

Appendices –

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**NORTHAMPTON**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

## CABINET REPORT

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>REVIEW OF PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER 2017</b>
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**AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC**

<b>Cabinet Meeting Date:</b>	22 July 2020
<b>Key Decision:</b>	Yes
<b>Within Policy:</b>	Yes
<b>Policy Document:</b>	No
<b>Directorate:</b>	Community Safety & Engagement
<b>Accountable Cabinet Member:</b>	Cllr Anna King
<b>Ward(s)</b>	All

### 1. Purpose

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- 1.1 To ask Cabinet to agree to make a Public Spaces Protection Order (“PSPO”) as set out in sections 59 to 68 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (“the Act”) to replace the now expired PSPO made in 2017 and in line with the results of the consultation carried out between 17 December 2019 and 10 March 2020.

### 2. Recommendations

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That Cabinet:

- 2.1.1 Resolve to make a PSPO which prohibits only the activities recommended in paragraphs 3.2.6, 3.2.8, 3.2.11, 3.2.17, 3.2.20, 3.2.23 and 3.2.27 and 3.2.30 of this

report for a period of three years, after taking into account the results of the recent public consultation.

- 2.1.2 Delegate to the Borough Secretary, in consultation with the Chief Executive, the authority to draft a PSPO including only the prohibitions recommended by the paragraphs described at 2.1.1 so as to ensure the enforceability of those prohibitions included in the final Order which will be made in accordance with the same resolution.
- 2.1.3 Resolve to delegate to the Borough Secretary the authority to comply with all legal steps and processes required by Chapter 2 of Part 4 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 for the Council to make a PSPO in accordance with the resolution at paragraphs 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 above.
- 2.1.4 Delegate to the Chief Executive authority to enforce a PSPO made in accordance with the resolution at paragraph 2.1.1 and to authorise appropriately trained persons to issue fixed penalties of £100 to any person committing an offence under section 67 of the Act.

### **3. Issues and Choices**

#### **3.1 Report Background**

- 3.1.1 On 20<sup>th</sup> October 2014 the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 came into force. The purpose of the Act was to give local authorities and the Police more effective powers to tackle unreasonable conduct which effectively amounts to anti-social behaviour (“ASB”), providing better protection for those living in the locality. Amongst these new tools and powers are PSPOs, which are designed to stop all individuals or a specific class of persons committing anti-social behaviour in a public space.
- 3.1.2 The statutory criteria that must be satisfied on reasonable grounds when considering whether to make a PSPO are;
  - a) that activities carried on in a public place within the local authority’s area have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality or it is likely that such activities will be carried on and they will have such an affect and
  - b) that the conduct is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature, such as to make the activities unreasonable and justifies the restrictions to be imposed by an Order.

- 3.1.3 There is a requirement to undertake a statutory public consultation exercise and to consider any responses prior to making any PSPO. The Council must consult with the following for the proposed area to be restricted;
- (a) the chief officer of police, and the local policing body for the area;
  - (b) whatever community representatives the local authority thinks it appropriate to consult;
  - (c) the owner or occupier of land within the area;
  - (d) the parish council or community council (if any) for the area and
  - (e) the county council (if any) for the area.
- 3.1.4 PSPOs provide Councils with a power to implement local restrictions to address a range of anti-social behaviour issues in public places in order to prevent future problems, as well as power to enforce those restrictions flexibly as appropriate in any given situation. It is important that PSPOs are used proportionately and that they are not seen to be targeting behaviour of children/young people where there is a lack of tolerance and understanding by local people.
- 3.1.5 Restrictions and requirements can be placed on an area where activities have, or are likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of local people, are persistent or continuing in nature and are unreasonable. These can be blanket restrictions or requirements or can be targeted against certain behaviours or certain groups at certain times.
- 3.1.6 The legislation provides they can be extended at the end of the period, but only for a further maximum period of up to three years at a time, although PSPOs can be extended more than once. Local authorities can increase or reduce the restricted area of an existing order, amend or remove a prohibition or requirement, or add a new prohibition or requirement, provided there is evidence that applicable activities are having the required effect on those within the locality. They can also discharge a PSPO. Both variation and discharge are subject to the same statutory consultation requirements.
- 3.1.7 Enforcement may be shared between the Council and the Police. Breach of a PSPO is a criminal offence which can result in the issuing of a Fixed Penalty Notice ("FPN") for a maximum of £100 or a prosecution resulting in a fine of up to £1,000 on conviction. Enforcement can be undertaken by Council Officers, any person designated by a local authority for the purpose of issuing fines for breaches of a PSPO and Police officers. Police Community Support Officers are no longer permitted by the 2014 Act to issue FPNs for breaches of any PSPO.

- 3.1.8 Once the PSPO has been made the Council must publish it on its website and ensure that sufficient signage is in place in the areas in which any restrictions will apply.
- 3.1.9 On 16 October 2019 Cabinet authorised the undertaking of a statutory consultation on the review of a new PSPO which could contain some applicable activities that were not included in the previous PSPO.

### **3.2 Outcome of Consultation**

3.2.1 The Council engaged in a 12 week online public consultation via an open access online survey using 'Survey Monkey'. This was promoted through;

- Council social media sites
- Councillors for individual Wards
- The Community Safety Partnership
- Council Officers
- Northamptonshire Office of Police & Crime Commissioner
- Northamptonshire Police
- Northamptonshire County Council
- Members of the public
- Local press and media channels
- NBC Social media
- Northampton Town Centre BID
- Northampton's Forums

Paper copies of the consultation were also made available on request.

- 3.2.2 The consultation sought views on various behaviours. Full results of the consultation, and all comments, are available to view in Appendices 1 and 2. The Council received 515 responses to this consultation in total, although not all responders answered every question.
- 3.2.3 Some comments asked why certain activities were not proposed to be restricted across the Borough. In considering what activities are restricted in which areas, there must be evidence that any activity proposed to be restricted by way of PSPO is, or is likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of those living in the locality affected. We also need to consider the likelihood of the PSPO being enforced for that behaviour in any particular area as well as any potential displacement of ASB into neighbouring areas.
- 3.2.4 86.91% of the responders believed that continuing to authorise Police officers and the Council to regulate ASB caused throughout the Borough by the consumption of alcohol in public places open to the air would be justified in order to that ASB. 6.84% did not feel it was justified and 6.25% have no opinion.

