

Report by: Liz Bisset Director of Community Services**To:** Chair of the North Area Committee17th August 2006**Wards:** Arbury, East Chesterton, King's Hedges & West Chesterton**North Area Neighbourhood Policing****1. Introduction**

The second neighbourhood policing profile of the north area of the City has been produced by the police and is attached at Appendix A for scrutiny and comment.

The views of the Area Committee will be considered by the Neighbourhood Action Group which comprises police, community and partner representatives. The NAG will then prioritise actions for the Neighbourhood Policing Teams for the next two months. Feedback on priorities and actions will be done through the next Area Committee and partnership networks.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Area Committee scrutinise and comment on the neighbourhood policing profile as attached at Appendix A.

2.2 That having taken public comments into account the Area Committee gives a view on what the priorities should be for the Neighbourhood Policing Teams in the north for the next two months for consideration by the Neighbourhood Action Group.

3. Background

- a. The Executive Councillor agreed in principle to partnership working with the police on Neighbourhood Policing. The agreement included the provision of Neighbourhood Policing as a standing agenda item for Area Committees.
- b. It was proposed to run a pilot in the north of the city between June and August 2006 and subsequently for the pilot to be evaluated jointly by the police and City Council.
- c. A 'neighbourhood profile' has been produced by the police drawing on information gathered from multi-agency data sources and consultation with the community (Appendix A). The document provides an in-depth analysis of the crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour problems in the north area.
- d. The 'neighbourhood profile' is presented to the members of the area committee for scrutiny and comment. They are asked to consider if it is a fair and accurate representation of crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour in the north area as they understand it having taken into account comments from the public.

- e. The members of the area committee are asked to give their views on what two/three areas for priority actions should be adopted for the next two months and reported back on at the October meeting.
- f. The 'profile' together with the comments and views of the area committee will be considered by the Neighbourhood Action Group on 1st September. The group will be made up of police, community and partner representatives and will prioritise actions for the following two months. Priority actions and outcomes will be fed back to the community through subsequent area committee meetings and partnership networks.

4. **IMPLICATIONS**

(a) **Financial**

There will be a cost in terms of possible officer involvement in around 48 meetings per year at both area committee and Neighbourhood Action Groups. This resource implication will be carefully monitored during the evaluation of the pilot.

(b) **Staffing.**

Frontline staff will be involved in data gathering and information sharing and it is felt that there may be extra resources needed to address reported problems

(c) **Equal Opportunities**

Diversity issues will have to be carefully considered during the evaluation process to ensure that minority groups have opportunities to air their views.

(d) **Environmental**

There may be an increase in reports of environmental issues such as fly-tipping, graffiti and vandalism and resources will have to be made available to manage this.

(e) **Community Safety**

This fits with the Cambridge Community Safety Strategy objective to engage with the community.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Police proposal

Record of Executive Decision Strategy Scrutiny Committee 06/STR/07

Notes from the Service Manager Workshop January 2006

Notes from CMT Meeting January 2006

Notes from consultation with Area Committees January to April 2006

Neighbourhood Policing Profile presented at the June Area Committee meeting

Notes from the Neighbourhood Action Group Meeting 20th June 2006

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Appendix A

Cambridge City North Neighbourhood Profile Update

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August 2006**



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Introduction

Aim

The aim of the Neighbourhood Profile Update is to identify ongoing and emerging crime and disorder issues in the Neighbourhood in order to facilitate effective policing and partnership working in the area.

Purpose

The purpose of the Neighbourhood Profile Update is to provide up-to-date information on Neighbourhood issues to multi-agency Neighbourhood Panels and Neighbourhood Policing Teams, so that issues can be identified and effectively prioritised.

Methodology

This document was produced using the following data sources:

- Crime data 01/05/2006 to 31/07/2006¹
- Incident data 01/05/2006 to 31/07/2006²
- Speeding data 01/05/2006 to 31/07/2006
- Information from CBMs and PCSOs, August 2006
- Information from Cambridge City Council NAG Representatives, August 2006
- Records of actions regarding priority areas, May to July 2006
- Cambridge Evening News archive

¹ From NORA and Crimefile.

