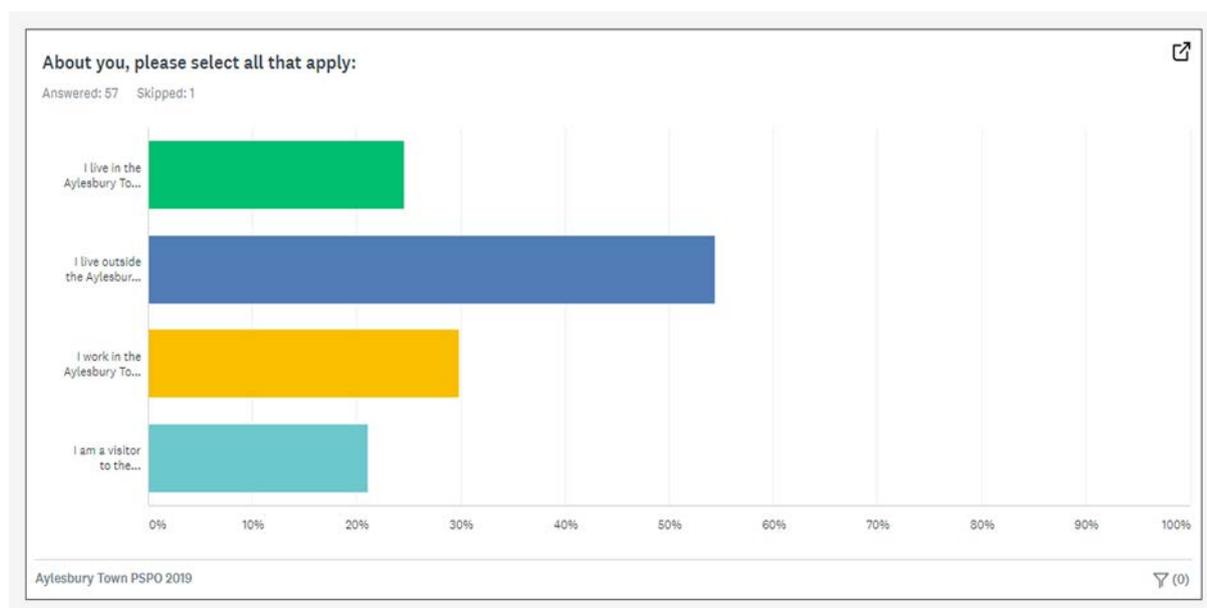
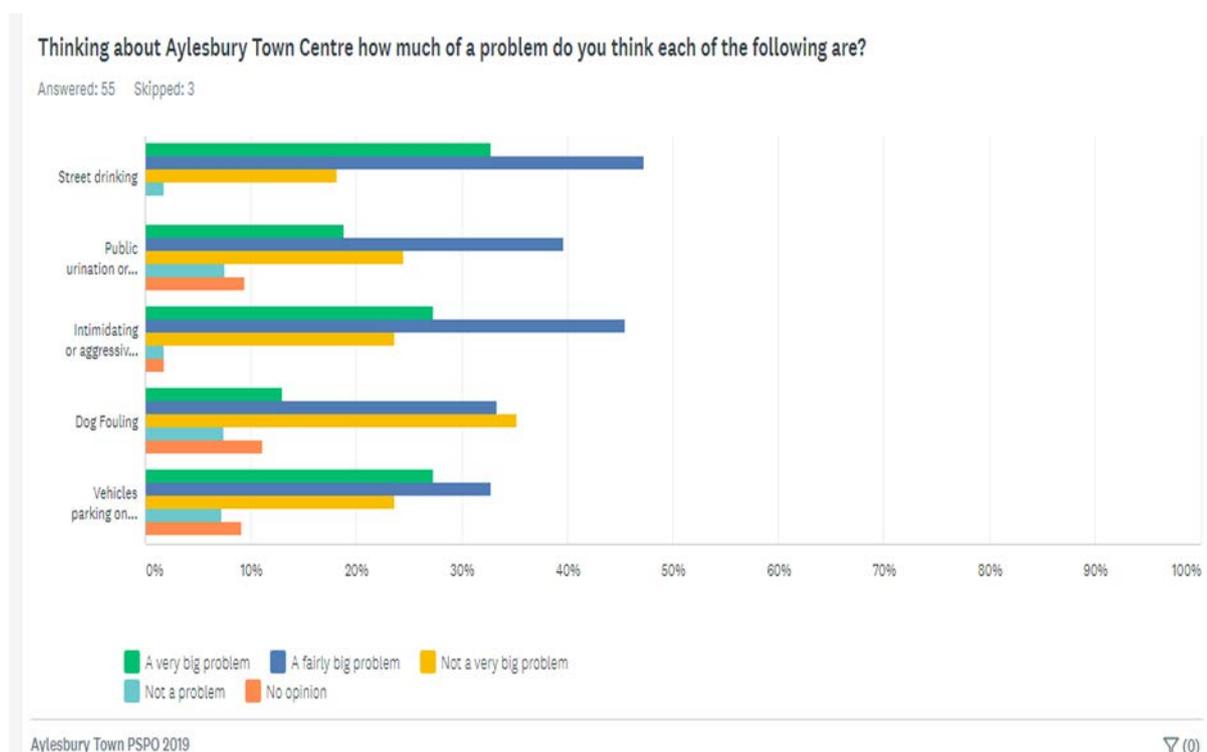


### Aylesbury Town Centre PSPO consultation – overview and analysis

The Aylesbury Town Centre PSPO consultation received 58 responses. Responses came from a broad range of interested parties: local residents, workers and visitors to the area, local residents' association, drug and alcohol agencies, the local church, AVDC Councillors and officers, Aylesbury Town Council, the Housing Trust, Bucks Fire and Rescue and Thames Valley Police. 25% of respondents lived in the town centre area, 30% worked in the town centre area and 21% were visitors to the town centre area.