- 3.2.5 Most of the comments received with regard to alcohol and drug use related ASB were around homeless persons. However, this item would also cover the night-time economy to a limited extent.
- 3.2.6 It is recommended that restriction prohibiting the consumption of alcohol in public spaces across the Borough is included within the proposed PSPO. .**
- 3.2.7 92.19% of responders believed that continuing to prohibit non-prescription drug use in public places open to the air Northampton was justified in order to prevent ASB. Use of prohibited drugs is not a criminal offence and so such a prohibition in a PSPO will be lawful.  
3.91% did not feel it was justified and 3.91% did not have an opinion.
- 3.2.8 It is recommended that non-prescription drug use in a public place open to the air is prohibited across the Borough and included within the proposed PSPO.**
- 3.2.9 95.28% of responders thought that continuing to prohibit public urination and/or defecation in public in Northampton was justified. 2.36% did not feel it was justified and 2.36% did not have an opinion.
- 3.2.10 Several comments were made on this issue, mainly around the provision of public toilets. However, most of the issues are during the night-time economy as people moved from bar to bar – toilets are, of course, available in all the licenced premises
- 3.2.11 It is recommended that urination and/or defecation in a public space open to the air (which would exclude public toilets) is prohibited across the Borough and included within the proposed PSPO.**
- 3.2.12 65.75% of responders thought continuing to prohibit begging in public areas open to the air in the town centre and Kingsley front was justified. 22.44% did not think it was justified and 11.81% did not have an opinion.
- 3.2.13 A submission was received from Liberty (Appendix 4) speaking against this proposal stating it is wrong and potentially unlawful. The content of this letter is addressed in the legal comments at paragraph 4.3 below.
- 3.2.14 Since the consultation and lockdown, much has changed, including the temporary housing of homeless persons by the Council, affording a unique opportunity to work with this category of persons with regard to ASB caused by begging. As they will be the category of persons most affected by, it is recommended that a decision on the inclusion of this prohibition in the proposed PSPO is delayed whilst the Council continues to house the majority of the town's homeless population**

3.2.15 98.43% of responders thought continuing to prohibit dog walkers from failing to remove their dog faeces from all public places in Northampton and requiring them to dispose of them in a bin would be justified. 0.39% did not think it was justified and 1.18% did not have an opinion.

3.2.16 Comments were supportive of this item.

**3.2.17 It is recommended that failing to remove dog faeces is prohibited across the Borough and included within the proposed PSPO.**

3.2.18 73.40% of responders thought continuing to prohibit dog walkers from having their dog off a lead in any children's play area across the Borough was justified. 19.60% thought it was not justified and 7.00% did not have an opinion.

3.2.19 Comments were supportive of this item.

**3.2.20 It is recommended that a prohibition on dogs being off lead in a children's play area across the Borough is included within the proposed PSPO**

3.2.21 88.71% of responders thought continuing to prohibit dog walkers from having their dog off the lead in cemeteries was justified. 5.95% did not think it was justified and 5.34% did not have an opinion.

3.2.22 No specific comments were received on this item.

**3.2.23 It is recommended that a prohibition on dogs being off lead whilst in any cemetery across the Borough is included within the proposed PSPO**

3.2.24 48.13% of people considered a time limit on any person or performing street entertainment in the town centre and Kingsley front a good idea. 37.48% felt it was not a good idea and 14.40% did not have an opinion.

3.2.25 19.11% felt an hour or less was appropriate. 20.33% felt 2 hours or less was appropriate. 10.57% felt 3 hours or less was appropriate and 4.67% felt it should be over 3 hours. 45.66% had no opinion.

3.2.26 Quite a few comments were received supporting busking and wanting it to be encouraged rather than restricted.

**3.2.27 It is recommended that a restriction on the length of time any person may perform street entertainment in the town centre and Kingsley Front is not included in the Order.**

3.2.28 84.19% of responders thought that prohibiting persons from spitting in a public place within Northampton was justified. 9.29% did not think it was justified and 6.52% did not have an opinion.

3.2.29 Prohibiting spitting in a public place was included following several requests from the general public. The consultation was concluded before lockdown due to Coronavirus and it is a possibility that it would receive more support if consulted on now.

**3.2.30 It is recommended is that spitting in a public place open to the air anywhere in the Borough is prohibited.**

### **3.3 Additional Comments from the Consultation**

The general public were asked if they felt that there were any other activities that had, or were likely to have a detrimental impact on the quality of life in their locality.

3.3.1 Rough sleeping – many people made comments about the number of rough sleepers in the town, most wanting more resources to support them rather than just trying to drive them out of the town centre so they become a hidden problem.

3.3.2 Chewing gum – discarded chewing gum is a pet hate for many.

3.3.3 General cleanliness of the town needs improving including being harsher on littering and fly-tipping.

3.3.4 Salespeople on the street.

3.3.5 Illegal driving on The Drapery.

3.3.6 Smoking on the street.

3.3.7 More activities for, and engagement of, young people.

3.3.8 More visible police presence.

3.3.9 More powers to prevent illegal traveller encampments.

3.3.10 Perceived threat from large groups of people.

3.3.11 Cycling on a pavement in the Town Centre or on Kingsley Front

**3.3.11 However, it is not recommended to include any prohibitions with regard to the activities in paragraphs 3.3.1 to 3.3.10 above for the following reasons;**

- a) Paragraphs 3.3.2, 3.3.3, 3.3.5 and 3.3.11 concern activities which constitute existing criminal offences and there is no power to further prohibit them by way of PSPO.
- b) Paragraphs 3.3.7 and 3.3.8 do not concern activities which would be capable of being prohibited or required by way of PSPO. In any event, the Council would be unable to enforce any prohibition or requirement against itself or the Police as an organisation.
- c) Paragraphs 3.3.1, 3.3.4, 3.3.6, 3.3.9 and 3.3.10 concern activities which, if prohibited by way of PSPO, are highly likely to significantly interfere with the civil liberties of individuals or groups of individuals in the Borough. To do so would increase the chances of any prohibition or even the entire PSPO being held by the High Court to be unlawful on human rights grounds if challenged by way of Judicial Review. Section 72 of the 2004 Act requires that local authorities must have particular regard to the rights of freedom of expression and freedom of assembly in the Human Rights Act 1998, but any PSPO must have regard to the rights in that Act generally in any event.

### **3.4 Choices (Options)**

- 3.4.1 Cabinet can decide to do nothing. The PSPO made by NBC on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 expired on 31 March 2020 and there are currently no prohibitions in force against any of the activities described within that Order, including prohibitions against the consumption of alcohol in public places and dog owners failing to remove their pets' faeces anywhere in the Borough. This choice is not recommended.
- 3.4.2 Cabinet can decide to make a PSPO for a period of 3 years or lesser period as it deems appropriate in line with the above recommendations. This choice is recommended on the basis that it prohibits only those activities that can be strongly evidenced as being detrimental to the quality of life of those living in the locality of the areas in which they take place.
- 3.4.3 Cabinet can decide to make a PSPO including one or more prohibitions that this report recommends to exclude, or exclude one or more prohibitions that Cabinet has been recommended to include. This choice is not recommended for the same reasons that the choice at paragraph 3.4.2 as set out above is recommended.

