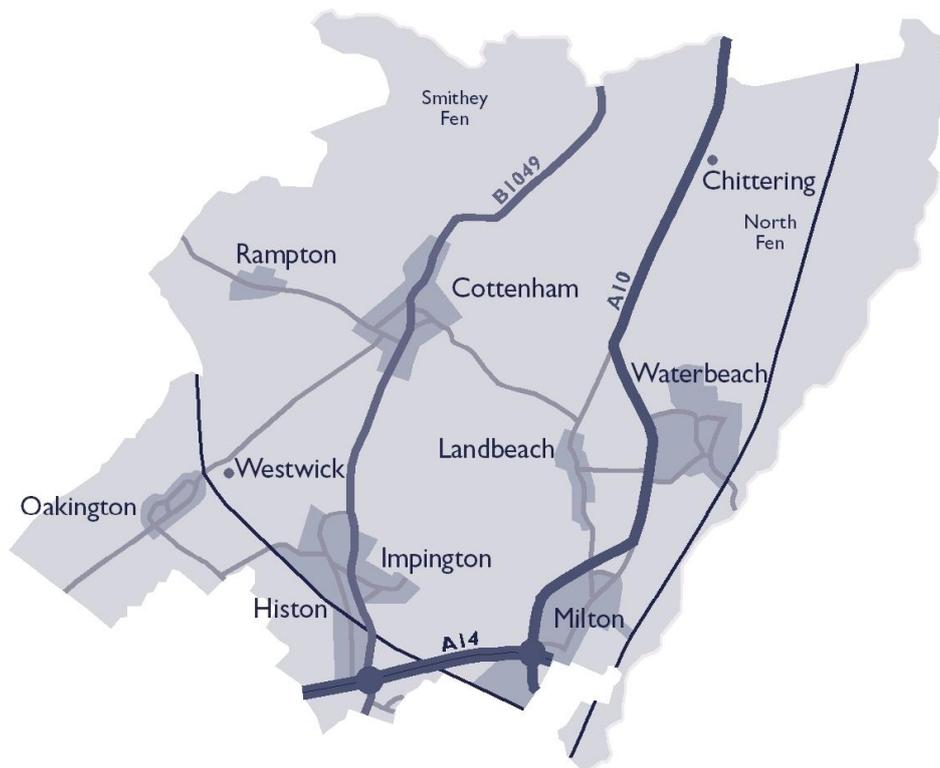


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Creating a safer
Cambridgeshire

South Cambridgeshire Local Policing Team Histon Neighbourhood



Histon Panel Meeting Update

Tues 9th April 2013

www.southcambscops.org

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1. Introduction

The aim of the neighbourhood profile update is to inform quarterly consultation meetings between police and public to identify and prioritise issues of concern to local communities. The profile document includes police crime and incident information to help identify ongoing and emerging crime and anti-social behaviour issues, along with feedback provided by individuals and groups within each area gathered by a variety of means by the local policing team.

Based on the data within this document and contributions at the meeting, the chair will identify a number of priorities for the local policing team to progress and report back on.

2. Previous Priorities

Reduce Graffiti in Histon and Orchard Park	
Objective	<p>To reduce incidents of graffiti on public and private property in Histon and Orchard park following a recent rise in this crime type. Areas identified were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Guided bus way in Histon through to Orchard Park - Histon and Impington Village bus shelters and other street furniture - Orchard Park County Highways structures such as bridges and walls along the guided bus. - Impington Village college
Action Taken	<p>Since the last panel meeting the following tactics have been implemented:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Intelligence gathering; To ensure that officers were able to target the “right places at the right time” analysis work was undertaken. This showed that incidents of graffiti were occurring in rapid succession over an isolated time, normally during the late evening before mid-night. 2) Patrol work; Plain clothes patrols were conducted around the sites which were identified as having significant issues. Specific individuals stopped by plain clothes officers, having previously gathered information about them being involved. One person was arrested for “going equipped” having been found with large artist’s markers pen of the same colour as the bulk of the graffiti. He was later released without charge. 3) CCTV from the guided bus and other private CCTV systems were accessed to look for evidence of offenders. One male was identified from CCTV and was arrested; He later admitted three counts of criminal damage and was dealt with by means of a juvenile “final warning”. He denied a number of other graffiti crimes. 4) Liaison with IVC. The village college have dealt with a number of graffiti incidents on their own premises. They have shared information with the Police about people who have been found committing offences. IVC have dealt internally with five people found committing criminal damage on their premises. Once of these five persons is the male arrested above. 5) Partnership liaison. SCDC and CCC have been informed of all incidents of graffiti found on council property to ensure clean up can be arranged. SCDC have continued work with the probation service to remove paint from private dwellings with the consent of the owners. (This is a free service, residents should call 03450 450 500 to arrange) Clean up around the CCC highways locations such as the bridge under the A14 have been difficult to achieve. No formal update has been provided by CCC although it is understood that there are logistical issues in reaching the location to clear it up. Suggestions have been made in regards to

