

(CCC) Cambridge City Council's action on bicycle thefts

- What are Cambridge City council doing to address bicycle thefts in the city?
- Is Cambridge City council working with any other bodies to address bicycle thefts? (for example, the University, Police, County council?)
- Has Cambridge City council identified key areas in the city that are most susceptible to thefts?
- How many times have Cambridgeshire Constabulary requested CCTV footage from the council?
- How many times has Cambridge City council provided CCTV footage to Cambridgeshire Constabulary for investigation of a bicycle theft?

Response

Thank you for drawing your concerns to the Council. The Council's Chief Executive Robert Pollock has asked that I respond to you.

Firstly may I say how sorry I am that your family have been victims of this particular form of crime. We do very much recognise the distress such crimes can cause and are most keen to do what we can to help. Whilst Cambridge City Council has no direct responsibility for cycle crime in Cambridge other than at sites it manages or is responsible for, in October 2020 we initiated a multi-agency Cambridge Cycle Crime Prevention Task and Finish Group to respond to increasing concerns. The Council is the interim chair with stakeholders from local businesses, Cambridge Ahead, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Cambridgeshire County Council, Greater Anglia Rail (responsible for managed facilities at Cambridge and Cambridge North railway stations), Anglia Ruskin University, University of Cambridge, the voluntary sector: Camcycle and Neighbourhood Watch, and Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

The Group established objectives and terms of reference with the aim to understand the current situation using an evidence base. This was followed by the agreement to focus on potential areas where the multi-agency work can make a difference such as in education, infrastructure and enforcement. An action plan is under development focused around these 3 themes.

Cambridge Cycle Crime Prevention Task and Finish Group meets monthly. Work thus far undertaken includes:

Education – 'Save Our Cycles' Campaign, led by Task Group member Camcycle, was launched on 24 May 2021. The campaign was shared across Cambridge and aims to encourage the public to record their bike's frame number with a description, register their bike on [Bikeregister.com](https://www.bikeregister.com), 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. The campaign will continue to run with a fresh focus at the start of autumn school and university terms. The link is <https://www.camcycle.org.uk/resources/cycletheft/>.

Other work is being developed around providing advice about buying suitable locks, encouraging bike shops not to sell cheap locks, and for the public to check whether a bike has been stolen before buying it.

Infrastructure – Intensive work has been undertaken to audit the cycle stands in the city, led by the Council, which has included identifying opportunities for safety and security improvements to strengthen user confidence and prevent cycle related crime.

These include improving CCTV coverage of cycle crime hotspots and upgrading cycle stand fixings to stop tampering. A mapping system for the CCTV and lighting around the City Centre is being developed as well as separate work on the cycle parking at Cambridge Central and Cambridge North railway stations.

Task Group member, Cambridge Ahead – a business and academic member organisation, has undertaken a cycle infrastructure survey asking their members about priorities for cycling and infrastructure investment in the City as well as the safety and security of the parking in the areas where they work.

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. There has been a rise in cycle crime following the end of the Covid-19 lockdowns and it is important for the public to report any crimes directly to the Police by reporting online using the link <https://www.cambs.police.uk/report/Report-Shared/Report-a-crime> or by calling 101, so that this is officially recorded.

The Task Group is developing a statement to provide in Court cases to describe the social, economic, and personal impact to victims of cycle crime. This will allow the Police to submit the statement with the case files of people being prosecuted for theft or handling of stolen bikes.

The Task Group has benefited from sharing experience and research findings in identifying gaps and areas to focus future work. An example is that Secured by Design, which provides a recognised standard for all security products that can deter and reduce crime, are in the process of drawing up Security Standards for cycle hubs. These standards will be contained in the Sustrans Guide to Cycle Parking and can also be contained in the City Council review of good guidance as well as shared with networks.

The Council is working in partnership with Greater Anglia, Sustrans and the Greater Cambridge Partnership on a package of improvements at the Greater Anglia managed Cycle Point facility at the main Cambridge railway station. An application for Government funding has been submitted and an announcement expected soon. Greater Anglia are also developing plans to improve security at Cambridge North.

Between October 2020 and October 2021 Cambridgeshire Constabulary made 44 requests to the Council's shared services CCTV team for information related to

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reported cycle crime. Information was able to be provided on 27 occasions.

In closing I would point out that Cambridge City Council has no involvement in bus lane enforcement. This is undertaken by Cambridgeshire County Council acting as local highway authority for roads in Cambridge.

I hope this response provides the information you seek and if I can be of further assistance then please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Further queries on this matter should be directed to foi@cambridge.gov.uk