

Trowbridge AREA BOARD
(Date of Meeting)

Trowbridge Public Spaces Protection Order

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1. To raise awareness of the Designated Public Place Order within Trowbridge which expires in 2017 and the process to replace this with a new Public Spaces Protection Order.

2. Background

2.1. The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 brought in a range of new orders designed to address anti-social behaviour, which replace the current orders available.

2.2. On 20th October 2017 all current Designated Public Place Orders (DPPOs) will expire unless by that date the order is renewed and converted into the new provision of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO). The new PSPO can include several elements such as alcohol control, dog control and right of way restriction.

2.3. There are currently eight DPPOs in Wiltshire: Trowbridge, Salisbury, Chippenham, Devizes, Warminster, Durrington, Calne and Malmesbury. Consequently a timetable for considering conversation for each of these to a PSPO is being drafted and Trowbridge is the first planned.

Initially evidence is gathered to satisfy several tests:

- Is the proposed area within the Wiltshire Council Authority area?
- Is there any anti-social behaviour or crime occurring in the proposed area which is having, or is likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those within the locality?
- Is this anti-social behaviour or crime likely to be of an unreasonable, persistent or continuing nature?
- Do any of these issues justify the restrictions imposed by the notice?

Once this evidence has been gathered and if a PSPO has been identified as the preferred option, a mandate is sought from the area board to establish a working group who will undertake the consultation and subsequent drafting of the order. The working group will be made up of a range of partners relevant to each area and led by Wiltshire Council, Public Protection.

3. Main Considerations

3.1. On 20th January 2015 a meeting was held with Trowbridge Town Council, TCAF, Wiltshire Police, Wiltshire Council teams; safer communities and licensing. The purpose of this meeting was to identify a list of possible PSPO conditions –that could be considered and the evidence that will be required to support the need for these.

3.2. Issues identified for potential conditions/restrictions included:

- Alcohol consumption in public places
- Smoking in bus shelters
- Urinating in public
- Feeding of pigeons
- Dog Fouling
- Graffiti
- Begging
- Vehicle nuisance/ASB

At this stage the above restrictions are very much a ‘wish list’ and have not been evidenced nor have enquiries been made whether such bans could be implemented.

The next stage would be for evidence to be acquired and analysed to support or negate the PSPO proposals. It is envisaged that the full process will take up to 6 months. Once evidence has been sourced a 3 month public consultation will begin. Update of each stage will be reported back to the area board. Final sign off the PSPO is still being decided under the scheme of delegation.

4. Implications

4.1. Environmental Impact of the Proposals

- Preventing smoking in bus shelters will have a positive impact on public health through the prevention of passive smoking.
- Stopping urination in public will reduce accompanied health concerns such as bacterial infections in places where people urinate.
- If the PSPO can successfully ban the feeding of pigeons this will reduce the increase of pigeon numbers in Trowbridge. Subsequently this will reduce the amount of guano deposited which can cause health issues.
- Continuing a ban on dog fouling will ensure owners pick up dog faeces. This will reduce the associated health concerns caused by dog foul such as toxocarasis.

4.2. Financial Implications

There are minimal financial commitments in applying for a PSPO. The costs include staff time; costs of advertising draft orders and the design and installation of signs within the PSPO area. It is anticipated that these costs will be shared with partners.

4.3. Legal Implications

The creation of a public space protection order will last for 3 years. The breaching of a PSPO is a criminal offence enforceable by the Police. A convicted breach is punishable with a level 3 fine (£1,000) although most breaches will be dealt with by way of a fixed penalty notice.

4.4. HR Implications

There are no HR implications.

4.5. Equality and Diversity Implications

Depending on PSPO conditions the impact on some groups will have to be considered.

5. **Recommendation**

It is recommended that:

- The Area Board note the initial work undertaken to scope the potential of a PSPO in Trowbridge
- The Area Boards mandates that a PSPO working group is established to lead on evidence gathering and analysis, and consultation on possible conditions to be contained within the order

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Appendices:

Background papers: