

South Cambridgeshire Local Policing Team



Swavesey Panel Meeting Update
Tues 19th November 2013
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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 on-going 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

Speed enforcement- Huntingdon Rd Girton	
Objective	To conduct speed enforcement on Huntingdon Rd, Girton.
Action Taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visits were made to the location during rush hour where the traffic was found to be moving far too slowly for any likely enforcement work to be necessary. - An enforcement session was held over a weekend, 4 road side penalties were issued during the three hour visit, and the drivers were all referred to for speed awareness courses. - A further session was held midweek daytime and 3 persons were given courses in the 2 hours visit. - A speed watch group has been formed by Cambridge City residents along the city end of Huntingdon Road. <p>As speeding complaints are common in most villages in the district, all enforcement work carried out by Police will be focused in Parishes where Councils commit to a road safety plan. These Parish led plans will help to focus work being undertaken by all agencies, including the police, to problem solve road safety in specific areas. Girton Parish have been invited to draw up such a plan, and as such have police enforcement as part of the co-ordinated approach.</p>
Current Situation	<p>There is evidence of speeding at this location, not above or dissimilar to most villages in South Cambs.</p> <p>The Parish Council have been asked to co-ordinate activity between police, bids for other safety measures via the county and other road safety initiatives.</p>
Continue or Discharge?	TBC

Operation Armatage – Stack fire and arson.	
Presentation to be given by Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue service prevention officer.	

Work with building firms to reduce building site thefts.	
Objective	To report back to the panel on work being undertaken to reduce crime on building sites.
Action Taken	<p>South Cambridgeshire Police Team has a Business Watch PCSO, Carly Freed, who is seconded full time to working with businesses in South Cambs.</p> <p>PCSO Freed identifies businesses in the community that either become repeat victims or are vulnerable to crime. Businesses are then broadly split into two groups for support:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Where reasonable security measures are already in place, but fail. 2) Where there is a failure to protect staff and property by the business in question. <p>Where a business is found to have insufficient security measures an action plan is put in place for the business. This can include the requirement to employ security staff, change working practices or put in place traditional measures such as CCTV, alarms or physical barriers. The majority of businesses in South Cambs on action plans are either petrol stations or building sites.</p> <p>UK petrol stations have yet to adopt an approach used in America, where payment is required before dispensing fuel. This is because the majority of revenue comes from purchases in the shop not fuel (such as food and drink). Petrol stations are normally required to put in place measures to prevent their staff authorising sales to repeat offenders, and forcing the stores to take civil debt recovery as their first means of action.</p> <p>Building sites also suffer from repeat crime, due in part to their isolated locations. Most housing developments are inaccessible to passing patrols, have no street names or house numbers, they also lack natural surveillance from neighbours. Larger building firms will budget for losses in the tens of thousands before they will employ security firms to protect their sites. CCTV monitoring of sites is often carried out remotely by operators who have no idea of the layout or locations of sites. So when a call is made about intruders little indication can be given to officers as to where (on a large site) the intruder is, making it very difficult to respond effectively.</p> <p>In both the cases above and in like scenarios, businesses are required to take reasonable steps to protect themselves. In an extreme case police stopped investigating crimes for a shop where it took between three and six months for CCTV to be recovered from a security system. In another case a shop who were asked to remove high value alcohol from within reaching distance of their front door were also threatened with losing their alcohol licence. Where a business continues to suffer PCSO Freed’s work informs patrol officers and investigators work.</p>

	As well as working with Police, businesses on action plans will be referred for support to groups such as the Federation of Small Businesses, the Chamber of Commerce, Country Side Watch and Pub Watch.
Continue or Discharge?	Discharge

3. Police crime and incident data

Data provided in the crime tables at the end of this document are performance data. Performance data informs what Police were dealing with during any given month. In the summaries below figures may vary, and will represent the final “outcome” and figures passed to the home office for recording. For example, a crime may be reclassified or historical crime added after the end of each month.

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

Bar Hill Ward (*Bar Hill, Boxworth, Dry Drayton, Lolworth*)

Crime

Total crime in the ward has reduced both on last period and last year. Bar Hill village has had an increase in house break-ins, there were three offences during this period compared to one in the last period. Of the three house burglaries, two were broken into by forcing the front door and window, whilst at the third property it appears a door was left unlocked. There have been no forensic opportunities from these break-ins and no one has been arrested. All three break-ins were reported when the occupier returned home from work.