	<p>using the site as an official graffiti wall however the north bound track is too close to the adjacent wall to safely allow persons to work there. SCDC have provided regular updates to police and parish as to progress with the clear up.</p>
Current Situation	<p>It remains difficult to definitively measure the success of this priority or the current situation: There is believed to have been significant under reporting by the County and other agencies as the focus has been on removal as a preventative measure.</p> <p><u>Previous period 9th Oct 2012 - 8th Jan 2013</u></p> <p>There was one single official report to Police</p> <p><u>Current period 8th Jan – 9th April</u></p> <p>There were 3 reports of graffiti which were accounted for by the arrested party.</p> <p>Feedback from the guided bus team and Parish councils is that incidents of graffiti damage have declined. There has also been an inevitable delay in cleaning up each tag, which has meant that some damage has been seen by a number of people, making the issue appear more substantial than it is. However some damage such as the “Tony” tags have been removed from bus shelters and replaced overnight.</p> <p>A number of graffiti tags are awaiting removal by SCDC, and as above some of the larger areas await resolution by CCC Highways.</p>
Continue or Discharge?	<p>There has been a slowing of the number of tags found, but there is emerging evidence to suggest that the pattern of damage is not yet at an end. The Police team are in the process of visiting a number of people with their parents to try and deter any further damage.</p> <p>It is recommended that officers continue to target the group of persons they suspect will continue to offend in order to ensure there is not a second wave of graffiti.</p> <p>There remains some outstanding work with partners to clear the bus way completely.</p> <p>Recommend continue.</p>

Support speed watch scheme in the neighbourhood	
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Respond to data provided by Speed watch teams. - Conduct enforcement activity in the areas identified as having speeding issues. - Visit repeat speeders identified by the Speed watch teams - Continue liaison with County highways and Parish Councils to design out speeding in identified areas.
Action Taken	The two speed watch teams in the Histon neighbourhood are based in

Cottenham and Rampton.

Officers have focused their speed enforcement work on

- Rampton High Street
- Histon Rd Cottenham

Enforcement has continued during peak hours following feedback from panels and door to door surgeries conducted in Cottenham. Feedback from our most recent online survey also asked Police to focus on rush hours and late evenings.

As discussed in last period's document, rush hour patrols have been conducted but yield very low enforcement due to the volume of traffic. Speed patrols in the late evening can prove productive; however fall at peak demand time for emergency services.

12 tickets have been issued in the past three month period which is a reduction on last period. (Officers spend time between other work conducting checks, so it is difficult to measure the exact time spent each period on enforcement).

Speed watch, general matters

Voluntary speed limit for busses

Knapwell speed watch co-ordinator Ben Strutt and Sgt Rogerson met with Go Whippet coaches. Go Whippet have agreed to undertake a voluntary 25 mph speed limit through rural villages in response to feedback from their local team. Mr Strutt pointed out that although the busses were rarely seen to travel above 30 mph their size and weight on smaller rural roads gave a perception of speeding. Manager Peter Lee expressed a desire to help and thought the idea of a voluntary 25 mph limit was a good idea.

We are hoping to get other bus companies on board and sign up to this agreement. **This is an excellent example of what speed watch can achieve.**

New ACPO guidance

National ACPO (association of chief police officers) guidance has moved more towards education, allowing drivers the opportunity to take a speed awareness course to avoid points on their first speeding offence. The normal £60 fine is instead used to fund the course. There is no data as yet to confirm if this is reducing the number of repeat offenders, but this is the aim.

- Speeds of 10% + 2mph over the national limit will receive a speed awareness course and pay £60 towards the cost*
- Speeds above 10% + 9 will receive a fine and points*

In 30 mph limit this means:

- Speeds between 30- and 42 mph will be made to attend a speed awareness course (costing £60).*
- Speeds over 42 mph drivers are issued an £60 fine and three points.*
- Speeds over 50 mph drivers are reported to court.

