



# PSPO Fact Sheet

**Are you concerned  
about Anti-Social  
Behaviour?**

There is a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in place in Thatcham town centre. The Order came into effect on 11 November 2022.

Web: <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/community-issues>

Twitter: @BCTWestBerks

## **Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)**

There is a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in place in Thatcham town centre. The Order came into effect on 11 November 2022 and will last for 3 years although it can be varied and extended. West Berkshire Council has introduced a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to provide additional tools to deal with a number of anti-social issues which cause concern to those who live, visit or work in Thatcham town centre.

### **What is a PSPO?**

Public Spaces Protection Orders were introduced as part of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a specific area that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life.

The Order introduces restrictions that apply to everyone within the restricted area. They are designed to ensure the law-abiding majority can enjoy public spaces, safe from anti-social behaviour.

### **What restrictions does the PSPO cover?**

The Order covers the following activities:

#### **Anti-Social behaviour**

The Order is a preventative measure with restriction allowing police officers and police community support officers (PCSO's) to request that the behaviour is stopped before a breach occurs.

If someone behaving in an anti-social manner fails to leave the restricted area after being asked to do so by a police officer or PCSO, a breach of the PSPO will occur. If you are requested to leave the restricted area you will be given a 'direction to leave' form not to return to the area for a period of time not exceeding 24 hours.

## What happens if someone breaches the Order?

Officers will take measured approach. They will engage, explain and encourage those at risk of breaching the Order through education and warnings. Enforcement will be a last resort.

Failure to comply with the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) is a criminal offence and carries a maximum fine of £1,000 if convicted. However in most cases where it is deemed necessary to take enforcement, the offence would be dealt with by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice. Agencies will continue to ensure that support is provided to those who need it.

# PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER

Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

Thatcham town centre

## PROHIBITED BEHAVIOURS

Persons shall not within the restricted area:



Behave in a manner that has caused or is likely to cause nuisance, harassment, alarm or distress and must leave when asked by an authorised officer and not return to the area for a period not exceeding 24 hours

Failure to comply with the Order is a criminal offence.

Offences carry a maximum penalty upon conviction of a fine (Level 3) not exceeding £1,000

Offences may also be dealt with by Fixed Penalty Notice

Full details of the Order can be found at [www.westberks.gov.uk](http://www.westberks.gov.uk)

Thatcham town centre Restricted Area



## **Who will enforce the Order?**

The Order will be enforced by police officers and police community support officers (PCSOs). There are no new resources to enforce the Order so policing activity will continue to be prioritised based on up to date information and intelligence, which will be used to identify hotspot areas.

## **How long will the Order last for?**

The Order will last for a period of 3 years, although it can be varied or extended, following a public consultation, during the time the Order is in place.

## **How can I report Anti-Social Behaviour?**

If you witness a breach of the PSPO, you can report it to Thames Valley Police on **101** or to West Berkshire Council on **01635 551111**. You can also email **WestberksBCT@westberks.gov.uk**.

## **Further information**

A copy of the Public Spaces Protection Order is available on West Berkshire Council's website:

**<https://www.westberks.gov.uk/community-issues>**