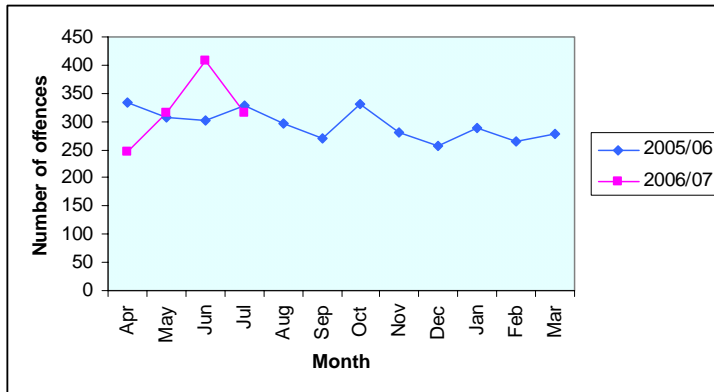
² From NORA and CC3 (Storm MA).

1. Neighbourhood trends in crime and disorder

• **Increase in Neighbourhood crime levels**

Over the past 3 months (May to July 2006) 1,039 crimes have been recorded in Cambridge City North Neighbourhood Area. This is an increase of 11.2% (105 crimes) compared to the same period in 2005, and an increase of 31.9% (251 crimes) compared to the previous 3 month period³. See below for an explanation of this increase.

Figure 1 City North Neighbourhood Area Offences by Month, April 2005 to July 2006



• **Crime remains stable in East Chesterton and Arbury beats, and increases elsewhere**

Total offences have remained fairly stable in East Chesterton and Arbury beats⁴. However, increases in offence levels have been seen in Kings Hedges and West Chesterton beats, with an increase of between 50 and 60 crimes in each beat year on year⁵. Offences to increase in Kings Hedges included criminal damage, burglary non-dwelling, vehicle crime and shoplifting⁶. West Chesterton has seen increases in violent crime, burglary dwelling and shoplifting⁷, as well as possession of cannabis (see below). Increases can also be seen in all beats in comparison to the previous 3 months, again particularly in Kings Hedges and West Chesterton.

• **Offence levels for the Neighbourhood peak in June due to Strawberry Fair**

As can be seen from the graph above, offence levels in May and July 2006 were approximately the same as in May and July 2005. However, offences in June were markedly higher⁸. All beats showed a year on year increase in June, but especially Arbury beat. The majority of this increase can be accounted for by the large number of street cautions for cannabis issued on 3rd June in the vicinity of Victoria Avenue and Chesterton Road as a result of Strawberry Fair⁹.

• **Increase in burglaries and criminal damage; decrease in thefts of cycles and robbery**

Across the neighbourhood area, year on year increases have been seen in dwelling burglary and criminal damage¹⁰. Thefts of cycles have reduced considerably¹¹, and a

³ February to April 2006

⁴ -5.4% (-12 crimes) and +1.8% (+5 crimes) year on year respectively

⁵ +28.6% (+60 crimes) and +23.1% (+52 crimes) year on year respectively

⁶ +31, +9, +9 and +8 crimes year on year respectively

⁷ +22, +8 and +6 crimes year on year respectively

⁸ +35.5% (+107 crimes) year on year

⁹ This day alone accounted for 86 extra crimes of possession of cannabis across the neighbourhood. Possession of cannabis offences for the whole 3 month period in 2005 numbered just 7.

¹⁰ +30.0% (+15 burglaries) and +16.0% (+29 criminal damage)

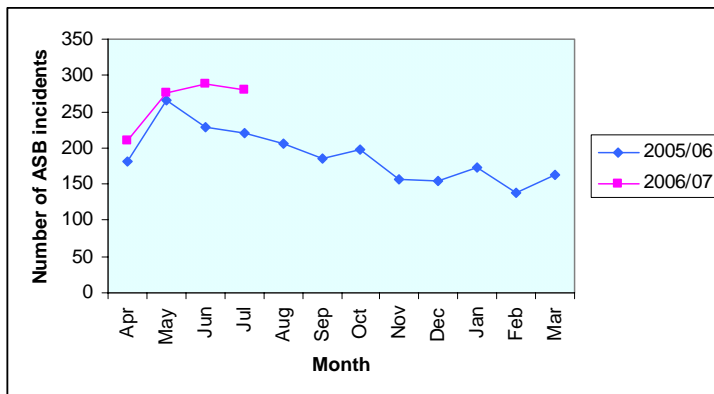
¹¹ -29.0% (-40 thefts of cycle)

slight decrease has been seen in robberies. Levels of violent crime have remained stable.

• **Increase in incidents of anti-social behaviour**

843 incidents of anti-social behaviour were recorded across the neighbourhood area from May to July 2006. This is an increase of 18.1% (129 incidents) year on year and a 65.3% increase (333 incidents) compared to the previous 3 months.

