

Creating a safer  
**Cambridgeshire**

# Histon Neighbourhood Profile Update

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## **Introduction**

### **Aim**

The aim of the Neighbourhood Profile Update is to identify ongoing and emerging crime and disorder issues in the Neighbourhood in order to facilitate effective policing and partnership working in the area.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the Neighbourhood Profile Update is to provide up-to-date information on Neighbourhood issues to multi-agency Neighbourhood Panels and Neighbourhood Policing Teams, so that issues can be identified and effectively prioritised.

### **Methodology**

This document was produced using the following data sources:

- Crime data 01/05/2006 to 30/06/2006<sup>1</sup>
- Incident data 01/05/2006 to 30/06/2006<sup>2</sup>
- Speeding Data 01/05/2006 to 30/06/2006
- Cambridge Evening News archive
- Information from CBMs and PCSOs June 2006
- Intelligence data from Intrepid<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> From NORA and Crimefile.

<sup>2</sup> From NORA and CC3 (Storm MA).

<sup>3</sup> From 'Neighbourhood Policing' category

## 1. Executive Summary

Overall crime in the Milton/Histon/Cottenham<sup>4</sup> area has increased slightly. Waterbeach is the only beat to see a decrease in crime. The main increase has been seen in theft from vehicle and theft of cycles. Thefts of cycles have increased particularly at the Science Park, Milton and at Impington Village College. Thefts from motor vehicles occurred mainly in the centre of Milton.

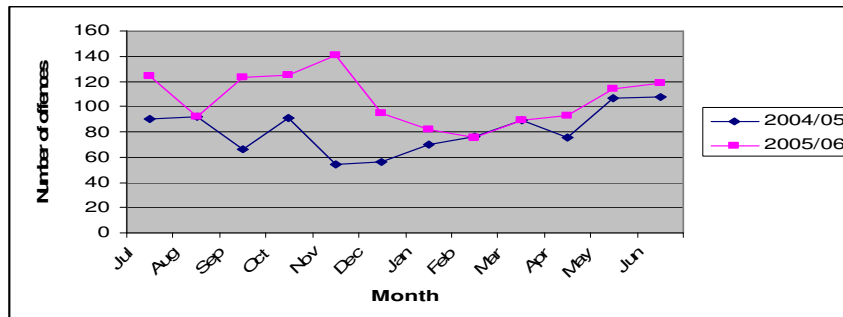
There has also been a rise in incidents of anti-social behaviour both year on year and compared to the previous 2 months across the neighbourhood. The greatest increase year on year was in Cottenham beat. Waterbeach beat has seen the biggest increase in comparison to the previous 2 months, mostly in the Station Road area.

## 2. Neighbourhood trends in crime and disorder

- **Increase in Neighbourhood crime levels**

Over the past 2 months (May to June 2006), 233 crimes have been recorded in Histon Neighbourhood Area. This is a slight increase on the same period in 2005, which recorded 215 crimes. Compared to the previous 2 months (March to April 2006) there has been an increase of 28% in crime levels.

Figure 1 Histon Neighbourhood Area Offences by Month, June 2004 to June 2006



- **Crime decreases in Waterbeach beat and increases elsewhere**

A decrease in crime has been seen in Waterbeach beat<sup>5</sup>. All other beats have seen an increase in crime year on year and compared to the previous 2 months. Milton beat in particular has seen a marked increase year on year<sup>6</sup>. However, Histon & Impington beat has seen the greatest increase compared to the previous 2 months.

- **Increase in theft from vehicles and thefts of cycles; decrease in theft of vehicles**

Across the neighbourhood area, increases have been seen in cycle theft, non-dwelling burglaries and thefts from vehicle<sup>7</sup>. Thefts of vehicle and criminal damage<sup>8</sup> have seen marked decreases over the neighbourhood.

- **Increase in incidents of anti-social behaviour**

128 incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB) were recorded across the neighbourhood area from May to June 2006. This is an increase of 56.1% compared to year on year figures, and a 26.7% increase compared to the previous 2 months.

<sup>4</sup> Referred to in the rest of this document as Histon Neighbourhood Area.

