



...on proposed Public Space Protection Orders in Poole

This leaflet gives information on proposed Public Space Protection Orders being introduced in several areas of Poole. Please read it carefully before completing the questionnaire(s) to give your views.

Why are we asking for your views?

You might live in one of the areas covered by the proposed Public Space Protection Orders, work there or be a visitor to the area. We'd like to hear your views on the proposals, how they may affect you, and any alternative options you would suggest.

What is a Public Space Protection Order?

Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) were introduced in 2014. Councils across the UK use PSPOs to help reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour in public spaces.

The orders are placed on specific geographical areas, and make it a criminal offence to carry out certain anti-social behaviours in that area. The council, in consultation with residents and businesses, can decide which behaviours are included in the order. These could include drinking on the street, littering, taking drugs or allowing dogs to foul on the pavement.

Once an order is made, anyone breaching it is committing a criminal offence and can be punished either by a fixed penalty notice of £100 or a prosecution. Failure to pay a fixed penalty notice could also lead to prosecution. The PSPO measures apply to anyone aged 16 years and above and enforcement in this area is carried out by Dorset Police and authorised Safer Communities Officers. Persistent offenders who are found guilty of a breach of the PSPO can also be considered for a Criminal Behaviour Order upon conviction of the breach.

In order to introduce a PSPO, the council must prove that the behaviours contained in the order affect the quality of life for local communities. The named behaviours must be persistent and unreasonable.

Two areas of Poole are already subject to a PSPO – Ashley Road and the surrounding area, and Alexandra Park. These were introduced in December 2014.

Why is this being considered?

Some parts of Poole currently have Designated Public Places Orders (DPPO) which gives Dorset Police some powers to tackle anti-social behaviour. However, these orders will come to an end in October 2017. If we want to replace them, we must do so via a Public Spaces Protection Order.



In the past few years, incidents of anti-social behaviour have increased, particularly in Poole Town Centre. This behaviour requires an increasing amount of time and resources for Borough of Poole, Dorset Police and other partners. We believe a PSPO is the best way to help us reduce these issues.

What proposals are being considered?

The Council would like to introduce a new PSPO for Poole Town and Holes Bay, to replace a previous DPPO. This would cover the town centre and Quay, as well as parts of Poole Park and Tatnam. We have also been asked by residents in the Sterte area to consider extending this PSPO to cover their area as well.

In addition, we would like to renew and extend the powers of the existing PSPOs for Ashley Road and Alexandra Park.

It is proposed that each PSPO be in place for the maximum allowed three years.

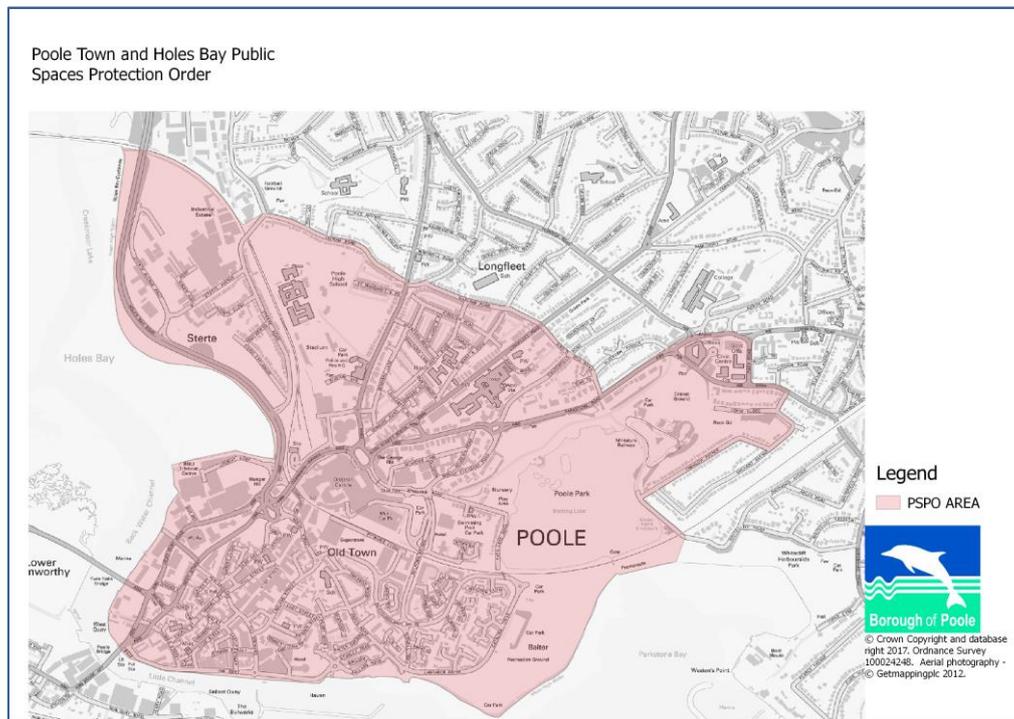
Although we already know that we would like to place a PSPO on these key areas in Poole, the behaviours to be included in each order are yet to be determined. This is why we are asking for your views.

Following the consultation, we would look to introduce the orders later this year.

Poole Town and Holes Bay

We believe that the town centre and Quay are important to the vitality, well-being and success of Poole. The area attracts many visitors and we want them to have a positive experience of the town. However, in April 2017 alone there were 567 reports to Dorset Police of anti-social behaviour in the town centre. This included things like street drinking, begging, drug dealing and taking, and shoplifting.

It has been agreed that a PSPO be introduced in Poole Town and Holes Bay to help reduce these issues, and support some of the people responsible for these behaviours by signposting them to the help and advice available from different council services. Following a request by residents, the area covered by the PSPO will include Sterte. The scope of the proposed PSPO is outlined in the map overleaf.



The proposed behaviours that will be covered under the Poole Town and Holes Bay PSPO are outlined below.

Proposed PSPO measures for Poole Town and Holes Bay:

- 1. Unless someone has a reasonable excuse, they will stop drinking alcohol and/or hand over any containers (sealed or unsealed) believed to contain alcohol, when asked to do so by a constable or authorised officer.**

This measure aims to address those who drink alcohol to excess on streets or in public open spaces, and subsequently cause disorder including verbal abuse or threats made to other members of the public.

- 2. No one should approach another person in order to beg for money, food or drink either by the use of a sign, making gestures or verbally.**
- 3. No one can sit or loiter in a public place with a container used to collect money for the purposes of begging.**

Measures 2 and 3 are designed to address people who either ask directly for money or have a receptacle on the ground into which money is placed.

- 4. No one can sleep overnight in a car park operated by Borough of Poole or any private company. This will also apply to sleeping in the doorways of shops, churches and offices, or in any vehicle not designed for the purpose of sleeping.**



Measure 4 aims to address rough sleeping and related anti-social behaviour. No one should need to sleep rough in Poole. The council's Housing Options service *St. Mungo's* outreach team, the *Salvation Army* and *Routes to Roots* can all provide help and support with housing and benefits, addictions and mental health issues.

- 5. No one can possess, supply or use illegal substances or so-called 'legal highs'. People will be required to surrender any such substances in their possession when asked to do so by a constable or authorised officer.**

This measure tackles the dealing and possession of drugs which we know takes place in some areas of Poole. Sometimes this activity is openly witnessed by members of the public, who have also reported finding drug-taking equipment discarded in public locations. This measure would give Dorset Police and council officers more powers to deal with this activity.

- 6. Unless someone has a reasonable excuse, no one should continue with activities that are prohibited by the Order in the designated area. These are:**

6.1 - Behaving in a way that causes or is likely to cause nuisance, harassment, alarm or distress to any other person.

6.2 - Refusing to leave retail or licensed premises when requested to do so by management, staff, security, constable or authorised officer.

- 7. No one should commit an offence within the designated area and fail to leave the area without a reasonable excuse, or return within 48 hours of the offence when instructed to do so by a constable or authorised officer.**

Measures 6 and 7 will provide more powers to Dorset Police and council officers to deal with nuisance behaviour such as verbal abuse, swearing, threats and intimidation. Measure 6.2 in particular will allow officers to prevent shoplifting and abuse by known offenders, whilst Measure 7 will allow officers to disperse and keep away those who cause more harmful anti-social behaviour or public disorder, particularly street drinkers.

Ashley Road and surrounding areas

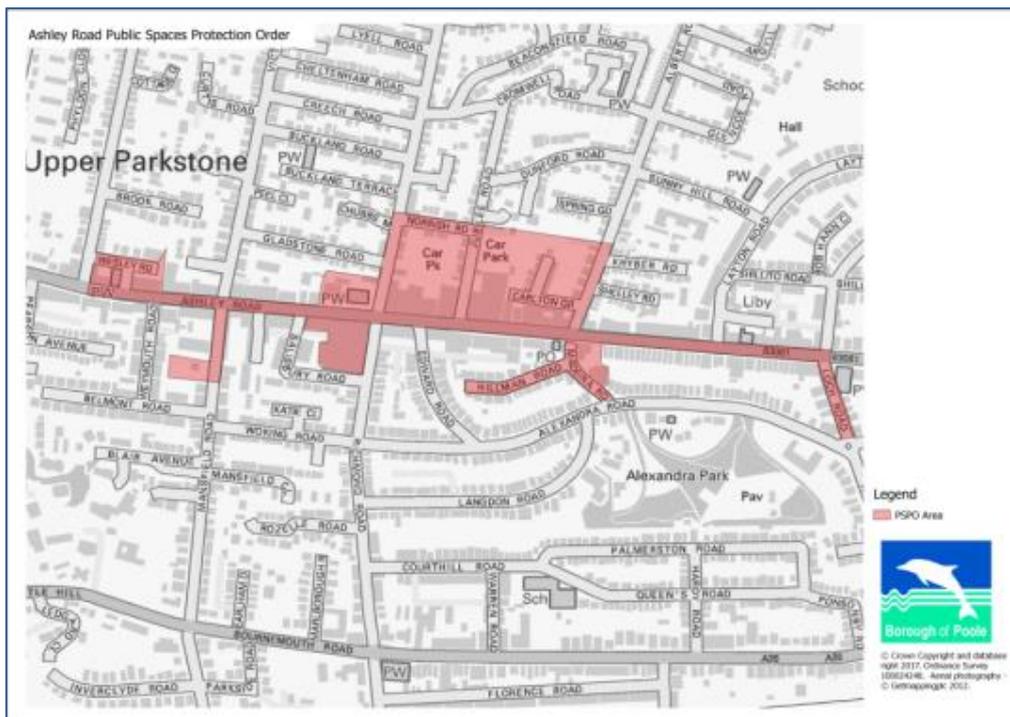
The existing PSPO for this area covers the section of Ashley Road in between the junctions with Loch Road and Uppleby Road. Under the current order, which came into force in December 2014, anyone within this area is banned from:

- drinking alcohol
- having an open container of alcohol in their possession
- begging for money from members of the public



Since the introduction of the existing PSPO we have seen a reduction in alcohol-related anti-social behaviour, but are still receiving reports of drug-related activities. Therefore we propose to extend the PSPO to include additional measures also being considered for the Poole Town and Holes Bay PSPO. The measures proposed for Ashley Road are numbers **1, 2, 3, 5, 6** and **7** as outlined in more detail above.

The scope of the proposed PSPO is outlined in the map below.



Alexandra Park

Alexandra Park is also already covered by an existing order. The measures included in the current order are:

- drinking alcohol
- littering
- graffiti

Dog owners are also required to clean up after their dog or risk being in breach of the order.

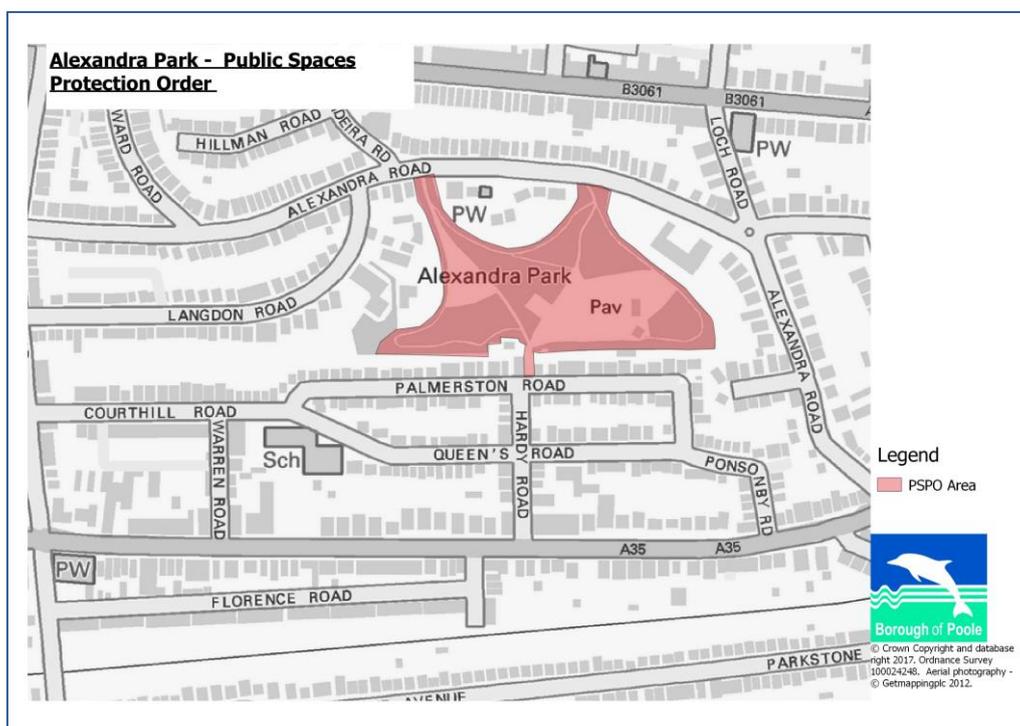
The proposed extension of this order is linked to the proposal for Ashley Road as perpetrators of anti-social behaviour often move between the two locations. It is proposed that the new order for Alexandra Park contains measures **1, 2, 3, 5, 6** and **7** as outlined in more detail above.



In addition, it is proposed that the Alexandra Park PSPO contains two further measures specific to this area, which are:

- All persons are required to pick up and properly dispose of their dog's faeces in the bins provided
- Without permission, no one can sleep overnight in the park between the hours of dusk and dawn

The scope of the proposed PSPO is outlined in the map below.



When does the consultation period end?

The closing date for the consultation is **Monday 16 October 2017**.

What happens next?

Once the consultation feedback has been analysed, the results will be used to inform which measures will be included in the three PSPOs. The results of the consultation will be added to the website at www.poole.gov.uk/pspo

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