Figure 2 City North Neighbourhood Area ASB Incidents by Month, April 2005 to July 2006



• **Anti-social behaviour highest in Kings Hedges and Arbury beats**

Anti-social behaviour was highest in Kings Hedges beat (259 incidents), closely followed by Arbury (236 incidents). These beats also saw the greatest year on year increases in ASB¹². The majority of ASB in these areas was youth-related, with domestic incidents, neighbour disputes and vehicle nuisance making up most of the remainder. For details of hotspots in these beats see the table in part 2 below. ASB incidents were lowest in West Chesterton beat, although they had increased slightly year on year. A small reduction in incidents was seen in East Chesterton beat.

2. Trends in crime and disorder by beat

The following table summarises hotspot locations for crime and disorder by beat. Those highlighted in yellow were the areas with the highest levels of crime and incidents, and they are considered in more detail below (parts 3 and 4).

Beat	Hotspot	Offence/ASB types
Arbury	French's Road/Bermuda Road	Criminal damage including one arson, theft of cycles, burglaries. Youth nuisance round the flats and also riding mini-motos
	Alpha Road/Hertford Street/Magrath Avenue	Cycle theft, vehicle crime and burglary
	St Albans Road/Hazelwood Close/Molewood Close	Youth ASB, vehicle nuisance including mini-motos, some abandoned vehicles
East Chesterton	Green End Road/Kendal Way	Youth ASB, some violent and alcohol-related incidents, vehicle nuisance
Kings Hedges	Campkin Road/St Kilda Avenue	Criminal damage, shoplifting and assaults. General youth ASB, with particular hotspots at Tesco Express, outside the Jenny Wren and at the flats in St Kilda Avenue

¹² +37.0% and +21.6% respectively

	Northfields Avenue and nearby	Criminal damage, including two arsons. Youth ASB, especially at Kings Hedges Primary School. Reports of ASB in the area of Aragon Close and Ashcroft Court ¹³
West Chesterton	Chesterton Road/Mitchams Corner	Crime related to the shops, cycle theft, some theft and criminal damage

3. Previous issues identified and actions taken

At the Area Committee meeting held on 15th June 2006, the following neighbourhood issues were identified for the Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) to consider adopting as priorities:

- Anti-social behaviour and fly tipping in the area of Campkin Road near Tesco
- Crime and anti-social behaviour in the area of French's Road and Bermuda Road
- Speeding in Kings Hedges Road
- Cycling offences across the neighbourhood
- Crime and anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of Mitchams Corner

It was agreed not to prioritise Mitchams Corner at the NAG meeting held on 20th June because vehicle crime and burglary offences are divisional policing priorities which would be acted upon if patterns emerged in this area, Strawberry Fair and Midsummer Fair would be the subject of special policing arrangements and the closure of the Post Office had coincided with a drop in crime levels.

The following paragraphs summarise action taken and the current situation regarding the priorities which were set:

- ***Anti-social behaviour and fly tipping in the area of Campkin Road near Tesco***

Checks and patrols have been carried out in this area on 10 occasions, during the day and in the evening. Youths have been spoken to and given words of advice on 3 occasions, and two Section 59 warnings have been issued regarding the use of mini-motos (on one occasion the bike was also seized). In addition one street warning for the possession of cannabis has been issued, and Street Scene has been contacted regarding the removal of dumped pedal cycles in the area, all of which have since been removed by the City Council. A walkabout took place on 8th June in the area, in which representatives from the Police, the City Council and the Youth Team as well as councillors and residents identified environmental improvements which could be made to help reduce the fear of crime.

Incidents of ASB reported at Tesco have declined since it was adopted as a priority, with just one incident in July. Liaison with Tesco has indicated that the situation has improved since various people have been banned from the premises, and CCTV has recently been installed which should improve the situation further. The issue has also been discussed at the multi-agency ASB Problem Solving Group and the 'Thunderbirds' outreach team has been working with young people in the area who are at risk of being involved in ASB. A graffiti workshop was also run by the City Council at the Nuns Way pavilion in May, which was attended by 30 young people.

36 crimes took place on Campkin Road during the 3 months, the most common being criminal damage, assault and shoplifting. 20 incidents of ASB took place on

¹³ Kings Hedges Residents' Super Group

Campkin Road, with numerous incidents also taking place on Nuns Way, Crowland Way, St Kilda Avenue, Hawkins Road and other neighbouring streets. 7 incidents related to youths at Tesco, although just one of these took place in July. About 20 incidents related to youths hanging around, playing football, drinking or causing damage/throwing stones, and 9 incidents related to the use of mini-motos. There are still ongoing problems in the area of the flats at St Kilda Avenue, with youths hanging about outside¹⁴.

