



Public Spaces Protection Order

Public Consultation Responses Summary

October 2019

The Council introduced a Public Spaces Protection Order in April 2017 as permitted by the Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014. This Order was implemented to tackle anti-social behaviour in defined areas of the district and now needs to be reviewed before it expires in March 2020.

The legislation states that a PSPO can be implemented for a maximum period of three years. Unless it is reviewed and either extended or amended, the Order will expire and there will be no prohibitions in place.

Consultation was undertaken with the view of obtaining the public's opinions on amending the Order to target smaller and more defined areas where public nuisance is widespread. Views were also sought on proposals to introduce a new PSPO looking at issues affecting several the Council's parks, open spaces and foreshores.

This document sets out the key findings from the responses received by the public and considers the views given by key partners and community organisations.

Consultation approach

The one month consultation closed at midday on 24 October 2019. Surveys were available to be completed online or in hard copy. Comments were also invited by email. The following statutory bodies were invited to give their views on the proposals:-

- Arundel Town Council
- Bognor Regis Town Council
- Littlehampton Town Council
- Sussex Police
- Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner
- West Sussex County Council Highways

In addition to the agencies above, local business partnerships and various community based organisations were also asked to comment, as were the Council's elected members.

In total, 749 responses were received to the survey, although not every respondent answered every question. 1 hard copy response was received after the closing date and has not been included in the results.

Key Findings

- Of the statutory bodies invited to participate, replies were received from Sussex Police, WSCC Highways, Littlehampton and Bognor Regis Town Councils.
- Community organisation responses were received from Bognor Regis BID and Littlehampton Traders Partnership.

Bognor Regis:-

- 324 respondents stated they were in favour of an alcohol ban in the proposed restriction zone.
- 44 responses stated they instead favoured a restriction where alcohol consumption is related to ASB in the restricted area.
- 251 replies stated they had personally witnessed ASB in this area as a result of street drinking.

Littlehampton:-

- 333 respondents stated they were in favour of an alcohol ban in the proposed restriction zone.
- 44 responses stated they instead favoured a restriction where alcohol consumption is related to ASB in the restricted area.
- 285 replies stated they had personally witnessed ASB in this area as a result of street drinking.

Parks, open spaces and foreshores:-

- 89% of respondents supported the introduction of a prohibition on people occupying unauthorised structures for the purposes of camping.
- 96% of respondents supported the use of a PSPO to restrict the drinking of alcohol when it is associated with anti-social and nuisance behaviour.

SECTION 1: Tackling and reducing anti-social behaviour (Bognor Regis and Littlehampton)

Response Summary:-

1. Do you think that street drinking is a problem in either of the proposed PSPO restricted areas?

	Bognor Regis	Littlehampton
Yes	281	316
No	15	9
Not sure	76	56

2. Have you witnessed anti-social behaviour as a result of street drinking in either of the proposed PSPO restricted areas?

	Bognor Regis	Littlehampton
Yes	251	285
No	89	68
Prefer not to say	5	11

3. How often have you witnessed anti-social behaviour as a result of street drinking in either of the proposed PSPO restricted areas in the last year?

	Bognor Regis	Littlehampton
1 or 2 times	73	66
3 to 5 times	81	75
More than 5 times	100	151

4. What type of anti-social behaviour problems have you witnessed as a result of street drinking in either of the proposed restricted areas in the last year?

	Bognor Regis	Littlehampton
Noise	199	247
Verbal Abuse	203	255
Physical Abuse	86	104
Intimidation	181	206
Other	69	70

Other comments:-		
Littering	Speeding cyclists	Theft
Begging	Urinating in public	Dog fouling
Speeding traffic	Overt drug taking	Excessive noise
Sleeping on floors	Heroin taking in stairwells	Selling stolen goods
Spitting	Fighting	Racism