## **4. Implications (including financial implications)**

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### **4.1 Policy**

- 4.1.1 The approach supports the multi-agency Countywide Anti-Social Behaviour Policy that Northampton Borough Council is signed up to.



4.1.2 Under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, any local authorities have a statutory duty to;

*“exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area, including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment, the misuse of drugs , alcohol and other substances and re-offending ”.*

In practice, the Council works in partnership with statutory, non-statutory, community and voluntary agencies to develop and implement strategies and policies for tackling crime, disorder and ASB.

## **4.2 Resources and Risk**

4.2.2 PSPOs can be enforced by both the Police and appropriately authorised persons on behalf of the Council. The aim is that the Council will be the agency to process any Fixed Penalty Notices (“FPNs”) issued to any person found to have breached the PSPO, as an alternative to prosecution, regardless of which agency issues them.

4.2.3 There are financial implications for the Council with regard to new signage if the prohibitions created by the new PSPO are different to that of the Order made in 2017. However, as the current signs have the Northampton Borough Council name and logo, consideration will need to be given to changing them anyway in time for the dissolution of the Council on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and the creation of the new Local Authority empowered by the 2014 Act to make PSPOs; namely West Northamptonshire Council.

4.2.4 It would be very difficult to make any projection as to the number of FPNs that will be issued and therefore what income can be reasonably be expected to be generated through the making of this PSPO. Any income generated by payment of FPN’s for a PSPO is not required to be directed back into management of the PSPO process as the 2014 Act is silent on this issue.

## **4.3 Legal**

4.3.1 PSPO can be made by a Local Authority in accordance with section 59 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 for a maximum of three years if it is satisfied on reasonable grounds that two conditions are satisfied. These are set out at paragraph 3.1.2 above.

- 4.3.2 Section 59 also states that an activity prohibited by way of PSPO may apply to all persons or persons in, or those not in, specified categories and it may apply at all times or only specific times.
- 4.3.3 Section 72 requires the public and specific organisations to be consulted about the prohibitions proposed for inclusion within a and Local Authorities have a duty to consider the responses when deciding to make any PSPO. They only have a power to comply with any demands or requests made by any responses if they deem them to be reasonable.
- 4.3.4. Section 72 also dictates that any PSPO that is made must be published on the local authority's website and notices must be erected on or adjacent to the public place to which the PSPO relates, in sufficient numbers to draw the public's attention to it and its effect.
- 4.3.5 An individual who lives in the area restricted by a PSPO or who regularly works in or visits that area may apply to the High Court to question the validity of that Order by virtue of section 66 of the Act. The only grounds for such an application are that the local authority did not have power to make the Order and/or that the local authority did not comply with a statutory requirement with regard to the making of the PSPO. Any such challenge must be made within 6 weeks of the PSPO being made and the High Court has a discretion whether or not to suspend the operation of the Order until the final determination of the challenge.
- 4.3.6 The High Court may quash any PSPO or any prohibition if it is satisfied that the local authority lacked the power to make the Order or any prohibition or if it is satisfied that the interests of the applicant have been **substantially prejudiced** by a failure to comply with a statutory requirement with regard to the making of the Order.
- 4.3.7 The Act does not give a Local Authority the power to prohibit any activity which is already prohibited by the criminal law.

#### **4.4 Equality and Health**

- 4.4.1 Incidents of ASB will continue to be dealt with in line with the Council's equalities framework and in accordance with the Public Sector Equality Duty as it applies to local authorities under section 1 of the Equality Act 2010 .
- 4.4.2 As a result of the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty, an Equality Impact Assessment screening has been carried out and can be viewed at Appendix 5. The prohibitions recommended for inclusion in a new PSPO have been assessed in that document so as to ensure that they will not disproportionately affect any persons or group of persons who share any of the protected characteristics detailed in Chapter 1 of the Equality Act 2010.

4.4.3 The recommended prohibitions above are intended to have a significant community impact in continuing to prevent and limit ASB and improve the quality of life for those people living and working in the areas affected by it the most.

#### **4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)**

Legal Services  
Environmental Health & Licensing Manager, NBC  
Community Safety and Engagement Manager, NBC Northants  
Police  
Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Engagement, NBC  
Northants Fire Service  
NBC Forums

#### **4.6 How the Proposals deliver Priority Outcomes**

4.6.1 One of the Council's priorities is "invest in safer, cleaner neighbourhoods" and the PSPO has the potential to contribute towards this priority.

#### **4.7 Other Implications**

### **5. Appendices**

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Appendix 1 – Consultation results.

Appendix 2 – Comments made during the consultation.

Appendix 3 – Responses from statutory consultees.

Appendix 4 – Submission from Liberty

Appendix 5 - Equality impact assessment.

### **6. Background Papers**

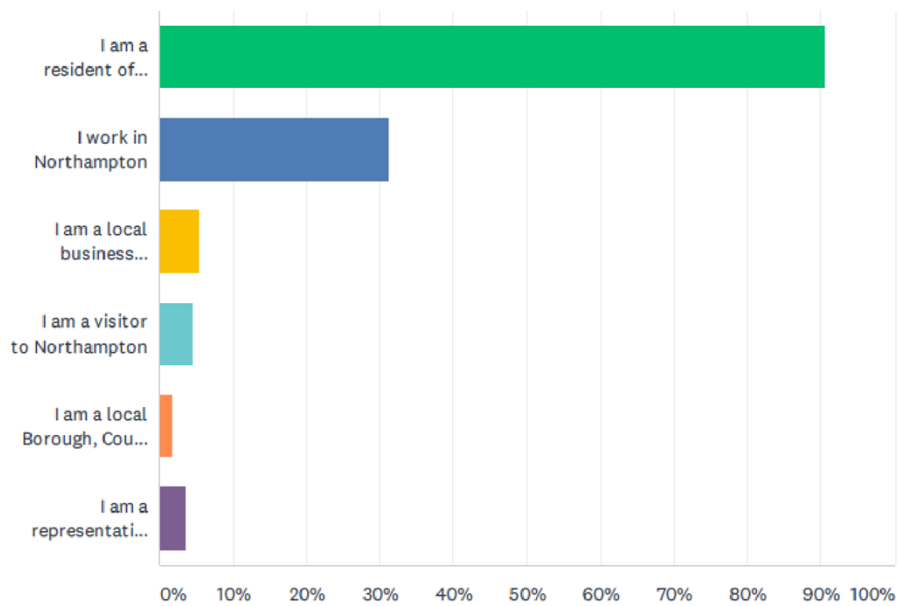
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6.1 Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014

6.2 Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014: Reform of Anti-Social Behaviour Powers Statutory Guidance for Frontline Professionals – August 2019