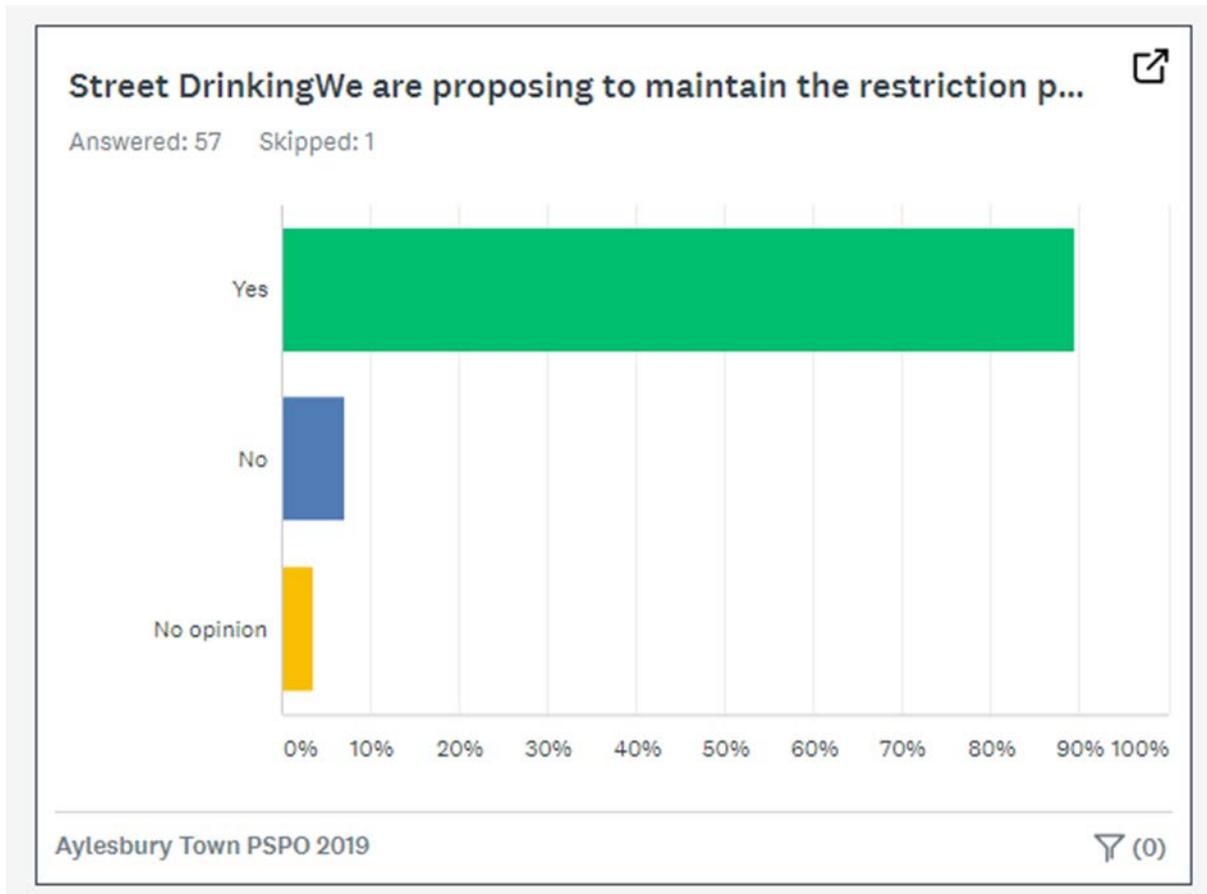
In relation to the current prohibitions, the greatest perceived problems from respondents relate to street drinking, intimidating or aggressive behaviour and parking on the paved areas of Kingsbury/Market square.



80% of respondents see street drinking as a very big or fairly big problem  
58% of respondents see public urination and defecation as a very big or fairly big problem.  
73% of respondents see intimidating or aggressive behaviour as a very big or fairly big problem.  
46% of respondents see dog fouling as a very big or fairly big problem.  
60% of respondents see parking on paved area of Kingsbury/Market Square as a very big or fairly big problem.

### Street drinking in Aylesbury

80% of respondents see street drinking as a very big or fairly big problem and 89% of respondents support maintaining the restriction prohibiting the consumption of alcohol or being in the possession of an open container of alcohol in the town centre.



29 respondents submitted additional comments to support their view which are shown in the additional comments section at the end, see “Question 5 comments”.

The majority of the comments are supportive of the restrictions on possession and consumption of alcohol in the town centre, many citing its association with drunken, intimidating and other forms of anti-social behaviour. In many cases it would appear that the presence of street drinkers discourages people from visiting the town centre. Some respondents have mentioned the risk of displacement. One respondent has asked that further parts of Cambridge Street, Cambridge Close and Vale park be considered. In respect of extending the scope of the area, at present there is no evidence available to the Licensing Team to demonstrate street drinking has displaced to areas outside the town centre. It should be noted that Vale Park, along with many of the other open spaces and parks in the District have existing PSPOs specifically relating to prohibitions on possession and consumption of alcohol.

