

Neighbourhood Profile

Cambridge City East – December 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 23 June 2022, the committee recommended addressing the following local areas of concern:

- Anti-social driving;
- Cycle theft; and
- Drug dealing, anti-social behaviour (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: 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.

The city-wide policing activity around anti-social road use has produced the following results since the June area committee meeting. This activity is a direct result of the dedicated patrols by neighbourhood policing team officers; it does not include spontaneous reports issued whilst on general patrol or the activity of the 999 response teams as part of their routine business, or the dedicated activity from specialist units such as the Road Policing Unit.

- We have issued 29 Traffic Offence Reports for driving offences ranging from: driving whilst using a handheld electronic device; driving other than in accordance with a license; no MOT; no insurance; and not wearing a seatbelt.
- Three people were arrested for driving whilst intoxicated through drink or drugs.
- Four vehicles were seized for having no valid certificate of insurance.
- Various warning notices under the Vehicle Defect Rectification Scheme were issued for inoperative mandatory lights.

Current Situation: Road safety continues to be a priority issue for all policing staff across Cambridge City. Many motoring offences can only be dealt with if the police officer witnesses the traffic offence being committed, although the more serious ones can be dealt with after the fact. Given the limited time available to the neighbourhood teams to carry out this activity, it is important that residents continue to report inconsiderate, anti-social or reckless road activity so that we can build a picture of where officers time is best spent to maximise the impact we have on our days of action. Much of this activity is carried out with the support of the Special Constabulary.

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

Lead Officer: PS EMMS

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: In October 2020, a multi-agency Cambridge Cycle Crime Prevention Task Group was created to respond to increasing concerns about cycle crime. Since November 2021, the Police and Crime Commissioner (or their representative) attends the Group. Productive work has been undertaken around three areas:

1. Education – ‘Save Our Cycles’ Campaign¹, led by Task Group member, Camcycle, was launched encouraging the public to record and register their bike’s frame

¹ 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.

number, with a description, on [BikeRegister](#), which helps the police trace and return stolen bikes, and to always lock their bike securely to a fixed object, even if it is only being left for a few minutes. For further information, please visit [Cambridge Cycling Campaign](#)

2. Infrastructure – following an audit of the cycle stands in the city, identified work was undertaken for safety and security improvements, to strengthen user confidence and prevent cycle related crime.
3. Enforcement - The Police continue their enforcement work and are using theft data combined with the CCTV locations to make sure that they are correctly placed to capture where the cycle theft is more evident. It is important for the public to report any crimes directly to the Police by reporting [online](#) or by calling 101, so that this is officially recorded.

Additional activity, such as supported cycle marking events, have taken place. The last one was on 22 September at the Cycle Point by Cambridge Railway Station where two PCs from the East Team assisted other agencies attending in the marking of a large number of cycles with recovery kits supplied by the National Bike Register Scheme.

Current Situation: Recorded Cycle Crime over the last 12 months is down. The city is seeing significant investment in crime prevention tools to deter or identify and catch cycle thieves. One of the main challenges remains identifying the legitimate owners of the cycles that we recover or identifying that a cycle is stolen when we engage with persistent offenders. The public can assist greatly with this by registering their bicycle with a national scheme such as [BikeRegister](#) and reporting it to the police when it is stolen. For guidance on reporting your stolen bike see [Cambridge Cycling Campaign](#).

Strategic Lead: Insp. McNEILL

Tactical Lead: PC TINDALL

Drug dealing, anti-social behaviour (focussing 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: Active patrols for drug dealing and associated anti-social behaviour is part of daily business for officers on the East Team. Patrols are directed in response to the latest community intelligence and incidents reported by the public. A list of “most active” locations is maintained by the East Team PCs and daily activity is directed at those area.

In the last few months, the East Team has conducted 80 stop searches under the Misuse of Drugs Act, which has resulted in 34 arrests for drugs offences, with a further six people being reported for summons.

Current Situation: Organised criminal activity around the sale of controlled drugs remains a priority for all officers working in Cambridge. Activity around this comes from all departments in the district, not just the neighbourhood policing teams. Activity is, by its

very nature, informed by community information. My officers routinely scan our systems for information and incidents reported by the public, to compile a list of locations they are most likely to encounter criminal activity to maximise the best use of their time. I review these locations with the PCs on a regular basis and we advertise locations we have had positive results into the rest of the policing teams here at Parkside. This work is only possible if people continue to report information to us when they encounter it.

Cambs Against County Lines weblink - Visit [Cambs Against County Lines](#) for more information, including links to resources.

Lead Officer: PS STEVENSON

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 been working with our partners in housing, police and Environmental Health to deal with nuisance and ASB in multiple locations within the area, including Peverel Road, Whitehill Road and Ashley Court.

Due to ongoing concerns in relation to youth related ASB in the Barnwell area, the CST is 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, advice has been given about consequences and also about keeping safe. The area is also discussed at monthly Problem Solving Group meetings to ensure all agencies involved are aware and relevant information is shared so appropriate action can be taken. The CST and members of the Neighbourhood Policing Team 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. Due to ongoing concerns about nuisance and anti-social behaviour issues in the Barnwell area, the CST has also been speaking to local partners, including Abbey People and Romsey Mill, to discuss what interventions can be implemented to improve the engagement of young people and activities in the area, which in turn, will hopefully lead to a decrease in anti-social behaviour (ASB). The Barnwell area is also discussed at the Peer Group and Places (PGP) meetings, due to concerns around child criminal exploitation.

The CST has worked with street outreach and the police to identify two individuals causing issues in and around Ravensworth Gardens. Both individuals have now received support and have been accommodated.

The CST has organised a monthly, multi-agency Peer Group and Places (PGP) meeting, which is attended by the police, Fire and Rescue Service, schools, Social Care, Early Help, Youth Offending Teams, Romsey Mill and housing associations. The PGP looks at cases where young people have come to their attention for ASB or crime in a Contextual Safeguarding approach. Contextual Safeguarding identifies that no young person can be seen in isolation from the environment around them. Children and young people attending schools and colleges are part of a much wider network of peers, neighbourhoods, and other influences. It is important that when we consider some of the issues affecting children and young people that we understand these influences. The County Council has created a Sway presentation to explain [Contextual Safeguarding](#).

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.