**George Candler**  
**Chief Executive**

## APPENDIX 1 Results of Consultation



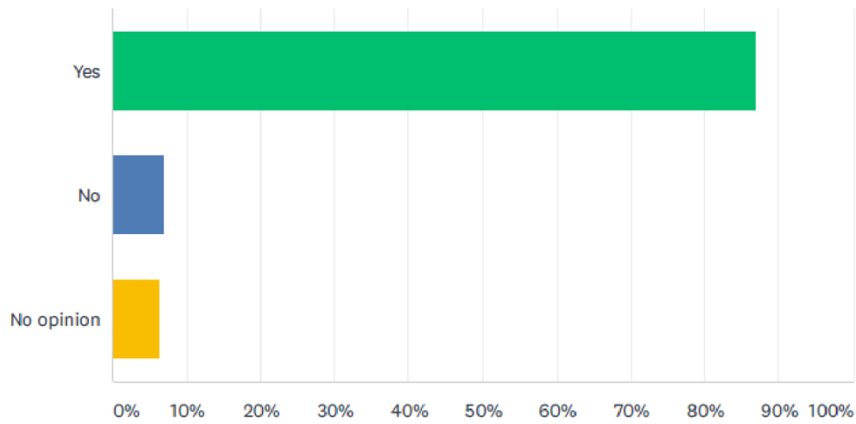
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I am a resident of Northampton	90.68%	467
I work in Northampton	31.07%	160
I am a local business owner/manager	5.44%	28
I am a visitor to Northampton	4.66%	24
I am a local Borough, County or Parish Councillor	1.75%	9
I am a representative from a local community or voluntary group (please state name of group below.	3.50%	18
<b>Total Respondents: 515</b>		

### Q2 My postcode is

Answered: 499 Skipped: 16

Q3 Do you feel that consumption of alcohol in public places / street drinking in Northampton (see the area outlined in red in the plan, Appendix 1) leads to, or is likely to lead to, anti-social behaviour?

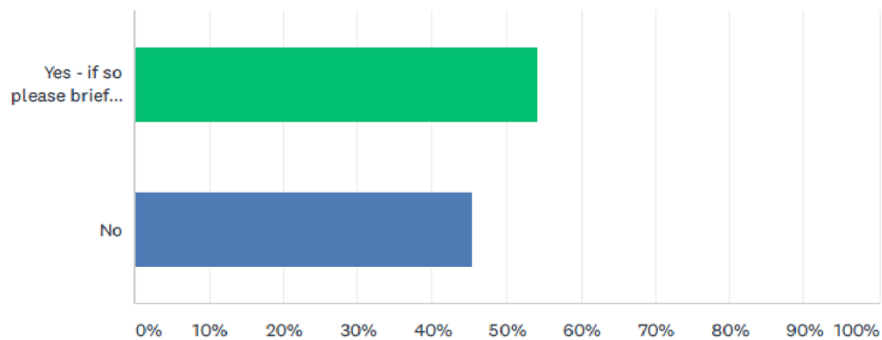
Answered: 512 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	86.91%	445
No	6.84%	35
No opinion	6.25%	32
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>512</b>

Q4 Do you have any experience of encountering anti-social behaviour in Northampton that you believe was caused by consumption of alcohol in public places / street drinking?

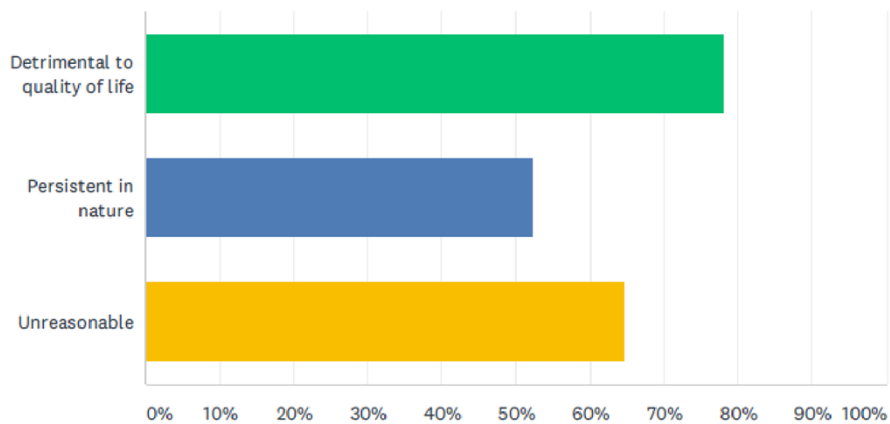
Answered: 512 Skipped: 3



QUIZ STATISTICS			
Percent Correct 99%	Average Score 1.0/1.0 (100%)	Standard Deviation 0.00	Difficulty 4/13
ANSWER CHOICES	SCORE	RESPONSES	
✓ Yes - if so please briefly describe	1/1	54.10%	277
✓ No	1/1	45.31%	232
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>512</b>

## Q5 Do you feel that alcohol fuelled anti-social behaviour in public places in Northampton is, or is likely to be any or all of the following?

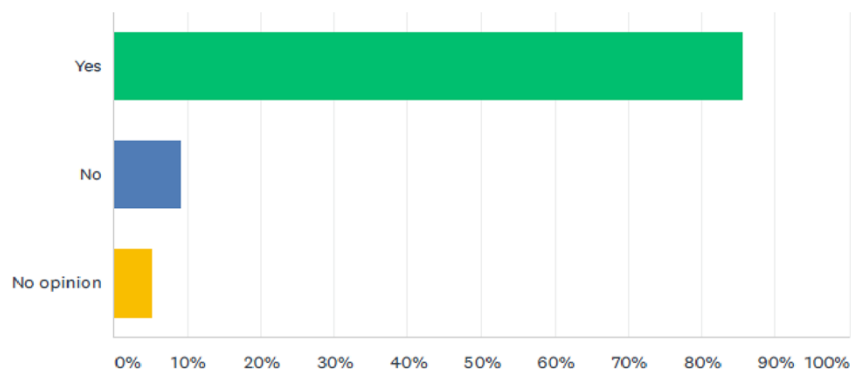
Answered: 484 Skipped: 31



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Detrimental to quality of life	78.10%	378
Persistent in nature	52.27%	253
Unreasonable	64.67%	313
<b>Total Respondents: 484</b>		

Q6 Do you believe that continuing to prohibit consumption of alcohol in public places / street drinking would be justified in order to prevent anti-social behaviour? Please note that consumption of alcohol in public or "street drinking" is not a criminal offence under the current PSPO. It is currently a criminal offence to refuse a request from a police officer or an authorised council officer to stop drinking alcohol in a public place and / or to refuse to surrender any open containers of alcohol. This would continue to be the case under any future Order.

