

**1. PSPO Consultation Outcome**

**2. Background**

3. PSPOs were introduced in October 2014 by the Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and are designed to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a particular area (a public space) that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life, by imposing conditions on the use of that area which apply to everyone. The PSPO's replaced the former Designated Public Place Orders (DPPO's).
4. The existing DPPO areas remain enforceable until 14<sup>th</sup> October 2017 these include Camberley town centre, Old Dean, St Michaels, Heatherside, and Frimley Green Recreation ground. The Surrey Heath Executive and Partnership approved the consultation plan outlined in September 2016, which introduced a Borough wide exercise from the 17<sup>th</sup> October – 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017.
5. Borough Councils are the lead agencies for making the new PSPO's which are different in nature to the previous legislation. A project team is working together to oversee this which includes: Surrey Police, SHBC Legal Services, Environmental Services, Business (Green Spaces), Corporate Enforcement and Community Safety.

**6. The Consultation**

7. The promotion included publicising in the Autumn/Winter edition of the Borough Council's magazine Heath scene which was distributed to every household in Surrey Heath in late November 2016. There are dedicated web pages on the Council's web-site with general information relating to the project, maps, and prior to the closing date a questionnaire was available for completion on line, or printed copies could be sent. There were also 4 drop-in sessions throughout the Borough during November and January, this was combined with social media, twitter feeds and The Talk Surrey Heath Live events all which all helped to galvanise a good awareness and response.
8. All locations relating to the above are detailed within the background paper P1.
9. This provided a result from which a total of **259 responses were received**, with an overwhelming support for the changes to the proposals. The questions and feedback are detailed below. The Council website hit for this period totalled 2,334.
10. **Timescales.** The council will analyse the feedback to the consultation with the outcomes being publicised following ratification by the council Executive on the 6<sup>th</sup> June 2017. The new PSPO's will be implemented by the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

**11. The Questions and Feedback**

**a. Q 1 Street Drinking and Psychoactive Substances (Formerly known as Legal Highs)**

- b. This order will not mean that it is an offence to drink alcohol in a public space,
- c. But it is an offence if you fail to comply with a request by an authorised council officer or Police Officer to cease drinking or surrender alcohol within the designated areas.
- d. The order extends to include a measure that aims to stop people using psychoactive substances, formerly known as legal highs. This is due to the evidence as to the impact of these substances can have on our health. There have been local incidences where people have taken these substances and

they have been in need of immediate medical help. Generally these substances are not designed for human consumption and the effects of taking them have led people to behave in a very erratic manner which is often seen as anti-social. Please note this does not include tobacco or prescription medicine.

e. These areas included:

Frimley Green Recreation Ground  
Heather Ridge Arcade  
Southwell Park Road to Surrey Avenue  
Old Dean Shopping Parade  
Camberley Town Centre

f. The questionnaire gave an option to support, not support or don't know, and for an opportunity to share views on why this decision.

Q1: Yes	No	Don't Know	Total
<b>219</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>259</b>

## 12. Summary of Comments received:

Want all parks to be controlled by the alcohol zone x 2	This action will help people to feel safer and not intimidated by antisocial behaviour especially late at night if you are a female on your own x 2
Want the Obelisk and surrounding area included within this zone x 8	If it is not an offence to drink alcohol how will the use of the power be targeted? What controls will be in place to stop it being misused against certain individualsx1
Would like Camberley Railway and Car Park included x 7	How will the power stop the use of psychoactive drugs, especially those that are simply a pill? Surely it is a criminal act that should be dealt with or a medical emergency, if it does not add anything then is this new power necessaryx1
Would like Crabtree park included x2	Would like Southcote Park Included x 5
Would like the whole of Heatherside Park including the hardstanding where the mobile library parks, as well as the arcade, and the public toilets, and the carpark behind the community centre x 7	Would like Frimley Lodge Park to introduce alcohol and drug banning orders x 10
These seem like sensible restrictions x1	I do not think that PSPO's are an appropriate way to legislate for public spaces x 1
Include Camberley Park attracts, ASB drunken and drug related problems x 5	I have noticed an increase in drunken and drug related behaviour x 2
Include London Road Recreation Ground	Camberley Town Centre x 12.

x 6	
Include Frimley Green Recreation Ground x 4	Include Chobham Road Rec x 4

13. Answers to the questions above, can be found on the separate FAQ information within the background papers.

**14. Working Group Recommendation**

- a. It is, suggested from the consultation that the PSPO's areas are categorised **as two areas that relate to either alcohol or psychoactive drugs, to enable the new order to reflect the individual priorities and hot spots in Surrey Heath.**
- b. The suggestion is based upon feedback and a statement (to follow) received from Surrey Police that for the whole of Surrey Heath a blanket cover is introduced that does not permit the use of psychoactive drugs (as in line with dog fouling with it being an offence). The alcohol control zones will be classified separately and will include:
  - Frimley Green Recreation Ground
  - Southwell Park Road to Surrey Avenue
  - Old Dean Parade
  - Camberley Town Centre, Camberley Town Park and the Obelisk, Camberley Railway Station and Car Park.
  - Martindale Avenue, to be amended to include the toilet block, plus the hardstanding for cars on the recreation ground, the play area and Skate Park, shops and car park.
  - London Road Recreation Ground
  - Chobham Road Recreation Ground
  - Southcote Park
  - Frimley Lodge Park

