



Leader Decision (Communities & Public Health portfolio)

Date: **16 October 2020** *[please note that the original decision date of 21 October 2020 was superseded by this decision being taken under 'Special Urgency' provisions]*

Reference number: **CP02.20**

Title: **Extension of Four Public Spaces Protection Orders**

Relevant councillor(s): Cllr Gareth Williams

Author and/or contact officer: Sarah McBrearty

Ward(s) affected: All

Recommendations:

To extend the following Public Spaces Protection Orders for two years, until October 2022:

- **Buckingham Town Centre**
- **Winslow and Steeple Claydon**
- **West End Road, High Wycombe**
- **Parks and Open Spaces, Aylesbury**

Reason for decision:

- The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 gives Buckinghamshire Council the power to create, extend, vary and discharge Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO). These Orders give the Council greater powers in relation to dealing with anti-social behaviour in public spaces.
- PSPOs can only be in place for a maximum of three years, and a consultation needs to be carried out in order to create and subsequently extend the four identified as they expire in October 2020.
- In line with the legislation, a consultation exercise was carried out for each of the listed PSPOs to establish whether there was support from both key stakeholders and

residents to extend them for a further two years. Feedback was supportive and a decision is now required to enable the PSPOs to be extended.

1 Executive summary

- 1.1 The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) which is intended to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a specific area that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life, by imposing conditions on the use of that area which apply to everyone using it. It is intended to help ensure that the law-abiding majority can use and enjoy a public space, safe from anti-social behaviour. The Council is responsible for making PSPOs.
- 1.2 Following vesting day Community Safety is harmonising policies and understanding what new protocols are needed. **The new council has inherited PSPO's and four are nearing their expiry date.** Before a PSPO can be extended, a public and key stakeholder consultation needs to be undertaken to ascertain views on whether each Order will continue to tackle the behaviours outlined within it.
- 1.3 The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 states that before the time when a PSPO is due to expire, the relevant local authority may extend the period it is in effect, if satisfied, on reasonable grounds, that doing so is necessary to prevent:
 - a) occurrence or recurrence after that time of the activities identified in the order, or
 - b) an increase in the frequency or seriousness of those activities after that time.
- 1.4 This report provides a summary of the consultation findings for each of the PSPOs and outlines the options available.

2 Public Spaces Protection Orders

- 2.1 The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act came into force in October 2014. The Act contains provisions for PSPOs. Local authorities have the power to implement a PSPO, if satisfied, on reasonable grounds, that two conditions have been met. The first condition is that:
 - activities carried out in a public place within the authority's area have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, or
 - it is likely that activities will be carried out in a public place within that area and that they will have such an effect.

The second condition is that the effect, or likely effect, of the activities:

- is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature
- is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable, and justifies the restriction imposed by the notice.

- 2.2 A PSPO is an Order that identifies the geographic space to which it applies (“the restricted area” within which the impact has or is likely to occur) and can make requirements, or prohibitions, or both within the area. This means that the local authority can, by virtue of the Order, require people to do specific things in a particular area, or prohibit doing specific things in a particular area. The local authority can enforce the prohibitions/requirements where it believes that they are reasonable in order to prevent or reduce the detrimental impact. The Order can be made to apply at all times, or within specified times, and equally to all circumstances, or special circumstances. The Order applies for a maximum of three years, after which the process of review and consultation must be repeated to ensure the issues are still occurring and the Order is having the required effect. Thereafter, following appropriate review and consultation, the Order can be extended for further periods.
- 2.3 PSPOs can be enforced by delegated officers within Buckinghamshire Council and Police Officers. Within the Council different services have relevant enforcement powers in their own areas, for example Environmental Health for dog control, Licensing for appropriate retail sales and premises serving alcohol, Planning for unsightly properties, Waste and Cleansing for littering and fly tipping. At present Community Safety leads on the process of creating PSPOs with enforcement undertaken by the relevant Council service and/or Thames Valley Police.
- 2.4 Failure to comply with either a prohibition, or requirement, within an Order is an offence. Upon summary conviction (offences heard within a Magistrates Court) defendants can face a fine not exceeding level three on the standard scale (currently £1000). The defendant cannot be found guilty of an offence under a prohibition/requirement of a PSPO where the local authority did not have the power to include it in the Order. Breaches of the Order can also be discharged by a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) which can be issued by either delegated officers within the local authority, or Police Officers.
- 2.5 Section 72 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 sets out the necessary consultation, notifications and publicity which must be carried out before creating or extending the period for which a Public Spaces Protection Order has effect.