*In any case a driver can elect to attend court.

Update from force speed watch review group

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ACC is committed to it. - Admin support team is to continue to take on all data entry allowing front line officers more time to conduct checks. - Admin support team will provide monthly report to us for use at panels (going forward) - A manual of guidance is to be produced which will outline the responsibilities of Police and Public volunteers. - Insp Greenhow is to look at the ability to re-calibrate to 20mph.
<p>Continue or Discharge?</p>	<p>There has been continued interest in Histon speed watch and consultation is under way to further reduce speed limits through Histon. It would be useful to develop this team and report its findings back to the Parish and panel.</p> <p>There is also still work to be done to improve the administration function to provide more data to the panels (as above).</p> <p>Speeding outside Milton Primary School has been fed back from both the online panel and from engagement with parents on the school gate, it is suggested that this is added to the list of sites for the next period.</p> <p>It is suggested that this priority continue.</p>

3. Police crime and incident data

A full table of crime and incident data for Jan 2013- March 2013 is included at the end of the document.

Overall there has been a reduction in reports of crime compared to last year and the last period.

Histon, Impington and Orchard Park

Crime

Crime has fallen by ten reports on this time last year but has risen over the last three months by three. There has been an under reporting in graffiti crimes (as discussed above), this should be taken into account in any comparison. Theft of pedal cycle is down on last year and last period. This time last year Impington Village college suffered a prolonged series of cycle thefts which has been reduced greatly other the last twelve months. Violent crime sees the most significant increase on last period. There is no specific trend which correlate with this increase, and the trend is still one of reduction over the last twelve months.

There were three house burglaries in the last three months which is a significant reduction. There were two burglaries in Histon, one in Orchard Park. One of the Histon burglaries has resulted in arrest and a prison sentence, the other remains unsolved. The burglary in Orchard Park relates to a suspect known to the victim and is not a typical break-in and remains under investigation.

In this period a search warrant was conducted in Histon and a small cannabis factory was shut down, two persons arrested. One person received a caution for a first offence.

Theft from the Co-op store in Histon is an emerging issue with repeat offenders returning to the store to take advantage in security loop holes. Officers remain engaged with staff to increase their security measures.

Anti social behaviour

A full update in regards to Graffiti has been provided above.

Issues arose in February in Kay Hitch Way Histon in relation to a new resident. The person in question has been case managed by Police in partnership with SCDC housing and the situation is greatly improved.

There has also been a high volume of calls to Merrington Place Histon. Calls involve a civil dispute between neighbours. New Street housing association is currently managing this with Police assistance.

One call relates to young people seen to throw a cycle in the path of and oncoming guided bus. The cycle was seen in good time and the driver was able to remove it. The incident was too great a distance from the bus to recover CCTV from the front camera.

Cottenham, Oakington and Rampton.

Crime

Crime in Cottenham fell by ten offences on last year but saw two more recorded offences than the last period. The biggest increase in crime type has been commercial burglaries with repeat break-ins at a small number of compounds. Each have been seen by the crime prevention officer and have been featured on the local patrol plan to ensure regular police attention. There were four house burglaries in Oakington which is of concern given the size of the village. Break-ins occurred at Church View, Croft Lane and Lowbury Crescent. Two of these burglaries which occurred in late January are linked by their modus operandi, and a third is similar but occurs later in February. The fourth offence is not believed to be linked. A burglary was also committed in Rampton which is again linked to the Rampton series. A number of arrests have been made in relation to three males who are thought to operate using this particular "M.O.", they remain on bail.

There has been a rise in thefts from cars in the last period in Cottenham, none appear to be linked other than being around the north end of the village in the residential areas. Cottenham has however recovered well from its previous increase in house burglaries with none in the last period.

An arson has been investigated on Smithy Fen by police and fire service. What was an abandoned caravan was deliberately set alight; as yet no one has claimed ownership of it.

Anti-social behaviour

A 17 year old male is under investigation for a number of offences in relation to harassment of a number of victims from Cottenham and Impington Village College. He is currently on bail whilst the allegations are more thoroughly investigated. He has strict bail conditions and is complying with them. Although these matters relate to crime officers have noted tension and anxiety caused by these incidents. Both village colleges are aware of the issues and are fully involved with the investigations.

There were three calls for service in relation to two properties in Coolidge Gardens, this relates to a neighbour dispute and again is being case managed by SCDC housing and Police.

