

-OFFICIAL-

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE

CP Tasking & Intelligence

TITLE	Nottingham City Centre Car Parks Report Update 2019
--------------	--

Commissioned by	Partnership Tasking
Area	City Centre
Analyst(s)	Chris Harris
Owner	Alex Castle-Clarke
Date produced	08/11/2019
Product Level	Bronze
Version number	1.2
Reference Number	294-2019

Handling Instructions	As marked
------------------------------	------------------

Additional Documentation	
-------------------------------------	--

Executive Summary

- The number of incidents in City Centre car parks has increased in the most recent 12 month period
- ASB is the principle driver of incident volume (77% in 2018/19)
- Aggressive begging was the most common form of ASB, followed by groups of youths causing nuisance
- Trinity Square continues to be the most problematic car park
- NCP Huntingdon Street saw the greatest deterioration in performance (+525%)
- There was a 55% decrease in TOMV, largely driven by the Lace Market car park
- In 2018/19 14% of incidents in the car parks were crimed

Introduction

This report was commissioned through the Partnership Tasking process by Steve Stott to support decision making in regards to a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) targeting negative identified behaviour within car parks in the City Centre.

It is an update to the report on Nottingham City Centre car parks in April 2018; it breaks down the number and nature of incidents called into 999 or 101 in car parks within the City Centre, as defined by the five police beats. It also offers comparison between the number of incidents and whether or not the facilities in question are signed up to the Park Mark scheme through the British Parking Association.

The incident types chosen were Theft from Motor Vehicle (TFMV), Theft of Motor Vehicle (TOMV), Drugs and ASB/Begging, as these contribute to the greatest level of harassment, alarm and distress to the public, and are part of broader issues within the City Centre. The period studied was 01/10/2017 to 30/09/2019, with comparison between the 2017/18 period and 2018/19.

The car parks participating in the Park Mark scheme were identified through the BPA website. The incident data for the report was obtained from POETS and collated and analyzed in Microsoft Excel. Crimed incidents extracted from Niche. The mapping and temporal analysis was performed using Northgate XD.

Analysis & Key Findings

During the 24 months that were studied there were 895 incidents recorded on POETS that met the parameters of this report.

Year	Count
2017/18	380
2018/19	515
Grand Total	895

There was a 36% increase in incidents from the 2017/18 period to the 2018/19 period; the increase was largely driven by anti-social behaviour incidents, particularly ASB nuisance (though the other types seem to be used in a largely interchangeably manner).

Almost all car parks studied saw an increase in incidents regardless of location, though some saw a greater increase than others or maintained a relatively poor performance.

-OFFICIAL-
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE

Incidents

Incident Type	Count
2017/18	380
ASB Nuisance	253
Theft From Motor Vehicle	53
Theft of Motor Vehicle	29
Drugs	28
ASB Environmental	12
Begging/Vagrancy	3
ASB Personal	1
2018/19	515
ASB Nuisance	385
Theft From Motor Vehicle	57
Drugs	28
ASB Environmental	18
Theft of Motor Vehicle	13
Begging/Vagrancy	12
ASB Personal	2
Grand Total	895

The main driver of incidents in terms of volume is ASB, principally ASB nuisance but there is little in the way of significant difference between the 3 types used. ASB has increased by 52% between the 2 periods, which saw an overall increase of 36%; this suggests that ASB is not only the central issue but the main factor affecting performance. The most common form of ASB is aggressive begging (not tagged as such), groups of youths causing nuisance, and perceived drug use.

Theft from motor vehicle was the next most common form of incident and has remained at a similar level between the 2 periods studied, with an 8% increase in 2018/19. NCP Stoney Street had the most offences (12) but this is fewer than the previous period (14). The increase was spread among car parks that saw fewer incidents overall (Brook Street and Victoria Centre most noticeably). This suggests that the offenders are different to those perpetrating ASB in car parks.

Theft of motor vehicle offences have reduced by 55% (16 offences). There were 14 fewer thefts of motor cycles in the Lace Market car park in 2018/19 compared to 2017/18. This is where the majority of the reduction has come from. This is likely as a result of consistent targeting of the premises by local police and the arrests of high impact nominals that were generating numerous offences. The Lace Market still saw the most TOMV offences (5) but it is now much closer to the average for the other car parks studied (1).

