerns.

Action Taken: Dealing with county line drug dealing and the various issues that it causes is something that is not only carried out by the local team but also the wider policing team in the south of the county as well as other dedicated resources.

The work that the wider constabulary does is around arresting and disrupting county lines and, where appropriate, safeguarding people who have been drawn into this kind of activity. As well as dealing with the people who are selling the drugs, the team looks to understand and mitigate the harm which is caused by the use and purchase of the drugs themselves. This is done with target patrol work as well as less visible actions. Notably there has been an increase in drug related reports around the area of Maids Causeway and because of these arrests have been made and the activity disrupted.

The team works at both ends of this issue attempting to help people reduce their use and therefore reduce the demand from controlled drugs as well as obtaining and acting on community intelligence to target those who sell drugs or exploit others to do it for them.

We are also carrying out training with housing providers to help them understand the signs and what action they should take when they believe that drug dealing is taking place.

Current Situation: This work continues as part of daily business for the team.

Lead Officer: PS 686 Kevin Misik

Road safety focussing on delivery mopeds and electric scooters illegally used on public highways, particularly those vehicles at night without lights

Objective: To reduce the number of issues caused by delivery mopeds and illegal e-Scooters.

Action Taken: The work in this area takes a number of different forms. We are working with the city council to increase the education of users and to ensure that where people are using the vehicles that they are doing so legally and appropriately. We are also actively engaging with the venues which are serviced by these vehicles and checking that they are taking relevant steps to ensure that riders who are associated with their business are acting appropriately, for example one of the major takeaway venues, due to their location, only gives orders to riders on pedal cycles. The team also engage with the riders when they are waiting to collect their order to ensure that they are not causing ASB or obstructing pavements, this is most notable around the Market Square.

All this work is underpinned by enforcement action taken against riders who ride in a dangerous or anti-social manner. The team routinely challenge this behaviour when carrying out their patrols.

Current Situation: This continues to be an issue and this work will continue as business as usual for the West Central Team.

Lead Officer: Ps 686 Kevin Misik

Street begging

Objective: To address street begging.

Action Taken: We work closely in Partnership with the city council to deal with the issues of street begging, broadly speaking the city council leads on issues of passive begging and the Police take a lead with the more aggressive beggars. We work to ensure that people have access to the support and accommodation that they need, where there are continued concerns about the behaviour of individuals and the impact of this on people who live, work and visit the city centre then we take targeted and proportionate enforcement action. This ranges from informal words of advice, to progressing people to court and applying for Criminal Behaviour Orders to address their behaviour. There have been notable successes in this area including the arrest, imprisonment and criminal behaviour order for an individual who was repeatedly causing distress to the public – thanks to the work of PC Laura O’Flynn on this case.

As well as carrying out person centred work we also work to target patrols in hotspot areas, so as always reports of this kind of behaviour help the police to target the correct locations and relevant times, and more importantly document the effect that it has on the public.

Current Situation: This is core business for both the Police team and our many partners.

Lead Officer: PS 686 Kevin Misik

Supporting the new (police campaign) expected on drugs with focus on frequent users and the night time economy

Objective: To deal with drug use and sale within the Night time economy.

Action Taken: Again, the key theme in this area of work is the partners across the city. Our Night Time Economy is aimed at making the city centre welcoming and safe for people who want to use it. This partnership allows us to understand not only the who is at risk but what spaces within the city centre are more likely to be subjected to this kind of issue, which allows us to work with people to make sure that these areas are appropriately patrolled as well as knowing what steps can be taken to ensure that any physical features or CCTV issues can be addressed to make the area safer. The most notable of these recent areas was the Market square and thanks to a large amount of work from the Cambridge City Council’s Market team and CCTV team we were able to make the Market Square a much safer place to be during the NTE.

This coupled with target use of police search powers as well as robust search practices in venues ensure that people who use drugs are likely to be identified and dealt with appropriately.