5. At what locations have you witnessed anti-social behaviour as a result of street drinking in the last year?		
Bognor Regis	Train station	Esplanade
	High Street	London Road
	Bedford Street	Belmont Street
	Arcade	Queensway
	Victoria Drive	Fitzleet car park
	Canada Grove	Sunken Gardens
Littlehampton	Surrey Street	High Street
	Beach Road	Old Market Lane
	Seafront	Fountain Gardens
	Wick Parade	Rosemead Park
	Caffyns Field	Look and Sea Centre
	St. Mary's Church	Anchor Springs
	War memorial	Pier Road
	New Road	Marina Gardens
	East Street	Clifton Road
	Southfields Road	Horsham Road
	St Martins car park	East Beach Green

6. Do you support the use of a Public Spaces Protection Order to ban the consumption of alcohol in the proposed restricted areas?		
	Bognor Regis	Littlehampton
Yes	324	333
No	22	23
Not sure	18	21

7. If you answered NO to a ban on alcohol consumption, would you instead support an alcohol restriction which would allow authorised officers to order people to stop drinking and to confiscate alcohol if their behaviour is causing, or likely to cause, anti-social behaviour in the proposed restricted areas?

	Bognor Regis	Littlehampton
Yes	44	44
No	4	2
Not sure	3	2

8. Do you support the use of a PSPO to permit authorised officers having the power to disperse people causing, or who are likely to cause, anti-social behaviour within the proposed restricted areas?

	Bognor Regis	Littlehampton
Yes	347	353
No	6	5
Not sure	12	12

9. Are there any other comments you would like to make about the PSPO proposals? (summary of comments – 181 received)

- It gives me confidence to know something is being done.
- Needs to be enforced throughout the day as well.
- I would not want this to apply to outside areas which are licensed.
- This should have been done 10 years ago.
- There are certain areas of Bognor town centre that I will now avoid.
- I am shocked this is even required, I thought public drinking and resulting antisocial behaviour was already controlled.
- PSPOs need to be policed to make them effective.
- As a family we feel vulnerable and scared of going out in the evenings and sometimes in daytime even.
- Yes, we need the town rid of the drunks so people will come back to the shops.
- Do NOT ban cycling anywhere in a time of climate emergency!
- Useful powers which hopefully need to be brought to use only rarely but will help keep public spaces problem free.
- Anti-social behaviour in the restricted areas in Littlehampton has decreased significantly since the 2017 PSPO was introduced, a continuation is therefore needed for the benefit of residents and visitors.
- Bognor's area should include the train station concourse.
- How on earth is this going to work as it's not policed it's a joke.

- Definitely need to do something about the anti-social behaviour in the town centre.
- This should include using drugs and dealing drugs.
- This is a great first step in reducing behaviour that makes and will make Littlehampton unattractive to visitors. I can see that a real effort is being made to tackle behaviour but residents will not benefit from this, in fact it could aggravate the issue. You will be dispersing people away from the town centre and into the nearby residential streets.
- There will need to be awareness of the problem being pushed out to other areas, particularly more residential ones.
- The sooner the better it will be for residents who are suffering now.
- It is wrong to stop everyone because of a few. Even when ordering individuals, it should be based on what they have done, rather than a possible belief that an officer has, which could be stereotypical & prejudiced.
- These are pointless without having officers available to enforce.
- It's a step in the right direction, BUT, it has to be policed.
- Let's not just say we are going to do something about, let's take action and be strong!
- Reword the signs just to say no drinking in this area. Do not say "when asked to do so by a police officer". No drinking full stop.
- I feel more effort should be made to support the people causing the perceived nuisance, then hopefully the problems would not occur in the first place.
- Sleeping bags & associated mess is also a very visible & off putting sight around Bognor shopping area. Can't this also be addressed?
- I'd like to see this include drug use, as people hang out in the old Waitrose car park (and by the old store entrance) smoking weed and smashing bottles.