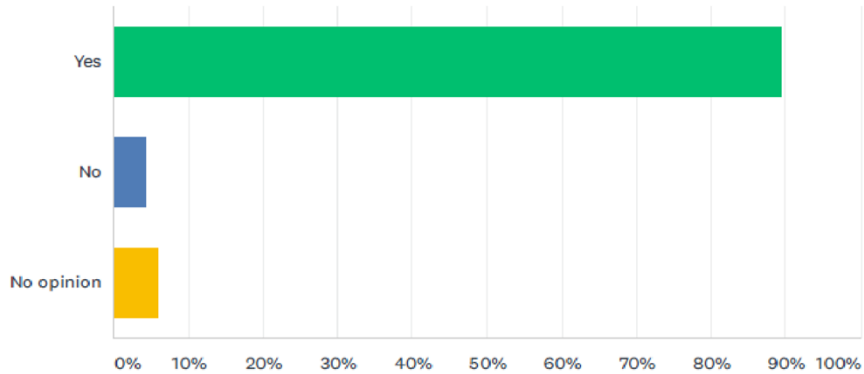
Answered: 510 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	85.49%	436
No	9.22%	47
No opinion	5.29%	27
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>510</b>

Q7 Do you feel that drug use in public places in Northampton (see the area outlined in red on the plan at Appendix 1) leads to, or is likely to lead to, anti-social behaviour? For the purposes of questions 7, 8, 9 and 10, the Council describes drugs and what used to be called “legal highs” as “intoxicating substances”. It does not include tobacco or prescription medication. Ingesting, injecting or smoking any intoxicating substance is prohibited under the current PSPO.

Answered: 508 Skipped: 7



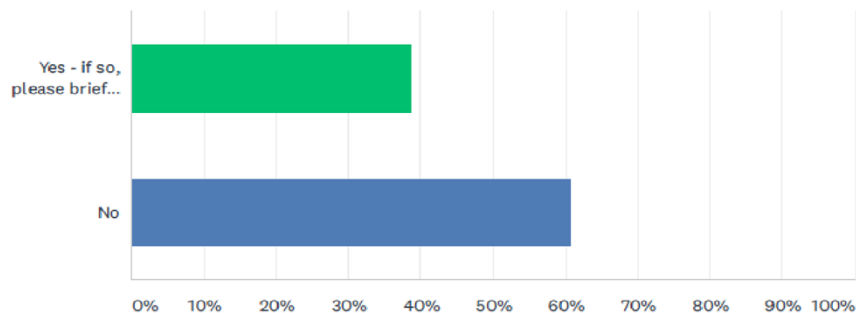
QUIZ STATISTICS			
Percent Correct	Average Score	Standard Deviation	Difficulty
99%	1.0/1.0 (100%)	0.00	4/13

ANSWER CHOICES	SCORE	RESPONSES	
✓ Yes	1/1	89.57%	455
✓ No	1/1	4.33%	22
✓ No opinion	1/1	6.10%	31
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>508</b>

Q8 Do you have any experience of encountering anti-social behaviour in Northampton that you believe was caused by drug use in public?

Answered: 512 Skipped: 3



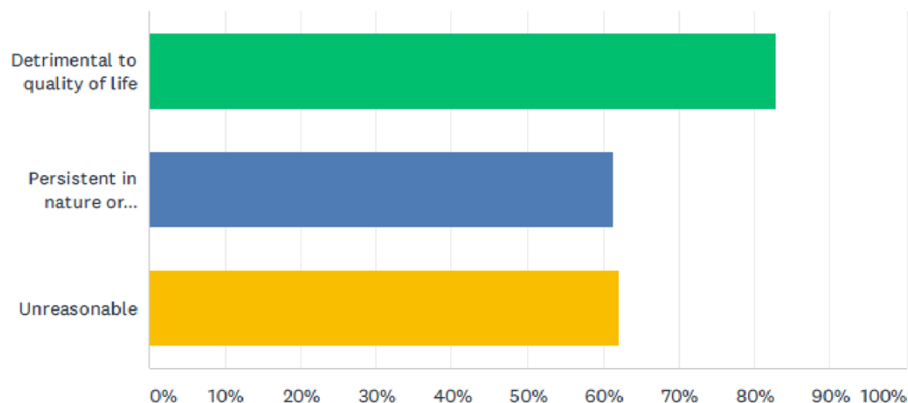
QUIZ STATISTICS			
Percent Correct	Average Score	Standard Deviation	Difficulty
99%	1.0/1.0 (100%)	0.00	4/13

ANSWER CHOICES	SCORE	RESPONSES	
✓ Yes - if so, please briefly describe	1/1	38.67%	198
✓ No	1/1	60.94%	312
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>512</b>

### Q9 Do you feel that anti-social behaviour caused by drug use in public places in Northampton is, or is likely to be, any or all of the following?

Answered: 491 Skipped: 24

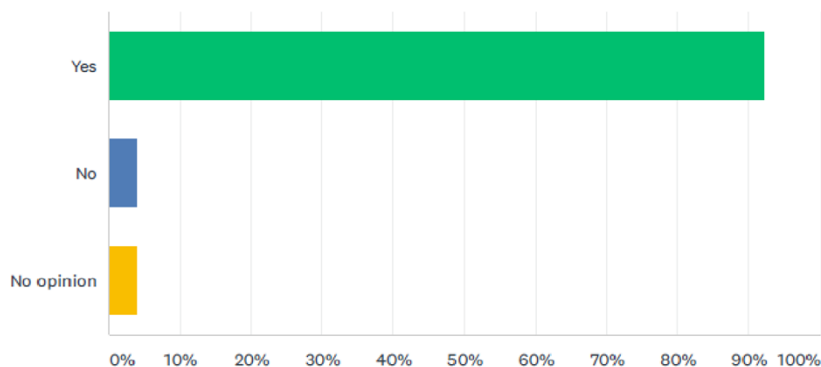


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Detrimental to quality of life	82.89% 407
Persistent in nature or continuing	61.30% 301
Unreasonable	62.12% 305
<b>Total Respondents: 491</b>	

Northampton Borough Council Public Spaces Protection Order 2017 Review

### Q10 Do you believe that continuing to prohibit drug use in public places in Northampton would be justified in order to prevent anti-social behaviour?