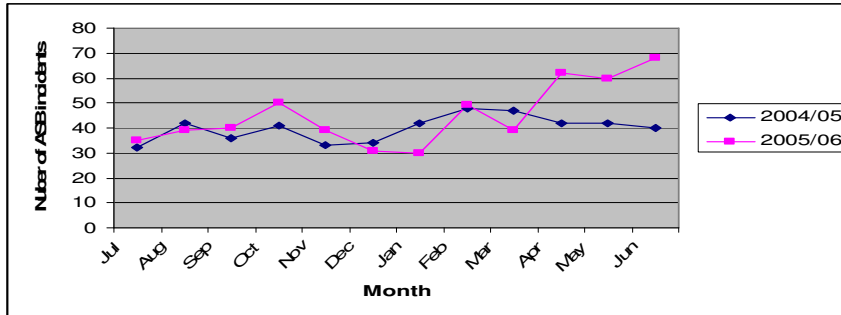
<sup>5</sup> -51.7% year on year and -41.7% compared to the previous 2 months.

<sup>6</sup> +81.6% compared to May and June 2005.

<sup>7</sup> +77.8%, +48% and +35% year on year respectively.

<sup>8</sup> -44.4% and -36.5% year on year respectively.

Figure 2 Histon Neighbourhood Area ASB incidents by Month, June 2004 to June 2006



- ***Increases in anti-social behaviour in Cottenham and Waterbeach***

48 ASB incidents were reported in Histon and Impington beat followed by Cottenham beat which had 30 ASB incidents over May-June 2006. Cottenham had the greatest increase in anti-social behaviour<sup>9</sup> year on year and Waterbeach had the highest increase when compared to the previous 2 months<sup>10</sup>.

### **3. Trends in crime and disorder by beat**

- ***Anti-social behaviour increases in Cottenham beat***

Total crime in Cottenham has slightly increased year on year<sup>11</sup> and in comparison to the previous 2 months. The main increases have been in theft from vehicles, mostly around Cottenham village, and non-dwelling burglaries, mainly along the High Street, Cottenham. Cycle thefts and criminal damage have halved in number year on year. 30 anti-social behaviour incidents were reported for May-June 2006 for Cottenham; this is the second highest for Histon Neighbourhood and has doubled year on year. There is an emerging problem of youth anti-social behaviour in the Stevens Close area of Cottenham, and the ongoing problems of youth ASB in Oakington continue to be addressed in consultation with residents<sup>12</sup>. Regular patrols are taking place in these areas. Other measures include the introduction of lunchtime passes by Cottenham Village College to be used as a form of ID in local shops to prevent rowdy behaviour<sup>13</sup>.

- ***Ongoing problems with vehicle nuisance in Histon and Impington beat***

Histon and Impington beat showed a slight increase in total crime year on year<sup>14</sup> and in comparison to the previous 2 months<sup>15</sup>. Increases have been seen in cycle theft, particularly at Impington Village College<sup>16</sup>, and non-dwelling burglary. Reductions have been seen in violent crime, vehicle crime and criminal damage. There is a small hotspot for crime around the High Street, Histon, consisting of thefts from shops non-dwelling burglaries and cycle thefts. Levels of anti-social incidents have increased markedly year on year<sup>17</sup>, although the level has stayed the same compared to the previous 2 months. 48 incidents have been reported in May-June 2006, which is the highest for Histon Neighbourhood. These increases are mostly to do with youth anti-social behaviour. Particular problems include the use of motorcycles, quads and mini-motos in the Holiday Inn car park<sup>18</sup>, and the use of private land at Abbey Farm

<sup>9</sup> +114.3%.

<sup>10</sup> +162.5%.

<sup>11</sup> Increase by 6 crimes from the same period in 2005.

<sup>12</sup> From PC Paul Rogerson, CBM from Cottenham.

<sup>13</sup> "Rowdy student fears" 15<sup>th</sup> May 2006 Cambridge Evening News.

<sup>14</sup> Increase of 11 crimes from the same period in 2005.

<sup>15</sup> + 60.9%.

<sup>16</sup> 8 cycle thefts reported.

<sup>17</sup> +108.7%.

<sup>18</sup> From PCSO Lee Page and Intrepid.

for BMX racing. Clay Street, Histon has also had problems with criminal damage and nuisance ASB<sup>19</sup>.