Sixteen of the recorded offences in the ward relate to Tesco in Barhill, and likewise thirteen relate to petrol stations along the A14 (Lolworth and Boxworth). There were nine thefts from motor vehicles in the areas, which were a combination of theft of number plates and fuel. This rate of recording remains unchanged from last period. There is no particular hot spot or pattern for focused patrol work.

The detection rate for the ward remains low due to the nature of the majority of the crime reported from petrol stations and the superstore. Making off without payment account for twelve of the recorded offences, this is where the sale of fuel is authorised by the attendant, Police require companies to conduct civil recovery proceedings in these cases.

There has been a good reduction in violent crime; this is largely circumstantial as previous higher recorded crime was largely accounted for by individual domestic violence incidents.

ASB

There has been a slight reduction reported ASB incidents in the last period. There has been one eviction of a resident who was contributing to calls to the force control room.

A partnership meeting has been held between various agencies to discuss the future of the skate park. There are a number of on-going issues that have been raised.

A number of calls relate to two other properties in the ward, one being a mental health related issue and the other an alcoholic repeat caller. Both are being case managed by the Complex Case Team.

Girton Ward

Crime

Despite the previous success in reducing Girton's higher than average burglary rate, house break-ins rose in number again at the beginning of this three month period. Seven break-ins were reported in the last three months; again the focus for criminals is where the village adjoins Cambridge City. Methods used by criminals to gain entry vary from using open upstairs windows, using garden tools to force entry to doors, window, and smashing patio doors. Items stolen vary from small electrical items to jewellery. During the same period it appears the same offenders have been responsible for a sharp rise in thefts from vehicles. Thieves have targeted cars with Satnavs and loose change on display.

Pedal cycle theft has reduced to just one offence in the last six months.

A Police officer was assaulted whilst arresting a male in St Vincent's close; he was convicted at court along with harassment of his neighbours.

A male has also been convicted of fraud having undertaken gardening work for the victim, over charging and misrepresenting the work carried out.

ASB

A young male is current being investigated by officers for Graffiti in the village. A number of calls relate to the lead up to an eviction of a nuisance SCDC tenant. It is hoped this will now help reduce nuisance in this part of the village.

Longstanton Ward

Crime:

Total crime in Longstanton ward is reduced on last year, which can be attributed to the reduction in cycle thefts. One robbery is recorded in the village. The crime has been investigated, and although no person has been arrested it has been connected with other on-going matters at the same location. There is no risk to the general public as it is believed that the incident is part of on-going issues with the persons involved.

One offence of affray was recorded in the ward; this has been resolved between the aggrieved party and suspects, informally, at the request of the victim.

A car dealership in the ward has been subjected to three crimes whereby suspects have made repeated attempts to gain entry to take cars overnight.

ASB:

There are no patterns in ASB or nuisance of note in the village. The Complex Case Team are managing one SCDC tenant who has become a repeat caller. As with other local villages Fly-Grazed horses remain a continuous drain on Police resources as officers attend to remove them. Removal of horses cost upwards of £1000 a horse and does not include the further feeding and veterinary bills that then must be undertaken by Police. Work is under way to identify a named individual who can be held accountable for the horses.

Papworth and Elsworth Ward (*Conington, Elsworth, Fen Drayton, Graveley, Knapwell, Papworth Everard, Papworth St Agnes*)

Crime:

A crime of arson was recorded at Pendragon Community Primary School. An aerosol can was used to set fire to a bin. Local officers are still following a number of investigative leads in relation to this.

There were four house burglaries in the last three months. Three break-ins occurred in Papworth, each house was targeted by thieves breaking in via windows and patio doors to the rear of the property. There continues to be a reduction in commercial (non-dwelling) burglaries from last year, just two were recorded in the last period, against twelve this time last year. A large investment has been made in businesses in this area by local PCSOs and crime reduction officers to reduce repeat victims of crime.

Two cars were subject to theft in Ermine Street, one was broken into for loose change, the other had a wheel stolen whilst left parked overnight.

ASB:

PCSO Baugh and the Complex Case Team are working closely with BPHA housing to resolve an on-going problem in Musker Place, this also relates to several other nuisance call from the ward. There has only been a handful of calls relating to boy-racers. A fresh appeal was made in November for residents to alert Police to gatherings on the Ermine Street Industrial Estate.

