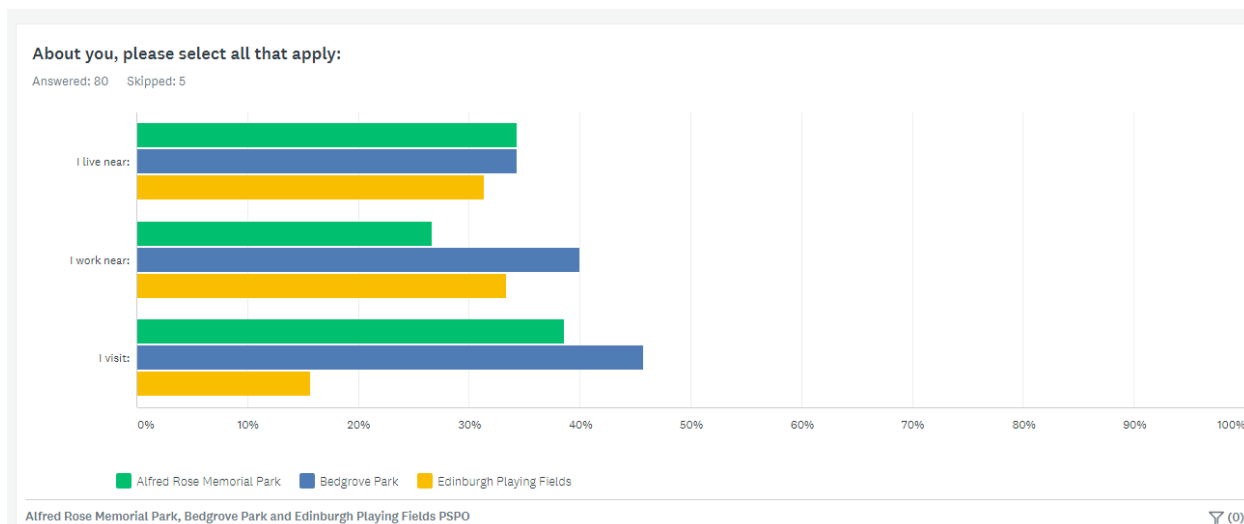


Alfred Rose Memorial Park, Bedgrove Park and Edinburgh Playing Fields PSPO consultation – overview and analysis

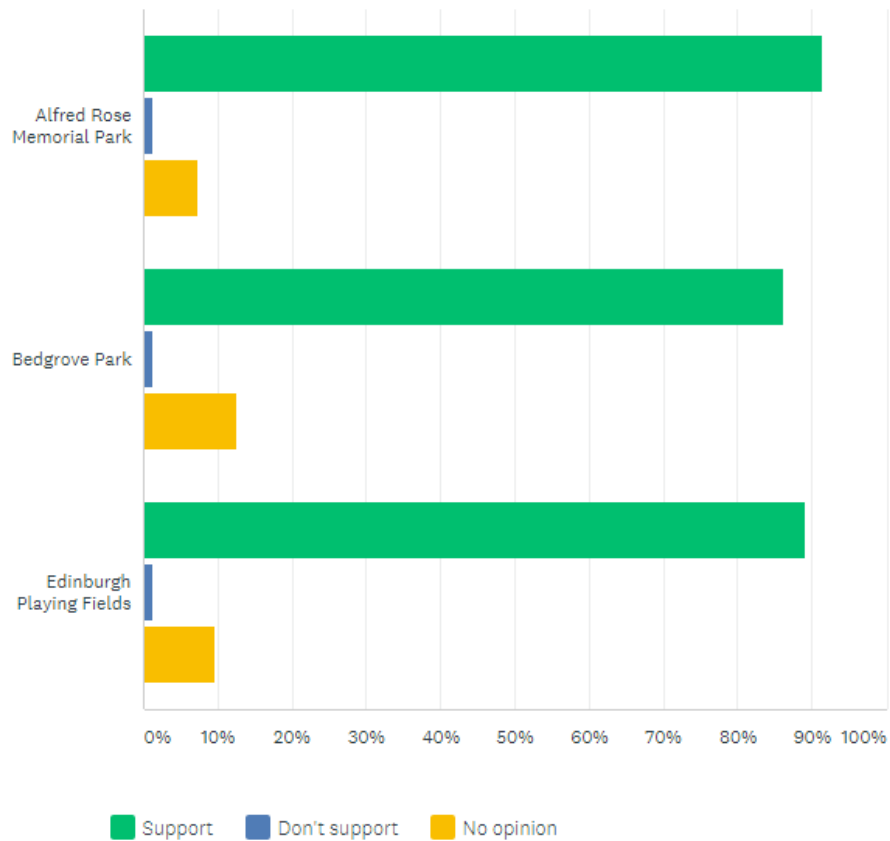
The consultation in respect of the proposed amendments to the current PSPOs for the three parks received 85 responses. Responses came from a broad range of interested parties including: local residents, workers and visitors to the area, local residents' associations, local schools, representatives of Bucks CC and AVDC and Thames Valley Police. The majority of respondents either live and or work near one or more of the parks. Bedgrove Park appears to be the most popular, visited by 46% of respondents, followed by Alfred Rose Memorial Park, visited by 39%, and Edinburgh Playing Fields visited by 16% of respondents.