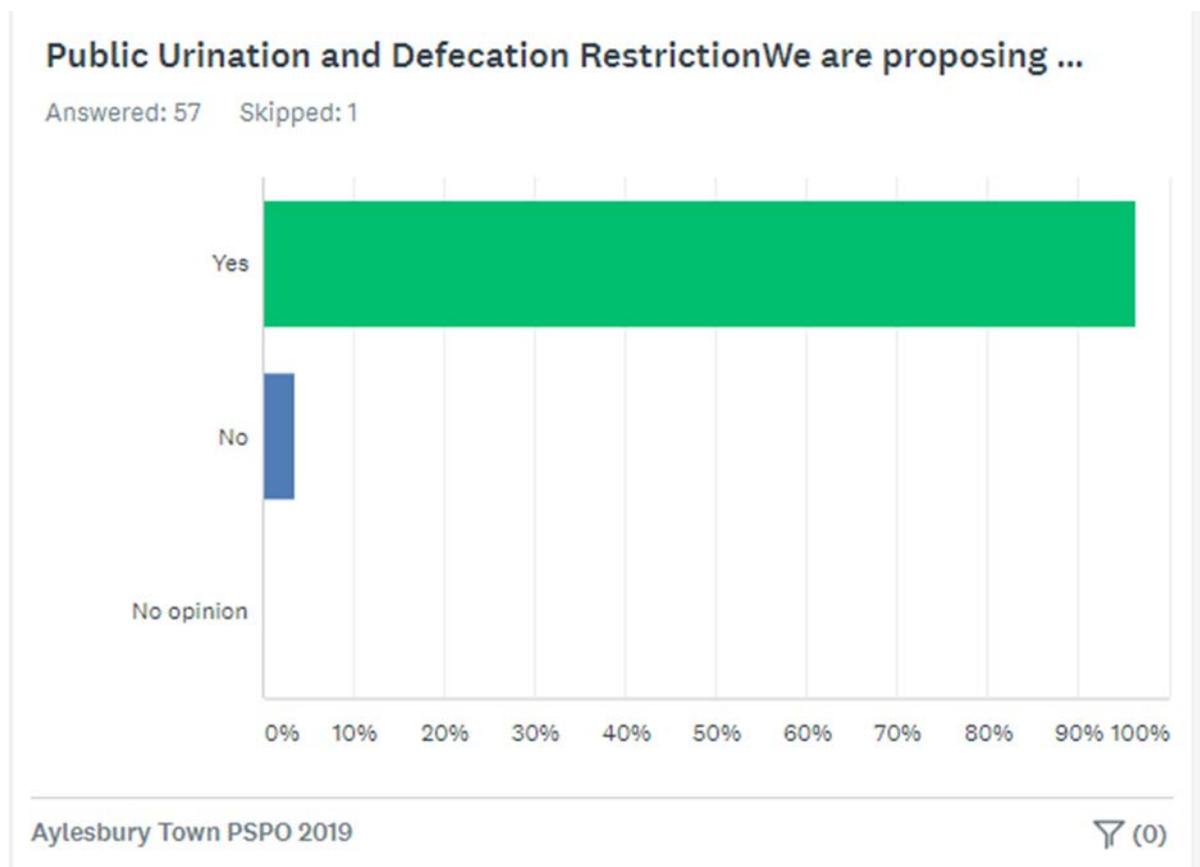
There is a comment in relation to the availability of FPNs (Fixed Penalty Notices). The licensing team are working closely with the Council's community safety team and the local police to address

the issue of street drinking and ensure the PSPOs are effectively enforced. The Council has adopted a strategy to enforce the PSPO when it was first implemented in 2016. The plan is published on the Council website and can involve written warnings, issuing FPNs and prosecution. Fixed Penalty Notice books have been produced by AVDC and disseminated to the police to issue should it be necessary. The licensing team have also installed additional replacement signage in the Kingsbury area, in response to a recent rise in the incidence of street drinking and associated anti social behaviour.

One respondent has asked that a prohibition on drug related activity also be considered, although no further supporting evidence has been produced to support this action.

### Public urination and defecation

58% of respondents see public urination and defecation as a very big or fairly big problem, with 96% of respondents supporting the restriction.



