



REPORT ON THE PROPOSED DESIGNATED PUBLIC PLACE ORDER (DPPOs) for Chippenham Town

'A Police Response'

By PS 12 Martin Alvis Sept 2007

Overview for Chippenham Town

Chippenham is situated 4 miles south of the M4, giving easy access to Bristol, Swindon, south Wales and London. It is one of the largest market towns in Wiltshire and attracts many visitors both through industry and its rapidly growing leisure industry.

Chippenham has a population of approx 40,000 plus and is set to increase substantially. Figures released at a recent community partnership strategy meeting have indicated that by 2026 the population will increase by 10.2%, housing by 22.8% and people over the age of 65 will increase by 59%.

Reducing crime and the fear of crime

It is a well publicised fact that crime in general has fallen in the last 10 years yet the fear of crime has increased. It was the government's white paper 'Building communities beating crime' that introduced the principles of Neighbourhood Policing and the introduction of an increased visible Policing presence with Police Community Support Officers (PCSO).

Since April 2007 Chippenham Police, in line with other stations both in the County and across the Country, have set up Neighbourhood Policing Teams referred to as an NPT.

One of the main objectives of Neighbourhood Policing is to reduce crime and the fear of crime. We achieve this by identifying the concerns of the Public, working in partnership with our partnership agencies (as required by the crime and disorder act 1998 section 17) and adopting a problem solving approach to prevent future problems. So instead of picking up the pieces at the end we are actively looking at the prevention aspect of Policing to reduce crime and disorder at the grass roots level.

With this in mind I have raised in a recent partnership meeting with the Town and District council a proposal to create, for Chippenham Town, a Designated

Public Place Order (DPPOs) section 13 CIPA 2001 as amended by the Licensing act 2003 and the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 (section 26).

Why make Chippenham a DPPO?

Below is a section of anti social behaviour complaints that gives a typical guide as to what Chippenham Town has to contend with, the majority of these can be linked to the irresponsible use of alcohol.

Anti Social Behaviour Chippenham DIP SAMPLE 1st April 2007 - 30th June 2007

Chippenham Town Centre

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Anti-Social Behaviour - Begging/Vagrancy | 2 |
| Anti-Social Behaviour - Hoax Calls to Emergency Services | 3 |
| Anti-Social Behaviour - Inappropriate Use of Fireworks | 1 |
| Anti-Social Behaviour - Malicious Communications | 2 |
| Anti-Social Behaviour - Noise Nuisance | 2 |
| Anti-Social Behaviour - Rowdy/Nuisance | 107 |
| Anti-Social Behaviour - Rowdy/Nuisance - Neighbours | 3 |
| Anti-Social Behaviour - Vehicle Related Nuisance/Inappropriate Vehicle Use | 1 |
| Total | 121 |

Chippenham Town Inner West

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Anti-Social Behaviour - Malicious Communications | 10 |
| Anti-Social Behaviour - Noise Nuisance | 4 |
| Anti-Social Behaviour - Rowdy/Nuisance | 147 |
| Anti-Social Behaviour - Rowdy/Nuisance - Environmental Damage/Littering | 3 |
| Anti-Social Behaviour - Rowdy/Nuisance - Neighbours | 21 |
| Anti-Social Behaviour - Trespass | 1 |
| Anti-Social Behaviour - Vehicle Related Nuisance/Inappropriate Vehicle Use | 18 |
| Total | 204 |

Chippenham Town South

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Anti-Social Behaviour - Noise Nuisance | 2 |
| Anti-Social Behaviour - Rowdy/Nuisance | 79 |
| Anti-Social Behaviour - Rowdy/Nuisance - Environmental Damage/Littering | 1 |
| Anti-Social Behaviour - Rowdy/Nuisance - Neighbours | 10 |
| Anti-Social Behaviour - Vehicle Related Nuisance/Inappropriate Vehicle Use | 11 |
| Total | 103 |

Violent Crime

The current figures year to date for April-Sept for violent crime in Chippenham are 240; this includes public order offences such as alarm harassment and distress and the fear of provocation of violence along with the section 47 actual bodily harm and the various GBH offences. It is fair to say that the majority of these crimes will have alcohol connected to them somewhere down the line, in particular the late night public order offences.

Other Legislation is available to deal with certain aspects of anti social drinking in Public Places such as the Confiscation of Alcohol (Young persons act) 1997 as amended by sec 155 of the licensing act 2003. However there are no laws currently in place in Chippenham that deal effectively and efficiently with the prevention of irresponsible and anti social use of alcohol for adults.