3 PSPO extensions

- 3.1 At present, the following PSPOs are due to expire in October 2020:

- **Buckingham Town Centre PSPO** - within the restricted area, any person who fails to comply with an authorised officer or police constable's request (a) not to consume or (b) to surrender alcohol in their possession commits an offence. The order was automatically converted from a Designated Public Place Order on 20 October 2017.
- **Winslow and Steeple Claydon PSPO** – within the restricted area, any person who fails to comply with an authorised officer or police constable's request (a) not to consume or (b) to surrender alcohol in their possession commits an offence. The order was automatically converted from a Designated Public Place Order on 20 October 2017.
- **Parks and Open Spaces, Aylesbury PSPO** - within restricted areas any person who fails to comply with an authorised officer or police constable's request (a) not to consume or (b) to surrender alcohol in their possession commits an offence. The order was automatically converted from a Designated Public Place Order on 20 October 2017. This Order was also varied in September 2019 to include an additional prohibition on the use of mechanically propelled vehicles in a way that has caused or may be capable of causing nuisance and/or annoyance in the specified restricted areas *.

Specified restricted areas

Location	Location
Alfred Rose Memorial Park*	Walton Court Centre
Bateman Drive	Elm Green
Bedgrove Park and Spinney*	Haddington Way
Carlton Close	Haydon Hill
Aylesbury Cemetery	Riverside Walk
Dunsham Park	Bowlers Field
The Coppice	Oakfield Road
Cottesloe Open Space	Vale Park
Denby Walk and Victoria Park	Somerville Way
Blackwater Drive Open Space	Simpson Place
Edinburgh and Walton Court Playing Fields*	Waivers Way
	Whitehill

- **West End Road, High Wycombe PSPO** - This order restricts access to the public right of way. The order authorised the installation of gates which enforce the restriction.

3.2 In October 2020, when these PSPOs will expire, the ability to enforce the prohibitions detailed in them will no longer be available to the police or delegated Council officers. In addition, the footpath within High Wycombe that was closed using the PSPO power would need to be re-opened. The Council has the ability,

following appropriate consultation, to extend the PSPOs if it believes the anti-social behaviour will recur.

4 Consultation

4.1 The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 is not specific on what constitutes an appropriate consultation; however it is clear that it requires the local authority consult with the following:

- Chief Officer of Police for the local area
- Police and Crime Commissioner
- Landowners in the area
- Any community representative the local authority considers appropriate

4.2 Appendix A contains detailed information on the consultation that was undertaken for each of the PSPO. Below is a summary of the responses for each.

4.3 West End Road, High Wycombe PSPO. In this area the PSPO was used to close a public right of way in the form of a footpath which runs along behind the rear garden of a number of houses. A metal fence was installed at one end of the footpath, whilst a gate was installed at the other, so that maintenance could still be carried out on the path, and emergency services could enter. Letters were sent to:

- Residents whose property backs onto the footpath
- Ward Councillors
- Local businesses who might be affected
- Wycombe LPA Superintendent and Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner
- Rights of Way Team and Local Access Forum

4.4 Responses were received from 7 of the 18 residents whose gardens back onto the footpath, and all fully supported the PSPO being extended and the footpath remaining closed off. Many of them stated that their quality of life had improved significantly since the footpath had been closed, and the incidents of anti-social behaviour had decreased substantially. At either end of the footpath are blocks of flats, whose residents were consulted with. Only one responded, and they also supported the extension of the PSPO.

4.5 The PCC supports the extension of the PSPO, and Supt Burroughs and the Neighbourhood Sergeant for this area responded to say that 'the PSPO thus far has proved to be successful and has significantly reduced the anti-social behaviour and community impact in the area'.

- 4.6 The Ward Councillors were written to. Cllr Mrs Clarke responded and was very supportive of the PSPO being extended.
- 4.7 The Rights of Way Maintenance and Enforcement Team, the Definitive Map and Land Charges Team and Local Access Forum were all supportive of the PSPO extension.
- 4.8 The only objections received to the extension of the PSPO were from the Ramblers Association, the Chiltern Society and the Open Spaces Society. These groups believe the alternative route is not suitable as it is next to a road and that there is no evidence that the continued closure of the footpath will 'eliminate the alleged problem of anti-social behaviour'. Further information concerning their objections is included in Appendix A.
- 4.9 Buckingham Town Centre PSPO. An online consultation survey was produced and was published on the Buckinghamshire Council website. This was promoted via the Community Safety Newsletters and various social media messages.
- 4.10 Overall, 99 people responded to the online survey, with 77% wanting the PSPO to be extended and only 15% opposing the extension. In addition, 65% of those who responded wanted the PSPO to be extended for a further 2 years, compared to only 10% who wanted only 1 year. A full analysis of the results of this survey can be found in Appendix A.
- 4.11 Letters regarding the extension of this PSPO were sent to:
- All Councillors for the Buckingham area (via the Community Board Coordinator)
 - Aylesbury LPA Superintendent and Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner
 - The Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board and Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Manager
 - Buckinghamshire Town Council
- 4.12 The PCC supports the extension of this PSPO, as does Supt Loebenberg who responded to say that 'the ability to encourage compliance ahead of enforcement is a valuable tool in ensuring the efficiency and effectiveness of the police response to anti-social behaviour in the area'.
- 4.13 Buckingham Town Council and Aylesbury Town Council both are supportive of the PSPO being extended.
- 4.14 No objections were received in relation to extending this PSPO.

- 4.15 Winslow and Steeple Claydon PSPO. An online consultation survey was produced and was published on the Buckinghamshire Council website. This was promoted via the Community Safety Newsletters and various social media messages.
- 4.16 Of the 39 people who responded to this survey, almost 90% wanted the PSPO to be extended, and 70% of respondents wanted it extended for 2 years (compared to just 10% who wanted to extend it for only one year). The full results of the survey can be found in Appendix A.
- 4.17 Letters regarding the extension of this PSPO were sent to:
- All Councillors for the Winslow and Steeple Claydon area (via the Community Board Coordinator)
 - Aylesbury LPA Superintendent and Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner
 - The Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board and Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Manager
 - Winslow Town Council and Aylesbury Town Council
- 4.18 The PCC supports the extension of this PSPO, as does Supt Loebenberg who responded to say that ‘the engagement and explanation of the PSPO assists to manage issues arising’.
- 4.19 Winslow Town Council and the Aylesbury Town Council both are supportive of the PSPO being extended.
- 4.20 No objections were received in relation to extending this PSPO.
- 4.21 Parks and Open Spaces, Aylesbury PSPO. An online consultation survey was produced and was published on the Buckinghamshire Council website. This was promoted via the Community Safety Newsletters and via various social media messages.
- 4.22 Overall, 108 people responded to this survey, with 93% of respondents wanting to extend the PSPO, and 89% of respondents wanting it extended for 2 years
- 4.23 Letters regarding the extension of this PSPO were sent to:
- All Councillor for the Aylesbury area (via the Community Board Coordinator).
 - Aylesbury LPA Superintendent and Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner.

- The Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board and Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Manager.
- Aylesbury Town Council.

4.24 The PCC supports the extension of this PSPO, as does Supt Loebenberg who responded to say that ‘without the Parks and Open Spaces PSPO it is likely that police action would displace the issues within Aylesbury Town Centre and thus have a detrimental impact on members of the public who are looking to enjoy the nearby Parks and Open Spaces for the purpose for which they were designed’.

4.25 Aylesbury Town Council is supportive of the PSPO being extended, and one Ward Councillor also gave his support to the extension.

4.26 No objections were received in relation to extending this PSPO.

5 Options considered

5.1 For each of the PSPOs there are three options:

- Extend the PSPO for a further year.
- Extend the PSPO for a further two years.
- Discharge the PSPO.

5.2 PSPOs can be extended for up to three years. However, as part of the work to harmonise policies and produce protocols for implementing the legislation available for dealing with anti-social behaviour, all PSPOs within Buckinghamshire will be reviewed. Therefore, it has been agreed that the renewals for these PSPOs will only be for a maximum of two years.

6 Legal and financial implications

6.1 This report recommends action be taken by the Authority in accordance with legislation, and involves subsequent legal enforcement relevant to that action. The legal parameters laid out within the Act will be considered carefully against the proposal for an Order.

6.2 The penalties for breaches of an Order are fines following a prosecution or Fixed Penalty Notices can be issued where appropriate by authorised officers.

7 Corporate Implications

- 7.1 Extending these PSPOs will meet Buckinghamshire Council's priority of Protecting the Vulnerable by making communities as safe as possible from crime, drugs and anti-social behaviour.
- 7.2 If the West End Road PSPO is not extended there will be a financial cost to the Council to remove the gating already in place, and for removing the signage for all the expiring PSPOs within the specified areas.

8 Next steps and review

- 8.1 The Cabinet Member to take to the Leader for delegated decision on whether to extend the PSPOs for a further two years. Community Safety will update the Co-ordinator and Chair of the relevant Community Boards on progress.

9 Background papers

[Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014](#)

Your questions and views (for key decisions)

If you have any questions about the matters contained in this report please get in touch with the author of this report. If you have any views that you would like the Cabinet Member to consider please inform the democratic services team. This can be done by email democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Appendix A

Consultation results:

West End Road, High Wycombe PSPO

This Order restricts access to a public right of way which runs behind a number of houses. The order authorised the installation of gates which enforce the access restriction. Any person, other than those specified within the Order, who is found on the public right of way will be in breach of this order and will be liable to a fine or penalty.

Consultation method

- Letters were produced which explained why the PSPO had been put in place in 2017 along with the types of anti-social behaviour that was taking place. The letter also showed a map of the area, identifying where the footpath was and the alternative route available. People were asked to feed back their thoughts on the proposed extension via either email or letter.
- Letters were sent to each of the property owners whose rear gardens back onto the footpath.
- Letters were sent to the tenants of the industrial mall which backs onto the other side of the footpath.
- Letters were also distributed to other businesses in the Desborough Road area, as these are located reasonably close to the footpath.
- As per the legislation, letters were sent to the Wycombe LPA Superintendent and the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- Via the Buckinghamshire Council Strategic Access Officer, the views were sought from the Local Access Forum, the Right of Way Team and the Definitive Maps Team.
- The Community Board Coordinator was also notified that the consultation was taking place, and the Councillors for the area were sent a letter asking for their views.

Responses

- Overall, 7 residents, from the 18 who were written to, responded to say they support the extension of the PSPO. Some of the comments that were made in support of the PSPO are:

“Since the alleyway has been closed it has transformed how we use our back garden. I can let my two year old play without fear of broken glass or beer cans or the worry that they will hear the drunken fights or other aggressive behaviour we used to experience.

Over the last 3 years we have been able to enjoy our property and garden, we've been able to sleep at night without being woken up in the early hours by antisocial behaviour (people drinking and taking drugs in the alley)...We have also not needed to call the police at all with regards to any activity in the alley or because we felt physically threatened.

I cannot thank you enough for shutting this alleyway in October 2017, the change it made to our family life was enormous...Whilst the alleyway was open it was a regular routine to collect discarded drinking vessels tossed into the garden, hypodermic needles from behind our shed, used condoms and also having a mattress placed against our fence and set alight at 3am, the children were terrified.

...since the alley has closed, life for us as a family and a street of neighbours has drastically changed for the better. We love our neighbours, spend time chatting with one another over our short fences, which we chose to create this community atmosphere. Many people are impressed with our close community and I ask you to protect this and also our safety."

- Supt Burroughs and Neighbourhood Sgt Surman support the extension of the PSPO. See Appendix B for their full response.
- The following also responded to say they support the extension of this PSPO:
 - PCC Anthony Stansfeld
 - The Property Manager for the Winstanley flats at one end of the footpath.
 - One of the ward Councillors
 - The Rights of Way Maintenance and Enforcement Team and the Definitive Map and Land Charges Team.
- The Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum raised the West End Road PSPO extension at their meeting in September. Following a discussion, where the member from the Chiltern Society raised an objection, 7 other members of the group supported the extension (see Appendix B for their full response).
- Whilst the businesses were written to, asking for their feedback regarding the proposed extension to the PSPO, no responses were received.
- Objections to extending the PSPO were received from the Ramblers' Association, the Chiltern Society and the Open Spaces Society. Some the objections raised include:

"We have seen no evidence that continuing to close the path will eliminate the alleged problem of anti-social behaviour, it will merely push the problem onto another section of path which the council may then consider closing. If the paths are well lit and welcoming, crime is less likely to occur...The proposed alternative route, around three sides of a rectangle, is inferior. It is further, next to traffic, and along footways which are partly

obstructed by rubbish bins. It will have an adverse effect on people who use this path as a short cut; it is direct and free of traffic and very convenient to them. The alternative is not reasonably convenient; it is further and alongside traffic, with inadequate footways in places.

Closing back alleys as a means of preventing anti-social behaviour is totally pointless as it simply displaces it somewhere else. The perpetrators are hardly likely to abandon this behaviour just because they do not have this alleyway to do it in.

The whole point of back alleys is to create pedestrian short cuts through urban areas. The fewer of them there are, the more indirect routes become and so the more likely people are to use motor vehicles instead. Closing back alleys is therefore environmentally counterproductive.”

- Many of the issues that were flagged by the above objections were raised when the PSPOs were initially consulted upon in 2017. Consideration was given to displacement, but the location of this short footpath is very close to an off-licence. Whilst closing the footpath would not stop people purchasing alcohol, the nearest ‘alternative’ location was not residential. The difference in distance between using the footpath, and instead walking in front of the houses on West End Road is 76 metres – which would take approximately one additional minute to walk. Although this route does have a road next to it, there is a pavement and it is not a main road.

Buckingham Town Centre

In the restricted area any person who fails to comply with an authorised officer or police constable’s request (a) not to consume or (b) to surrender alcohol in their possession commits an offence.

Consultation Method

- Letters were produced which explained why the PSPO had been put in place in 2017 along with the types of anti-social behaviour that was taking place. People were asked to feed back their thoughts on the proposed extension via either email or letter, or they were directed to the online survey.
- Letters were shared with the Community Board Coordinators so that could then be shared with the appropriate Councillors.
- As per the legislation, letters were sent to the Wycombe LPA Superintendent and the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- A letter was also sent to Buckingham Town Council and to the Safeguarding Partnership Manager (as they had been consulted when the PSPO was first put in place).

- An online survey was produced which ran for 4 weeks.

Responses

- Supt Loebenberg supports the extension of the PSPO. See Appendix C for his full response.
- The following also responded to say they support the extension of this PSPO:
 - PCC Anthony Stansfeld
 - The Safeguarding Partnership Manager
 - Buckingham Town Clerk
 - Aylesbury Town Clerk

Survey Results

- Responses were received from 99 people. 78% of respondents supported the PSPO being extended, whilst 15% did not.
- 64% of respondents wanted the PSPO extended for 2 years, whilst 10% only wanted it for another year.
- 55% of respondents think that alcohol related anti-social behaviour is an issue within Buckingham, whereas only 20% felt it wasn't an issue.
- When asked whether they thought that alcohol related anti-social behaviour had reduced since 2017, only 26% of respondents answered positively. 28% of respondents felt it had not improved and 43% were not sure.
- The following chart shows the breakdown of who responded:

Resident within PSPO area	57
Resident outside of the PSPO area	30
Someone who visits the PSPO area	13
Resident living somewhere else	4
A local Councillor or MP	4
Someone who works or owns a business in the PSPO area	2
An official representative of a local community or voluntary group	1
Someone who works or owns a business somewhere else	0

Winslow and Steeple Claydon

In the restricted areas any person who fails to comply with an authorised officer or police constable's request (a) not to consume or (b) to surrender alcohol in their possession commits an offence.

Consultation Method

- Letters were produced which explained why the PSPO had been put in place in 2017 along with the types of anti-social behaviour that was taking place. People were either asked to feed back their thoughts on the proposed extension via either email or letter, or they were directed to the online survey.
- Letters were shared with the Community Board Coordinators so that could then be shared with the appropriate Councillors.
- As per the legislation, letters were sent to the Wycombe LPA Superintendent and the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- A letter was also sent to the Winslow Town Council and to the Safeguarding Partnership Manager (as they had been consulted when the PPSO were first put in place).
- An online survey was produced which ran for 4 weeks.

Responses

- Supt Loebenberg supports the extension of the PSPO. See Appendix C for his full response.
- The following also responded to say they support the extension of this PSPO:
 - PCC Anthony Stansfeld
 - The Safeguarding Partnership Manager
 - Winslow Town Clerk
 - Aylesbury Town Clerk

Survey Results

- Responses were received from 39 people. 90% of respondents supported the PSPO being extended, whilst only 6% did not.
- 77% of respondents wanted the PSPO extended for 2 years, whilst 10% only wanted it for another year.
- 67% of respondents think that alcohol related anti-social behaviour is an issue within Winslow and Steeple Claydon, whereas only 13% felt it wasn't an issue.

- When asked whether they thought that alcohol related anti-social behaviour had reduced since 2017, only 15% of respondents answered positively. 46% of respondents felt it had not improved and 38% were not sure.
- The following chart shows the breakdown of who responded:

Resident within PSPO area	31
Resident outside of the PSPO area	7
Resident living somewhere else	1
Someone who works or owns a business in the PSPO area	1

Parks and Open Spaces, Aylesbury

In the restricted areas (see below) any person who fails to comply with an authorised officer or police constable's request (a) not to consume or (b) to surrender alcohol in their possession commits an offence.

This order was varied on 9 September 2019 to include an additional prohibition on the use of mechanically propelled vehicles in a way that has caused or may be capable of causing nuisance and/or annoyance in the specified restricted areas*.

Specified restricted areas

Location	Location
Alfred Rose Memorial Park*	Walton Court Centre
Bateman Drive	Elm Green
Bedgrove Park and Spinney*	Haddington Way
Carlton Close	Haydon Hill
Aylesbury Cemetery	Riverside Walk
Dunsham Park	Bowlers Field
The Coppice	Oakfield Road
Cottesloe Open Space	Vale Park
Denby Walk and Victoria Park	Somerville Way
Blackwater Drive Open Space	Simpson Place
Edinburgh and Walton Court Playing Fields*	Waivers Way
	Whitehill

Consultation Method

- Letters were produced which explained why the PSPO had been put in place in 2017 along with the types of anti-social behaviour that was taking place. People were

either asked to feed back their thoughts on the proposed extension via either email or letter, or they were directed to the online survey.

- Letters were shared with the Community Board Coordinators so that could then be shared with the appropriate Councillors.
- As per the legislation, letters were sent to the Wycombe LPA Superintendent and the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- A letter was also sent to the Aylesbury Town Council and to the Safeguarding Partnership Manager (as they had been consulted when the PPSO were first put in place).
- An online survey was produced which ran for 4 weeks.

Responses

- Supt Loebenberg supports the extension of the PPSO. See Appendix C for his full response.
- The following also responded to say they support the extension of this PPSO:
 - PCC Anthony Stansfeld
 - The Safeguarding Partnership Manager
 - Aylesbury Town Clerk
 - One local ward Councillor

Survey Results

- Responses were received from 108 people. 93% of respondents supported the PPSO being extended, whilst only 5% did not.
- 88% of respondents wanted the PPSO extended for 2 years, whilst 3% only wanted it for another year.
- 72% of respondents think that alcohol related anti-social behaviour is an issue within the specified parks and open spaces (see above), whereas only 6% felt it wasn't an issue.
- When asked whether they thought that alcohol related anti-social behaviour had reduced since 2017, only 17% of respondents answered positively. 44% of respondents felt it had not improved and 39% were not sure.
- 55% of respondents think that the anti-social use of mechanically-propelled vehicles is an issue within the specified parks and open spaces (*see above), whereas only 8% felt it wasn't an issue.
- When asked whether they thought that the anti-social use of mechanically-propelled vehicles had reduced since 2017, only 13% of respondents answered positively. 41% of respondents felt it had not improved and 37% were not sure.

- The following chart shows the breakdown of who responded:

Resident within PSPO area	105
Someone who visits parks and open spaces in the Aylesbury area	48
Someone who works or owns a business in the PSPO area	13
An official representative of a local community or voluntary group	3
A local Councillor or MP	2

The following table shows which parks or open spaces respondents felt had issues with alcohol-related anti-social behaviour and the anti-social use of mechanically-propelled vehicles (more than one location could be selected for each):

Park/Open Space	Number of people who feel this area has issues with alcohol-related ASB	Number of people who feel this areas has issues with the anti-social use of mechanically-propelled vehicles
Whitehill	17	
Bedgrove Park and Spinney	46	41
Edinburgh and Walton Court Playing Fields	34	27
Walton Court Centre	28	
Vale Park	25	
Alfred Rose Memorial Park	25	13
Aylesbury Cemetery	10	
The Coppice	9	
Oakfield Road	7	
Haydon Hill	7	
Blackwater Drive Open Space	7	
Riverside Walk	6	
Dunsham Park	6	
Elm Green	4	
Somerville Way	3	
Cottesloe Open Space	3	

Bowlers Field	3	
Haddington Way	2	
Carlton Close	2	
Waivers Way	1	
Denby Walk and Victoria Park	1	

Appendix B

Supporting email from Sgt Surman

Good Morning,

As the Neighbourhood Policing Sergeant for the High Wycombe area I have been asked to review and respond to the letter sent to Supt. Burroughs regarding the possible extension of the West End Road footpath (HWU/80/1) Public Space Protection Order (PSPO).

Within my role I often liaise directly with ASB and community safety officers within the local council and work in partnership with them to keep the High Wycombe area as safe as possible and to ensure that our communities can live in the area peacefully, this allows me to have a good understanding and working knowledge of vulnerable areas. I am aware of all the PSPO's currently active in High Wycombe and I provide the following comments relating to the extension review for West End Road, HW;

The West End Road footpath location is central to High Wycombe's town centre. It sits in close proximity to the Eden Shopping Centre. This area experiences problems with street drinking, drug abuse and noise and graffiti throughout the day and night. The area is residential and the issue impacts heavily on the local community who suffer as a result of the ASB.

The current PSPO secures the footpath using gates to prevent entry to unauthorised persons. The PSPO is not restrictive to the community and other suitable, safe routes are in place for the community to use without this footpath being open to the general public. The PSPO thus far has proved to be successful and has significantly reduced the ASB and community impact in the area. Due to the geography and current street drinking issues in this location I strongly fear that if the PSPO expires the footpath will become a target for street drinkers and will encourage the same issues we have previously faced (damage to property, noise, littering etc.). I also would fear that without the PSPO the area will become a hotspot for prostitution which is also a problem in this area of High Wycombe. Without the PSPO in place it becomes very challenging to police and does not provide an appropriate deterrent to those causing the issues. The PSPO allows for an effective partnership response to combat the issues of ASB in the area and acts in the best interest of the local community, improving their quality of day to day life living in the area. On behalf of the Wycombe neighbourhood policing team I fully support the extension of the PSPO for a further three year period. I make no objections.

I hope my comments are helpful, if you need to discuss this matter any further then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kindest Regards,
Sgt James Surman

PS James SURMAN | Neighbourhood Sergeant (Urban Engagement) | Internal: 312 6175 Mobile 07971079906 | High Wycombe LPA | Email: james.surman@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum Response

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Sarah McBrearty
Localities & Strategic Partnerships
Service Deputy Chief Executive's
Department
Buckinghamshire Council

23rd September 2020

The Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum is an independent, statutory advisory body on all matters relating to countryside access, with 13 members representing a wide range of interests including farmers, landowners, walkers, cyclists, equestrians, parish councils, National Trust and those with disabilities.

FOOTPATH HWU/80/1 – PROPOSED PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER

Dear Sarah,

The above matter was discussed at the most recent meeting of the Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum on 23rd September 2020 and I would like to summarise the debate and subsequent vote. Cllr Lesley Clarke was unable to attend the meeting, but her sentiments were summarized in support of renewing the closure. A recording of the debate can be accessed here: <https://buckinghamshire.publici.tv/core/portal/home>

The vice-chair, David Briggs, representing the Country Land and Business Association, open the discussion by stating he would like to see measures introduced other than an outright closure.

Cllr Alan Turner voiced his support for renewing the closure due to ongoing antisocial behaviour which was worrying for residents, such as drug-taking and drug dealing. He stated there was an ongoing program of regeneration in the Desborough Road area of High Wycombe and hoped the outcome of this work would mean the closure would be unnecessary beyond 3 years. The alternative route for walkers was relatively short and convenient. Chris Hurworth, who lives in High Wycombe, supported the closure, a sentiment reiterated by members representing cyclists (Richard Jennings); the National Trust (Neil Harris); carriage drivers (Brian Bowman); and British Horse Society (Alison Heath).

Andrew Clark (Chiltern Society) spoke against the closure, suggesting the existing route of HWU/80/1 was convenient, being a linear continuation of the previous footpath, and the roadside route displaces walkers to a longer alternative which was less pleasant beside

traffic. Would the anti-social behaviour simply be displaced, risking an additional footpath closure elsewhere?

A vote was taken with the following result:

FOR extending the closure for a further 3-years.

Chris Hurworth, David Briggs, Neill Harris, Cllr Alan Turner, Richard Jennings, Brian Worrell and Alison Health.

AGAINST extending the closure for a further 3-years.

Andrew Clark

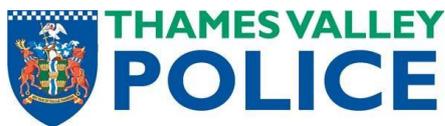
In summary, by a majority of seven to one of those voting at the meeting, the Local Access Forum supported the council's proposal to extend the closure for an additional 3-year period.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Pushman', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Richard Pushman (Chairman)

Appendix C
Supporting letter from Supt. Loebenberg



Local Police Area Commander
Aylesbury Vale

Aylesbury Police Station
Wendover Road
Aylesbury
HP21 7LA

Hayley Holding
Administrative Support Officer
Email: Hayley.Holding@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Date: 21 September 2020

Dear Chris,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the consultation on the extension of the three Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) currently being considered for Buckingham Town Centre, Winslow and Steeple Claydon, and the Parks and Open Spaces. PSPOs are a key tool used within Aylesbury Vale in support of the Community Safety Partnership aim for Buckinghamshire to continue to be one of the safest places to grow up, raise a family, live, work and do business.

The Council has the power to implement a PSPO, if satisfied, on reasonable grounds, that two conditions have been met. The first condition is that: *“activities carried out in a public place within the authority’s area have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, or it is likely that activities will be carried out in a public place within that area and that they will have such an effect”*. The second condition is that *“the effect, or likely effect, of the activities: is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature or is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable, and justifies the restriction imposed by the notice”*.

With regard to the Parks and Open Spaces PSPO, there are a number of parks listed that are located within residential areas. We are aware from the regularity of calls which we respond to from the public, as well as the experiences of our officers, that

some of these locations have experienced cyclical and persistent anti-social behaviour, such as Edinburgh Playing Fields and Alfred Rose Park. The PSPO is a key part of our response to these incidents.

Whilst across Aylesbury Vale we have rarely had to enforce PSPOs through the use of fixed penalty notices, they have enabled Police Officers to deal with low level anti-social behaviour effectively as part of our 'no surprises' approach. This approach sees our officers engaging with those acting in an anti-social manner, explaining what is required of them and encouraging compliance – enforcement is only used when necessary, but without the PSPO it is our belief that there would be a reduced ability to encourage appropriate behaviours and there would be no power to enforce should an individual ultimately refuse our requests.

In the last 12 months much of our enforcement of the existing PSPOs has focused in the Aylesbury Town Centre. Without the Parks and Open Spaces PSPO it is likely that police action would displace the issues within Aylesbury Town Centre and thus have a detrimental impact on members of the public who are looking to enjoy the nearby Parks and Open Spaces for the purpose for which they were designed.

With respect of Buckingham Town Centre, our officers advise that the PSPO is used in management of street drinking as well as behaviour of the public particularly within the night-time economy. Similar to my comments above, the ability to encourage compliance ahead of enforcement is a valuable tool in ensuring the efficiency and effectiveness of the police response to anti-social behaviour in the area.

With respect of the Winslow and Steeple Claydon PSPO, the Winslow Neighbourhood Policing Team advise that they use the existing PSPO most commonly to prevent antisocial behaviour and drinking behind premises on Elmsfields Gate and High Street, Winslow. Whilst no fixed penalty notices have been issued there, the engagement and explanation of the PSPO assists to manage issues arising. There is no recent reported alcohol related disorder in Steeple Claydon recorded on police systems. We are aware that in the past, Steeple Claydon social media pages have carried reports of inappropriate behaviour by children in the park in the village; however whenever the PCSOs have patrolled and spoken to those apparently involved, they have been positive to engage with and there has been no indication of alcohol or drugs.

For the reasons outlined, I support the extension of the PSPOs being consulted on, which support our work in protecting communities to safely enjoy those locations.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'ML', written in a cursive style.

Michael Loebenberg

Local Police Area Commander for Aylesbury