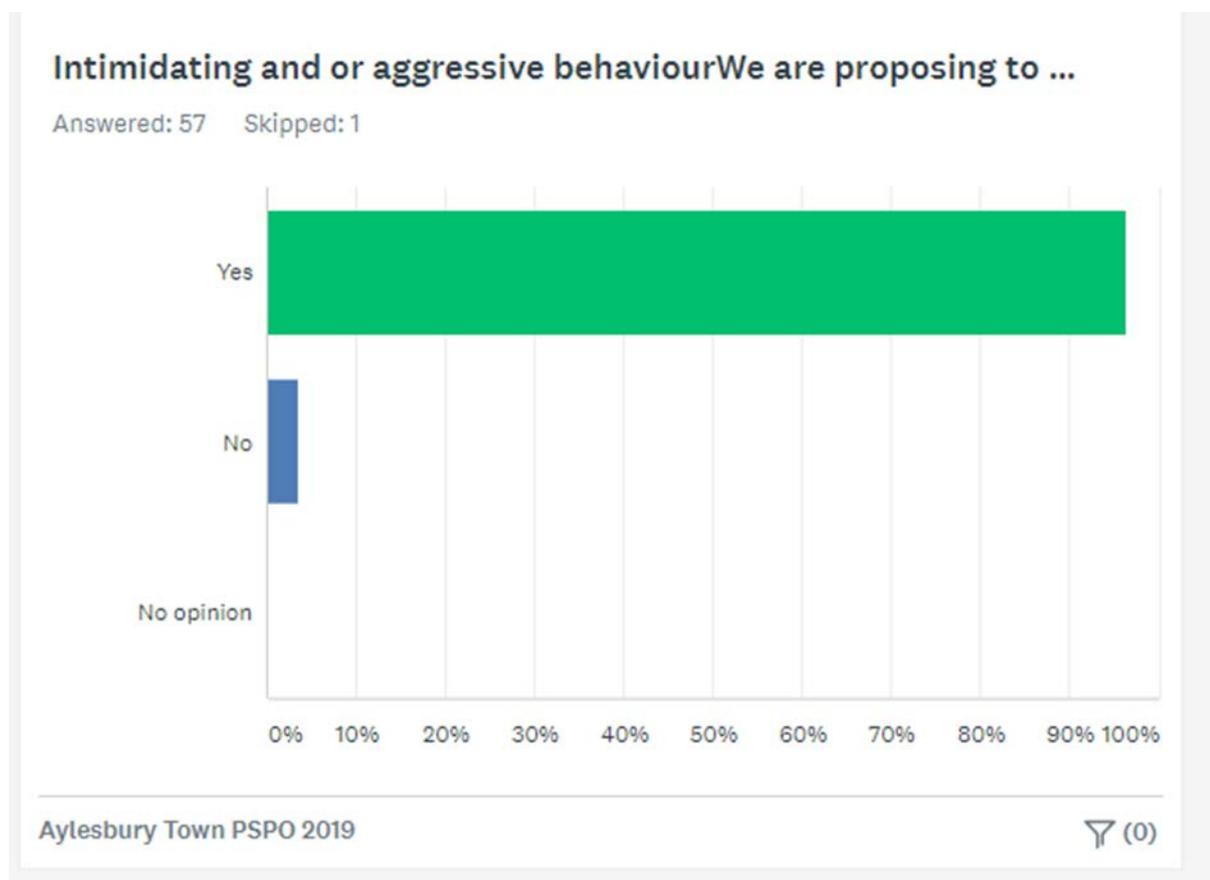
17 respondents submitted additional comments to support their view which are shown in the additional comments section at the end, see “Question 6 comments”.

Respondents additional comments generally amplified support for the restriction. Questions were raised about the legality of public urination and defecation. The current legal position is ambiguous on this matter and arguably the use of a PSPO removes that ambiguity.

One respondent again asked whether this restriction could be extended further along Cambridge Street. Cambridge Close and Vale Park. At present there is no evidence available to the Licensing Team to demonstrate that public urination and public defecation is a problem in these suggested areas.

## Intimidating or aggressive behaviour

73% of respondents see intimidating or aggressive behaviour as a very big or fairly big problem, with 96% of respondents supporting the restriction.



22 respondents submitted additional comments to support their view which are shown in the additional comments section at the end, "Question 7 comments".

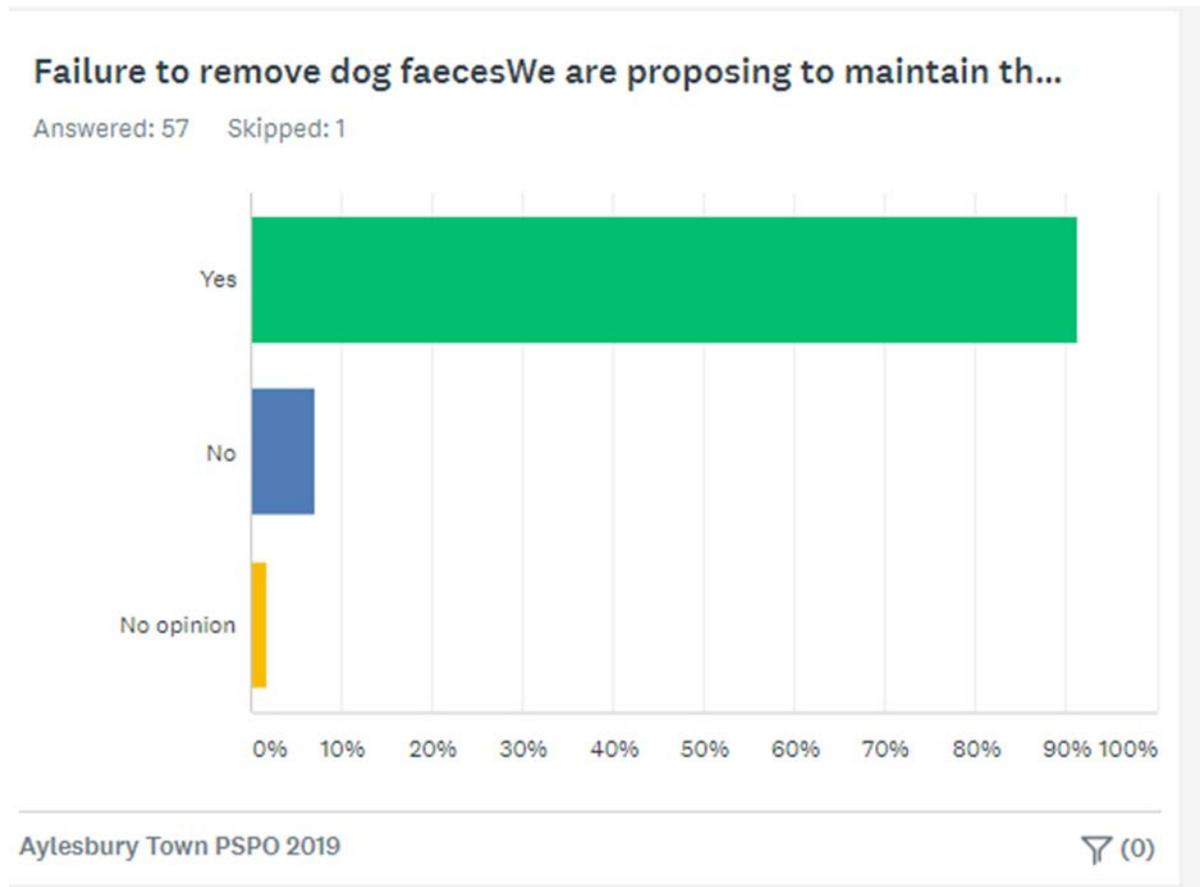
Respondents additional comments generally amplified support for the restriction and emphasised a desire to feel safe when visiting the town centre. Some respondents have questioned whether this behaviour is not illegal under other legal provisions. There are various closely linked offences under the Public Order Act 1986 such as: affray; fear or provocation of violence; harassment, alarm or distress, intentional or otherwise. These offences generally require the use, or threat, of violence, use of threatening or abusive words or behaviour or disorderly behaviour with resulting fear for safety, or causing harassment, alarm or distress. As such these offences involve adverse behaviour which would be considered more than anti-social or nuisance type behaviour.

