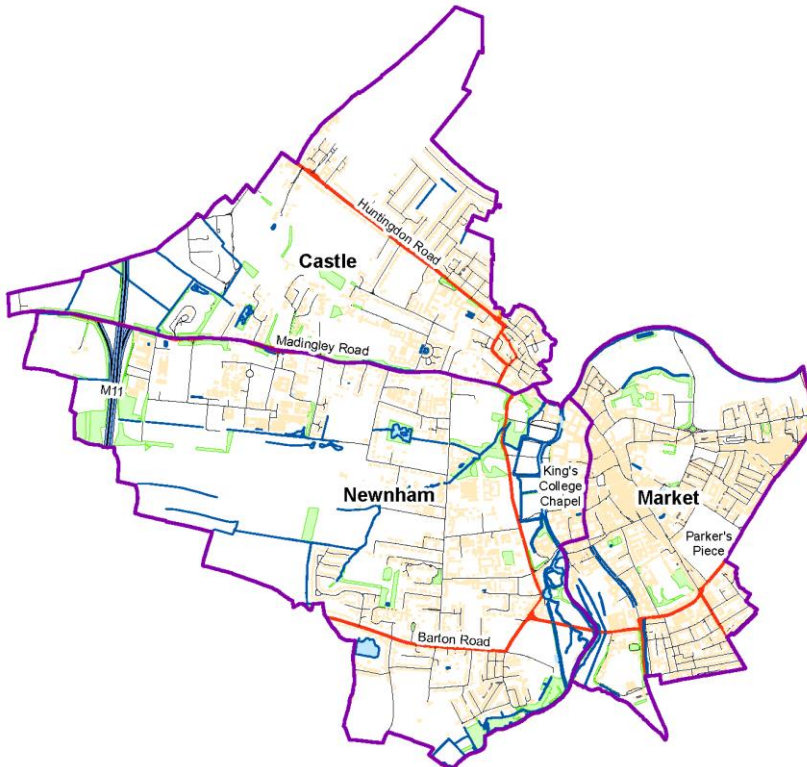


# Neighbourhood Profile

## Cambridge City West/Central – November 2023

***Wards: Castle, Market and Newnham***



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## Contents

<b>1.Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
Aim	3
Methodology	3
<b>2. Current Areas of Concern</b>	
One	3
Two	3
Three	3
<b>3. Proactive Work and Emerging Issues</b>	<b>6</b>
Cambridgeshire Constabulary	6
Cambridge City Council	6
<b>4. Additional Information</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>5. Recommendations</b>	<b>8</b>

## **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 24 November 2023, 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 safeguard young people and deal with associated ASB and drug related issues.

Action Taken: The work that we have undertaken in this area has been both directly as targeted enforcement action but also with a number of key pieces of partnership work.

The enforcement work has been targeted at times and locations which have been highlighted by calls made to the Police, which emphasises the importance of people calling issues in. There have been various hotspots across the West/Central area, notably Parkers Piece, Jesus Green, and Rose Crescent. Officers from the NPT supported by both the Special Constabulary and of members of the wider constabulary have conducted High Visibility patrols and well as plain clothed work to both disrupt ASB and deal with offenders.

As well as this targeted work the team has undertaken a number of pieces of partnership work to deal with the route causes of the issues and look to deal with these issues before they become bigger problems.

PC Weldon has carried out work with a number of retailers who trade in areas of the City Centre who are subject to these issues and worked with them and CAMBAC (Cambridge Business against Crime Partnership) to not only listen to and address their concerns but also to ensure that they are reporting issues promptly and with a good level of detail to allow the Police to target patrol work to get the most out of our activities.

PC Weldon has also been working with youth accommodation providers within the area to work in partnership to ensure that young people who are at risk from ASB or crime are effectively safeguarded, and a partnership led response is in place for young people who are involved in crime and ASB with a view to diverting them from further issues.

Current Situation: This work continues and is a key part of the team's work both in terms of safeguarding and dealing with crime and ASB. This work will continue.

Lead Officer: PS 686 Kevin Misik and PC 1105 Jake Weldon

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

Objective: To address issues of Road Safety notably with E-Scooters and delivery mopeds

Action Taken: The issues of e-scooters continue to be addressed with ongoing routine proactive enforcement and engagement work, which is targeted around the locations highlighted road traffic collision data. A number of these locations are in the committee's area, most notably the Hills Rd Junction at the Catholic Church. This enforcement action is happening twice a week at the moment and is set to continue. The team have been actively engaging with the delivery riders to ensure that they are acting in a safe and legal matter.

As well as enforcement action we have been carrying out Road Safety inputs with the new student population. The forces Casualty Reduction Officer attended the ARU welcome fair and PS Misik and PC Bennett attended a number of colleges welcome events and the message around safe cycling, bike lights and bike crime were passed to the students. Now that the clocks have changed the team has a number of LIT scheme enforcement days/evenings where people found to be without lights will be given the opportunity to buy lights and have the tickets cancelled. This work is being supported by the University.

Current Situation: This work continues and the LIT scheme for this year is in its early stages.

Lead Officer: PS 686 Kevin Misik

## **Street begging**

Objective: To deal with issues of Street based begging and ASB.

Action Taken: This is a core function of the City Centre team and there is a well-established partnership to deal with these issues, this includes both problem-solving around people and locations. This work works to divert people into relevant support, help and where appropriate accommodation.

There is a fortnightly meeting which deals with a cohort of the most problematic individuals and works towards solutions to help them and to reduce the effect they have on the wider community.

Since the last meeting the most notable result is the success the team and notably PC O'Flynn had dealing with a repeat offender who had for some

time been the most problematic individual in the City Centre and after hard work the individual was sentenced to prison for a considerable time for breaching his CBO.

