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March 2026

Call for villages to set up Community Speedwatch

Cambridgeshire police are calling for more towns and villages to set up Community Speedwatch (CSW) groups in East Cambridgeshire.

CSW is about educating drivers to be aware of their speed while driving. As well as providing the police with data which is used to help target specific areas, it can also support parish councils when applying for funding to help improve their local highway, for example to include zebra crossings or Speed Indicating Devices.

All volunteers receive training on how to use the equipment and send in recordings. There is also information on how and when warning letters are issued.

In East Cambridgeshire CSW groups are currently active in Bottisham, Burrough Green, Burwell, Dullingham, Haddenham, Isleham, Snailwell, Sutton, Stretham, Wilburton, Witchford and Witcham.

If you are interested in setting up a group or learning more please email Julie Clark at speedwatch@cambs.police.uk.

Fitness Rush in Ely hailed a success



A new project in Ely to help encourage young people to keep fit and divert them away from low level anti-social behaviour has been hailed a success.

As part of the project, young people were encouraged to sign up for a 12 week programme delivered using the Fitness Rush mobile gym.

Weekly sessions were held to support the group to make better choices, and improve their health, fitness, wellbeing and interpersonal skills through a series of one to one sessions.

Key to the success of the project has been the co-operation of young people and their attitude to change, made possible by the positive and supportive engagement offered by all the partners organisations, with many of the participants going on to take up funded gym memberships

Other project outcomes include:

- a reduction in flare ups with homeless people in central Ely
 - respectful use of library spaces
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- developing positive relationships with professionals
- extended maturity and awareness of personal development and impact of behaviours on others

The collaborative project was funded following a successful grant application to the Serious Violence Duty Funding Awards.

Partners included the Community Safety Partnership, East Cambs Neighbourhood Policing Team, Cambridgeshire County Council, Fitness Rush mobile facility and The Hive Leisure Centre which is operated by GLL.

Following its success there are now plans to replicate the scheme across other areas of the district.

If you would like to know more about this project and the plans for East Cambs please contact Lizzi.Houghton@Cambridgehsire.gov.uk or Harriet.Sugg@eastcambs.gov.uk

Hate crime awareness training

The Community Safety Partnership is running an awareness campaign aimed at increasing the number of businesses and organisations putting themselves forward to become Third Party Hate Crime Reporting Centres.

Third Party reporting centres provide an alternative way for victims and witnesses to report a hate crime.

They give confidential advice, help people to report hate crimes and provide support along the way. The person can remain anonymous if they wish, and they don't need to have contact with the police if they don't want to.

East Cambs currently has six hate crime reporting centres, at ECDC, Lighthouse church, the Kite trust, Littleport town council, Sutton parish council, and Fordham parish council, but the CSP wants to increase the number of organisations stepping forward to help out.

To help raise awareness, two free webinars have been organised on 20 May for businesses and organisations wishing to find out more. To join on the day simply click the links below:

Afternoon session 2pm to 3pm:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/3431288723206?p=ZrhtgkxvScrQCURqac>

Evening session 7pm to 8pm:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/38132577129850?p=xQX288FgBdQVcBco1q>

CSP present at the Parish Council Conference



The annual Parish Council Conference took place on 12 February at The Beeches in Isleham. Lydia Barlow, community safety and projects support officer at East Cambridgeshire District Council is pictured (left) giving a presentation which included:

- An introduction to the CSP
 - CSP priorities
 - Prevent
 - White Ribbon
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- Good work of the CSP
 - Community safety forums
 - Community Eyes and Ears
 - And many more
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Focus on: Safer Places National Network



A safe place is a registered venue that has agreed to offer help and support if someone is anxious, scared or believes they may be at risk.

The safe place scheme helps people whilst out and about. If somebody feels vulnerable, they have somewhere safe to go.

Registered safe places have a sticker in their window.

Safe places can include shops, cafes, libraries, and community centres. Safe places national network is here to unite all the safe place (and keep safe) schemes.

The free to use safe places apps show all the safe places in districts that have decided to make the apps available.

You can see which districts have chosen to make the safe places app available on the [Member Schemes page](#). They are free to use by anyone with a smart phone and are available now from both the apple store and google play. The apps have a function called 'get me to my nearest safe place now' (panic button) which immediately directs you to the nearest open safe place.

If no safe place is located within a 15 minute walk it will automatically offer to call the non-

emergency 101 number to get help over the phone.

Currently, there are no safe places in East Cambridgeshire, however, we would love to encourage new sign ups.

OPCC Prevention Fund - Small Grants

Grants of up to £5000 are being offered to voluntary and community organisations based in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to support initiatives which help to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour and increase feelings of public safety.

The Police and Crime Commissioner's 'Prevention Fund – Small Grants', was launched in May 2025 and is funded through the proceeds of criminal activity.

For more information and to apply visit: [Prevention Fund - Small Grants](#)

Focus on: Drink spiking awareness



Drink spiking is the action of placing alcohol or drugs in somebody else's drink without their knowledge or consent.

This can be done to make somebody more vulnerable to assault or rape, or to rob them.

Spiking with alcohol: It is possible to spike somebody's drink with alcohol, either by giving somebody more alcohol than they asked for (a double shot rather than a single) or slipping alcohol in somebody's drink who wasn't expecting to consume alcohol.

Spiking with drugs: Rohypnol (or Roofie) and Gamma Hydroxybutyrate (GHB) are commonly used date rape drugs. These drugs can have a sedative effect on an individual, are odourless and do not affect the taste or look of a drink. They also leave the body quickly too, making it hard to find traces of them in the bloodstream.

Recreational drugs like Ecstasy, Lysergic Acid Diethylamide (LSD) and Ketamine can also be used to spike somebody.

As alcohol is a depressant, mixing it with other depressants or illegal drugs can multiply the effects, causing a significant impact on health.

Other illegal drugs such as cocaine and ecstasy are stimulants. Mixing stimulants with a depressant like alcohol also puts additional stress on the body.

It's not always easy to know if you've been spiked. Symptoms may vary between each person and depend on what you have been given. If you feel more drunk than you expected to be or strange, it is best to seek help. If you fall seriously unwell, call 999 for medical assistance.

For more advice and information on drink spiking have a look at our [drink spiking toolkit on East Cambridgeshire District Council's website](#)

CSP pop up stall at Ely Markets



On Thursday 5 March, the CSP held a multi-agency stall at Ely Markets. Lydia Barlow, from East Cambridgeshire District Council's community safety team is pictured (centre) with Julia Clark, from Cambridgeshire Constabulary (left) and Karen Springthorpe from Neighbourhood Watch (right). Also represented were the OPCC and the Vision Zero project, and Sanctuary Housing.

Lis Every, Chair of the CSP, who attended on the day, said: "Stalls like this are a great way to give the public the opportunity to talk to different agencies in person and see what we're doing in the community."

Do you wish to feature in the next issue?

If you have something you would like to share regarding community safety, please email ECCSP@eastcambs.gov.uk and we will consider adding your article in our next issue.