Waterbeach and Chittering

Crime

Crime rates in Waterbeach remain almost static year on year and compared with last period. The yearly trend is that of overall reduction. At the beginning of the period there was a series of break-ins to empty MOD properties in the village. These occurred during the hand over period between MOD and "defence infrastructure". There is now a long term security provision in place including security guards, alarms and property marking.

Two males were arrested and are on crown court bail for a burglary in Denny End Rd Waterbeach.

A drugs warrant was carried out in February at an address in Winfold Road and a female was prosecuted for being in possession of cannabis.

There have been six thefts from cars in the village over the three month period. These are part of a linked series of fuel theft from along major routes and lay-bys such as the A10, A14 and similar.

There has been no reported crime in Chittering.

Anti-social behaviour

An "ASB" survey was conducted by post in Winfold Road, and relates to the drugs warrant detailed above. Twenty five homes were surveyed and a number of people contacted as a result. The Police team are working with Bedfordshire Pilgrims Housing Association and SCDC "ASB officers". A tenancy hearing is taking place on the 15th April at Cambridge County Court. Police have gathered evidence to support an eviction hearing alongside their criminal investigations.

A trend has emerged around the Green in Waterbeach towards the end of March involving a group of young people. This is currently being targeted by the local team.

Milton, Landbeach

Crime

Milton has seen a reduction in crime over the last period. Recorded crime fell from 82 in the last period to 66 in this period. Looking at the yearly trend this sees a return to normality for the village. The rise and reduction is believed to be related to drugs activity around a specific property in Milton which continues to receive police attention.

There have been two house burglaries in the last three months, a reduction from nine this time last year. One relates to the incident below* where car keys are taken and a car is stolen and subsequently used to try and steal a van. During the second crime, offenders break into a rear window to gain entry.

Mirroring the rest of South Cambs there has been an increase in commercial burglary. Milton has been targeted more than other parishes, owing to its proximity to the A14 and the layout and design of Cambridge Rd Industrial Estate which allows for persons to enter and load out of sight. Regular patrols are already in place around these premises along with some other identified vulnerable locations in Milton.

Eight offences relate to properties outside of the Milton Village area, technically in Milton Parish within the city boundary.

*In Landbeach a van was stolen as part of a series of events whereby a car was stolen from Milton and used to commit further thefts at the Landbeach address.

Anti-social behaviour

There have been very few reports of anti-social behaviour for Milton in the last period via the Police Service Centre. It is worth however, noting the concerns made via the online-survey in regards to the possible drugs used in Milton Country Park.

4. Community consultation and feedback

Update on engagement work:

Door to door surgeries:

This period door to door surgeries have been conducted in the following areas. A summary of their findings is included below.

Histon and Impington, three community surgeries were held outside Tesco Histon. The following issues were raised

- Problems with cars going through red traffic lights at the Crossing by the Green.
- Parking problems outside of the schools in Histon.
- Parking problems outside of the Pear Tree Pre-school in Orchard Park.
- Youths on skates and scooters wanted an update on the Histon new skate park plans.

Cottenham, door to door surgeries were conducted around Telegraph Street, Margett Street and Coolidge Gardens in regards to a spate of criminal damage. Issues raised were:

- Parking issues around the Co-Op and High Street
- Door knocking and ASB on weekends.

Waterbeach, door to door surgeries were conducted around occupied MOD housing around the Cody, Kirby and Capper Road areas. Concerns were noted as following:

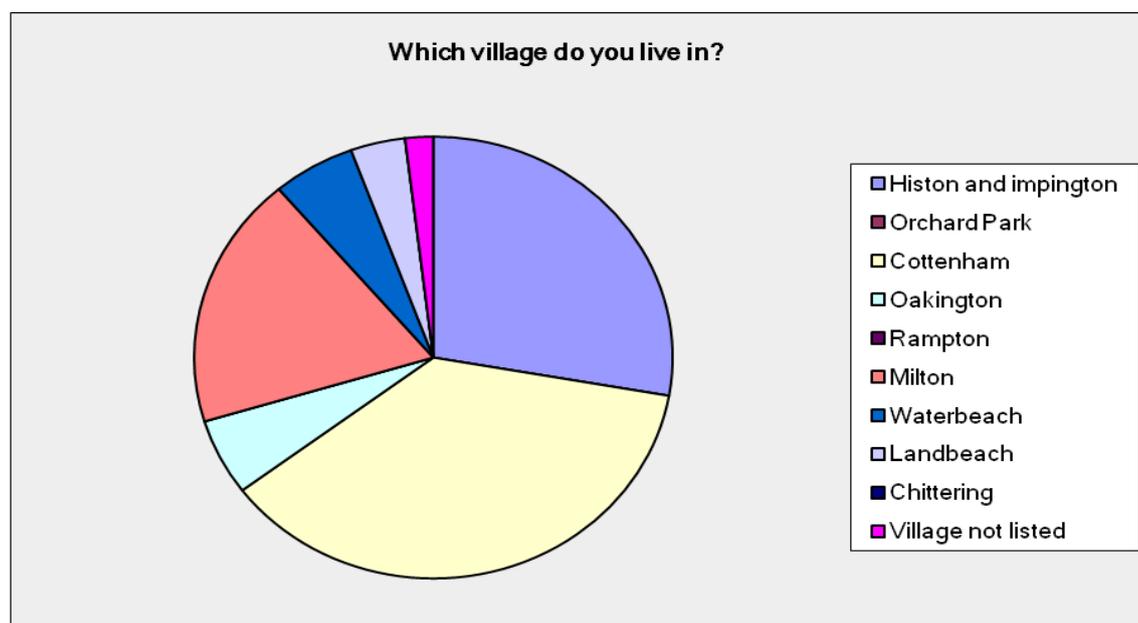
- Speeding outside the primary school during school pick up times
- Thefts/ burglary from the MOD estates.
- General concerns about the future of the estate.
- ASB and drug taking around the doctors' surgery.

Online survey:

An online survey was sent via out @southcambscops twitter account, to all ecops subscribers, NHW and to local schools.

Question 1

Where do you live?



Question 2

What single issue would you like Police in your neighbourhood to deal with over the next three month period?

Responses:

- Illegal parking on Histon High Street, causing traffic flow problems in particular in mornings and Saturdays.
- Illegal parking in Cottenham
- Re-invigorating neighbourhood watch schemes, getting complete coverage of the village.
- Carrying out a study into what we can do about traffic issues in the short, mid and long term. Really figuring out what works best to make the village safer from road accidents, like those we have seen recently, and making it more pleasant in terms of traffic. Getting experts involved, publishing and updating the village about the findings and the strategy going forward; even if the council/police/authorities think no one cares or is listening. They should be making all the efforts they can to broadcast these issues because they are accountable to the public (regardless of whether the public is always listening or engaged - how do you think we can encourage people to be more engaged?)

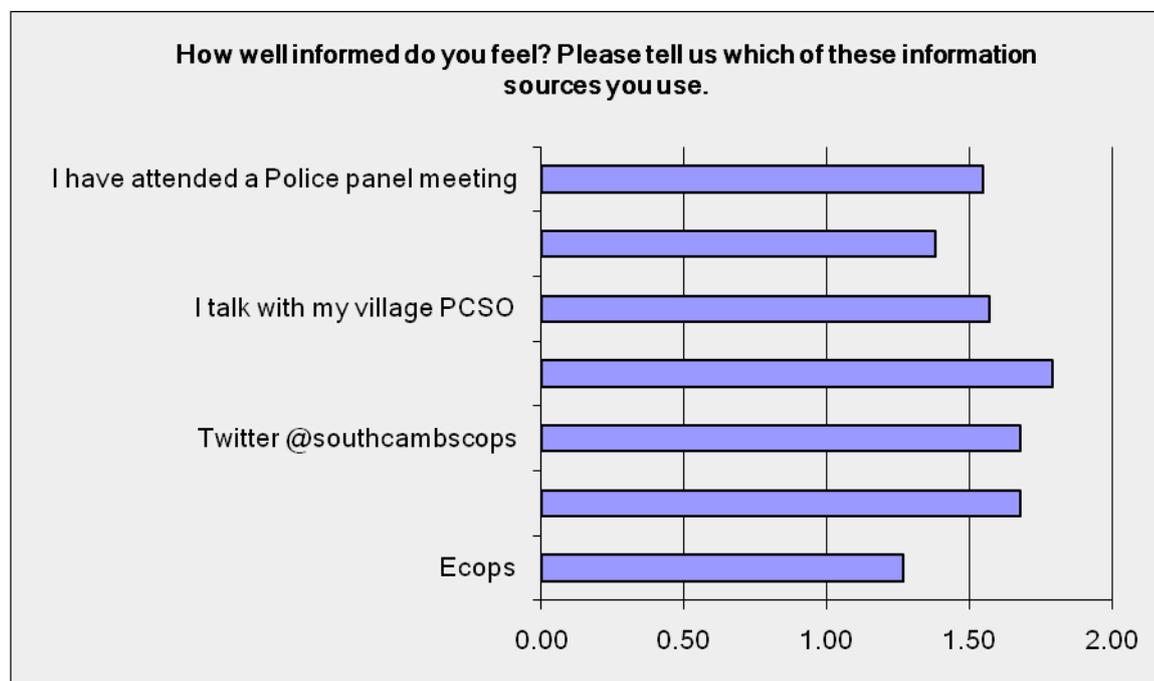
Speed watch is great, but perhaps as with the police approach to illegal parking, you deter people when you're there, but is behaviours changing when there is no one watching.

