

Appendix 1



PSPO CONSULTATION RE: BOROUGHWIDE ALCOHOL PSPO

Consultation ran for 12 weeks between 16th November 2020 and 8th January 2021. It was publicised via The Sandwell Herald, local press, SMBCs website and via Social Media. The following consultees were also contacted individually:

West Midlands Police	Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
West Midlands Fire Service	West Midlands Ambulance Service
SMBC Public Health	Cranstoun
DECCA	CENTRO

The number of responses was low with 14 being received in total which may be associated with the current Covid 19 pandemic. Of these were 9 residents and 5 business /organisations including SMBCs Public Health Team, Friends of Dartmouth Park, DECCA, West Midlands Fire Service and West Midlands Police. The views of those who took the time to respond were very much in favour of the proposals as follows:

1. Are you in favour of the proposed PSPO?

Yes	86%	(12/14)
No	7%	(1/14)
Unsure	7%	(1/14)

Reasons given for these responses were as follows

From those in support
<i>'There are too many drinking gangs congregating in The Great Bridge area who are never really dealt with'.</i>
<i>'Increase in ASB'</i>
<i>'Keeps anti-social behaviour and aggressive begging under control, streets are safer with PSPO'</i>
<i>'There is no need to drink alcohol. If someone in authority asks you to stop doing it you should be able to. If you won't or can't stop then you must have a problem with alcohol. A lot more people have a problem with alcohol than is widely thought. It came to light, for me, when during the first lockdown they had to re-open off-licences as "essential" shops. Really?'</i>
<i>'There is a BIG problem in Dartmouth Park with youths drinking after about 3.30. This has resulted in thousands of pounds worth of vandalism this year'</i>
<i>'They make residential environment a pleasant and enjoyable place for all residents'</i>
<i>'There is a constant need to clamp down on those individuals who disturb and annoy law abiding citizen's'.</i>

'Alcohol use should only be in a person's home, or on licenced premises, and this PSPO supports that'.

'The Carters Green area has too many take away premises selling high alcohol drinks including one open 24 hours 7 days a week. This results in street drinking in the Guns Village area . The litter can be found at the bottom of Guns Lane any day or night. But this is only part of the problem there are occasionally scuffles and fights and the area is used as a toilet . Carters Green is becoming a no-go area at night'.

'It doesn't feel safe being a Muslim with a beard and having a wife in a scarf'

'Alcohol abuse and ASB have been identified as a key factor in arson incidents and other fire related occurrences'.

'take up a considerable and valuable amount of Police time, so the use of having the PSPO would give Officers and teams more tools to work with in dealing with these individuals and hopefully bringing an end to this behaviour in the near future'

From those against

'I have seen this Alcohol PSPO in practice and the officers on the street get to know the drinkers and that policing of this is reliant on resource. It helps shoppers, residents and community but not necessarily the drinkers. My main concern is that officers/wardens enforcing this need to be more alcohol aware -and by that I mean able to ascertain dependency levels -I worry that if a dependent drinker's alcohol is confiscated and they have begged to fund that alcohol they could (if severely dependent) potentially go into fatal withdrawal seizures and we could have a death review process on our hands because of this PSPO practice. Therefore as part of this renewal I need assurance that the officers/wardens enforcing this are accessing the available alcohol training from Cranston. The PSPO enforcement staff need to be able to conduct a quick AUDIT to ascertain dependency level and the appropriateness of confiscation. This part of the system therefore needs to link up with other the parts of the system and to get Police /wardens to keep engaging with local services and available training. The most helpful thing for drinkers to come out of this would be linking these drinkers into Blue Light/ community services but I think this PSPO is written more for the benefit of everyone but the drinker themselves and therefore I would like this to be considered as part of the renewal to this'

From those unsure

'We have ASB in on our estate related to alcohol and drug abuse, the local police has been made aware however no orders have been recommended'.

2. Have you been subject to or witnessed any ASB as covered by these proposals?

Yes	64%	(9/14)
No	36%	(5/14)

3. If yes, what is the nature of the ASB you have experienced?

'drinking in public spaces- Fred Perry Walk/Walsall Canal locks'

'Late night gatherings. Parties in the summer Cars coming and going late at night dropping people off to go into Haden Hill Park .. plus we noticed some drug dealing ...cars parked outside our homes then the occupants decided they would like to go to the toilet on the pavements or just inside the Park ...noise/litter abuse ...turning on our property...cars banging doors shouting to each other, dogs barking at all hours ...'