The number of drugs offences remained exactly the same between the 2 periods. Trinity Square saw the most incidents in both periods; this is likely connected to the ASB issues. NCP Huntingdon Street saw the second most offences in 2018/19 after having only had a single incident in the previous period, which is of concern. The most common drug named is "mamba" or "spice" which refers to SCRA¹.

¹ Synthetic Cannabinoid Receptor Agonists

-OFFICIAL-
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE

There is a separate incident type for begging/vagrancy but it is used to classify incidents of such behaviour very rarely, with ASB nuisance being used instead.

Car Parks

Car Park	2017/18	2018/19	Change
Avalon Court	6	10	4
Broadmarsh Centre	2	12	10
Brook Street	1	6	5
Crown Plaza	15	32	17
Euro Park	14	20	6
Ice Arena	3	5	2
Lace Market	89	69	-20
Motorpoint Arena	0	2	2
NCP Collin Street	1	0	-1
NCP Huntingdon Street	8	50	42
NCP Maid Marian Way	24	35	11
NCP Mount Street	11	23	12
NCP Nottingham	1	0	-1
NCP St James Street	45	63	18
NCP Stoney Street	43	62	19
Nottingham Castle	2	0	-2
Nottingham Station	1	2	1
Spaniel Row	8	5	-3
Talbot Street	4	3	-1
Trinity Square	99	105	6
Victoria Centre	3	11	8
Total	380	515	135

In terms of which premises are the most problematic, there has been little in the way of change from 2017/18 to 2018/19, with the notable exceptions of the Lace Market car park which saw a 22% reduction driven by TOMV, and NCP Huntingdon Street which saw an increase of 42 offences, driven by ASB (+600%).

There have been incident increases in NCP car parks on Stoney Street, St James Street, Maid Marian Way, and Mount Street. These increases are largely driven by ASB. All but Maid Marian Way saw reductions in TFMV and drugs incidents, supporting the notion that ASB is responsible for the increases.

The Crown Plaza car park saw a 113% increase in incidents (17) driven almost exclusively by ASB. The ASB at the Crown Plaza had much more youth related nuisance than the other City Centre car parks. There was a noticeable presence of rough sleeper incidents but youth related was more prevalent.

There was also a slight increase in the Victoria Centre car park but this was partially due to it being closed for improvement works for a lengthy period during the 2017/18 period.

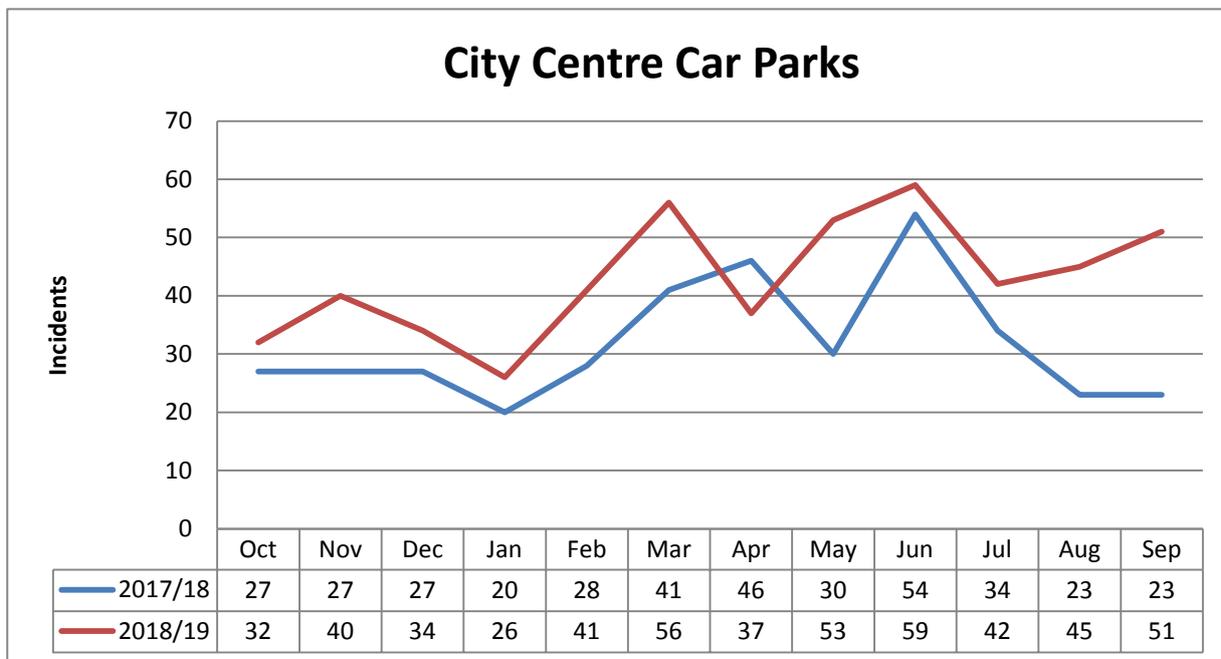
The car parks with the highest number of incidents (particularly ASB) are typically those that would experience the highest footfall due to their location. This is likely a targeted decision on the part of those who use car parks to beg. It also makes it more likely that a member of