	ALFRED ROSE MEMORIAL PARK	BEDGROVE PARK	EDINBURGH PLAYING FIELDS	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
I live near:	34.33% 23	34.33% 23	31.34% 21	67	1.97
I work near:	26.67% 4	40.00% 6	33.33% 5	15	2.07
I visit:	38.57% 27	45.71% 32	15.71% 11	70	1.77

Alcohol possession and consumption

There was clear support for maintaining the existing restrictions prohibiting the consumption and possession of alcohol in the three parks as shown below:



	SUPPORT	DON'T SUPPORT	NO OPINION	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Alfred Rose Memorial Park	91.46% 75	1.22% 1	7.32% 6	82	1.16
Bedgrove Park	86.25% 69	1.25% 1	12.50% 10	80	1.26
Edinburgh Playing Fields	89.16% 74	1.20% 1	9.64% 8	83	1.20

41 respondents submitted additional comments to support their view which are shown in the addition comments section at the end, "Question 4 comments".

The majority of the comments are supportive of the restrictions on possession and consumption of alcohol in the parks, many citing its association with drunken, intimidating and other forms of anti-social behaviour such as littering and fighting. Some respondents have mentioned safety concerns arising from potential interactions with intoxicated persons and broken glass.

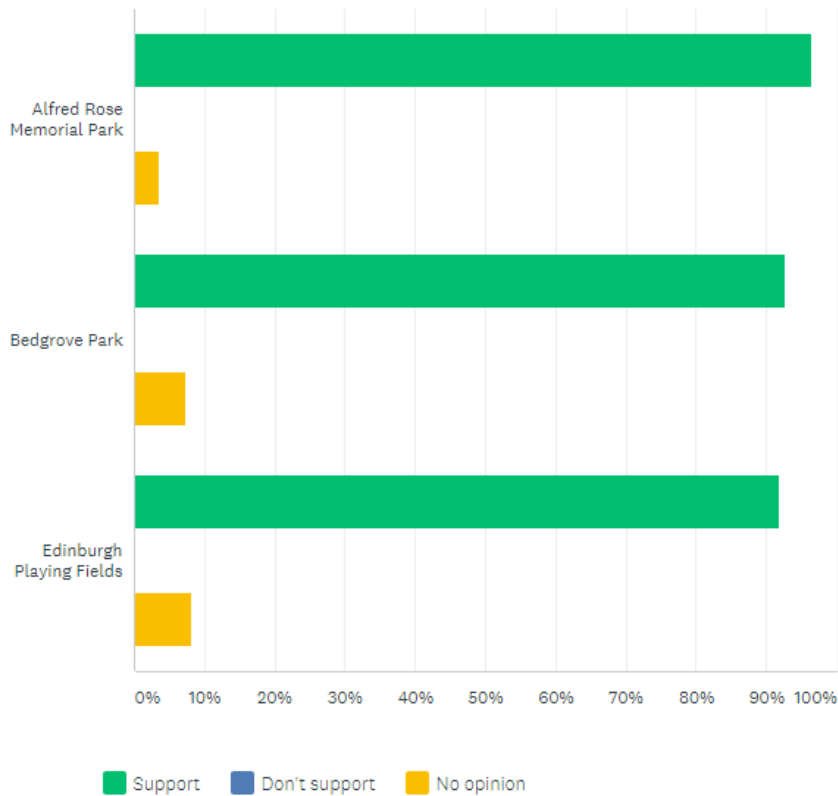
Several respondents have raised concerns relating to illegal drug use. To date no direct evidence has been presented to the licensing team to suggest that this is an issue. PSPO powers cannot be used to replicate existing laws and there are already extensive laws in place to control the possession and 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.