One respondent specifically referenced the ability to move on people who beg. This issue has been considered previously by the Licensing Committee. PSPOs should not be used to essentially replicate existing laws; begging is an offence under Section 3 of the Vagrancy Act 1824.

One respondent again asked whether this restriction could be extended further along Cambridge Street, Cambridge Close and Vale Park. At present there is no evidence available to the Licensing Team to demonstrate that this behaviour is a problem in these suggested areas.

## Failure to remove dog faeces

46% of respondents see failure to remove dog faeces as a very big or fairly big problem, 42% responding that it was a not a very big problem or a problem.

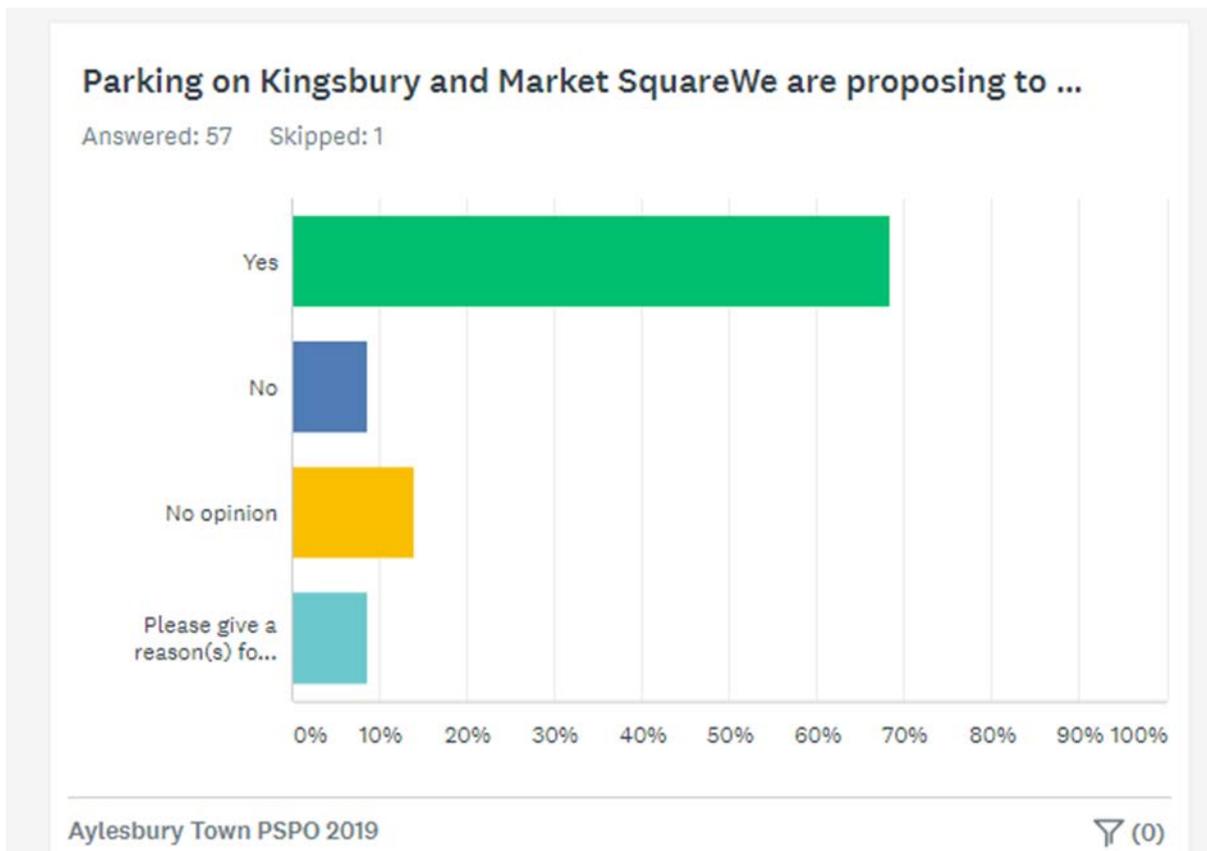


91% of respondents though support the restriction and 19 respondents submitted additional comments to support their view which are shown in the additional comments section at the end, "Question 8 comments".