**15. Q.2 Begging.**

- a. In recent months Camberley town centre has witnessed an increase in begging and homelessness. We would encourage those who are genuinely homeless to contact the council housing needs team for help and assistance. The council is considering introducing measures that will deter begging in the shaded areas of Camberley Town Centre only. This measure outlined is that no one will be able to make verbal, non-written or written requests for goods money or donations, unless they are authorised at an appropriate location e.g. authorised charity collections. In some instances, we are aware of some who have relocated to Camberley to beg while they have accommodation elsewhere.
16. Begging is a criminal offence that dates back to the Vagrancy Act of 1824 and our intention is to introduce a more current restriction, due to the limitations under the Act and it not being relevant to the present time. This will apply to Camberley Town Centre only.
17. The PSPO sought feedback on introducing measures that will deter begging in Camberley Town Centre

- a. The responses received are outlined as follows:

Q:2 Yes	No	Don't Know	Total
<b>203</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>259</b>

- b. Summary of Comments:

Regular harassment of the drunken man who sits by Barclays Bank in Camberley High Street x 7.	I have noticed more begging in the Town Centre, we need to focus on the people who come from this area and do not live outside it x 4
Money should not be given directly to homeless people x 2	What responsibility is the All Night Café taking for bringing in homeless from other areas.
Increase in people begging and sleeping in doorways x 2.	We must stop this power being misused against certain individuals. X 1
It's a good idea to be able to offer support to homeless people x 2.	If there are already powers that can be used as a last resort, what are these Powers and why are they not useable now x 1.
There are many circumstances and genuine reasons for people to be begging, you cannot apply a one fit for all policy. There is no need for this to be imposed as begging in these areas is not a major problem which justifies a need to impose such a measure.	

- c. Answers for the above questions can be found in the FAQ's within the background papers.

### 18. Working Group Recommendation:

- This proposal is not designed to criminalise the homeless its aim is to fulfil the statutory responsibilities to those who are genuinely vulnerable.
- There is no legal definition of 'aggressive begging' distinct from non-aggressive begging the action is either begging being implicit by certain actions, someone sitting in a doorway with a hat or container placed easily for people to drop money in to , or someone asking for money.
- The order proposes to prohibit anyone in making verbal, non-written, or written requests for goods money or donations unless they are authorised at an appropriate location e.g. authorised charity collections.
- Begging is a criminal offence that dates back to the Vagrancy Act of 1824. This legalisation can only be enforced if we have a location to direct people to within Surrey Heath. The nearest hostel location is outside of the Borough.
- The PSPO proposal is to trigger a process, starting with a referral of the

- f. Homeless person to the council outreach service to ascertain if we are able to provide the support required.
- g. The effect of the order will also introduce a more current restriction that will assist Surrey Police with a framework in which to operate. No fixed penalty notices will be issued to genuinely homeless people.
- h. It is recognised that this is a sensitive area; the council and Surrey Heath Partnership will work with all agencies to deliver the statutory responsibility in providing the current advice, guidance and support to local homeless people.

**Q.3 Encourage Responsible dog owners/walkers** who use the councils 35 parks and greenspace areas to ensure their dogs are under control, on a lead when necessary, a maximum of 4 dogs per walker/owner, and to clear up their dog faeces.

- i. We are seeking to implement control orders within all parks and countryside areas within the council's ownership. The power extends beyond the Byelaws made by the council under section 164 of the Public Health Act, 1875. The new powers will enable the enforcement team to issue fixed penalty notices to those who do not comply.
- j. We also seek to introduce PSPO's in all 35 Parks and greenspaces relating to responsible dog owners and walkers. Frimley Green Recreation ground will be part of both control orders.

## 19. Question 3 Comments

Add the public toilets at Heatherside and the whole of that park area, shop and car park.	We must encourage responsible dog ownership.
Add Bagshot Green Bagshot Play Field Association Area Camberley High Street Camberley Theatre In front of Camberley Library Chobham Ridges Frimley Green – The Square Lightwater Square, Pine Ridge Golf Course Keswick Drive Lightwater Meadow The Briars France Hill Drive Firwood Drive Park Street Windlesham Field of Remembrance Windlesham Arboretum The houses West of Kings Ride Wellington Park	People must clear up after their dogs – the council must provide sufficient bins to dispose of this – a number also asked for bins to be provided to discard faeces properly.
<b>Add in all public highways within Surrey Heath x26</b>	A number of people feedback that they have been bitten by dogs that

	were out of control and others praised the well behaved and good control of dogs by their owners.
Include carpark stair wells as they are often used as urinals.	People who fail to follow the rules do a major disservice to other residents.
Add in all surrounding areas and roads to the parks.	Not sure about the random number of 4 dogs for one person, as an individual uncontrolled dog could be a greater risk than a number who are well trained and under control.
How to monitor professional dog walkers, paid permits was suggested.	Must make sure that if these powers are introduced that the council and Police have the staff to enforce.
We have standard by laws within all the council parks and countryside, why are we not able to continue to use this legalisation? Irresponsible dog owners represent such a small percentage of the overall population; it seems unfair that these restrictions are imposed on all.	How will the designated off lead areas for dogs be protected in our parks. It is unclear how the proposed enhanced dog controls will serve residents, in particular females.

## 20. Working Group Recommendation:

- a. From the consultation it is suggested that the dog control order is extended to cover all Public Highways within the Borough of Surrey Heath.
- b. The Council where possible will ensure there are sufficient bins for dog owners to dispose of dog faeces, and where possible suitable Tikspac units will be placed nearby.