Some respondents have raised concerns about the possible impact on park users who may wish to consume alcohol but are not considered to be contributing to antisocial behaviour. Enforcement of the PSPO is a discretionary power and an offence is only committed if a person fails to comply with

a request to surrender, or cease consuming alcohol, by an authorised officer. In practice it is unlikely that the PSPO powers would be used if there is no perceived antisocial behaviour.

Mechanically propelled vehicles

There was clear support for introducing a ban on the use of mechanically propelled vehicles in a way that causes annoyance or nuisance as shown below:



	SUPPORT	DON'T SUPPORT	NO OPINION	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Alfred Rose Memorial Park	96.34% 79	0.00% 0	3.66% 3	82	1.07
Bedgrove Park	92.59% 75	0.00% 0	7.41% 6	81	1.15
Edinburgh Playing Fields	91.76% 78	0.00% 0	8.24% 7	85	1.16

[Comments \(49\)](#)

49 respondents submitted additional comments to support their view which are shown in the additional comments section at the end, "Question 5 comments".

The additional comments generally expand upon the reasons why respondents support this measure, namely: the dangers to other parks users, particularly children and dog walkers; intimidation and abuse from riders; damaged grass; safety risk to riders. A number of respondents

also cite evidence of personal negative experience in support of their responses.

One respondent has suggested that an appropriate area be provided where motorised vehicles can be ridden safely, without causing a nuisance. Theoretically this could help address the issue but there would be numerous matters to consider including responsibility, accountability, location, management, safety, insurance and cost.

Another respondent has asked whether Alfred Rose Memorial Park could be locked at night. This is a matter to be considered by the parks department.

It has been asked whether Quarrendon Fields could be included; this area was not identified as a problem area when this current consultation was devised. If there is evidence to support this proposal then a further consultation could be conducted.

The issue of enforcement has been raised. Generic fixed penalty notices have been provided to the police to assist with enforcement. These notices can be used to enforce any breach of a PSPO. It is anticipated that should these new restrictions be introduced, an early period of robust enforcement would help alleviate the problem. Before any enforcement action can be taken, breaches need to be witnessed by authorised officers. It is important that any new measures introduced are publicised and transgressions are reported so resources can be deployed to tackle the issue.

One respondent has asked that the restriction also apply to radio controlled cars. The proposed prohibition is worded in such a way that these vehicles could be included, should they be found to cause a nuisance.

General comments concerning antisocial behaviour in Aylesbury Vale's parks.

42 general comments were submitted by respondents relating to a range of matters. See additional comments section at the end, "Question 6 comments".

Many of the comments reiterate points made in response to the earlier questions. There are several references to the possession, use and supply of illegal drugs in the parks and surrounding areas. Respondents refer to general antisocial behaviour such as late night disturbance and verbal abuse and intimidation from other park users. Concerns are raised about the lack of enforcement resources.

Some new concerns were raised: abuse of children's play equipment (ARMP); public urination in Edinburgh playing fields; uncontrolled dogs; children hitting golf balls; children climbing on roof of Bedgrove community centre.

Some solutions have been proffered by respondents to some of the issues raised: locking parks at night to help reduce antisocial behaviour; require dogs to be kept on leads; extend the prohibition on mechanically propelled vehicles to all parks; enhance the lighting in ARMP; more cycle lanes.

Any deliberate damage to play equipment should be reported as a crime. Prohibition on public urination could be included in the park's PSPO, although further consultation will be needed; to date no evidence has been presented to suggest that this is an issue of concern.

There is no blanket law requiring dogs to be kept on leads, however PSPOs can be used to make this a requirement. To date no evidence has been presented to suggest this is an issue of concern in the Vale's parks. Under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, it is an offence to allow a dog to be "dangerously out of control", which applies to any breed or type of dog and applies not only if someone is injured but also if they fear they may be injured.

Hitting golf balls in a public area should be reported to the police if this being done with the intention of causing harm. Children climbing on the roof of the community centre is obviously also

a cause for concern and the matter has been reported to the community centre management.