Additional comments from respondents generally amplified support for this requirement. Some comments were made about Dog Control Orders: these no longer exist following the implementation of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. The appropriate power available to local authorities to control this behaviour is now PSPOs.

## Parking on Kingsbury and Market Square paved areas

60% of respondents see parking on Kingsbury and Market Square paved areas as a very big or fairly big problem, with 68% of respondents supporting the prohibition.



8 respondents submitted additional comments to support their view which are shown in the additional comments section at the end, "Question 9 comments".

Additional comments from respondents generally amplified concerns about parking in the town centre area. A question was raised about the desire of police to enforce this restriction. To clarify, both the police and authorised officers of the Council are able to enforce prohibitions and requirements under the PSPOs. Recently Bucks CC parking services have agreed to take enforcement action in respect of vehicles parking in these areas and as reported in the comments this has helped see a reduction in this problem.

### **General comments concerning antisocial behaviour in Aylesbury Town Centre**

23 general comments were submitted by respondents relating to a range of matters. Some respondents have concerns that there is inadequate enforcement and penalties are not robust enough. As mentioned earlier in the report, AVDC work closely with the police to tackle antisocial behaviour in the town. More recently Council officers, the police and local businesses have met and agreed additional actions to tackle antisocial behaviour in the town centre.

There was one specific complaint relating to rubbish accumulating on Bracken Way, this has been referred to the Council's waste department. There was another specific concern relating to cyclists using the pavement. The law states that cyclists must not cycle on the pavement and therefore it would not be appropriate to consider amending the PSPO to include prohibitions relating to cycling on the pavement.

Several comments reference begging, homelessness and rough sleepers in the town centre. Homelessness and rough sleeping is a complex issue and there are various reasons why a person may find themselves sleeping on street. The Council together with partner agencies are involved in various ongoing strategies to tackle the issue of rough sleeping and homelessness. Significant resources have been deployed to address these issues and all identified homeless persons are offered assistance. The town centre has seen a sizeable reduction in the numbers of genuinely homeless persons.

Some respondents have referenced other areas to be included within the PSPO area, namely: canal side and footbridge, waterside area by Waitrose and the college and the High Street. These areas are all covered by the existing Aylesbury PSPO and it maybe that that the PSPO area could benefit form additional signage to publicise this fact.

Two comments reference concerns around drugs and a desire to see control measures included with the PSPO. To date no direct evidence has been presented to the licensing team to suggest that this is an issue. As mentioned in the report, the PSPO powers cannot be used to replicate existing laws. There are already extensive laws in place to control the possession and supply of illegal drugs, with significant penalties for offenders. Some local authorities have introduced PSPO prohibitions relating to the possession of drug paraphernalia or “Psychoactive substances”, which in itself is not an offence but may be associated with antisocial behaviour in a particular area.

A comment has been made in relation to the potential for displacement of antisocial behaviour to other areas. Displacement is a recognised potential side effect of introducing PSPOs. To date there has been no evidence presented to the licensing team that this has happened with the existing PSPOs.

## **Additional Comments**

### **Question 5 comments (prohibition on street drinking)**

*Aylesbury is a beautiful town, being ruined by a public that doesn't respect it, but they don't feel they own it. The community needs to take the streets and squares back, own them, and have a desire to improve them. It will have follow on effects with regards ASB and littering. If the people of Aylesbury love the town again, it will naturally become better.*

*Unfortunately when a possible argument starts the drinks get either thrown or knocked out of someone's hand*

*I associate this behaviour with social deviance and physical threat.*

*There is very small number of reasons to allow drinking in public spaces within the PSPO area, residential dwellings are limited & enforcement is likely to centre around the commercial areas. I would question if the zone should be extended to include parts for Cambridge Street/Close & Vale Park.*

*We need to be looking at reducing all alcohol consumption in UK*

*I've being in alfred rose memorial park and this motorbikes came in and even came a car, it was ridiculous and there were so many children running around there, so dangerous*

*The town has been better for it*

*There are enough pubs , or people could drink at home*

*When you are walking through this area even during the day it does 'feel' intimidating and typically I would avoid*

*I visited Aylesbury town centre each evening in the first half of June. - Kingsbury was a mess - drunken people shouting and swearing, litter everywhere etc.*

*I do support this. However, as a regular visitor to the town centre on Saturday evenings, I'm disappointed to regularly see large groups of mostly men sitting around white obviously drunk. They've been there all day. I've never seen these restrictions enforced and they should be - otherwise why go to the bother and expense of creating them. I work in the court system and know only too well how this kind of low-level of antisocial behaviour can lead to serious crime. It's also deeply unpleasant for families with children to see this sort of behaviour.*

*People are put off using business with this going on . I love the xxx and still went despite this , however some colleagues wouldn't go to xxx due to certain types of people loitering on way*

*I would feel safer knowing that it is not possible for people to be drinking on the streets.*

*In particular, Kingsbury and the Market square are intimidating places for residents and families to go at most times of the day*

*It is very intimidating for young children and does not set a good example.*

*Having a ban is clean and easy to understand and provides an excellent way of controlling potential anti-social behaviour*

*It is intimating trying to walk through Kingsbury and Buckingham Street areas with drunks everywhere. Even at 9.30 in weekdays I have seen them. It's uncomfortable to walk through, especially with a young child.*