Swavesey Ward (*Swavesey*)

Crime:

There have been three house burglaries and four commercial burglaries in Swavesey ward in the last three month period. One house burglary was an attempt and nothing was taken, the second was part of a larger incident involving several males, some of whom were detained by police for other offences. Horse riding equipment was also stolen from a locked container along Cow Fen Drove.

Due to other pro-active work being carried out in the area the number of people found with controlled drugs (during stop searches) has increased, five people were given 'on the spot' fines for drugs.

A copse being cleared by a land owner which was previously not visible from a nearby foot path was found to be home to 60 cannabis plants. The plants had been cultivated during the summer, a small amount of equipment was found nearby. The land owner notified police and the site was cleared of all plants.

ASB:

An ASB survey is currently being undertaken in Moat Way in relation to nuisance on the green spaces. The information gathered from here will form the basis of work being undertaken by the Complex Case Team. ASB related calls remains low at just eight in three months.

Willingham and Over Ward (Over, Willingham)

Crime:

Burglaries in the ward have remained at comparable numbers compared to last period, although they remain focused in Willingham rather than Over village. Five properties were broken into in Willingham; offenders stole small electrical items and jewellery. The burglaries have been linked and an investigation remains on-going into the series. As before, offence locations are most likely being picked by thieves due to their more isolated or affluent nature, making it impracticable for police to target any particular hot spot.

A male from Over has been charged with two counts of causing harassment and distress to his neighbours and is now being closely managed by the Complex Case Team.

The number of criminal damage crimes reported in the last quarter has crept up again, however unlike previous patterns in damage the more recent series is largely not attributed to damage in public places. The more recent crimes are a mixture of damage to homes reported by land lords, damage caused by siblings along with a further mixture of crimes committed to fences, and out buildings.

Two cars were set alight at the beginning of the period, they were burnt out on the aggrieved parties front drive way. Although two persons were seen to run away from the location, no positive identification has been made of the suspect.

ASB

A managed move of two families in Willingham is currently underway, calls to nuisance and ASB at one of these homes has accounted for almost 25% of all calls for service. There have also been a number of calls about fly grazed horses. A small operation is underway between police and Cambridgeshire County Council to prosecute the suspects and seize horses as and when they are fly grazed (tethered on private land without permission).

4. Community consultation and feedback

Update on engagement work:

Online survey: Data will be provided at the panel meeting

5. Recommendations

1. Recommendations

The following Neighbourhood Priorities are recommended for consideration:

- Fly Grazing across the area.

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 area	Aug-13	Oct-13	24	17	30	1	3	28	4	4	38	58	207	112
	Aug-12	Oct-12	23	25	34	1	3	28	12	8	25	86	245	121
	May-13	Jul-13	9	21	33	0	3	33	24	11	16	64	214	138
Bar Hill	Aug-13	Oct-13	3	1	3	0	1	9	0	3	3	16	39	21
	Aug-12	Oct-12	7	3	4	1	1	9	0	6	4	39	74	22
	May-13	Jul-13	1	3	7	0	0	9	2	8	5	24	59	29
Girton	Aug-13	Oct-13	7	0	5	0	0	10	1	1	3	5	32	8
	Aug-12	Oct-12	4	7	4	0	0	4	2	2	3	9	35	6
	May-13	Jul-13	2	2	7	0	0	3	6	1	0	3	24	16
Longstanton	Aug-13	Oct-13	1	5	4	1	0	0	2	0	6	3	22	13
	Aug-12	Oct-12	2	2	4	0	1	6	6	0	4	4	29	15
	May-13	Jul-13	0	1	4	0	0	1	5	0	1	4	16	12
Papworth & Elsworth	Aug-13	Oct-13	4	2	5	0	1	2	0	0	4	14	32	19
	Aug-12	Oct-12	3	4	7	0	1	3	0	0	7	9	34	26
	May-13	Jul-13	2	12	3	0	0	8	5	0	7	11	48	37
Swavesey	Aug-13	Oct-13	3	4	1	0	0	3	1	0	2	9	23	8
	Aug-12	Oct-12	2	1	2	0	0	1	3	0	1	12	22	9
	May-13	Jul-13	2	2	1	0	0	6	3	0	0	7	21	14
Willingham and Over	Aug-13	Oct-13	6	5	12	0	1	4	0	0	20	11	59	43
	Aug-12	Oct-12	5	8	13	0	0	5	1	0	6	13	51	43
	May-13	Jul-13	2	1	11	0	3	6	3	2	3	15	46	30