Additional Comments

Question 4 comments (prohibition on possession and consumption of alcohol)

This prohibition unfortunately captures any family picnics and the like enjoyed by law abiding citizens who might like a small amount of an alcoholic drink as part of an event. However, on balance I support maintaining this given the risk that some of the town's street drinkers could congregate in the parks and cause disturbance and concern to families with children using the park.

If you provide areas for this type of recreation you would not have a problem. All too often councils and organisations discriminate against motorcycle and similar. Not everyone wants to ride bicycles or horses etc.. So provide facilities and you won't have a problem

Unfortunately many that bring alcohol do not drink responsibly. They also tend to litter.

I think children should be allowed to play at parks that are designed for them without intoxicated people sleeping, urinating or being violent

It can be intimidating for passers by when people are openly drinking lots of alcohol .

I support restrictions on the consumption and possession of open container alcohol in the Alfred Rose Memorial park. I have a specific opinion on this particular park because I visit it the most, compared to the other two parks that are stated. I am specifically worried about the broken glass that may be left behind from an alcohol container. With children playing, shattered glass pieces will pose a significant risk to the health and well-being of any individuals that use the facilities of the park. Deep cuts/lacerations are extremely dangerous as I have been a victim to such injuries.

Parks are for families to enjoy not people to drink alcohol

The parks should be available for safe use by all; if some are incapacitated, they could affect others' access to these facilities.

Parks should be safe places to relax in.

Alcohol is still consumed on the Eddy and also drug use and supply. Most days motorbikes. They don't even care if there is football or kids playing, they deliberately ride near them.

I walk my dogs regularly at Alfred Rose Park. Drunk teenagers and young people smoking weed openly in the park is happening almost every time. I visit, especially on a nice summer evening.

*People should be allowed to drink a beer in a park. But they should not get drunk there and annoy others. You are not going to achieve anything by prohibition. Let the people who want to drink one beer drink one beer. Punish the people who can't handle their alcohol and do sh*t.*

With young children and an elderly disabled mother in a wheel chair the dangers of motorcycles driven in this open space are huge!

These are family/child environments. Often visited by mums with children. These areas need to be safe places.

It's unpleasant to have drunks in public areas. Their behaviour can be unpredictable.

Sets a bad example

They are dangerous and a threat to people, especially walking their dogs. My dog was nearly run over in there this year when one of them came racing across the park.

ASB

I've seen persons who appears to be under the influence exhibit heightened aggressive behaviour around infants playing.

There is a real problem with people drinking and taking drugs in Alfred Rose and Dunsham park

Because it leads to the teenagers behaving like jobs and trashing things

It just leads to fights anyway. Although I've never seen this actually being policed.

I support not being drunk in the park also minors not drinking in the parks - however as an adult not being able to enjoy a glass of wine with friends on a picnic I disagree with, although I appreciate this is hard to manage

Litter is usually left, also drunks get left in park by police. Please could that also be addressed, they should be taken to a cell to sober up.

The scooters are being rode around the park at high speed presenting a danger to the rider and other park users (walkers , dogs etc). The scooters tend to appear in the evening making excessive noise and causing a general nuisance. Sometimes they use the back field towards Weston Turville Golf Club and this does not cause me as much concern although still noisy.

They are a bloody nuisance

This encourages anti-social behaviour. On Walton court they now gather outside a number of houses, drinking, a smell of drugs in the air, watching the coming & going of residents in the area, this has started up again on Sulby Close.

Young people gather in the park with cans of lager, drink too much and become rowdy and sometimes aggressive. They generally leave their empty cans and other litter behind and cause vandalism and damage to property. Local residents are then left to clear up the mess.

Alcohol is often the catalyst for anti social behaviour and especially so in younger teenagers

To reduce anti social behaviour and feeling that these are not family friendly spaces drunk people make you feel anxious with a young family

Not good example for young children. Is intimidating for others and leave bottles or cans lying around.

Alcohol should only be consumed in a licenced establishment or at home.

Help to control ASB (especially in 1 and 3

Drinking in these areas would contribute to an increase in ASB

Help reduce potential anti-social behavior issues

It's a public place where young children and families should feel safe. I would add a restriction of no smoking of marijuana on the street or in public spaces because I see and smell it every day.

Alcohol contributes to antisocial behaviour especially by underage young adults.

More formal restrictions are needed to curb the bad behaviour of few. Reasonable behaviour is generally the case throughout.