*If people want to drink alcohol, they should do it in a licenced establishment or at home.*

*I avoid taking my children near Kingsbury due to the street drinkers, the foul language and aggressive behaviour*

*Particularly anti social behaviour that contributes to violence. However this needs to be enforceable through FPNs, which we have never had*

*It gives the police an additional tool to deter/prevent ASB*

*This has been going on for a long time by certain groups of people [ mainly male ] in the Kingsbury Square area.*

*The consumption of alcohol is permitted elsewhere. The town centre should not be treated differently.*

*Seeing people consuming alcohol in public places is extremely frightening.*

*I think that if allowed it would be a factor in increasing other anti social behaviour.*

*To reduce the incidence of alcohol-related anti-social behaviour, I am in support of this requirement. I also support this requirement to be expanded to 'drug-related activity' as drug use and other such drug activity is increasingly becoming a causal factor of anti-social behaviour in the town centre.*

*I do not believe this will act as a deterrent or prevent people drinking and engaging in antisocial behaviour. It will push these people into other areas of the town with less CCTV cover and less police footfall. I believe the problem will move to residential areas creating a risk to the public and to the, sometimes, vulnerable adults engaging in this behaviour.*

*Reduce anti social behaviour, however people will move to a different area.*

*There is simply no reason to street drink when bars and cafes are open. People carrying drink lower the tone of the Town. Drinkers can sit for hours in one place making time difficult for shoppers to enjoy the same space.*

### **Question 6 comments (prohibition on public urination and defecation)**

*Seriously? Who could click no? That being said, you need to provide safe, clean public toilets.*

*It's a dirty habit when public toilets are available especially defecation, lots of men think it's fine to urinate whenever the need takes them*

*This behaviour is not only inherently disgusting, but when apparent (including the stains often left on my neighbour's property, here in the 'picturesque' Old Town), it can only deter visitors and incomers.*

*I would question if the zone should be extended to include parts for Cambridge Street/Close & Vale Park. I'm not sure if the area covering the train station car park is suitable.*

*It is disgusting*

*This is anti social behaviour*

*This is surely self evident*

*Because it's disgusting and illegal anyway.*

*Some colleagues and I watched a guy dump in the street from a distance last year , we have to remove these behaviours out of our town and show not acceptable*

*As long as there are accessible and available toilets then it is a good thing to prohibit.*

*So disrespectful and neglectful.*

*Can this be leagal anywhere?*

*We are surely better than animals!*

*Plenty of public toilets in the town centre, so no need for these things to take place.*

*Whilst I do not see this as a major issue, it is obviously totally undesirable, so the powers should exist*

*Health and decency needs to be upheld.*

*There is nothing worse than the odour and sight of both in the street or against buildings.*

### **Question 7 comments (Intimidating and aggressive behaviour)**

*Again, can't really see who could disagree with this. Unfortunately most people are scared of standing up and intervening. The behaviour is a symptom of far wider issues, but that doesn't mean it should be tollerated.*

*A person should be able to walk through, shop or generally go about their business without being intimidated or abused.*

*It should be illegal anyway.*

*There is very little reason to lift the order within the existing PSPO area, enforcement is likely to centre around the commercial areas in evenings, primarily around the weekend. I would question if the zone should be extended to include parts for Cambridge Street/Close & Vale Park.*

*Because people get scared and can affect others and make them afraid of going out*

*People should feel they can walk round their town hassle free*

*People should feel safe*

*As previously answered*

*Everybody visiting the town centre should have the right to feel safe, safe, safe !!!*

*It would be nice to see an occasional police foot patrol through the town centre to enforce this instead of just reactive policing.*

*If you allow it you will drive out the good people and be left with the bad.*

*Any kind of intimidating or aggressive or hateful behaviour towards others, whether verbal or physical should not be tolerated. I support the decision to maintain this restriction.*

*Not acceptable at any time of day or night.*

*People who beg should be moved on and other aggressive or intimidating behaviour should be*

*nipped in the bud through proactive and assertive policing.*

*I have seen far too many incidents of aggression in the town centre. It's scary. I avoid town at night because of this*

*Such behaviour is a deterrent for visitors and damages the town centre economy. The main advantage of this power is that it shows potential visitors that we have zero tolerance.*

*This has been the case on several occasions which occur in the Kingsbury Square Area of the town.*

*If left unchecked it will only increase.*

*As it should be in all parts of the town.*

*Public confidence*

*Aggressive behaviour scares innocent bystanders and lowers the tone of the Town.*

### **Question 8 comments (failure to remove dog faeces)**

*Oh come on.. No brainer. CCTV should be monitored, and dog owners who fail to clean up, fined. Use the money to provide more bins for dog mess.*

*As a dog owner it is common sense to always carry a little plastic bag and clean up after your dog has done his business. Germs from the faeces can be picked up on your shoes and passed on to many unsuspecting persons.*

*I want my town to be civilised and seen as such.*

*Dog faeces is a scourge on public areas, I would like to see a compulsory registration, so that excrement left can be traced back for issuing fines.*

*Health hazard*

*Why would you not?*

*Don't know how. when I catch someone who doesn't clean up after his dog I pay attention to it*

*Enforce higher fines. A warning doesn't work*

*I have 2 dogs but always have dog bags and pick up. I would say however we could do with more bins and more emptying at times.*

*It is anti-social behaviour to not pick up after your dog.*

*Against the law, disgusting practice.*

*There should be a significant fine for anyone caught not picking up after their dog*