'Aggressive begging and people causing a nuisance whilst drinking in public'

'A lot of alcohol fuelled vandalism in the evening'

'Youths, and others, who use Haysech, and the entrance to Haden hill Park that is in Haysech, for alcohol and drug use' .

'late night and daytime drinking, rubbish with dumped larger cans and empty bottles and drug paraphernalia'.

'Fighting littering urinating and spitting In the street'

'Crews have been abused (verbally) by individuals under the influence of alcohol, whilst in the course of extinguishing fires that have been deliberately lit in public spaces'.

'alcohol related ASB calls count for between 6 to 18% of the month's total log demand. So far since 1st January 2020 up to 21st December 2020 West Midlands Police have received 43 logs from members of the public and shop staff reporting alcohol related nuisance'. (ref West Bromwich)

4. How has this behaviour affected you?

'Avoid the areas'

'Not being able to sleep at night because of the above details .. plus we don't really feel safe ... we close the park gates but they push them back open'

'Makes me uncomfortable and on edge'

'As a friend of the park we maintain a sensory garden. Damage to the garden has to be paid for by the group. We also collect litter. The park is full of discarded bottles and broken glass'

'I am 81 years of age and my wife is 74. Our bedroom is at the front of the property, therefore when cars are arriving late at night it is a worry for our peace of mind and security. Very often these vehicles are occupied with engines running, radios on and headlights full on. it is a frightening situation at our age to go to bed at night with this going on less than 15 yards away. Litter picking required weekly to stay on top of the mess! This is unsustainable and unfair'.

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'It's not acceptable behaviour, the litter makes the area like a tip'.

'Our service closely monitors all acts of violence (physical and verbal) against our staff and works closely with key partners to reduce them. In the Black Country South area we have reported 32 instances of abuse to WMFS staff - typically occurring during early evening 5pm-9pm'.

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5. How often have you experienced problems with this type of behaviour and/or when does this type of behaviour usually occur?

Every Day	21%	(3/14)
Weekly	7%	(1/14)
Regularly	36%	(5/14)
No response	36%	(5/14)

6. Do you have any other comments in relation to the proposal for this Boroughwide PSPO?

<p><i>'I think the gates being closed/opened at the times they used to be would help ... we pull the gates to on a night but people know it's not locked so they just push them open again'</i></p>
<p><i>'Only that a PSPO should only be implemented together with appropriate training of those who will be enforcing it and that it links into other parts of the system like community alcohol treatment services and the training available'</i></p> <p><i>'No but I come into contact with my people with alcohol issues as a direct result of my job with a homeless charity. We really should be encouraging people not to drink alcohol in public places, in the way that smoking has become socially unacceptable. What example are we setting to children? Young adults who do it in public are probably only doing it to look grown up. Older people who do it probably have an existing alcohol dependency problem. If you are asked to stop and don't want to, you have to ask yourself why'.</i></p>
<p><i>'When I mentioned these problems to a police man. He said they had not got the resources to go in the park. They could only cover the town centre in the evening''.</i></p>
<p><i>'Businesses that provide access to alcoholic drinks should be made to contribute to the disposal of cans and bottles e.g. recycling bins. A prominent retailer recently refurbished their premises and the immediate pavement area is very untidy for walkers. I think larger retailers have a duty especially when they sell bulk buys to be partially responsible for the maintenance of the immediate area. Again recycling and costs of upkeep of the area especially when located in a residential area'.</i></p>
<p><i>'If the Hayseech pedestrian gate was locked at night, as it used to be, then this would be a deterrent to those who use Hayseech and the park for anti-social activities. Some form of parking restriction would help also'.</i></p>
<p><i>More affirmative action needed with police patrols, fines and CCTV cameras to catch repeat offenders.</i></p>
<p><i>'discussing with relevant parties adding a NOS ...PSPO, I feel this is vital in helping to make the public aware that NOS use is not acceptable or legal'.</i></p>
<p><i>'The council workers clear the rubbish fairly regularly surly they can see there is a problem . The local police drive by frequently'.</i></p>
<p><i>'Is it possible to know which places to avoid?'</i></p>

'WMFS continues to work with our blue light partners and Sandwell local authority to reduce ASB across Sandwell'.

Conclusion

Although the number of responses were low, those who did respond supported this PSPO as part of a suit of measures to combat alcohol consumption in public places and provided an overview of the issues that this is continuing to cause across the Borough. The comments by SMBCs Public Health Team in relation to equipping those who enforce the PSPO to conduct a quick AUDIT to ascertain dependency level and the appropriateness of confiscation and link drinkers into Blue Light/ community services are very relevant and will be addressed via SDAP and Borough Tasking. This approach links very much into the assertive outreach approach being adopted across SMBC.