- ***Increase in thefts from vehicle and thefts of cycle in Milton beat***

Crime has increased markedly in Milton beat year on year and in comparison to the previous 2 months<sup>20</sup>. Increases have been seen in thefts from motor vehicle and cycle thefts year on year. Theft from motor vehicles are mainly situated in the centre of Milton, and the Science Park has had an elevated level of cycle thefts. Violent crime and thefts from shops have decreased. Tesco continues to be a particular hotspot for crime. ASB incidents have remained steady year on year, although there has been an increase compared to the previous 2 months<sup>21</sup>. There have been a few reports of mopeds and mini-motos riding around Froment Way and Humphries Way on the Green area. In the previous update (May 2006) the Rowans and Sycamores estate was highlighted as having a crime and disorder problem. However, there has been a reduction on this estate from 17 crimes to 5 and a reduction in the number of ASB incidents too.

- ***Crime decreases while ASB incidents rise in Waterbeach beat***

Crime has decreased year on year and in comparison to the previous 2 months in Waterbeach beat<sup>22</sup>. There have been marked decreases in burglary dwelling, vehicle crime and criminal damage. There has been a cluster of crimes around Waterbeach industrial estate, Pembroke Avenue, mainly thefts of metal. Anti-social behaviour has increased year on year and nearly trebled compared to the previous 2 months<sup>23</sup>. There is a cluster of ASB incidents in the area of Station Road, where some squatters are using a disused building near to the train station.

#### **4. Previous issues identified and actions taken**

At the second Neighbourhood Panel meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2006, the following Neighbourhood Priorities were set:

- ***Youth drug and alcohol misuse across the neighbourhood***

There is ongoing work by police officers and other agencies to combat the misuse of alcohol and drugs by young people in the neighbourhood. For example, there has been continued work with youth groups in Cottenham beat to combat this<sup>24</sup>. The Unwins site in Impington has been identified as an area where youths congregate to drink. Alcohol has been seized in this area and advice given to those concerned<sup>25</sup>.

- ***Speeding***

No speeding complaints were reported in the neighbourhood in May or June 2006<sup>26</sup>. Police officers have carried out speeding checks in Histon Road and Rampton Road in Cottenham and High Street, Rampton. 4 convictions have issued from this<sup>27</sup>. Several residents have written to the Cambridge Evening News regarding the new A14/A10 roundabout at Milton, stating that the layout is causing confusion<sup>28</sup>. There have also been calls for a zebra crossing in Winship Road, Milton "following a series of accidents and near misses"<sup>29</sup>.

<sup>19</sup> From PCSO Lee Page and CC3 anti-social incidents.

<sup>20</sup> +81.6% year on year, +60.5% compared to previous 2 months.

<sup>21</sup> + 52.6%, an increase of 10 ASB incidents.

<sup>22</sup> -51.7% year on year, -41.7% compared to previous 2 months.

<sup>23</sup> +31.3% year on year, +162.5% compared to previous 2 months.

<sup>24</sup> From PC Paul Rogerson, CBM from Cottenham.

<sup>25</sup> From an Intrepid Intelligence item submitted on 16/05/06

<sup>26</sup> Information taken from Speed Complaints database.

<sup>27</sup> From PC Paul Rogerson, CBM from Cottenham.

<sup>28</sup> "Now it's worse" 26<sup>th</sup> June 2006 Cambridge Evening News

<sup>29</sup> "Safety call for cyclists at bridge" 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2006 Cambridge Evening News

- ***High visibility policing focusing on anti-social behaviour hotspots***

There has been nightly patrolling of ASB hotspots in Cottenham beat at Coolidge gardens, Cottenham School, Cherry Orchard Passage and Queens Way, Oakington<sup>30</sup>. In Histon and Impington beat it is planned to use powers to stop individuals driving vehicles and to seize them if necessary to combat the problem of mini motos/mopeds and similar vehicles at the Holiday Inn car park, and discussions are taking place with the Council and other agencies in the hope of combating the problem of trespass at Abbey farm, Histon<sup>31</sup>.

## **6. Recommendations**

It is recommended that the following crime and disorder issues (listed in no particular order) are considered at the Neighbourhood Panel meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2006.

- Youth anti-social behaviour in Cottenham.
- Anti-social behaviour in Histon and Impington beat, especially at the Holiday Inn car park.
- Elevated levels of crime and disorder in Milton, particularly at the Science Park and the Froment Way and Humphries Way area.

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<sup>30</sup> From PC Paul Rogerson, CBM from Cottenham.

<sup>31</sup> From PCSO Lee Page.