

MARCH 2022
ISSUE 3

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LETTER FROM EMMA

We are very happy to announce that we have filled the position of the part-time Anti-Social Behaviour Officer. A warm welcome to Harriet Sugg who will join us here at The Communities & Partnership Team, ECDC on Monday 4 April 22. Here is an introduction from Harriet:

I am Harriet Sugg and I will be starting as the Community Safety Support and Anti-Social Behaviour Office ad East Cambs District Council in April. This role is jointly funded by the Community Safety Partnership and ECDC. I will support the implementation of the Community Safety Board's Action Plan working with the Chair of the Community Safety Partnership, the Council's



Communities and Partnerships Manager and the Neighbourhood and Community Safety Officer in the planning, coordinating, delivering and monitoring of services, initiatives and projects aimed at improving community safety outcomes for East Cambridgeshire. This will include the implementation of actions to reduce crime and disorder in East Cambs and the supporting of intervention initiatives designed to prevent crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime. I served as a Police Constable with Bedfordshire Police and Cambridgeshire Constabulary for a several years. I am due to complete my Bachelor of Law degree in the summer.

I look forward to working with you. Harriet.

It has been an extremely busy couple of months, we have produced a [Cyberbullying toolkit](#), and developed an Eyes & Ears video.

A Home Security package has been developed, the pilot launched last month to the residents of Coveney via an online style webinar. Safer Streets Pilot in Littleport that featured in our last edition, planning is going from strength to strength and aimed to be delivered in September.

Part of our Safer Streets project we support www.safeplaces.org.uk.

Please take a look at this website, register your organisation or building as a safe place. Promote this website alongside downloading and promoting the phone app. Currently there are only four registered places in all East Cambs, five now ECDC has registered.

CSP have been able to provide funding towards some great community safety related requests. These have been granted to seven local projects, we will be able to report further details on these projects next edition.

COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO UKRAINE CRISIS

Please could you take a few minutes to tell us about the plans your community has to respond to the Ukrainian crisis? Here is the questionnaire from East Cambs District Council, Ely Primary Care Network & Cambridgeshire County Council, – it is not too long!



[East Cambs - Community Support for Ukrainian Refugees \(office.com\)](https://www.office.com)

BURWELL SAFETY CAMPAIGN

WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE BURWELL SAFER

Burwell Safety Campaign Burwell Parish Council Safety Campaign: (endorsed by ECCSP & ECDC. CSP also provided some funding towards the campaign) .

Four major components – each with specific community safety objectives:

SPEED: Launching at Burwell At Large March 19 to 20.

PARKING: Launching at Carnival June 24 to 25.

PEDESTRIAN, CYCLEWAYS & PATHS: Launching at the Family Fete Day Sep 4.

PERSONAL SAFETY: Launching Dec 2022 to Jan 2023

[Burwell Safety Campaign - Burwell Parish Council](#)

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S YOUTH FUND

This fund has been set up by Police and Crime Commissioner Darryl Preston using the proceeds of criminal activity. It's aims are to ensure young people living in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are deterred from getting involved in crime by:

having safe spaces to gather and activities available which help them develop and become resilient adults; being given opportunities to use their spare time constructively through volunteer schemes which help their community;



being listened to and having the chance to help shape local services and projects in their community which prevent those at risk from getting involved in crime.

To find out more visit The Police & Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire website.

INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING SCHEME

Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) are volunteers from the local community who, as part of a team, make unannounced visits to police stations to check on the rights, wellbeing and treatment of people being held in police custody. We are currently recruiting for ICVs. To find out more go to: The Police & Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire | Independent Custody Visiting Scheme (cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk)

CAMBRIDGESHIRE CONSTABULARY

The East Cambs Neighbourhood Policing Team have been conducting regular patrols in Littleport and engaging with youths in a bid to deter them from ASB and drugs. Similar patrols have also been ongoing for a while in Bottisham, especially around the area of Bottisham Village College and the shops. As a result of the patrols in Bottisham, two Community Protection Warning letters have been issued and further engagement is being conducted with the youths in question. Currently, it is looking like the youths are going to be issued with a full CPN as they have not changed their behaviour.

A warrant was conducted at a residential address in Ely which resulted in an 18-year-old male being arrested after a quantity of illegal drugs were found at the property. He is currently on bail for several drug related offences. Several warrants are currently being considered and applied for to help disrupt the drugs supply in the East Cambs area.