SECTION 2: Tackling and reducing anti-social behaviour (Parks, Open Spaces and Foreshores)

Response summary:-

1. Have you personally witnessed anti-social behaviour at any of these locations?	
Yes	No
340	174

Locations	No. of responses
Bersted Park	14
Hotham Park	76
Longbrook Park	17
Marine Park Gardens	33
Millberry Wood	1
Old Rectory Gardens	11
Steyne Gardens	35
The Brooks	7
Waterloo Gardens	25
West Park	25
Brookfield Park	8
Caffyns Field	50
Mewsbrook Park	30
Norfolk Gardens	10
Bognor Regis Foreshore	30
Littlehampton Foreshore	45

Other locations mentioned

- Rosemead Park, Littlehampton
- London Road, Bognor Regis – specifically the car park
- Both town centres
- Elmer Beach
- Bognor train station
- Ballast Island, Littlehampton (west bank of river)
- Outside Morrisons, Bognor Regis
- River walkway, Littlehampton (east bank)

2. What type of anti-social behaviour or disruptive behaviour have you witnessed taking place in these locations?

Drunken behaviour	216
Noise	35
Verbal Abuse	51
Physical Abuse	9
Encampments	30
Other (summary of comments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camping in bushes • Urinating in park during the day • Defecating • Drug taking and dealing • Intimidation of members of the public • Cannabis smell is everywhere • Foul language • Fighting • I've also had to repeatedly remove needles from the sunken gardens. I invite the lib d councillor to go get them next time.... • Large groups of teenagers being noisy and abusive • Sexual activity • Vandalism • Dog owners not keeping dogs on leads • Mopeds being friend through the parks • All of the above – commonly stated

3. Do you support the use of a PSPO to prohibit people from occupying unauthorised structures for the purposes of camping at these locations?

Yes	No	Not sure
463	22	33

4. Do you support the use of a PSPO to restrict the drinking of alcohol in these spaces when it is associated with anti-social behaviour and nuisance behaviour?

Yes	No	Not sure
501	8	10

5. Are there any other comments you would like to make about the PSPO proposals for the above listed locations? (summary of comments – 121 received)

- Include Avisford Park, Rose Green
- There is a problem in West Street, east of the Royal Norfolk Hotel, privately owned and problems encouraged by owner refusing to trim hedges. Allowed on purposes as anti-social problems are used as an argument to grant planning permission.
- Beach Green, Littlehampton, should be included.
- I hope that any homeless people who are moved on from these parks would be offered help and support to find suitable housing.
- Water Lane Park in Littlehampton is a massive trouble spot.
- Lots of vandalism in Hotham Park at night when lights go off – please keep park lights on all night.
- There needs to be someone to enforce these proposals.
- There should be facilities for people who are homeless so they have somewhere to go.
- Bring back youth clubs and things for young people to do.
- The issue is more than alcohol consumption: it is the prevalence of the smoking of cannabis.
- I think the PSPO should apply to anti-social behaviour by groups of youths who congregate in public spaces.
- There's so many needles in our parks and smashed bottles. It's not safe for our children.
- Make it happen.
- As before use powers across whole of District.
- The sooner the better for residents who are suffering now.
- Individuals sleeping rough is OK but not loads of caravans etc. by groups.
- Homeless people will die if their tents are moved and they aren't able to get into a hostel.
- Make the community fully aware of the PSPO.
- I am concerned that if these orders go forward that anti-social behaviour will move to other locations.
- Definition of camping is too broad. Restricting overnight stay in a van on a parking space is not proportionate.
- Not to sure where someone who has no home will be able to bed down.
- I would not like to see these orders used to disperse peaceful protests etc.
- Extend the areas.
- CCTV
- Genuinely homeless, just resting up for the night need somewhere.
- Please include drug use as well as alcohol.
- People should be able to have picnics and drink alcohol on the foreshore.
- Please do not use such legislation against genuinely homeless people.

Participation Summary

This section details the number of public responses received by gender, age and whether respondents reside, work, or visit the proposed restriction zones.

No. of responses by gender	
Male	Female
207	304

No. of responses by age							
0-15	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+
0	6	45	80	120	118	107	32

No. of respondents who live in either of the proposed restricted areas	
Bognor Regis	Littlehampton
121	146

No. of respondents who work in either of the proposed restricted areas	
Bognor Regis	Littlehampton
64	102

No. of respondents who are visitors to the proposed restricted areas and how often they visit		
	Bognor Regis	Littlehampton
4 or more times a week	89	96
1 to 3 times a week	81	62
1 to 3 times a month	55	49
Less than once a month	44	43
Not within the last year	21	18