*I thought this was a national law anyway?*

*I am not aware of this being a particular issue*

*Health risk to children - should apply everywhere!*

*Health.*

*Already covered by Dog Control Orders?*

*This is a huge and very unpleasant issue in the town centre.*

*Dog fouling is just as bad as human fouling except they appear on pavements and become trodden in. Croft Passageway HP21 7DR is very narrow and bicycles plus wheelchairs and feet have to try dodging this foul nuisance on a weekly basis even though there is a dog bin clearly standing in Croft Passageway.*

### **Question 9 comments (parking on Kingsbury and Market Square)**

*Adequate parking must also be provided especially disabled bays as it is quite a walk from the garages to shops there*

*Watching the traffic wardens ignore illegally parked vehicles is frustrating... But they need backing up by local police officers if they encounter aggression. Maybe a couple of hours a week they are accompanied by a PCSO/PC to give them the confidence to challenge anyone parked illegally?*

*The amount of illegal parking makes it dangerous for a pedestrian, and I'm frequently on foot in the town centre.*

*I support this because it makes sense to keep it as much of a pedestrian area as possible.*

*Pedestrianised area.*

*This should be designed out, or dealt with through parking legislation. The Police would not want to be involved in the enforcement of this part of the PSPO.*

*This is a daily problem mainly at night and at weekends, they park all over the place on pavements, in the centre of the square and just leave their vehicles.*

*The PSPO in these areas were ineffective. The power to impose immediate fines has now been passed to Bucks CC who use their on street parking team to manage it - generally this has been very effective, with very limited evidence of this now being a problem.*

### **Question 10 – other comments concerning antisocial behaviour in Aylesbury Town Centre**

*The police dont seem to think that the PSPO gives them effective powers and restricts them compared to the old powers. Please can this be investigated as on street drinking and anti social behaviour seems on the rise.*

*In general, (and as someone who moved out from London) Aylesbury town centre doesn't have a significant ASB problem. But it is creeping up, and getting worse. The drinkers are a bit grotty, but generally keep to themselves until they're well into their cups... Rough sleepers at the pedestrian underpass by the main post office needs sorting out, and the gang of beggars that ship in for the weekends to work the cinema area need kicking out. Other than that, it's generally just kids being gobby... good luck making much of a dent into that!*

*Like all other crimes, it seems sentences given by the courts and fines are not adequate to deter this kind of behaviour*

*Its policing (literal or metaphorical) in daylight hours has long been wholly inadequate in my view.*

*at bracken way there is so many garbage around because is not cleaned every day from the school kids come to the shop near by, it looks very dirty. the Kids are good putting the trash at the bin but is not collected everyday so is always overloaded*

*The amount of homeless that are not homeless is also a problem in Aylesbury*

*Pavements are increasingly dangerous from cyclists.*

*I have noticed an increase of the amount of people begging or sleeping rough in and around the town centre. AVDC/BCC need to address this problem as it puts myself and others off from visiting the town centre*

*Please ban motor cycles on the fields and green areas behind NENE close. Too much noise from them . They congregate by the brook, drinking and smoking weed. Most are underage and their language is foul*

*Please, if you're going to go to the trouble of creating these zones, have the police actually arrest the offenders, as this behaviour is regularly observed but I've never even seen someone spoken to about it.*

*We need to remove all asb from our town to encourage people to enjoy it and not be scared of it. Exchange is a lovely new area don't let this end up like Kingsbury square has become and never used to be.*

*It would be helpful if this could extend down to the canal-side. Particularly by the foot bridge nearest to the Canal Basin. It seems to attract behaviour that is anti-social in various forms (from loitering late into the night, to drinking and littering).*

*Does not encourage families or older people to come 8nto the town centre, night or day.*

*I have only recently started visiting Aylesbury town centre so difficult for me to know why the prohibition order had to be introduced in the first place but happy it is there if it helps the relevant authorities to be assertive in dealing with unacceptable behaviour.*

*I won't visit the town centre in the afternoons with my son anymore as there are too many addicts hanging around. It is extremely unpleasant.*

*I don't know if begging falls into anti-social behaviour, but I've noticed it becoming more and more prevalent in the town centre. At the very least, it is a public nuisance, and makes the town less welcoming that it should be - in my opinion.*

*As a female with young children I'm scared to withdraw cash from machines outside in town, I avoid Kingsbury due to the people hanging around. Mac Donald's on the High street is also a place to avoid as many congregate outside and are threatening*

*Just that it appears to be mainly Eastern Europeans and Asian men.*

*I would like this order to cover the waterside area also, outside the college and Waitrose.*

*Kingsbury Square should be completely redesigned with very upmarket businesses, in order to keep the aggressive people out*

*As the ASB Officer for the housing trust, we collate data in relation to anti-social behaviour within the town centre where the Trust is a holder of housing in this area. We also work to safeguard residents who have become impacted by town centre activities. Drug activity and aggressive begging are two main areas of concern.*

*I do not believe criminalising street drinking will act as a deterrent or prevent people drinking and engaging in antisocial behaviour. It will push these people into other areas of the town with less CCTV cover and less police footfall. I believe the problem will move to residential areas and parks*

*creating a risk to the public and to the, sometimes, vulnerable adults engaging in this behaviour.*

*I would like to see more done about drug users and dealers being taken from the streets once and for all. If our Town can become anti-drinking and anti-social behaviour and anti-defecation then anti- drugs should also be at the top of your list.*