

Neighbourhood Profile

Cambridge City East – December 2023

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 June the committee recommended addressing the following local areas of concern:

- Anti-social driving;
- Cycle theft; and
- Drug dealing, anti-social behaviours (focussing on Burnside) 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 tackle anti-social driving remains in place and continues to be supported by officers from the special constabulary. Proactive stops of vehicles take place and where appropriate traffic offence reports are submitted to prosecute drivers, and powers under section 59 Police Reform Act 2002 are utilised to remove offending vehicles from the road.

Police are using intelligence around planned car meets to implement dispersals under section 35 of the Anti-social behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 which gives Police Constables the power to exclude a person from an area for a period of up to 48 hours with an Inspectors authority.

Our work to tackle the problem of privately owned E-Scooters is now known as “Operation Propulsion” and has had officers dedicated using the four E’s principle (Engagement, Explain the law, Encourage a change of behaviour and Enforce). October saw engagement three days a week, with information leaflets handed out to riders. November sees this escalate to enforcement with events planned on three days a week and the vehicles will be seized. It is hoped that this will make a significant difference and a consistent approach will prevent reoffending.

Current Situation: As mentioned in the last report, many offences need to be “found committing” by a constable in uniform for a successful prosecution to take place. We encourage residents to continue reporting anti-social driving to 101 or through webchat to enable us to target problem locations. This information also helps us when discussing underlying issues in the road layout or traffic calming measures.

Traffic collision data has been refreshed and shows that cyclists continue to be the highest risk group for serious injury. Risk locations in the East area are Mill Road, Newmarket Road, Coldhams Lane and Barnwell Road. Patrols of these locations will be linked to Op Propulsion e-scooter activity.

Lead Officer: PS 127 Neil Campbell

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: Cycle theft remains a city-wide issue, and there is now an officer dedicated to this crime type for the entire city. In his role he looks at opportunities to investigate offences which would ordinarily be closed and bring offenders to justice.

The constabulary has invested heavily in cycle marking events, where cycles are registered on bikeregister.com and a QR sticker added to the bike as a deterrent. While this doesn’t prevent theft, it makes reuniting bikes with owners (and proving the offence against offenders) much easier. In the last six months we have marked and registered around 800 bikes. This has led to a reduction in reported cycle theft.

We have executed warrants which have recovered confirmed and suspected stolen cycles. In addition, uniform and plain clothed work has taken place on Police owned bicycles which enables easier movement around the city to patrol hotspots.

Current Situation: While there has been a reduction in reported offences, cycle theft remains a priority. We will continue to work on prevention through cycle marking events, as well as exploring every opportunity to identify those involved in cycle theft.

Lead Officer: PS 127 Neil Campbell

Drug dealing, anti-social behaviour (focusing on Burnside) 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: Patrols are completed in uniform and plain clothes, both in known risk areas but also based on information received from the public. We utilise stop & search where grounds exist and take positive action where offences are apparent, which is usually arrest or summons to court.

Intelligence based warrants have been executed on addresses leading to the arrest of individuals and the recovery of drugs and money. Proactive work continues to target those involved in drug dealing and the effects on the community.

Current Situation: The situation remains unchanged from the last report, largely because of the business model utilised by dealers where those arrested are quickly replaced. We ask the community to continue reporting drug dealing or suspicious activity around properties to 101, our webchat or crimestoppers anonymously.

Lead Officer: PS 127 Neil Campbell

3. *Proactive Work and Emerging Issues*

Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Proactive work continues around the areas of concern identified.

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-ordinated 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 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.

The Community Safety Team continue to lead and partake in a multi-agency meeting in the Abbey / Barnwell area to discuss and address concerns of ASB, crime and disorder. This regular meeting has allowed for different agencies and professionals to come together, confidently share information and work towards both short and longer term solutions to reduce levels of ASB and crime in the Ward. This meeting has proved imperative to the work of agencies, whether this be targeted support of specific individuals/families or work to improve the area as a whole.

The CST team has been supporting Police and City Homes in relation to concerns about drug related activity at addresses in the Abbey ward. Following warrants at two addresses door knocking was carried out to reassure the local community that that proactive Police action had been taken.

The Community Safety Team have recently attended several 'site visits' across the city, including the Petersfield Ward. The Community Problem Solving Coordinator, from the Community Safety Team, recently met with Cllr Mike Davey to walk around the area and discuss specific areas of concern, particularly areas considered to have high levels of ASB and crime (namely drug dealing and using). During this visit to the Petersfield Ward, the importance of increased reporting of incidents of ASB (to Cambridge City Council ASB Team) and crime (to the Police) was explored, as this will ensure an accurate reflection of the nature and frequency of incidents in the area that Cllrs and residents note are occurring almost daily. During the walk around the ward, items that had been fly-tipped were identified; the City Council Public Realm Enforcement Team were contacted the same day and asked to collect these items. Following this visit, there has been joint working with the Police to share information about the area and consideration of re-deployable CCTV is ongoing.

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.

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

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.]