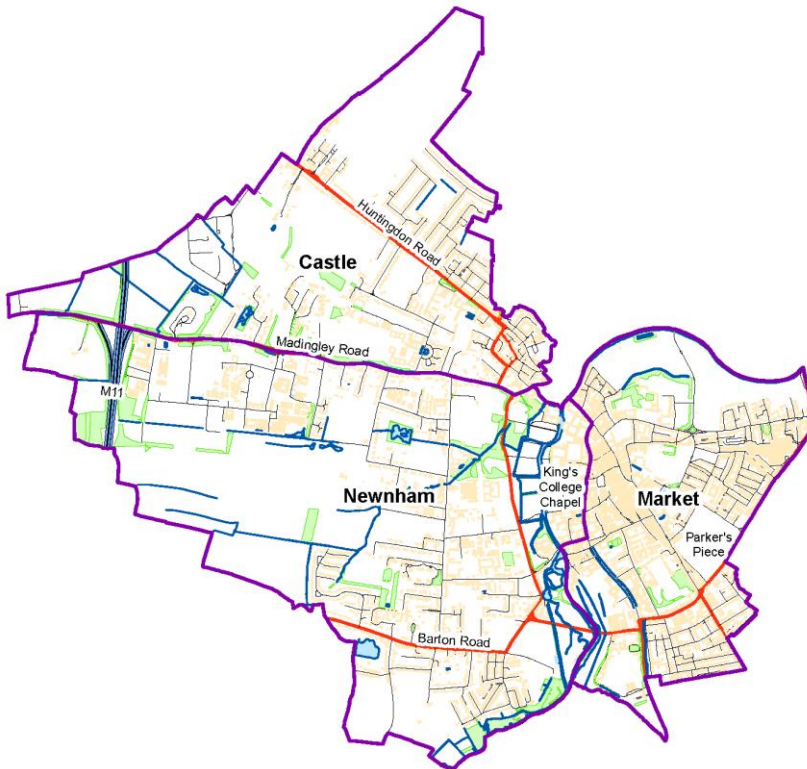


# Neighbourhood Profile

## Cambridge City West/Central – June 2022

**Wards: Castle, Market and Newnham**



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### ***Produced by:***

#### **Cambridgeshire Constabulary:**

- Inspector Edward McNeill
- Sergeant Kevin Misik

#### **Community Safety Team, Cambridge City Council:**

- Keryn Jalli, Community Safety Manager
- Sarah Steggles, Senior Anti-Social Behaviour Officer



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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 West/Central Area Committee meeting of 25 November 2021, the committee recommended addressing the following local areas of concern:

- Road Safety. Issues within the area around the issues of pedal cycles/scooters going the wrong way and other road safety issues in the area;
- Begging (This will be split into two parts. We will hold primacy over aggressive begging and working with the City Council towards the Injunction work for passive begging); and
- Policing of the Green Spaces and the NTE. As well as the normal work to look at safeguarding of the people who are using these spaces.

Lead officers and actions to be taken were agreed following the committee meeting. The work undertaken and current situation is detailed below.

### **Road Safety. Issues within the area around the issues of pedal cycles/scooters going the wrong way and other road safety issues in the area**

Objective: To address the issues noted in this local area of concern.

Action Taken: During the reporting period, the City Centre team has continued to deal with the issues of road safety within the area. This continues to be part of the core work of the team, which they carry out as part of their general patrol work. This has also been

supported by a number of small projects carried out by Probationary PCs, as part of their development, notably issues on Fitzroy Street and Burleigh Street.

There are highlighted areas which continue to have issues with this behaviour, and these will change depending on the time of day. For example, during the day there are issues with people cycling the wrong way on Sidney Street. Later, in the evening on the Market Square, there are large numbers of food delivery bikes which are waiting for collections and their number can cause issues. There is also regular communication between City Council Officers and the City Centre team around these issues.

Current Situation: These issues continue to take place and are part of the patrol plan for the City Centre team.