Anti social behaviour ruins everybody else's enjoyment of the park area.

The Parks are for all the public to use and the drinking of alcohol can lead to antisocial behavior

Consuming alcohol in these parks is not nice for visitors especially children to see and often leads to anti social behaviour.

Question 5 comments (prohibition on mechanically propelled vehicles)

I see no reason why they should be allowed.

Strongly support this. we had a plague of such events late last year in ARP. One night whilst I was out walking in the dark (surveying for owls, believe it or not) I witnessed such an event. The rider rode around the cricket square for some time in tight scrambling type circles, as if trying to damage the pitch. and then roared off at great speed up the paths and out onto the roads. bad enough to be doing this in the path, but the events last year showed that such behaviour was then linked with excessive speed on our narrow streets.

If you provide areas for this type of recreation you would not have a problem. All to often councils and organisation discriminate against motorcycle and similar. Not everyone wants to ride bicycles or horses etc.. So provide facilities and you won't have a problem

I have seen people on motorised vehicles on several occasions. I consider them extremely dangerous They have little or no consideration for other park users and they damage the grass.

They are a public nuisance but even more importantly they are dangerous to park users.

The parks are for people, children, responsible dog walkers who should be allowed to enjoy the facilities and nature of the parks without being harassed by vehicles of any sort. As this mostly happens in the evening, Why isn't ARMP closed and locked at night as it previously was. This proposal has been forwarded previously without any feasible answers, There had also been a suggested way to carry this out without too much additional cost!

They're loud and release harsh chemicals into the air. I've found that most motorcycle riders in Aylesbury are aged between 16-25 and this is the highest crash risk group. I wouldn't feel comfortable letting my child run around near a motorist in a park just incase they skid off the path

They are noisy and anti-social (disturbing the peace and tranquilly of a park space)and potentially dangerous especially regarding children, animals and pets.

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great in principle, but don't see any way to legally enforce it, given the lack of sufficient policing, and the ease with which the people on those vehicles can get away down back alleys/paths that police can't easily chase down.

I support restrictions on mechanically propelled vehicles in the Alfred Rose Memorial park. I have a specific opinion on this particular park because I visit it the most, compared to the other two parks that are stated. Mechanically propelled vehicles cause disturbance to neighbouring residents, moreover, it affects the landscape of the park.

I have witnessed scooters being without thought for peoples safety driven on the football pitches on Bedgrove Park

Motored vehicles are for transport use, on roads, and not recreational use in parks.

Because they can endanger the safety of the users of the park (children, adults & dogs) & they are intimidating.

As above

Very worried that they will knock someone over one day and cause serious injury or even worse death. They go so fast and also make lots of noise.

These types of vehicles aren't allowed on public footpaths, so why should the culprits think it is ok to drive them around parks and play area's.

People who are riding these vehicles are inconsiderate to other members of the public using the park. Especially dangerous for young children and dog walkers.

Small children playing. There should NOT be any motorised vehicles anywhere near them. Particularly as the users are often young and can't always control them.

However.....please consider giving these young people places where they can safely enjoy being on their bikes etc!

*Same like before. You would be punishing everyone for bullsh*it of few.*

Also include Quarrendon fields in this proposal

Dangerous for all especially young children and disabled

These areas need to be safe for children and their families.

They are dangerous to other park visitors. Also they ruin the grass when the riders use them on wet grass and churn it up.

Nearly got run into the other day

No care given to the small children playing or people walking dogs. Just ride round at high speeds ruining the park for others and almost causing a number of accidents

Maybe stops the drug dealing at the tree line on the Edinburgh Playing Fields.

Person's seen especially teenagers and young adults frequently capped past and around children playing recklessly and curse out persons who may scold them about it

I have seen people regally riding bikes in the park

These are road going veichle they are dangerous and they scare my kids it's just leading to asbo

Noisy and dangerous and they tear up the grass

They are a damn nuisance and exceptionally loud, they interfere with normal people being able to use these valuable green spaces and cause untold damage to the environments. Can you also ban petrol remote controlled vehicles as they are a real nuisance too.