-OFFICIAL-
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE

the public would be alarmed, harassed or distressed by whatever behaviour is occurring due to the higher chance of someone witnessing it.

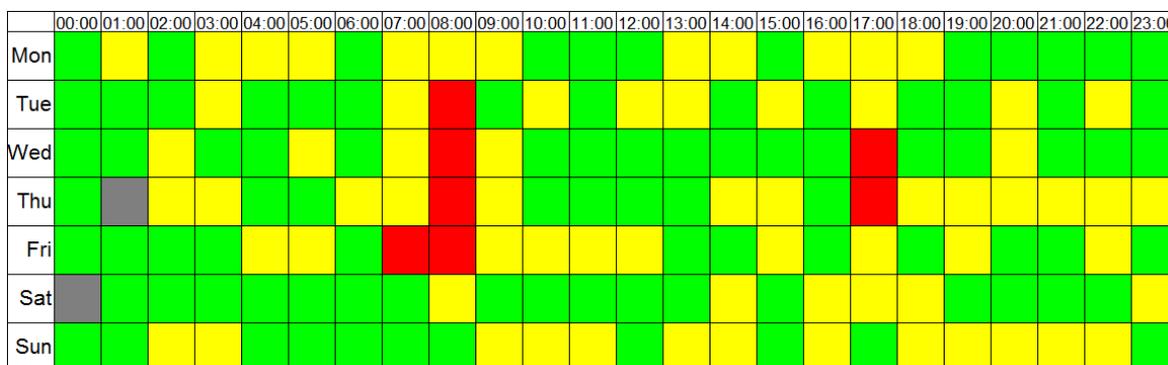
Temporal Analysis

The increase in incidents within City Centre car parks was consistent across 11 months of the 2018/19 period.



2017/18 and 2018/19 follow a roughly similar, though not identical patterns throughout the 12 month periods. Seasonal increases in incidents are present in June, and March/April is present for both. This is likely driven by warmer weather increasing the footfall.

In March 2019 there was a drop in incidents; the reductions were seen most starkly in Trinity Square, Lace Market, and NCP Stoney Street car parks but the reasons behind it are not clear. It was 1 of 3 months that year where no drugs incidents were called into 101/999. This is possibly due to proactive stop search work by local police such as Operation Relentless, dealing with offenders before they come to the attention of members of the public.



There is little in the way of temporal patterns for incidents in car parks. 0800 on weekdays is a recurring hotspot; this is possibly due to the amount of people passing through the car

