

# **Public Spaces Protection Order for Evesham Riverside Parks**

## **Consultation Report**

### **Background**

A Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) can be used to prohibit certain activities from taking place in particular public places where it can be shown that the activity is having, or is likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality and is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or unreasonable nature. A PSPO can assist the Council and the local police by providing them additional powers to tackle anti-social behaviour. Breach of a PSPO is a criminal offence and is punishable by fine or prosecution.

Wychavon District Council has proposed to introduce a PSPO prohibiting urination, defecation and the consumption of alcohol across Evesham Riverside Parks. These include Workman Gardens, Waterside Gardens, Abbey Park, Crown Meadow, Viaduct Meadow and Corporation Meadow.

### **The Consultation**

We carried out a public consultation between the dates of Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2018 and Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2018. In carrying out the consultation, we did the following:

- We published details of the consultation on our website. This included a draft of the proposed order, details of what the Council was proposing and an FAQ document.
- We provided an online survey for respondents to provide feedback.
- We provided a facility for respondents to email or write to us with any feedback.
- We advertised details of the consultation in the Evesham Journal and placed notices in the relevant parks.
- We sent an email alert providing a link to the consultation page
- We wrote to key groups including local councillors, the Parish Council, West Mercia Chief of Police and The Police and Crime Commissioner.
- We wrote to residents located within the general vicinity of the parks.

### **Responses**




- We received 76 responses to our online questionnaire.
- We received 43 replies by email and letter.




## Online Survey Findings




The results of our online survey have been produced below.

1. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?				
	Agree	Disagree	Don't know	Response Total
In the last 24 months, I have been affected by or witnessed alcohol related anti-social behaviour in the riverside parks	59.5% (44)	24.3% (18)	16.2% (12)	74
In the last 24 months, I have been deterred from visiting the riverside parks due to alcohol related anti-social behaviour	56.8% (42)	32.4% (24)	10.8% (8)	74
The introduction of a PSPO prohibiting the consumption of alcohol in the riverside parks will improve the quality of life of the local community for both adults and children who visit the parks and those who live and/or work within the vicinity of the parks.	85.5% (65)	7.9% (6)	6.6% (5)	76
			answered	76
			skipped	0

## Breakdown

1.1. In the last 24 months, I have been affected by or witnessed alcohol related anti-social behaviour in the riverside parks			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Agree		59.5%	44
2	Disagree		24.3%	18
3	Don't know		16.2%	12
			answered	74

1.2. In the last 24 months, I have been deterred from visiting the riverside parks due to alcohol related anti-social behaviour			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Agree		56.8%	42
2	Disagree		32.4%	24
3	Don't know		10.8%	8
			answered	74




1.3. The introduction of a PSPO prohibiting the consumption of alcohol in the riverside parks will improve the quality of life of the local community for both adults and children who visit the parks and those who live and/or work within the vicinity of the parks.			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Agree		85.5%	65
2	Disagree		7.9%	6
3	Don't know		6.6%	5
			answered	76



2. Do you think that the introduction of the proposed PSPO will reduce the following anti-social behaviours in the riverside parks:				
	Yes	No	Don't know	Response Total
Swearing and shouting	65.3% (49)	18.7% (14)	16.0% (12)	75
Urinating and defecating in the open spaces	73.7% (56)	13.2% (10)	13.2% (10)	76
Incidents of people being drunk in public	78.9% (60)	11.8% (9)	9.2% (7)	76
Incidents of violent behaviour	71.6% (53)	9.5% (7)	18.9% (14)	74
Intimidating behaviour	72.4% (55)	10.5% (8)	17.1% (13)	76




**2. Do you think that the introduction of the proposed PSPO will reduce the following anti-social behaviours in the riverside parks:**




	Yes	No	Don't know	Response Total
Congregation of groups to drink	78.7% (59)	12.0% (9)	9.3% (7)	75
Littering	68.4% (52)	22.4% (17)	9.2% (7)	76
			answered	76
			skipped	0




**Breakdown**




2.1. Swearing and shouting			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		65.3%	49
2	No		18.7%	14
3	Don't know		16.0%	12
			answered	75




2.2. Urinating and defecating in the open spaces			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		73.7%	56
2	No		13.2%	10
3	Don't know		13.2%	10
			answered	76

2.3. Incidents of people being drunk in public			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		78.9%	60
2	No		11.8%	9
3	Don't know		9.2%	7
			answered	76

2.4. Incidents of violent behaviour			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		71.6%	53
2	No		9.5%	7
3	Don't know		18.9%	14
			answered	74




2.5. Intimidating behaviour			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		72.4%	55
2	No		10.5%	8
3	Don't know		17.1%	13
			answered	76




2.6. Congregation of groups to drink			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		78.7%	59
2	No		12.0%	9
3	Don't know		9.3%	7
			answered	75





2.7. Littering			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		68.4%	52
2	No		22.4%	17
3	Don't know		9.2%	7
			answered	76





3. What impact do you think the introduction of the proposed PSPO will have on the public's enjoyment and sense of security when visiting the parks?					
	Positive impact	No impact	Negative impact	Don't know	Response Total
Workman Gardens	84.2% (64)	7.9% (6)	0.0% (0)	7.9% (6)	76
Waterside Gardens	83.8% (62)	8.1% (6)	0.0% (0)	8.1% (6)	74
Abbey Park	85.5% (65)	10.5% (8)	1.3% (1)	2.6% (2)	76
Crown Meadow	78.7% (59)	13.3% (10)	1.3% (1)	6.7% (5)	75
Viaduct Meadow	78.4% (58)	10.8% (8)	1.4% (1)	9.5% (7)	74
Corporation Meadow	80.0% (60)	9.3% (7)	2.7% (2)	8.0% (6)	75
				answered	76
				skipped	0