- Speeding around Milton Primary School, esp in the mornings around 8.45 - 9.00 am. Butt Lane and Humphries Way.
- Drug use and dispose of needles on the pavement near Milton Country park and Milton Community Centre
- Speeding in Cambridge Road Milton. Generally a lot of vehicles speed leaving the village.
- Mobile phone use by drivers approaching lights at Histon green, and A14 lights & roundabout at Impington. Morning rush hour.
- Subjectively, I think SpeedWatch and giving of tickets is having an effect during busy times, I've noticed more vehicles complying with the speed limit as they enter Cottenham on the B1049. I would like to see it continued but with different times and locations tried, such as 6:30-7:30pm on a week day on Histon Road, Cottenham. The speeds near the 30mph limits both in and outbound seem high.
- Red light jumping at the Histon Green crossing
- Parking in mandatory on road cycle lanes (Milton). Particular problems on Sunday opposite New Apostolic Church and whenever Milton Chiropractors are open (esp. early Sat morning for some reason).

Question 3

How well informed do you feel? (Many people skipped this question, in future we will add an “other or none” field).

How well informed do you feel? Please tell us which of these information sources you use.				
Answer Options	Yes	No	Rating Average	Response Count
Ecops	24	9	1.27	33
I am a NHW member	9	19	1.68	28
Twitter @southcambscops	9	19	1.68	28
Facebook	6	22	1.79	28
I talk with my village PCSO	13	17	1.57	30
I hear updates in the media (TV, radio or news paper)	18	11	1.38	29
I have attended a Police panel meeting	14	17	1.55	31



Cottenham specific question.

Residents of Cottenham were asked for comment about the ongoing parking problems in Cottenham.

- Unfortunately, the only real solution i can see is that we make the high street less amenable to motorists. Widen pavements, create a different kind of environment where pedestrians are the priority, make it a one-way system for traffic, would discourage the rat run coming through and speeds etc. From the efforts you've put in that haven't seemed to work, seems need to send a message to motorists that they do not rule the roads.
- The real problem is that there is no car parking facilities in the chip shop to Con. Club area. Street parking is very limited. The length of the village makes a lot of people use a car to shop. Fine if you shop at the Coop, but even that is limited. Don't know how we solve this, as there doesn't seem to be any spare ground to create a car park.

- Can you log the persistent offenders and deal with them - surely points on their licence as well as a fine will deter? I see, because I live on the High Street, the same vehicles parked wrongly. A great many of them come from a small part of the travelling community who seem to have a different set of values to others. Can more effort be given to reach out and educate/enforce this group of people?
- Re the Parking problems, would you be happy for the public, or trusted individuals eg SpeedWatch, to take pictures of illegal parking and send them to you? That would save your valuable patrol time. There is risk of violence against members of the public, of course, but some may be happy to take this risk with advice or minimal training from officers.
- I'm sorry but I have no suggestions for how to improve the situation
- Illegal parking is bad particularly near the Co Op given the location it is ignorance!! Unsure what can be done, other than "pop up bollards" right up to the carriageway that could be lowered/removed if some legitimate purpose required access
- How many illegally parked motorist are Cottenham residents? And those that are, what is their reason/excuse/purpose for parking illegally rather than in a legal area, such as a bay on the high street, outside the front of the Chequers, or in the car park to the rear of the Co-op? Do the illegally parked motorists feel that they should be legally able to park on the High Street? Do they condone illegal parking by other users? Or would they complain if they saw someone else parking illegally? When residents complain, can they be offered the opportunity to get involved in a Neighbourhood 'Parking' Watch scheme, for instance similar to 'Speedwatch' but to note Traffic Parking violations? Are they prepared to help local Police, and to work with the Parish Council by meeting up with the Traffic Working Party and helping find solutions to the illegal parking problem?
- I agree that tackling illegal and dangerous parking along Cottenham's High Street is important. The bollards placed at the entrance to the Co-Op appear to have been reasonable effective, but there is an ongoing problem outside of the fish & chip shop.
- Near the Co-op it's a death trap. I often have to walk on the road as idiots park on the footpath. Can't we have rising bollards on the edge of the footpath so people can't park there? The Co-op could lower them for their deliveries.