Appendix 1 - Consultation Methods

SMBC Website

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

The council proposes to make

The Borough Council of Sandwell Boroughwide PSPO in relation to Consumption of Alcohol

(Public Spaces Protection Order) 2020

Which has the following effect:

- 1.1 enables authorised officers / constables, where satisfied that nuisance or disorder associated with alcohol is occurring, to require people not to consume alcohol in the area and to surrender any alcohol in their possession. It is an offence to fail to comply with these requirements without reasonable excuse.
- 1.2 A person found in breach of the order shall be liable on summary conviction to a maximum penalty of level 3 on the standard scale or a fixed Penalty notice not exceeding £100.
- 1.3 Once the order comes into effect it will last for a for a duration of Three Years.

Full details can be examined including the plans referenced in this notice on the council's website at www.sandwell.gov.uk/consultation

Any objections to the Orders stating the grounds on which they are made must be received either online at www.sandwell.gov.uk/consultation, or in writing to ASB Team Manager, Neighbourhood Services, Sandwell MBC, Operations & Development Centre, Direct 2 Industrial Park, Roway Lane, Oldbury, West Midlands B69 3ES by 8th January 2021. Any representations received by the Council may be imparted to third parties.

December 2020 Sandwell Herald p11

Spot the signs of modern slavery
Modern slavery and human trafficking are a gross violation of people's human rights and dignity. The council, police and many partner organisations are working together to tackle these vile crimes and rescue victims. Modern slavery often occurs behind closed doors and can include forced labour, child trafficking and criminal or sexual exploitation. Signs that someone could be a victim of modern slavery:
- Appears scared, withdrawn or distrustful
- Shows no confidence
- Has unexplained injuries
- Lives and works in the same place
- Has limited contact with family or the outside world
- Doesn't know their home or work address
- Is forced or intimidated to work, with low or no pay
In an emergency, call 999. In a non-emergency, call the police on 101, report online at www.west-midlands.police.uk or call the Modern Slavery Helpline 08000 121 700.

Top tips to protect you and your home
LOCK UP LIGHTS ON
Dark winter evenings can provide perfect cover for burglars.
Criminals can easily spot an open window, see valuables through open curtains or blinds or try their luck with an unlocked door.
If you're not at home, try to make your house look as occupied as possible - Lock Up, Lights On! If at home, always lock your front door from the inside.
Don't leave your house and vehicle keys in the lock or on a side table in view of a window.
If you are out, remember to keep your bag closed and close to you, and keep your phone out of sight.
Lock away garden tools and make sure outside sheds, store outboards and garages are securely locked.
Mark property with your postcode and house number.
Check your car is locked - don't assume your vehicle is secure, always check doors are locked before you walk away. Don't leave valuables in your glove box or shopping on display.
Every year, vehicles are stolen from driveways and outside homes on frosty mornings when owners leave them to warm up with the key in the ignition. Nevertheless, stay with your vehicle. Your insurance may not pay out.
Sign up to West Midlands Police's free W@MNow alert service at www.west-midlands.police.uk to get a 50% discount off a DNA property marking kit.
Go to www.west-midlands.police.uk/campaigns/darker-nights for more advice.

Nuisance drinking and dog mess
Have your say on how we deal with nuisance drinking and dog mess in our public space protection orders (PSPOs) consultation by 8 January 2021.
Go to www.sandwell.gov.uk/consultation

SEE SOMETHING DO SOMETHING
SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS
STOP NEE CTOM
Sandwell

We want to listen!
Has your care been affected by Covid-19?
Has your mental health been affected?
Are you a carer?
Contact Leanne to share your feedback
07901 114140
Safeguarding_SSAB@sandwell.gov.uk

SEE SOMETHING
If you are concerned that an adult with care may be in danger, contact the Safeguarding Adults Board.
Report and liaise to protect themselves.

DO SOMETHING
- In an emergency, dial 999
- Call Sandwell on 0121 569 2355
- Out of hours 0121 569 2355

Chance to have say over laws

Residents are being urged to have their say on how to deal with nuisance drinking and dog mess.

Sandwell Council plans to renew two borough-wide public space protection orders (PSPOs) that help tackle nuisance drinking in public places and dog owners not picking up after their pets.

The orders allow authorised officers to issue fixed penalty notices to anyone not following the rules.