-OFFICIAL-
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE

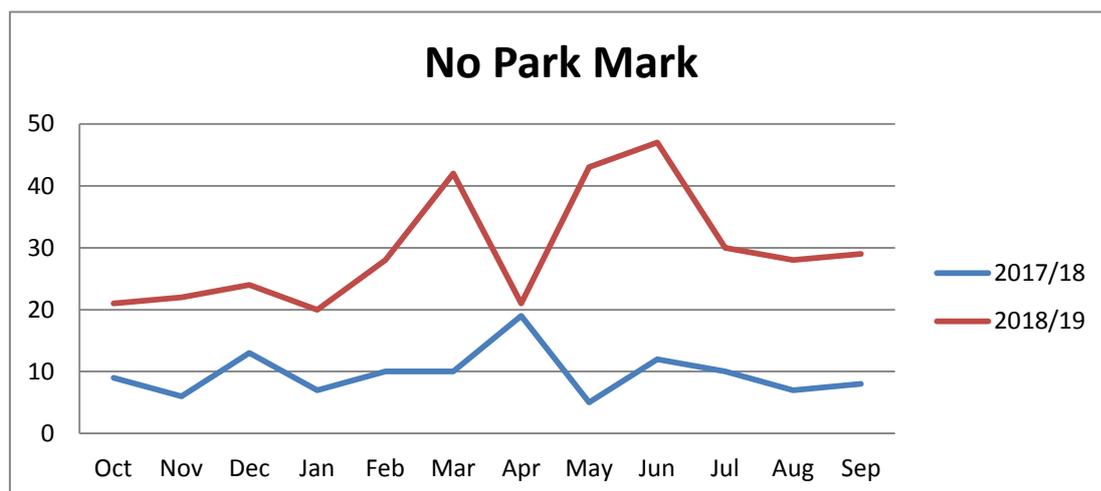
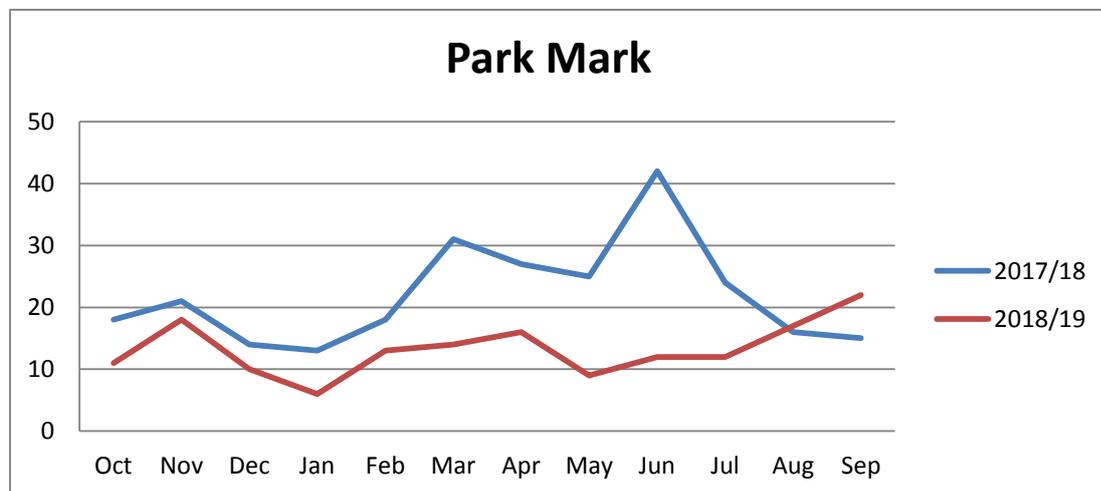
parks at this time for work during standard business hours. There is similar concentration midweek around 1700, when many people would return to their vehicles.

Some of the incidents such as TOMV and TFMV may skew the patterns as victims do not always know the exact time of the incident and it is the call time that is recorded, conceivably a considerable amount of time after the incident has taken place.

Park Mark

Park Mark is a scheme run through the British Parking Association (BPA), but it is unclear how a car park qualifies.

Out of the 20 car parks studied 10 were part of the scheme in 2017/18, and 9 in 2018/19. Between the 2017/18 and 2018/19 periods, Brook Street car park gained Park Mark accreditation, and Lace Market and Trinity Square car parks lost it. It is unclear if this was due to a failure within a defined process or a simple lapse occurring by default. It is also unclear when exactly the premises moved between statuses in regards to the scheme.



In the 2017/18 period there were 116 incidents in car parks without Park Mark accreditation and 264 in those that had it. In 2018/19 there 355 were incidents in car parks without and 160 in those with it. This shift is due to the Lace Market and Trinity Square car parks (which had 2 of the largest number of incidents) moving from having the accreditation to not having it between the 2 periods.

-OFFICIAL-
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE

Crime Outcomes

Of the incidents studied 84 (22%) were initially crimed in 2017/18, and 73 (14%) were crimed in 2018/19. This reduction in crimed incidents, but increase in overall incident volume over the 2 year periods further supports the inference that it is ASB (which isn't a crime, and therefore not crimed) that is the principle issue in the car parks.

