

Neighbourhood Action Group
West/Central & East Areas
12th May 2009
10:00 – 11:20
Committee Room 2, The Guildhall

Present

Julia Howlett (Chair)	Cambridgeshire Constabulary
Vicky Hornsby	Cambridge Business Against Crime (CAMBAC)
Wendy Lansdown	Cambridgeshire County Council
Jim Meikle	Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service
Althea Mejias	Cambridge City Council
Robert Osbourn	Cambridge City Council
Alastair Roberts	Cambridge City Council
Kay Stevens	Cambridgeshire Constabulary
Katie Wood	Cambridge City Council
Tom Kingsley (Notes)	Cambridge Community Safety Partnership

Apologies

Paul Connelly	Cambridgeshire County Council
Marianne Crozier	Cambridge City Council
Shane Fasey	Cambridgeshire Constabulary
John Fuller	Cambridgeshire Constabulary
Paul Griffin	Cambridge City Council
Steve Kerridge	Cambridgeshire Constabulary

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received as noted above.

2. Notes of last meeting

2.1 The notes were confirmed as an accurate record.

2.2 Two action points noted:

Violent crime associated with the night time economy

Councillors confused by the multi-level priority levels and these should be made clearer.

Paul and Steve will work with others to produce a clarification paper. Paul and John worked on a paper, presented at the Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Committee in March. Paper also copied to all members (both city and county) as part of community safety activity.

Theft of cycles/cycle parts across the City

County's Research Group were preparing a cycle crime problem profile for the Partnership. Agreed to adopt as a priority with Paul taking the lead for arranging a partnership group and Steve providing stock take of current activities. Group held in February. Report to Partnership Board to adopt cycle theft as a project. Follow up meeting on 28th May. Point made of difficulty in engaging with Cambridge Cycle Project.

Wendy to check with Cambridge Cycle Project and contact Paul.

3. Review of actions and priorities set at last NAG

3.1 West/Central

3.1.1 Vehicle ASB in the city centre – bus, taxi and cycle-related

Generated media attention around taxi drivers, although 53 tickets had been issued to cyclists. CAMBAC and taxi drivers planning to meet in June.

3.1.2 Fear of crime in Newnham ward

Police presence increased. Positive feedback from residents and councillors. No further issues noted.

3.1.3 Tackle cycle theft across the city centre

Surgeries held in a number of locations to promote Immobilise and ImmobiTag. Cycle theft increasing again. Gordon Morgenthaler will be continuing work here.

3.2 East

3.2.1 Youth-related ASB – Thorpe Way / Ditton Fields

Ongoing problems involving mini-motos. More work to be done on diversionary activities and parenting support. Spate of arson attacks have led to a youth engagement event hosted by Fire & Rescue Service for 12 youths on 28th May. The youth engagement officer will also be involved. CCTV being used to target perpetrators and victims. Lack of available land cited as problem with youth engagement using motor cycles.

Jim to check with Marshall and Addenbrooke's if any of their spare land could be used in the interim. Jim, John/Julia and Alastair to meet to progress.

3.2.2 Under-age drinking in green spaces across the Cambridge City (East)

Increase in patrols was highlighted, along with a programme of education. There was a prosecution for the sale of alcohol to a drunk person. CAP surveyed residents.

3.2.3 Speedwatch – identify community volunteers to administer the project

Generated a lot of discussion, but little interest. Police offered training days, but only 6 volunteers trained. Problem with volunteer base restricted to east of city.

Kay, Alastair and John to look at whether to recommend Speedwatch volunteers to be recruited from across the city.

3.2.4 ASB at William Smith Close, Rustat Road, Argyle Street and neighbouring areas

Hotsport area already discussed. Positive response to the street surgery in Argyle Street. William Smith Close CCTV discussed.

Alastair to check William Smith Close CCTV with Paul.

4. Consider recommendations/issues raised at West/Central Area Committee – 30th April 2009 namely:

4.1 ASB in Castle ward

No knowledge of a specific issue, except prostitution on Histon Road (see 4.3).

NPT (N & W) will continue as lead.

4.2 ASB by vehicles in city centre

Continuing problem being tackled by police (see 4.4).

Jayne Maggs and NPT will continue as lead.

4.3 Prostitution on Histon Road

Cllr. Hipkin led complaint on behalf of residents, although CAMBAC reported no complaints from traders (including Co-op). Police, CDIP and outreach workers will work together with the prostitutes. There would be extra patrols. There would also be a Sex Worker Forum run through CDIP. Issue more with littering: problem may be more with the perception rather than activity. Problem requires further scoping. Link with 4.1.

4.4 Enforcement of 20mph speed limit within the city

Cllr. Bick had queried the police statement expressing that they would not be enforcing the 20mph limit when introduced in the city centre area. It was noted that no consultation by the County Council with the police had been held to date but was expected in the autumn.

The ACPO guidance on enforcement of speed limits notes that the introduction of 20 mph limits is based on the presumption that enforcement will not be necessary, as they should be accompanied by traffic engineering measures designed to keep speeds within prosecution thresholds. Additionally, some equipment designed and used to monitor speeds in excess of 30mph does not have the capability to work at slower speeds. However, the latest detection equipment can be calibrated to deal with lower speed limits. Statement from County Council and police will be drawn up to explain current policy in detail. More consultation required.

John and Wendy to prepare statement.

Other issues: Paul had prepared a report on Safer Homes Fund and this would be circulated; Parking around Mayfield School a continuing problem with residents calling for a “no stopping” area; Continuing issues with Neighbourhood Watch; Update on issues around the Diana Memorial; Members to report any streelife issues to Kay; Vehicles jumping red lights on Arbury Road.

Alastair to arrange for circulation of Paul’s report.

Julia to liaise with James McWilliams regarding vehicle ASB.

5. Consider recommendations/issues raised at East Area Committee – 7th May 2009 namely:

5.1 Underage drinking in green spaces across the East Area neighbourhood

Covered in the discussion at 3.2.2.

Continuing action by NPT and CAP.

5.2 Youth-related ASB in Thorpe Way / Ditton Fields Estate

Covered in the discussion at 3.2.1.

Continuing action by Safer Communities Section.

5.3 ASB in Argyle Street area of the neighbourhood

Covered in discussion at 3.2.4.

Continuing action by Shane Fasey and Safer Communities Section.

5.4 Systematic analysis of the issues associated with speeding in the neighbourhood

Covered in discussion at 3.2.3.

Continuing action by Julia, Wendy and NPT.

Other issues: section 30 renewal and problems around riverside development.

6. Consider Cambridge Community Safety Partnership Priorities

6.1 Burglary of homes – SmartWater update/other Partnership initiatives

Funding for SmartWater for 2009/10 to be discussed at Partnership Board on 14th May. Partnership to look at promoting use of SmartWater by victims of burglaries.

6.2 ASB – Vehicle and pedal cycle work

This was discussed earlier in the meeting.

7. Agree priorities and actions

7.1 The priorities and actions set out above were agreed.

8. AOB

8.1 There was no other business.

9. Date of next meeting – 8th September 2009