Neighbourhood watch:

Area Co-ordinator Polly Wilderspin will provide an update during the meeting.

In the last month the South Cambs Neighbourhood watch agreement has been refreshed to reflect some changes in both organisations.

Force satisfaction survey

Each month the force conducts telephone surveys to measure satisfaction over a number of different crime types and performance measures (see annex). As this is the first update to include this data. A yearly graph has been provided to help readers relate the current situation to the progress over the last year.

Over the last two period's satisfaction with "whole experience" has reduced slightly against the yearly trend, with an improvement only in the area of police follow up.

5. Recommendations

1. Recommendations

The following Neighbourhood Priorities are recommended for consideration:

- Investigate concerns regarding used syringes found in Milton Park.
- Continue speed watch support including areas 1) Histon Rd Cottenham 2) Histon B1049 and 3) Waterbeach Primary school
- Monitor graffiti in Histon following arrests and reduction.

6. Current Crime and Incident Levels

Crime and Incident Levels in the Swavesey Area Neighbourhood, by Ward

	Date from	Date to	Burglary dwelling	Burglary non dwelling	All violent crime	Robbery	Theft of Vehicle	Theft from Vehicle	Pedal cycle theft	Theft from Shop	Criminal Damage	Other Crime	Total Crime	Anti social behaviour
Total Histon	Jan-13	Mar-13	14	25	51	1	3	30	12	12	32	64	244	148
	Jan-12	Mar-12	26	16	57	0	7	12	27	13	41	64	263	132
	Oct-12	Dec-12	18	19	43	2	5	44	24	16	32	52	255	139
Cottenham	Jan-13	Mar-13	5	8	10	0	0	6	3	3	7	11	53	41
	Jan-12	Mar-12	5	4	18	0	0	2	2	3	16	13	63	38
	Oct-12	Dec-12	5	4	9	0	3	7	2	0	11	10	51	38
Histon and Impington	Jan-13	Mar-13	3	8	21	0	1	5	6	4	15	26	89	67
	Jan-12	Mar-12	8	5	23	0	4	3	18	6	11	21	99	44
	Oct-12	Dec-12	7	12	16	1	1	8	14	2	12	13	86	48
Milton	Jan-13	Mar-13	2	2	15	1	0	13	3	5	6	19	66	15
	Jan-12	Mar-12	9	4	12	0	2	3	5	4	7	18	64	31
	Oct-12	Dec-12	3	2	14	1	0	20	4	13	7	18	82	27
Waterbeach	Jan-13	Mar-13	4	7	5	0	2	6	0	0	4	8	36	25
	Jan-12	Mar-12	4	3	4	0	1	4	2	0	7	12	37	19
	Oct-12	Dec-12	3	1	4	0	1	9	4	1	2	11	36	26

Annex.

Satisfaction- South Cambridgeshire (last two periods)

Question asked:	Whole experience	Ease of contact	Police actions	Follow up	Treatment
Last period (Oct 2012- Dec 2012)					
Total respondents	70	57	70	69	70
Number satisfied	64	55	63	58	68
Lower confidence interval	85.2%	92.0%	83.3%	75.9%	93.4%
Percentage satisfied	91.4%	96.5%	90.0%	84.1%	97.1%
Upper confidence interval	97.7%	101.0%	96.7%	92.3%	100.8%
Current period (Jan2013- March 2013)					
Total respondents	72	60	72	72	72
Number satisfied	62	57	64	63	69
Lower confidence interval	78.5%	89.8%	82.0%	80.3%	91.5%
Percentage satisfied	86.1%	95.0%	88.9%	87.5%	95.8%
Upper confidence interval	93.7%	100.2%	95.8%	94.7%	100.2%

