

Proposal to introduce a new Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in Newbury Town Centre

Background

Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) were introduced in October 2014 as part of the [Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014](#). PSPOs allow councils to place restrictions and requirements on certain behaviours in an area, to make sure we can all use and enjoy public spaces, safe from anti-social behaviour. They can be used to protect the public from behaviour that is having, or is likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the area. The behaviour also has to be ongoing or happening regularly and be unreasonable.

PSPOs replaced powers to make Gating Orders, Designated Public Place Orders (street drinking restriction powers) and Dog Control Orders. In West Berkshire, there was a Designated Public Place Order covering Newbury town centre, until October 2017 when it automatically converted into a PSPO. PSPOs can last for up to three years, but can be extended, varied or discharged during this period.

Failing to comply with a PSPO is a criminal offence and could result in a Fixed Penalty Notice of up to £100, or a fine of up to £1,000 if prosecuted.

Due to the changing nature of anti-social behaviour, we feel it is appropriate to both review the current PSPO and assess the need to introduce a new condition to tackle a wider variety of anti-social behaviour.

When considering what could be included in a PSPO, we know that we need to balance things that people want in order to feel safer and happier in the town, whilst at the same time not being seen to be stopping people enjoying themselves, or introducing rules and regulations that can't be enforced.

What are we proposing?

We are proposing conditions in the following areas:

- Street drinking restriction
- Anti-social behaviour restriction

Why do we want your views?

We would like the views of our local residents, businesses, agencies, and visitors to Newbury in relation to the proposed conditions to include in the PSPO.

The survey should take approximately five minutes to complete. The initial findings from the consultation will be taken to the [Building Communities Together Partnership \[158kb\]](#) on 21 April 2020 for a recommendation on the final decision. It is expected that the final decision will be made by 14 July 2020.

Following this meeting, a summary of the responses received and our decision will be posted on this page.

What you told us

We received 195 responses to the consultation and found that a large majority of respondents supported the proposed restrictions.

Street Drinking Restriction:

‘No person shall refuse to stop drinking, or refuse to hand over any containers (sealed or unsealed), which are believed to contain alcohol when required to do so by an authorised officer to prevent nuisance or disorder’

86.7% of respondents who answered the question, supported the proposed street drinking restriction. 10% of respondents who answered the question did not support the street drinking restriction

Anti-Social Behaviour Restriction:

‘Any person behaving in a manner that has caused, or is likely to cause, nuisance, harassment, alarm or distress must leave the restricted area when requested to do so by an authorised officer for a specified time, not to return to the area for a period not exceeding 24 hours’

90.7% of respondents who answered the question, supported the anti-social behaviour restriction. 7.7% of respondents who answered the question did not support the anti-social behaviour restriction.

Restricted Area:

Respondents were also asked for their views on the proposed area that the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) should cover.

81% of respondents answered this question linked to the street drinking restriction. Of those that did respond, 95.6% agreed that the PSPO should cover the whole of Newbury town centre as indicated on the map of the proposed restricted area.

When respondents were asked the same question about the anti-social behaviour restriction 84.1% responded. 95.7% of those that responded to the question agreed that the restriction should cover the whole of Newbury town centre as indicated on the map of the proposed restricted area.

What we did

We would like to thank everyone that participated in the consultation.

The results of the consultation showed that a PSPO would be supported by those living, working and visiting Newbury town centre. The local police area and Newbury town council were also supportive of the application.

The Building Communities Together Partnership were presented with the results of the consultation at their meeting on 14/07/2020. This was later than anticipated due to the COVID19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown. The Partnership agreed that is appropriate to progress the application of the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for Newbury town centre and recommended the Order is made as proposed as part of the consultation.

The recommendation of the Building Communities Together Partnership was taken into account when the final decision was made by West Berkshire Council’s Head of Public Protection and Culture on 10th November 2020. The Delegated Officer Decision was that the Public Spaces Protection for Newbury town centre be implemented for 3 years. The Order will come into effect on 1st February 2021.

Who To Contact

Building Communities Together Team:

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