Officers are also being upskilled as to what they need to look for when they are conducting NTE patrols not only to look for the usual alcohol related disorder but also to identify people at risk of predatory behaviour and those who could be involved in the use and sale of controlled drugs.

Current Situation: The original piece of work has now been embedded into the business as usual for the wider city policing team.

Lead Officer: PS 686 Kevin Misik

3. *Proactive Work and Emerging Issues*

Cambridgeshire Constabulary: As the summer months are coming up there will be an increase in the issues within the various green spaces within the area, most notably Jesus Green, and the work of the team will reflect these season changes. As well as this we will continue to work with our partners to deal with issues of street based ASB, Bike and retail theft and youth related ASB.

Cambridge City Council

On behalf of the Cambridge Community Safety Partnership Board, Cambridge City Council co-ordinates the Cambs Against County Lines Project, which delivers sessions in secondary schools, raising awareness of county lines to help prevent children being criminally exploited into the movement of drugs and money. Cambs Against County Lines sessions have been delivered to secondary school across the city. We're also in the process of expanding the project to make age-appropriate content for younger children.

The city council also co-ordinates the monthly Peer Groups and Places meeting. This is a multi-agency meeting to discuss areas in local community where there are concerns about young people in relation to anti-social behaviour and/or crime. The meeting is attended by Cambridgeshire County Council (Early Help, Social Care, Youth Offending Service), Cambridgeshire Police, Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service, local schools and colleges in the Cambridge City locality, local youth-based charities in the Cambridge City locality and registered housing providers. The purpose of the meeting is for agencies to share information about the concerning and risky behaviour by young people and agree actions that safeguard the young people whilst also reducing the impact of their behaviours on the community.

Recently we have created a poster raising awareness to parents about the signs County lines and what to do if they're worried about their child or a child they know.

With regards to wider City Centre issues, including street based ASB, begging and associated criminality, a problem-solving approach has also been adopted in the form of partnership meetings, between the Community Safety Team, Police colleagues and city centre stakeholders, including the retailers (Grand Arcade, Grafton Centre) and CamBac. This has allowed for a holistic agency approach and provides professionals the opportunity to work with and hear directly from those affected by the behaviour.

The City Councils Street Support Officer has been engaging with the street community to discuss behaviours and consequences but also in supporting them to access the services they need. There is ongoing work preparing a number of committal applications against two individuals who have a persistently problematic street presence and are continuing to breach injunction orders.

E-scooters

Micro-mobility offers great potential to enhance people's everyday travel choices in towns and cities and help tackle climate change, but irresponsible and unsafe use by some undermines public confidence and support.

In order to gain a better understanding of the potential benefits the Government has commissioned a number of e-scooter public hire trials across the UK, including here in Cambridge. The use of any other mechanically propelled scooters on public roads, cycle facilities and footways is, currently, against the law and can be reported to the Police. Whilst such machines can be purchased without difficulty, they should only be used on private land with the landowner's permission.

Addressing the issue of anti-social and unlawful use of various forms of micro-mobility is a complex matter that involves many organisations such as the City Council, County Council, Police, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, businesses and community interest groups – all with different roles and jurisdictions. In order to provide reassurance, in late 2022 the Council initiated and led a multi-partner stakeholder working group to review areas of current difficulty, and to seek to identify potential mitigations where practicable. To date this work has already secured:

- Public engagement over community policing priorities, including direct dialogue with fast-food delivery providers and targeted enforcement activity against persistent offenders at known 'hot-spots'
- Agreement and funding to trial signing promoting responsible behaviour on Midsummer Common – a multi-use green space with several paths crossing and an area of reported regular conflict between users
- Support for a countywide public information campaign focusing on the use of scooters and the law, similar to that undertaken elsewhere around the UK, and most likely to be led by the Cambridgeshire road safety Vision Zero Partnership, and Police
- Continuing liaison with and input to the national e-scooter trials being undertaken on behalf of the Department for Transport (DfT). Within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough this is being led by the Combined Authority and operator Voi.

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

The following local areas of concern are recommended for consideration:

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.