Councillor Maria Crompton, deputy leader, said: "We know nuisance drinking and dog mess are important issues for our communities and the PSPO orders have been helpful in allowing us to deal with this.

"I'd encourage anyone who has an interest in how we tackle these important issues to send us their thoughts as part of the consultation."

Residents can have their say by visiting the www.sandwell.gov.uk/consultation website up until January 8.

Sandwell Social Media

15th December 2020 Twitter

Impressions	4,071
Total engagements	178
Detail expands	76
Media engagements	65
Likes	12
Retweets	11
Profile clicks	11
Replies	2
Link clicks	1

23rd December 2020 Twitter

Impressions	3,926
Total engagements	140
Media engagements	58
Detail expands	39
Link clicks	23
Profile clicks	9
Likes	7
Replies	2
Retweets	2

7th January 2021



Sandwell Council @sandwellcouncil
Our consultation on public space protection orders (PSPOs) that help us tackle nuisance drinking and dog mess ends tomorrow (Friday).
We're planning to renew these two PSPOs and there's still time to fill in the survey and have your say.
<http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/consultation>
[pic.twitter.com/yuSadttLza](https://twitter.com/yuSadttLza)

Impressions	1,982
Total engagements	51
Media engagements	20
Detail expands	13
Link clicks	11
Likes	3
Retweets	2
Profile clicks	2

E-newsletter sent 14 December (sent to 15,529 subscribers)



WITNESS STATEMENT

Crime

Number:.....

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

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Statement of: Stephen Thompson.....

Age if under 18: (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: Police Constable

This statement (consisting of page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it, anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature: Date.....

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded (supply witness details on rear)

I am Pc 1448 Stephen Thompson of the West Midlands Police service, currently stationed at West Bromwich Police station attached to the Partnerships team in the role of Anti-social Behaviour co-ordinator, part of this role is to have an overview and understanding of Anti-social behaviour within the Borough of Sandwell.

Since 2017 there has been a Borough wide Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) under Section 59 to 75 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2014 to combat the issues of on street alcohol consumption and enables authorised officers/constables where satisfied that nuisance or disorder associated with alcohol is occurring, to require people not to consume alcohol in the area and to surrender any alcohol in their possession.

Although fully aware that we have reported alcohol related incidents across the Borough it is centred around West Bromwich Town centre and can be pin-pointed to specific locations within a radius around the Bus Station and The Billiard Hall public house both situated on St Michael Street.

To give some idea of the demand of anti-social behaviour related calls West Bromwich central wards receives compared to the other 23 wards across the Borough, since January 2020 to December 2020, West Bromwich central has been the highest demand generating ward on seven of those months, the

second highest demand generator on three months and only on one occasion in January 2020 did West Bromwich central fall out of the top three demand generating wards in the Borough.

Through this period of time alcohol related ASB calls count for between 6 to 18% of the month's total log demand. So far since 1st January 2020 up to 21st December 2020 West Midlands Police have received 43 logs from members of the public and shop staff reporting alcohol related nuisance. These logs can be broken down to reflect

The areas across the Town centre that are affected, calls have been received for the Billiard Hall St Michael Street purely for alcohol related nuisance from groups, sometimes numbered ten plus, openly drinking alcohol and being verbally abusive towards members of the public passing them by. Calls have also been received from staff at the Lidl store on High Street West Bromwich, these calls are in regards to nuisance from street beggars pestering members of the public for money, these beggars then use any of the money obtained to purchase alcohol and drugs and once consumed they return to the area causing more problems due to their intoxicated state.

In regards to the issues outside the Billiard Hall, the drunken behaviour on occasions has escalated into disorders and assaults with four recorded offences of Actual Bodily Harm (ABH) against members of the public who were doing nothing more than going about their daily business.

From all the calls to Police and the work put in from the neighbourhood team covering the Town Centre, 21 main individuals were identified and intervention and prevention work has been undertaken, from referring those who wished to alcohol support groups but unfortunately most returned day after day so more positive action was taken with low-level ASB warnings being given but again this main group continued to gather in the area so all were issued with Community Protection Warnings with all breaching these orders and now being subject to the full Community Protection Notice. Work is on-going with a couple of the group to obtain a Criminal Behaviour Order against them which will include an exclusion zone of the Town Centre.

This group take up a considerable and valuable amount of Police time, so the use of having the PSPO

extended would give Officers and teams more tools to work with in dealing with these individuals and hopefully bringing an end to this behaviour in the near future.