Answered: 512 Skipped: 3

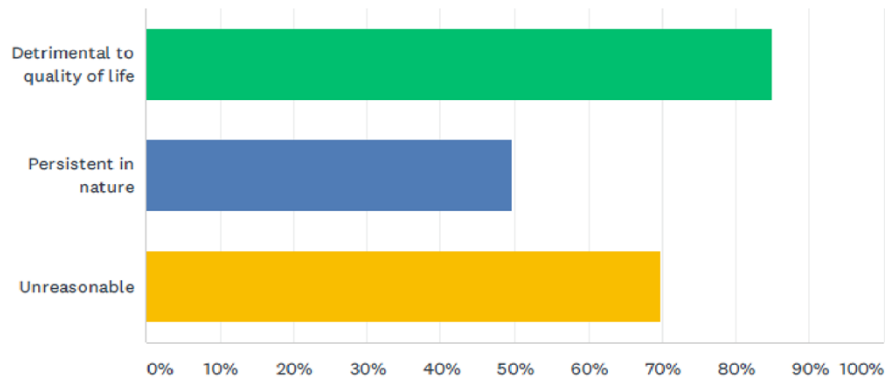


QUIZ STATISTICS			
Percent Correct 99%	Average Score 1.0/1.0 (100%)	Standard Deviation 0.00	Difficulty 4/13
ANSWER CHOICES	SCORE	RESPONSES	
✓ Yes	1/1	92.19%	472
✓ No	1/1	3.91%	20
✓ No opinion	1/1	3.91%	20
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>512</b>



Q11 Do you feel that urination and / or defecating in public in Northampton is, or is likely to be, any or all of the following? Please note that the current PSPO prohibits urinating or defecating in public in the whole Borough, as can be seen outlined in red on the plan marked Appendix 1.

Answered: 506 Skipped: 9



**QUIZ STATISTICS**

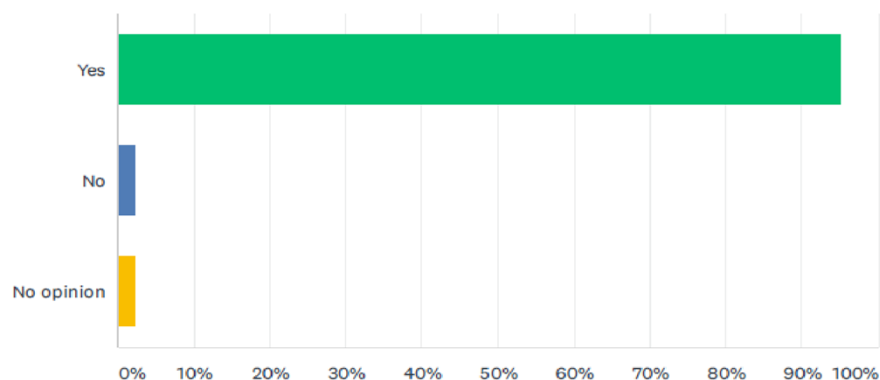
Percent Correct 42%      Average Score 2.0/3.0 (68%)      Standard Deviation 0.90      Difficulty 2/13

**ANSWER CHOICES**

ANSWER CHOICES	SCORE	RESPONSES	
✓ Detrimental to quality of life	1/3	84.98%	430
✓ Persistent in nature	1/3	49.60%	251
✓ Unreasonable	1/3	69.96%	354
<b>Total Respondents: 506</b>			

Q12 Do you think continuing to prohibit public urination and / or defecation in public in Northampton would be justified?

Answered: 509 Skipped: 6



**QUIZ STATISTICS**

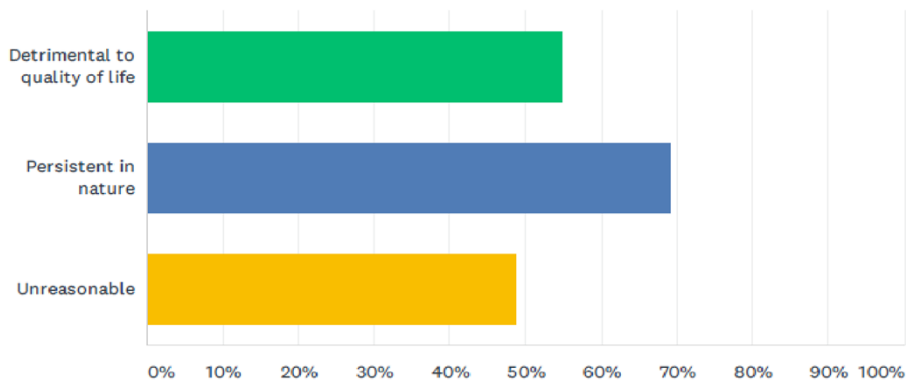
Percent Correct 99%      Average Score 1.0/1.0 (100%)      Standard Deviation 0.00      Difficulty 4/13

**ANSWER CHOICES**

ANSWER CHOICES	SCORE	RESPONSES	
✓ Yes	1/1	95.28%	485
✓ No	1/1	2.36%	12
✓ No opinion	1/1	2.36%	12
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>509</b>

Q13 Do you feel that begging in public in the areas edged in red on the plans marked as Appendices 1A and 1B is, or is likely to be, any or all of the following? Please note that the current PSPO prohibits begging in public places in two specific areas only, rather than in the whole Borough. The location of these two areas can be found edged in red on the plans marked as Appendices 1A and 1B.

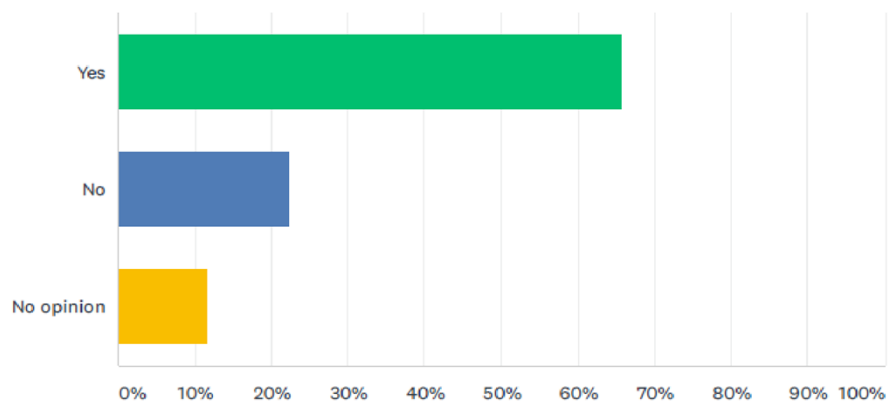
Answered: 439 Skipped: 76



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Detrimental to quality of life	54.90% 241
Persistent in nature	69.25% 304
Unreasonable	48.75% 214
<b>Total Respondents: 439</b>	

Q14 Do you think continuing to prohibit begging in public in the same areas would be justified?