I support this because quite often the young kids who typically ride them have no awareness of others and several times i or my dog (on a lead!) have nearly been run over, let alone the young kids in the play park Also for the kids protection who are riding the bike as often they wear no protection and if they were to come off the bike, they could injure others and themselves.

see previous answer

Noisy and a nuisance

This needs to be widened to the adjoining fields to Edinburgh playing fields, to the fields opposite Walton Court shops & at the front of Churchmere Walk. This sort of behaviour is rife, particularly in the evenings & at weekends; even full size motorbikes, being ridden by adults & other motorised scooters etc by a range of ages, riding 'off-road' while under the legal driving age.

The people using these often have no sense of the danger they are causing to other park users. they cause a noise nuisance being ridden close to houses.

Such vehicles should never be allowed to be operated on these open spaces, often ridden by underage/unlicensed and uninsured persons

These things are a nuisance in so many ways a family park is not the place for them. Dangerous, noisy and rip up the grass.

Nuisance for nearby residents and dangerous for other park users.

Not only are these a noise nuisance, but they are very clearly a danger to the riders and members of the public.

Public safety and noise nuisance

Particularly dangerous activity that we haven't ever really got to grips with. This would be another tool to use, assuming there would be FPNs to go with them.

Help reduce potential anti-social behavior issues and increase the safety of park/open space users

Common sense

These bikes and those who ride them can be great fun but can also be frightening noisy and threatening to some people

They are ridden by young, inexperienced people who show a lack of empathy for other park users. They ride close to other park users, often on purpose, and it won't be long until an innocent park user is seriously injured.

I fully support this action to control such anti social behaviour. This kind of activity is dangerous and destroys our enjoyment of these green spaces.

I have seen first hand the nuisance caused by these motorbikes etc. often having no tax/insurance and driven without regard for anyone's safety let alone their own,

Question 6 comments (other comments concerning antisocial behaviour in Aylesbury Vale's parks)

One major and 2 lesser measures in relation to ARP would be well supported by our residents, being of great concern to them and reported through our meetings: 1) Drug use: much welcome work has been done to make it harder (e.g. cutting away undergrowth to make it harder to hide) but I would like to see the possession and discarding of drug paraphernalia added to this PSPO. There are still users in the park, so they are not entirely deterred by measures so far, and we are very keen for the police to have as much in the toolbox as possible. 2) one root contributor to the problems in the evenings and at night is the decision to leave the park unlocked. We understand that this was an economy measure and was challenged in terms of vfm / effectiveness, but this is frequently cited by our residents as a priority. It just makes it open season in the park after dark for any anti-social activity. 3) similarly, we are pressing also for lighting to be enhanced along the main pathways in ARP to give more assurance to walkers after dark. I am aware that this is on the

agenda of potential park improvements. But in summary, in this context I submit that the main priority for Manor Park residents lies in relation to tackling the issue of drugs paraphernalia.

My worry is that the authorities are already overstretched and will not have the manpower to enforce the rules.

ARMP:- Drug activity still takes place, mainly in the carpark. Antisocial behaviour by noise caused by large groups late at night. No respect for the children's play areas caused by abuse of the amenities and rubbish left everywhere,

While driving I find many people aren't capable of going in a straight line and they often swerve into the opposite lane. The most dangerous area for this is the gyratory since its 3 narrow lanes but I'm seeing it happen constantly. Buses always just switch their right indicator on and start moving away without even looking at the motorists who are already overtaking the bus. Cyclists need more of their own lanes, they hold up way too much traffic cycling in the middle of the road especially on high speed roads with blind bends.

I know of local residents who have been verbally abused when challenging any of the behaviour listed above. I am a member of the Manor Park Residents Association. We will be happy to try and assist the Council and local police where we can to help with the issues listed

short of 24/7 monitored CCTV and a much more open police presence, don't see how any of this can be easily achieved - plus all that costs money which the public sector haven't got.

N/A

Because police have had there numbers cut they don't have the resources to monitor anti social behaviour Because of anti social behaviour families are reluctant to visit parks

At Alfred Rose Park drug dealing openly happens all the time. Young people sit in groups smoking weed etc, there is deterrent to stop them. I have seen both of these scenarios often when I'm walking my dogs. Very rarely see any police or pcso's in the park.

By not giving these youngsters designated areas to safely have fun I regularly have motorbikes zooming across the green in front of my house leaving to the fields! A noise nuisance and dangerous as many children n dog walkers use this area. This isn't a park but I'd love it policed somehow!!!!