Over the period 27 instances of fly-tipping were reported in this area, a reduction compared to the previous 3 months. All reported fly-tipping was removed, usually within 24 hours.

- ***Crime and anti-social behaviour in the area of French's Road and Bermuda Road***

Patrols have been conducted in this area on 23 occasions, during the day and evening. Youths on the school premises (St Luke's School) have been spoken to on 3 occasions, and words of advice have been given regarding a mini-moto. There has been liaison with the school regarding ASB and parking problems, and one parking ticket has been issued. Youth workers are also targeting the area, and referral cards have been received for the Active Cambridge scheme. These will be distributed to youths to canvass opinion with a view to setting up regular Council-funded activities for them. The 'Smart' Project, which is run from the Meadows Community Centre, has also been working with young people in the area who are the subject of Acceptable Behaviour Contracts. Leaflets have been distributed in the area to encourage residents to attend the Arbury police surgery. CCTV was installed by the City Council over June and July to address crime in the nearby Victoria Road area.

12 incidents of ASB were reported on Frenchs Road and 6 on Bermuda Road. 11 incidents were also reported on the neighbouring part of Histon Road¹⁵. The majority of the incidents related to general nuisance caused by groups of youths, with 4 referring to mini-motos. There have been ongoing problems in the side alley off French's Road, where an aerial has been stolen from a car and a garage door has been ripped off¹⁶. Anti-social behaviour continues in this area although there has been some improvement, and just 3 incidents were reported at St Luke's School. 13 crimes were also reported on Frenchs Road and Bermuda Road – there were 4 criminal damage offences and one arson, as well as thefts of cycle, burglaries and other thefts.

- ***Speeding in Kings Hedges Road***

Speed checks were carried out during rush hour on 11th July – one Fixed Penalty Notice was issued and 8 warnings were given for minor infringements. In addition, PCSOs have been deployed at the junction with Campkin Road to provide a visual deterrent to speeding drivers. Letters asking local residents about speeding have been posted to all houses on Kings Hedges Road, from Cambridge Regional College to the Milton Road junction. No speeding complaints have been received by the police from City North residents in the last 3 months, although there has been a report via E-Cops that persons are parking in the cycle lane outside the post office on Kings Hedges Road, and that drivers are ignoring the advanced stop lines at the traffic lights there. A walkabout by PCSOs, councillors and the local radio in August indicated that speeding was still an issue for local residents. One serious accident occurred on the road in July – at the time the traffic lights were not working¹⁷.

¹⁴ Information from PCSO

¹⁵ 9 of the calls on Histon Road were from one repeat caller

¹⁶ Information from PCSO

¹⁷ Cambridge Evening News, 25th July 2006

- ***Cycling offences across the neighbourhood***

Over the past 3 months, Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued to persons cycling on a footway on 6 occasions. In addition, words of advice have been given to cyclists on numerous occasions. Locations of stops have included Green End Road and St Kilda Avenue.

4. Emerging issues

- ***Criminal damage and anti-social behaviour in the area of Northfields Avenue***

During the 3 months there were 8 criminal damage offences and 2 arsons on Northfields Avenue. There were also 16 ASB incidents, 8 of which were to do with youths on the premises of Kings Hedges Primary School. There were also numerous ASB incidents on neighbouring streets – Aragon Close, Neptune Close, Ashcroft Court, Sackville Close, Woburn Close and Hanson Court. A walkabout of Police, City Council and Youth Team representatives, together with councillors and residents, took place on 21st June to identify environmental improvements which could be made in the area to reduce the fear of crime.

- ***Anti-social behaviour around the Meadows Community Centre***

Community Beat Managers have reported an increase in ASB and graffiti around the Meadows Community Centre on St Catharine's Road in recent months. No crimes or incidents have yet been recorded in this area¹⁸.

5. Recommendations

It is recommended that the following crime and disorder issues (listed in no particular order) are considered at the North Area Committee meeting on 17th August 2006 prior to the NAG meeting on 1st September:

- Crime and youth anti-social behaviour in the area of French's Road and Bermuda Road
- Crime and youth anti-social behaviour in the area of Campkin Road and St Kilda Avenue
- Youth anti-social behaviour and criminal damage in the Northfields Avenue area

¹⁸ On Crimefile or Command and Control 3