<https://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/news/cambridge-news/thorn-side-cambridge-beggar-jailed-27545572>

Current Situation: This work continues to be one of the main pieces of work that the team undertakes and the partnership we have with primarily with the City Councils ASB team as well as others is key to the continued success.

Lead Officer: PS 686 Kevin Misik PC 1907 Leigh Browne and PC 1507 Laura O'Flynn

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

Objective: To deal with issues around drug use in the night ime economy.

Action Taken: This work continues in partnership with the venues themselves to understand where and when these offences are taken place as well as making sure that the venues are doing what they should be doing inside their own venues. We have a dedicated policing response the ensures that the night-time economy is a safe environment, and this work has been folded into the normal work that those officers carry out. Working with all of the partners in this environment we have built up a good understanding of what normal looks like so we can target resources into the right area to deal with repeated issues.

Current Situation: This is now business as usual.

Lead Officer: PS 686 Kevin Misik

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

#### **Cambridgeshire Constabulary**

We are working towards the Christmas and New Year period in both the Night Time Economy and also retail crime areas. As well as this with the cold weather starting, we are working with the City council and other parties to safeguard members of the community who are inappropriately housed.

Finally, the team is working to deal with youth ASB and issues of safeguarding.

## **Cambridge City Council**

The Cambs Against County Lines Project co-ordinated by Cambridge City Council on behalf the Cambridge Community Safety Partnership Board, continues to raise awareness of county lines to help prevent children being criminally exploited into the movement of drugs and money. The project is currently in the process of expanding to make age-appropriate content for younger children with the production of a KS2 video. In addition, a flyer for parents and carers has been created to increase their awareness of county lines and potential impacts on young people. This flyer has been shared with various external agencies. More recently this flyer was included within the Autumn 2023 Edition of the Cambridge Matters publication.

The City Council co-ordinates the multi-agency Peer Groups and Places meeting meets monthly to discuss areas in local community where there are concerns about young people in relation to anti-social behaviour and/or crime and in particular where young people might be at risk of being involved in ASB or criminal exploitation, such as County Lines. The purpose of the meeting is for agencies to share information and agree actions that safeguard the young people whilst reducing the impact of their behaviours on the community. This multi-agency working allows for a contextual safeguarding approach to be adopted and the exploration of alternative activity that young individuals could positively engage with.

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 (CST), 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.

As part of the ongoing Cycle Crime Prevention work and the 'Save Our Cycles' Campaign which encourages the public to register their bike on Bikeregister.com, the Police and Crime Commissioners Office (OPCC) and Cambridge City Council funded Cycle Marking Kits and Camcycle's Save our Cycle campaign leaflet continue to be promoted and used at bike marking events across the City. The Streets and Open Spaces Development Team have also trialled new Respect signage on public spaces in the city.

The City Councils Street Support Officer (SSO) has been engaging with the street community to discuss behaviours and consequences but also in supporting them to access the services they need. This has been successful in tackling some encampments near the city centre. The winter provision has now opened, and the SSO is encouraging members of the street community to engage with this service with a view to moving into longer term accommodation.

The ASB team has successfully applied for an extension on an existing Injunction Order for one individual who has been a persistently problematic street presence.

The CST has made a video to promote the award winning initiative Cambridge Street Aid and can be found on their website here; [Cambridge Street Aid](#). This initiative continues raise awareness of safe ways in which members of the public can help those on the streets, rather than giving spare change which can lengthen the time spent on the streets.

The CST have been involved with the installation of two refuge points within the Market Square, providing a point of safety for vulnerable members of the public within the night-time economy, which are connected via intercom and visible by CCTV operatives 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. These refuge points have now been installed; they are not yet fully operational as they are awaiting to be connected to the control room, but this is due to happen imminently. This has been joint working between Cambridge City Council, the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner, the CCTV control room, CAMBAC/Cambridge BID and the Police.

Cambridge City Council, including the CST, have been working closely with CCTV colleagues to increase the number of cameras / area of coverage in the Market Square, in order to increase community safety (particularly for members of the public who are at increased risk of harm and/or vulnerable). Funding has been provided by Office of Police and Crime Commissioner for 2 x new CCTV cameras to be installed in the Market Square and Market Passage. These areas are considered to have high levels of ASB, crime and disorder, particularly in relation to the night-time economy; it is felt that increased CCTV in these locations will act as a deterrent of ASB and crime. It will also provide live monitoring/surveillance that will assist Police during potential or ongoing incidents and allow for footage to be obtained as evidence following any incidents whereby action is pursued. CCTV has now been installed in Market Passageway, and the installation of the Market Square CCTV camera is hoped to be imminent.

The Community Problem Solving Coordinator and Youth Liaison Officer have recently attended The Rose Quarter Association meeting, along with



Police colleagues. The aim of this meeting was for Community Safety Team members and the Police to meet professionals representing the businesses in the Rose Crescent area of Cambridge City Centre, to discuss concerns of ongoing ASB and crime and explain work currently ongoing to improve issues in the area. During this meeting, the Community Safety Team members were able to explain how individuals can report incidents of ASB to the City Council and the importance of doing so. Contextual safeguarding was also discussed in relation to concerns of young people in the Rose Crescent area and work ongoing by various agencies to address these concerns (including the Peer Groups and Places meeting). Support for individuals rough sleeping and begging in the area was also explored, including the increased provision for individuals during the winter period (eg additional bed spaces at Cross Ways from 01/11/23). There were high levels of engagement during this meeting, and members of the Rose Quarter Association stated they were reassured to hear of the ongoing multi-agency work and felt they had increased confidence in reporting incidents of ASB and/or crime.

#### **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.]