Incidents of Alcohol abuse and disorder relating to the consumption of alcohol in public places but not directly linked to the consumption of alcohol from licensed premises.

Chippenham Town outer West

Numerous incidents reported on a weekly basis, in particular **Stainers Way & Goodwood Way** where residents are reporting large and small groups of Young people above and below the age of 18 yrs drinking on the green areas and behaving in an antisocial manner. The reports have been highlighted through public consultation by the Beat Officers and by logged calls.

Chippenham Town

Numerous incidents are currently being reported and have been reported over the past 6 months. Particular problem areas are the openly public drinking and displays of anti social behaviour which we can put solely down to the irresponsible consumption of alcohol at Monkton Park, St Andrews Church and John Coles Park, all of which receive numerous complaints that have been reported to our communications centre and through the consultation process through NPT (Neighbourhood Policing teams). The Vicar of St Andrews Rev Tattern Brown and residents of St Mary's street have reported numerous incidents of alcohol misuse and anti social behaviour linked to this, evidence of discarded alcoholic containers is a constant reminder of the issues.

Chippenham North East

In recent months, Aug, - Oct, reports have been received as a result of community consultation of anti social behaviour on the Hill Rise estate and in particular areas of Heathfield/Moorlands where it is not uncommon for some residents to take their alcohol consumption on to the street to the annoyance of others. Although a multi agency approach has assisted involving Westleigh the DPPO would assist greatly to prevent and deal effectively with such issues.

Chippenham Town Inner West

Complaints generating calls to the Communication centre and through NPT public consultation have high lighted issues with alcoholic consumption in public places at the following locations to name but a few, Hardenhuish Park, The Green off Redlands, Clifton Close and Kingsley. These are regular areas of complaint that are patrolled by Police staff who are dealing with persons under the influence of alcohol through drinking in public and the alcohol related issues. An example at the beginning of October two persons drinking at Redlands in public, argue and push one male through a shop window.

Chippenham Town South

A source of constant complaint are the green areas and around the shops at Pewsham. Weekly complaints are received from residents and traders of the Pewsham estate concerning people above and below the age of 18. The irresponsible use of alcohol has lead to national media coverage involving a group of persons from the estate that attempted to storm a house party and then assaulted the occupiers and smashed his windows, all offenders are know drinkers of alcohol from around the area and with others

intimidate staff and customers at the local shops. The green area experiences anti social issues as a result of irresponsible consumption of alcohol that in turn have been highlighted as community concern through public consultation, calls to the Force contact centre and complaints from local councillors.

Consultation Process and Displacement

Our NPT has been consulting with the community of Chippenham and receives regular feedback concerning the anti social use of alcohol in all areas, from Cepen Park South and North through the Town Centre out to the South at Pewsham. In particular the open public Places such as Monkton Park and John Coles Park have been brought up in the consultation process as being a problem area.

Despite these specific areas having been identified after careful consideration it has been decided to put forward the whole of Chippenham Town as per the attached map to be included under the DPPO. The logic behind this is to prevent displacement and encompass all areas that are currently suffering from the anti social miss use of alcohol.



Enforcement and how it Works

Once a DPPO has been made Powers under s12 immediately become available. Any enforcement of this law is carried out entirely at the discretion of the Police and may be enforced by:

- A Police Officer
- A Police Community Support Officer
- An accredited person

If an Officer suspects that a person has recently drunk alcohol or intends to drink alcohol in a DPPO, in order to prevent public nuisance and disorder, police can require a person to:

- Stop drinking alcohol (or anything believed to be alcohol)
- Hand over the containers they are drinking from (sealed or unsealed)
- Hand over any other containers believed to contain alcohol

Offences related to DPPO

It is not an offence to consume alcohol within a designated area, but failure to comply with an officer's request to stop drinking and surrender alcohol without reasonable excuse is. Penalties can include:

- A penalty notice for disorder of £50
- Arrest and prosecution for a level 2 fine (max £500)
- Bail conditions can stop the individual from drinking in public

This law is not intended to impact on socially responsible drinking such as family picnics, organised events and functions.

Human Rights and Community Impact

Careful consideration has been given to ensure that the human rights of the community of Chippenham have not been infringed and it is the opinion of the Police that the implementation of the DPPO will have a positive impact on the community and wellbeing of the residents and visitors to Chippenham alike. This piece of legislation unlike many others still allows Officers discretion when exercising the power.

Conclusion

To summarise I formally request on behalf of Wiltshire Police, who fully support in partnership with our other agencies, the implementation of a DPPO in Chippenham and ask that this report is disseminated to all those involved in the implementation process.

M.R. Davis

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