Reports of ASB have arisen in Sutton around the children's play park and patrols are now being conducted to prevent and deter the continuation of any ASB. During these patrols, officers have also been on the look-out for persons suspected of being involved in the theft of catalytic converters in the area.

Several vulnerable youths in the East Cambs area are regularly being engaged with, to ensure that they are being safeguarded and they are also receiving assistance from other partner agencies. Over the COVID lockdown period, the number of youths who appear to have been exploited and encouraged into criminal activity has increased and this has had a knock-on effect regarding reports of ASB and drug related activity in the East Cambs area.

The team have been targeting unlicensed and uninsured drivers in East Cambs. The Specials have also been out testing their new speed guns and equipment in the hot spot areas that have been reported to us regarding speeding vehicles/anti-social driving.

There have been reports of ASB from a derelict factory on Station Road, Haddenham. No-one has been found on the site yet, but patrols continue. Following on-line event available to help local businesses with Cyber security

www.fsb.org.uk/event-calendar/protect-your-business-get-cyber-savvy.htm

NOTE:

NEW CHANGES IN THE LAW:

Driving and mobile phones

- www.which.co.uk/news/2022/03/changes-to-mobile-phone-driving-laws-come-into-force-this-week/
- www.gov.uk/using-mobile-phones-when-driving-the-law

CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH AGAINST SCAMS PARTNERSHIP

WARNING OF LOAN SHARK DANGERS IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Cambridgeshire County Council is lending its support to a national campaign aimed at tackling loan sharks and raising awareness of where people can seek help.

The campaign is being led by the England Illegal Money Lending Team (IMLT) – a national team that investigates and prosecutes loan sharks. They also provide specialist support for people affected by this crime.

A loan shark is someone who lends money without authorisation from the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). They often tend to initially appear friendly and helpful but can then turn to violent and aggressive behaviour to force victims to repay the loans with huge interest and extortionate penalties.

It's not always easy to spot a loan shark as they come in many different guises and will at first appear friendly, just part of the community. It's when you can't pay that they will turn on you. They could be a regular from the local pub, a parent in the school playground or a friend of a friend.

Loan sharks prey on people at their most vulnerable. Borrowing from a loan shark can seem like an easy option but often it will lead to a vicious cycle of threats, intimidation and spiralling debts.

You will usually find these predators lurking in communities, but they also operate on social media, using dating sites and online groups to find, threaten and control people in debt.

Here are some of the warning signs to watch out for that a lender is acting illegally:

- Giving you no paperwork or agreement on a loan
- Refusing to give you information about the loan
- Keeping items such as your passport and bank card until the debt is paid
- Taking things from you if you don't pay on time
- Adding more interest or charges so the debt never goes down
- Using intimidation or violence if you don't pay



- Starting off by being your friend but quickly turning nasty

If you have borrowed money from a loan shark, it is important to remember that you have done nothing wrong and there is no shame in seeking help.

It may seem like a difficult step to take, but there is support available from the England Illegal Money Lending Team.

Credit unions are a safe and legal alternative than borrowing from a loan shark, find out more about the services on offer locally by going to www.findyourcreditunion.co.uk.

WHY JOIN A CREDIT UNION?

Credit unions are not-for-profit organisations, existing primarily to serve the needs of their members and the communities in which they operate.

It's easy to find a credit union that you're eligible to join. To become a member of the Eastern Savings and Loans Credit Union, you need to live or work in Norfolk, Suffolk or Cambridgeshire.

Credit unions help members save and manage their money ethically and responsibly. They offer savings and loans at affordable rates, and just like with banks and building societies, your savings are protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS).

Credit unions may be more willing to offer you a small loan if you have poor or no credit rating. Banks, along with other loan providers, may be reluctant to lend you money for this reason.

It's easy to check that a lender is authorised before considering a loan by visiting the Financial Services Register online at <https://register.fca.org.uk/s/>

Residents who believe they may be involved with a loan shark or suspect that one is operating in their area can report it to the Illegal Money Lending Team by calling 0300 555 2222, emailing reportaloanshark@stoploansharks.gov.uk or filling out an online form at www.stoploansharks.co.uk. Live Chat is available on the website between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