Answered: 508 Skipped: 7

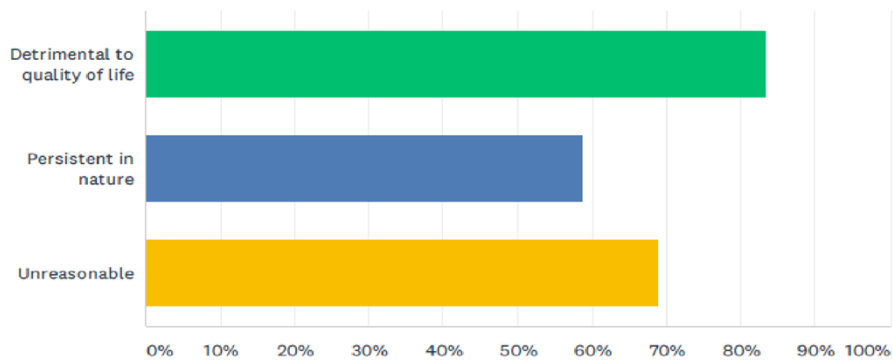


QUIZ STATISTICS			
Percent Correct 99%	Average Score 1.0/1.0 (100%)	Standard Deviation 0.00	Difficulty 4/13

ANSWER CHOICES	SCORE	RESPONSES
✓ Yes	1/1	65.75% 334
✓ No	1/1	22.44% 114
✓ No opinion	1/1	11.81% 60
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>508</b>

Q15 Do you think that dog walkers failing to remove their dog's faeces from all public places in Northampton and disposing of them in a bin is, or is likely to be, any or all of the following?

Answered: 509 Skipped: 6



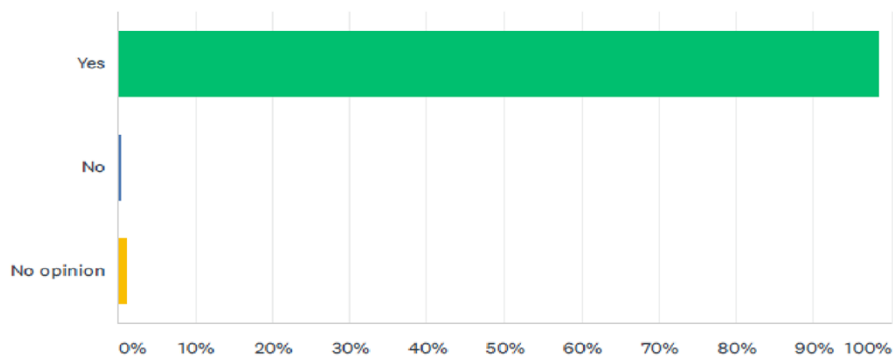
**QUIZ STATISTICS**

Percent Correct 47%      Average Score 2.1/3.0 (70%)      Standard Deviation 0.91      Difficulty 3/13

ANSWER CHOICES	SCORE	RESPONSES
✓ Detrimental to quality of life	1/3	83.50% 425
✓ Persistent in nature	1/3	58.74% 299
✓ Unreasonable	1/3	68.76% 350
<b>Total Respondents: 509</b>		

Q16 Do you think continuing to prohibit dog walkers from failing to remove their dog's faeces from all public places in Northampton and requiring them to dispose of them in a bin would be justified? The current PSPO requires dog walkers to remove any faeces (poo) left by their dog in any public place in Northampton, as outlined in red on the plan at Appendix 1.

Answered: 510 Skipped: 5



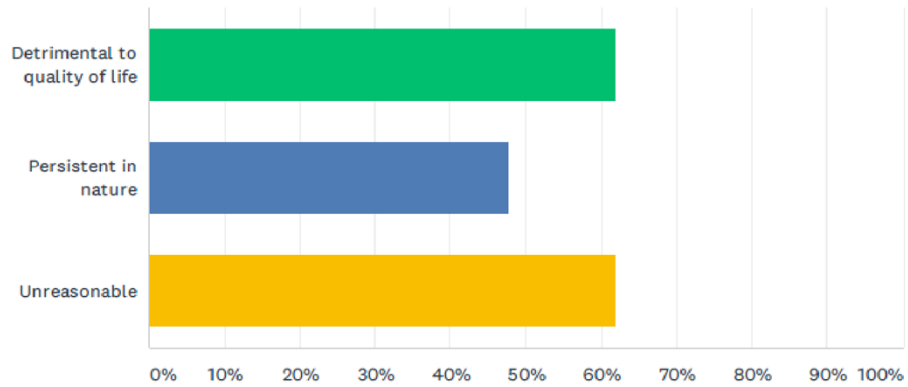
**QUIZ STATISTICS**

Percent Correct 99%      Average Score 1.0/1.0 (100%)      Standard Deviation 0.00      Difficulty 4/13

ANSWER CHOICES	SCORE	RESPONSES
✓ Yes	1/1	98.43% 502
✓ No	1/1	0.39% 2
✓ No opinion	1/1	1.18% 6
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>510</b>

Q17 Do you think that dog walkers allowing their dogs to be off lead in public places in Northampton has, or is likely to have, any of the following? The current PSPO requires dog walkers keep their dogs on a lead in specific places in Northampton (Town Centre, childrens play areas and cemeteries)

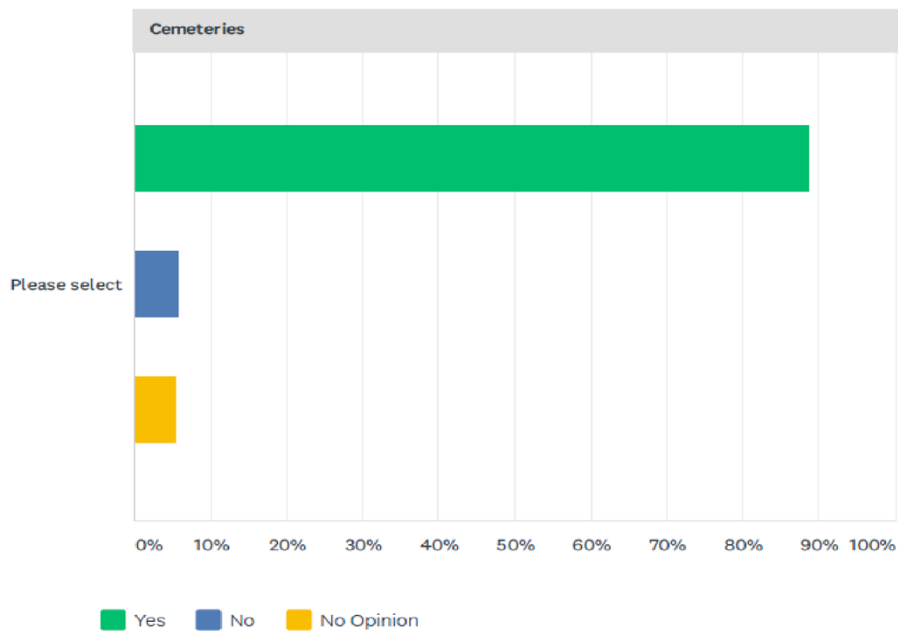
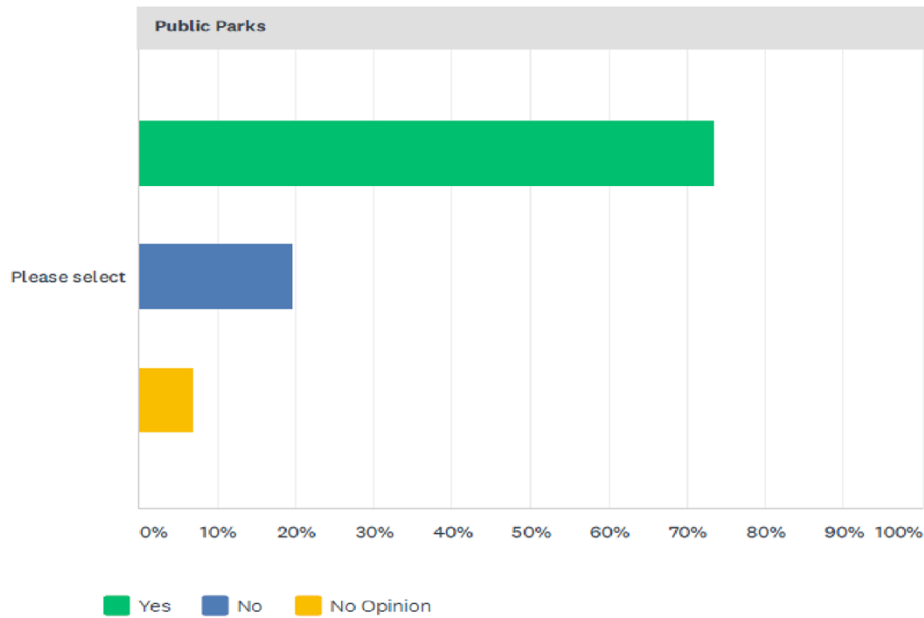
Answered: 422 Skipped: 93