## Breakdown





3.1. Workman Gardens			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Positive impact		84.2%	64
2	No impact		7.9%	6
3	Negative impact		0.0%	0
4	Don't know		7.9%	6
			answered	76

3.2. Waterside Gardens			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Positive impact		83.8%	62
2	No impact		8.1%	6
3	Negative impact		0.0%	0
4	Don't know		8.1%	6
			answered	74

3.3. Abbey Park			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Positive impact		85.5%	65
2	No impact		10.5%	8
3	Negative impact		1.3%	1
4	Don't know		2.6%	2
			answered	76




3.4. Crown Meadow			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Positive impact		78.7%	59
2	No impact		13.3%	10
3	Negative impact		1.3%	1
4	Don't know		6.7%	5
			answered	75

3.5. Viaduct Meadow			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Positive impact		78.4%	58
2	No impact		10.8%	8
3	Negative impact		1.4%	1
4	Don't know		9.5%	7
			answered	74

3.6. Corporation Meadow			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Positive impact		80.0%	60
2	No impact		9.3%	7
3	Negative impact		2.7%	2
4	Don't know		8.0%	6
			answered	75



**4. A breach of the proposed Order will be a criminal offence with a maximum fine of £1,000. An on the spot fixed penalty notice of up to £100 can also be issued with a reduction to £50 if paid within 10 working days. Do you agree with the issuing of a fixed penalty notice?**

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		86.84%	66
2	No		5.26%	4
3	Don't know		7.89%	6
			answered	76
			skipped	0

### Key Findings from Online Survey

- 59.5% of respondents have been affected by or witnessed alcohol related anti-social behaviour in the riverside parks
- 56.8% of respondents have been deterred from visiting the riverside parks due to alcohol related anti-social behaviour.
- 85.5% of respondents believe that the introduction of the proposed PSPO will improve the quality of life of the local community.
- An average of 72.7% of respondents believe that the introduction of the proposed PSPO will reduce behaviours associated with alcohol related anti-social behaviour
- An average of 81.2% of respondents believe that the introduction of the proposed PSPO will have a positive impact on the public's enjoyment and sense of security when visiting the riverside parks.
- 86.8% of respondents support the issuing of a fixed penalty notice to anyone breaching the proposed PSPO.

### Written Responses

Of the 43 written responses received by the Council:

- 36 were supportive of the implementation of the proposed PSPO.
- 3 respondents would like to see other parts of Evesham's public spaces included in the proposed PSPO.

- 4 respondents would like to see other activities included as part of the proposed PSPO.
- 5 respondents raised concerns about the ability to enforce the proposed PSPO.
- 5 respondents raised concerns that the PSPO would provide a blanket ban on alcohol in the parks.

We are unable to respond to each respondent individually but have set out below replies to concerns that were raised more frequently:

### **1. Will the parks be patrolled by the Police and Community Wardens?**

The Council will liaise with the Police to ensure that neighbourhood patrols are made of the parks. The PSPO grants powers to the Council's Community Wardens as well as the Police to enforce the PSPO. As such, our Community Wardens will also make regular patrols of the parks. It is imperative that users of the parks are educated so that they understand that the PSPO is in place and the penalties for any breach. Our Community Wardens will work with the Police in an educated-led initiative. We will also target those areas that have experienced issues with alcohol related anti-social behaviour leading up to this Order being made.

### **2. How will the PSPO be communicated to park visitors, particularly those for whom English is not a first language?**

Signs will be placed around the parks in prominent locations. Where possible, the signs will provide a visual aid indicating that the relevant activity is prohibited so as to avoid any language barriers. The Police and the Council's Community Wardens will also inform users of the parks that the PSPO is in force should they suspect any potential breach. We are considering whether it would be appropriate to use other languages given Evesham's diverse population.

### **3. Is any drinking in the parks tolerated?**

The purpose of the PSPO is to prohibit activities that are linked with anti-social behaviour. The Council and the Police understand and appreciate that some users of the parks enjoy an alcoholic drink, for example whilst having lunch at the park. The PSPO will not make it illegal to drink or carry alcohol in the parks under any circumstances. The consumption of alcohol will be permitted providing it is done responsibly. The PSPO will, instead, target those instances where the consumption of alcohol is in excess and/or is linked to anti-social behaviour.

The Council accepts that the wording to clause 5 of the draft order gave the impression of a blanket ban on alcohol. The legislation governing the implementation of PSPOs provides that it is an offence to fail to comply with a request to cease drinking or surrender alcohol in a controlled drinking zone. We have therefore addressed this in the order.

### **4. Can the PSPO be extended to further areas of Evesham?**

For the time being, the Council is limiting the PSPO to the areas covered in the order. We will be monitoring the impact of the PSPO not just on the parks but also on the surrounding area.

**5. Can other activities, such as drug taking, be included in the PSPO?**

At this time, we do not think it is necessary to extend the PSPO to further activities but this will be regularly reviewed. Specifically in respect of drug taking, the police do have sufficient powers to tackle this without the need of introducing a further offence through a PSPO.

The Council would like to thank all those that have taken the time to complete the online survey or write in to the Council with their comments.