Alfred rose park is full of litter every single day. That's much bigger problem than a small motorcycle

Keep parks safe for all by doing this. But as a counter point, these "toys" can be fun to use and expensive to buy. So maybe promote access for bridle ways or fields in and around Aylesbury (with farmers/owners permission of course), so that people can use there toys in a safe fashion, rather than screaming about in public use parks, in a threatening fashion

How is this ban going to be sustained, who will be policing it? I'm guessing with the police cuts it's not going to be them

The parks should be pleasant safe areas for well-behaved people and animals to enjoy.

People drinking alcohol in public is anti social, and can trigger irrational behaviour. It can be intimidating, and makes me want to avoid the areas

Needles left in Alfred rose park People defecating in Alfred rose park Number of people sat on the benches using drugs

Drug dealing and public urination on the tree line of the Edinburgh Playing field along side Cherwell Road is commonplace.

Frequent usage of marijuana is used by large number of very young teenagers and young adults to the top area under trees at the Alfred Rose park

Alfred Rose is such a nice park but it is spoilt by people openly selling drugs. We need more police visible in the public areas

Just not enough enforcement on Bedgrove parks get away with most things if you want

Dogs should be on leads especially when children are there.

Dealing and consumption of drugs. The gates to Alfred Rose Park not being locked at night. This leads to antisocial behaviour at night.

Multiple drug deals are done every day on or around the playing fields I have reported several but nothing ever seems to be done.

As pointed out in one of the previous answers, please tell the police to keep drunks in cells to sober up rather than putting them in parks.

In the summer months get more youths at Bedgrove Park in the evening drinking, using instant BBQ's and smoking illegal substances. Tend to find litter all over the place the next morning but there is a real lack of litter bins.

Children hitting golf balls us another nuisance and dangerous

Large groups hang out outside properties on Sulby Close, drinking, loud speaking/arguing/setting dogs off in the neighbourhood. The smell of drugs has been noticed in the air. Teenagers hanging out with adults, leaning on bins outside the front of properties, also some seen riding motorbikes across the green in front of Churchmere Walk.

Professional dog walkers with more dogs than they can safely control or pick up the mess. They arrive in van-loads at Bedgrove Park.

I wonder if we have the resources to implement this But these spaces should be safe and accessible.

The measures outlined will keep the parks open to all the community and help prevent them from becoming "no go areas"

Dogs should be kept in leads in these public areas

None

Litter, litter in Alfred Rose park is often atrocious making a dog walk like an assault course trying to avoid litter being picked up by dogs! Need more litter collection and awareness not to leave park in such a mess.

The laws need to include something about drugs, possession, use and dealing.

Recently, I've noticed low-level drug dealing taking place in several Aylesbury parks. This is a recent trend, as I don't recall seeing this before in Aylesbury - and I've lived here for more than 10 years. What's the solution to this issue? More police patrols. And an easy way (perhaps a hotline) for residents and visitors to easily and quickly report suspicious behaviour.

The car park at Edinburgh Playing Fields is a particular problem with ASB and noise and, unlike the other park car parks it has dwellings nearby

I welcome the proposed additional mechanically propelled vehicle prohibition at Alfred Rose Park, Bedgrove Park & Spinney and Edinburgh Playing Fields & Walton Court Playing Fields. Ideally I would like a blanket prohibition of mechanically propelled vehicles across all of our parks and open spaces but if this is not possible (please explain why), please can you also include the following Aylesbury Parks/Open Spaces in the mechanically propelled vehicle prohibition consultation where similar incidents have previously occurred:

- Walton Court Play Area & Open Space
- Fairford Leys Park & Playing Fields
- Riverside Walk (including Haydon Hill) & Meadowcroft Playing Fields
- Whitehill Park

I smell and see casual drug use every day with my 10 year old son on the way to and from school. It is usually adults walking their dogs around Berryfields and Buckingham Park especially the path along the Thame. If people want to do it in their own home I don't mind. But on the street it sends the message that it's ok.

Dog control is an issue when going to parks with young children.

Also Hampden Garden shops are becoming very intimidating with large groups of youths hanging around shop doorways. Also cars are driven and parked half off and on the road, with both front wheels on the pavement because the space wasn't big enough to park the car properly or they just park it in the middle of the road thinking this is ok

At Bedgrove youngsters climb on the Community Centre roof which is dangerous to them and upsetting for the users of the Centre.

I myself have felt intimidated by groups of youths hanging around the parks. using the equipment meant for younger children and using foul language.