

## PSPO Consultation

Q 1. How did we consult?

A1. We have worked closely with Surrey Police, and the Surrey Heath Partnership in seeking their views on the proposal to continue. This was supported, we wrote to partner organisations in Surrey Heath and sought their feedback. We promoted in Heathscene, and using social media hosted an on-line consultation short questionnaire which was open from the 1 July to the 1 August.

Q 2. What responses have you received?

A.2 We have received 12 responses to the consultation of which 11 support the continuance. These include Windlesham Parish Council, Surrey County Council, The Hope Hub, Vivid Housing, and residents from Old Dean, Lightwater, Frimley and Camberley.

### Key Partner Response below:

Surrey Police - T/ Inspector Sam Turner –

1. Psychoactive substances

This is an issue where guidance on tackling such issues indicates that use of a PSPO is an appropriate tactic to use. Simple possession is not an offence so currently unless possession with intent to supply is suspected there is little from a Policing perspective that could be completed. Quantifying the issue would be difficult to evidence. The nature of NPS also makes it a problematic area for officials to legislate against. The use of such substances has become more prevalent in society therefore I would support continuance of the prohibition.

2. Alcohol control zones

To maintain the current zones would align SHBC with Guildford for example and consistency towards antisocial drinking. Data re ASB and crime also support that these areas suffer disproportionately, and this is likely associated with alcohol. The designated areas are also associated with Licensed premises or areas likely to draw youth alcohol consumption in park areas. I support the current PSPO be continued.

### Questionnaire Feedback

Feedback: 1.

I am in general agreement with the making of a Public Spaces Protection Order and the current order. However, I consider that SHBC does not currently make sufficient use of enforcement resources in relation to the order, nor sufficient use of the available CCTV systems to aid the effective and immediate deployment of

enforcement resources. I also think that some changes to the specified areas should be considered:

Alcohol should not be permitted either in or in close proximity to any children's playgrounds including the ones at Deanside and Bracknell Rd/ Wimbledon Rd, Camberley.

It is a feature of most of our playgrounds that seating is provided and then misused overnight with bottles, broken glass and rubbish scattered over the playground. If effective use is made of CCTV covering playgrounds and proper enforcement occurs, then the presence of broken glass and litter might constitute less of a nuisance to families wishing to use the playgrounds and other areas.

Changes to pavement licensing since the pandemic mean that some of the areas shown in the drawings attached to the current Order will need to be modified and it may be sensible to incorporate an easy to administer mechanism for doing so in the Order, in case more new pavement licenses are granted.

Response: 1

The CCTV service in Surrey Heath is presently undergoing a service review and your feedback is appreciated and will be considered as part of the ongoing review process.

We are working closely with Surrey Police who have not advised of evidence of excessive drinking within the vicinity of the playgrounds. Should we be able to evidence the need the Council can seek to amend PSPO to reflect further restriction.

Amendments have been made to the maps of the order thank you.

This feedback was received from one person.

Feedback: 2.

I think Councils have too much unregulated power to control our open spaces. PSPOs extend that unregulated power.

Response: 2.

The public open spaces within Surrey Heath are for all to enjoy, the PSPO seeks to promote responsible dog ownership, from a perspective of control and clearing up after dogs. The PSPO allows us to deal with complaints which cause alarm, harassment and distress and can pose a safety risk when dogs are uncontrolled, the PSPO allows agencies to proportionately ensure that the public open spaces are accessible to all.

Feedback: 3.

They have the potential to target and marginalise vulnerable groups in our society such as homeless people.

Response: 3

The proposals that link to those who are genuinely homeless purposely do not seek to marginalise, they are designed to encourage the seeking of help from the wide

range of Council support for homeless residents from Surrey Heath. We do, however, look to take action swiftly with those who are professional 'beggars' operated by organised groups.

Feedback: 4.

I have grave concerns that we might start to criminalise people who do not to be criminalised.

Response: 4.

The PSPO is designed to give warnings prior to any prosecution, as this legislation deals with low level ASB, if a perpetrator is vulnerable, we would try to work with them and help with advice and guidance to support and alleviate the behaviour that is impacting others.

Feedback: 5.

There has been no or little academic debate on these orders.

Response: 5.

The PSPO is part of the ASB Crime and Police Act 2014 and was subject to the debating process during the readings in both houses prior to royal assent. Surrey Heath is transparent with the range of orders being considered and their potential impact to retain inclusivity locally.

Feedback: 6.

I think this is a tool that is politically driven and poorly thought through. It is being used as a net widening tool by governments. Often these orders are localised. Lack of consistency. It is not approaching issues from a holistic perspective. I would question evidence is available in respect of demonstrating that they are an effective use of very limited resources.

Response: 7.

The orders are based upon consultation and designed to support community inclusivity in relation to public spaces we adopt a partnership approach mainly with Surrey Police, as we work to jointly enforce to maximise our local resources. If there are specifics that you can share, please email:

[pspoconsultation2023.mailbox@surreyheath.gov.uk](mailto:pspoconsultation2023.mailbox@surreyheath.gov.uk).

The feedback will be shared with the Surrey Heath MP.

Feedback: 7

Again I would ask what evidence do we have as to their impact on ASB / are they just the latest whim of government who are completely out of touch with reality?

Response: 7.

The PSPO is one of the tools that the wider ASB Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced, these are designed specifically for open spaces and as a replacement for the former DPPO (Designated Public Place Orders) the order framework remains in the background and is only used when required, to allow for unencumbered freedom. This legalisation considers the victims perspective, and if an anti-social behaviour case has been closed, either the victim or a third party can seek for this to be

reviewed please follow this link for further information:

<https://www.surreyheath.gov.uk/community/community-safety/anti-social-behaviour-asb-case-review>