Lead Officer: PS 686 MISIK

**Begging (This will be split into two parts. We will hold primacy over aggressive begging and working with the City Council towards the Injunction work for passive begging)**

Objective: To address aggressive begging within the city centre.

Action Taken: We continue to work in partnership with the City Council's Community Safety Team and have supported them with their application for their injunctions as well as evidence gathering when there are breaches of such injunctions.

As well as this, there have been a number of individuals who have caused ongoing issues for people who live and visit the city centre. There have been several successful investigations into one individual's behaviour, both in terms of begging and other associated criminality. As a result of this, the individual has been sentenced to prison for their offending, and at this time we are working towards obtaining a Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) to address their behaviour. This is still ongoing.

In addition to this work, we also carry out a wide range of partnership work to ensure that people who are undertaking this kind of activity are appropriately engaging with the relevant support services and are getting the help that they need. We review the problematic individuals each month, in order to ensure that we are aware of who is causing the most issues at any given point, thus allowing us to direct our time and effort in the right direction.

Current Situation: This continues to be a core action of the City Centre team. There is an increase in reports of issues around the car park that services The Grafton centre and this is being looked at by both the Police and the City Council.

Lead Officer: PS 686 MISIK

**Policing of the Green Spaces and the NTE. As well as the normal work to look at safeguarding of the people who are using these spaces**

Objective: To ensure that the night time economy (NTE) within the city is safe for the people who use and work within it. Included in this piece of work is dealing with issues in the various green spaces around the city centre.

Action Taken: During the reporting period, there have been a number of key periods in relation to the NTE, most notably the Christmas and New Year Period. There was increased policing during these key times, both in terms of high visibility patrols and plain clothed officers, who were tasked with dealing with safeguarding issues. This work identified people who were vulnerable and looking for the people who were potentially going to take advantage of that vulnerability. This work identified people against which further action was taken.

As well as the work carried out by the police, there was, as always, a large amount of work carried out by the various other partner agencies, ensuring that the people who are using the NTE venues are safe. They are ensuring that they have designated welfare officers and that their policies and procedures are up to date and appropriate. There are schemes such as "Ask for Angelia" which they are taking part in, and they have been provided with up-to-date advice around reporting to the police any incidents in their venues. This prompt reporting is key in allowing us to take appropriate and timely action around offences.

As seen in the national picture, there has been an increase in the number of people reporting that they have had their drinks spiked whilst out in Cambridge. In partnership with the various venues, we have a robust process around reports of this nature which has a dedicated Detective Constable with dedicated oversight. The venues have also ensured that they have robust procedures to deal with reports made to them.

As always there is a wide number of different agencies working to ensure that the NTE is safe and welcoming.

Current Situation: This area of work is key to not only the City Centre team but the wider policing family and this, coupled with the wider safeguarding work, will continue.

Lead Officer: PS 686 MISIK

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

#### **Cambridgeshire Constabulary**

The summer is almost upon us and with this the increase in visitors to the city which will affect the reports of crime and disorder, most notably pickpocketing and begging. As well as this, there will be an increase in the number of people using and drinking on the city's green spaces.

We continue to focus on vulnerability and working with a wide range of partners to ensure that the city centre is a safe a welcoming place.

#### **Cambridge City Council**

The Community Safety Team continues to work with partner agencies, including the police, to address concerns about street-based anti-social behaviour (ASB) issues, including begging and rough sleeping. We are currently pursuing court action against one individual, who is repeatedly breaching the civil injunction obtained in November, and working with partner agencies, including Cambridge Business Against Crime (CAMBAC), to ensure we are capturing concerns about further breaches. We have recently linked in

with retailers who have concerns about ASB and rough sleeping and have offered advice and support.

We are working closely with Car Park Services who have concerns with persistent rough sleeping and drug use in Council-run car parks. We are linking in with support agencies to ensure those verified as rough sleeping in the car parks are supported, as appropriate.

Save Our Cycles – 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.

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

#### **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.