Of the 157 offences that were entered onto Niche over the 2 year periods 148 were confirmed as crimes. The majority of crime incidents in both periods were TFMV offences, likely due to being the easiest to commit, particularly in a car park.

Offences - Niche	Count
2017/18	77
Theft From Motor Vehicle	38
Theft of Motor Vehicle	25
Vehicle Interference	9
Drug Possession	3
Criminal Damage	2
2018/19	71
Theft From Motor Vehicle	41
Theft of Motor Vehicle	10
Vehicle Interference	8
Drug Possession	3
Public Disorder	3
Violence Without Injury	2
Stalking And Harassment	2
Criminal Damage	1
Drug Trafficking	1
Grand Total	148

Offences - Niche	Count
2017/18	77
18: Investigation complete no suspect identified	66
1: Charged	4
1: Summoned/postal requisition	3
10: Police - formal action not in public interest	2
3: Adult caution	1
16: Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified	1
2018/19	71
18: Investigation complete no suspect identified	61
UU unresolved	2
14: Victim declines/unable to support action to identify offender	2
1: Charged	2
16: Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified	1
21: Police - named suspect, investigation not in the public interest	1
1: Summoned/postal requisition	1
15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	1

-OFFICIAL-
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE

In 2017/18 10% of crimed incidents (8 offences) resulted in a positive outcome in which an offender was identified and either charged, summonsed, or cautioned. In 2018/19 this figure was 4% (3 offences). The most common outcome for the crimed incidents was the same in both periods, with no suspect being identified; this was result in 86% of offences in both periods.

Knowledge Gaps

The direct causality behind the increases in incidents within the majority of City Centre car parks is not known with certainty; it is likely that there are multiple factors at work. The drivers behind individual incidents are diverse and assigning a weighting or likelihood to them is not possible with the data available.

It cannot be stated with absolute certainty why some City Centre car parks attract more incidents than others.

It is unclear what if any influence the Park Mark scheme has on incident volumes in Car Parks, as the criteria for eligibility and maintenance are not publically available. It is therefore not known what criteria a car park must meet to attain Park Mark accreditation; it is also not known if the ostensibly complaint facilities in the city centre have continued to meet the prerequisite standards of the scheme.

There may be ASB reported elsewhere (i.e. to an organization other than the police, such as NCC Firmstep, or potentially the car park operator's customer service mechanism). This would mean that there is not a complete understanding of the extent of ASB in the City Centre car parks.

Inferences

Car parks are focal points in the City Centre for drug use and begging related ASB. The volume has worsened in the past 12 months and may continue to deteriorate.

The ASB in Trinity Square, Lace Markets, NCP Huntingdon Street, NCP Stoney Street, and NCP St James Street car parks are likely linked to drug use, particularly SCRAAs, and begging/rough sleeping issues. It is also likely linked to drug dealing in the area, hence the consistent presence of drug users.

Higher footfall in the City Centre will likely result in higher ASB volumes of incidents.

The individuals committing crime and ASB are attracted car parks due to the seclusion and lack of capable guardianship within them. The security within problematic car parks are likely currently not sufficient to deter the individuals responsible for the ASB.

The measures within Park Mark are either insufficient or not being followed by the problematic car parking facilities in the City Centre, and do not necessarily make a positive difference.

Targeted police activity focused on the Lace Market car park is likely responsible for the reduction in theft of motorcycle offences. This led to the arrests of several nominals, which is positive but they may return to this pattern of offending when they are released.

It is likely a consistent cohort of individuals causing the majority of the ASB in the City Centre car parks.

Recommendations

An increased police/partnership presence in the car parks with high numbers of ASB calls will likely alleviate the issues through the use of a capable guardian, reassuring the public. Target hardening should be undertaken at the high incident car parks to reduce demand, thus allowing for increasingly targeted action against the more complex drivers of offending. Patrols by Police and CP uniform staff should default and pay attention to car parks with the highest volumes of ASB (the main factor driving demand), working together as much as possible to cut across both the criminal and civil issues in the facilities.

Information on nominals and actions should be coordinated between Nottinghamshire Police, Community Protection and NCC Security and Logistics. City Centre LOM and Partnership Tasking are likely to be best forums for this to happen.

Civil tools and powers should be considered for the amelioration of this issue as many of the incidents do not meet the criminal threshold, though are likely symptomatic of criminal activity.