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Detrimental to quality of life	61.85%	261
Persistent in nature	47.63%	201
Unreasonable	61.85%	261
<b>Total Respondents: 422</b>		

Q18 Dogs are currently prohibited from being off lead in the following public places in Northampton; \* All children's play areas in public parks, \* All cemeteries, \* The areas shown edged in red on the plan at Appendix 1A (in effect, the town centre). Do you think that continuing to prohibit dog walkers from allowing dogs to be off lead in the above areas would be justified?

Answered: 502 Skipped: 13



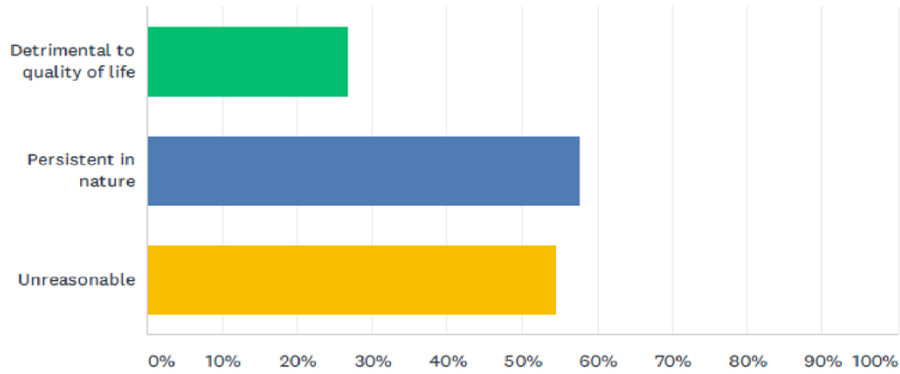
Public Parks				
	YES	NO	NO OPINION	TOTAL
Please select	73.40% 367	19.60% 98	7.00% 35	500

Cemeteries				
	YES	NO	NO OPINION	TOTAL
Please select	88.71% 432	5.95% 29	5.34% 26	487

Q19 The Council has received complaints about busking and performances of street entertainment, with or without amplified music and singing, in the areas outlined in red on the plans at Appendices 1A and 1B. This is not currently regulated at all by the Council. Do you think busking or performances of street entertainment are, or are likely to be, any of the following

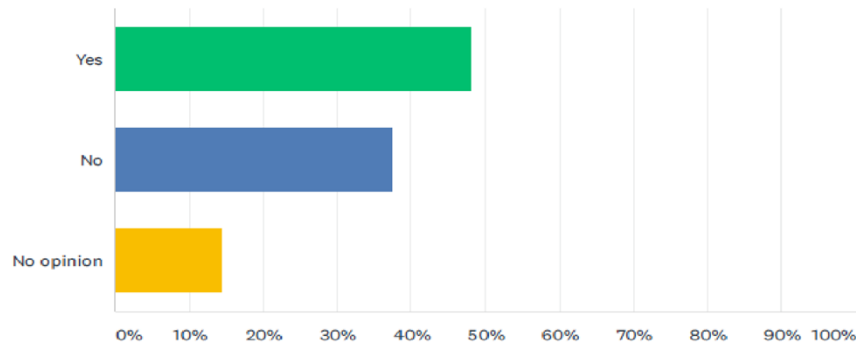
Answered: 291 Skipped: 224



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Detrimental to quality of life	26.80% 78
Persistent in nature	57.73% 168
Unreasonable	54.64% 159
<b>Total Respondents: 291</b>	

Q20 The Council has received suggestions that it should consider imposing a time limit on any person busking or performing street entertainment as set out in the previous question. Do you think this would be a good idea?

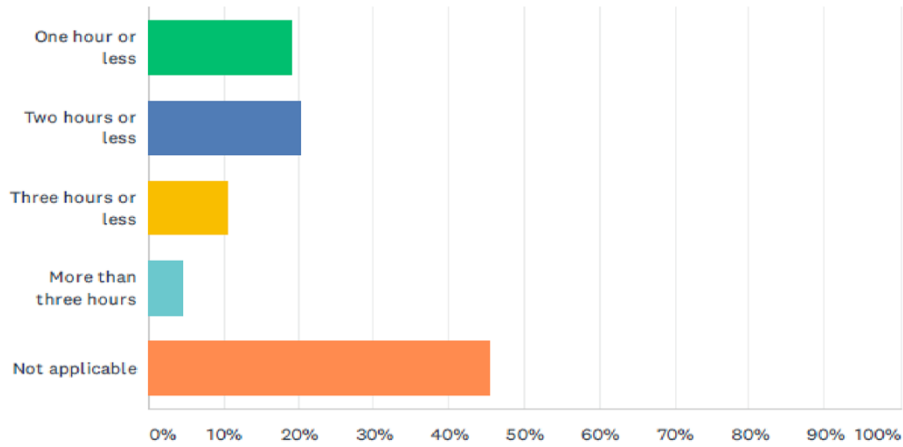
Answered: 507 Skipped: 8



QUIZ STATISTICS			
Percent Correct 98%	Average Score 1.0/1.0 (100%)	Standard Deviation 0.00	Difficulty 4/13
ANSWER CHOICES	SCORE	RESPONSES	
✓ Yes	1/1	48.13%	244
✓ No	1/1	37.48%	190
✓ No opinion	1/1	14.40%	73
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>507</b>

## Q21 If you think it would be a good idea, what time limit do you think would be appropriate?

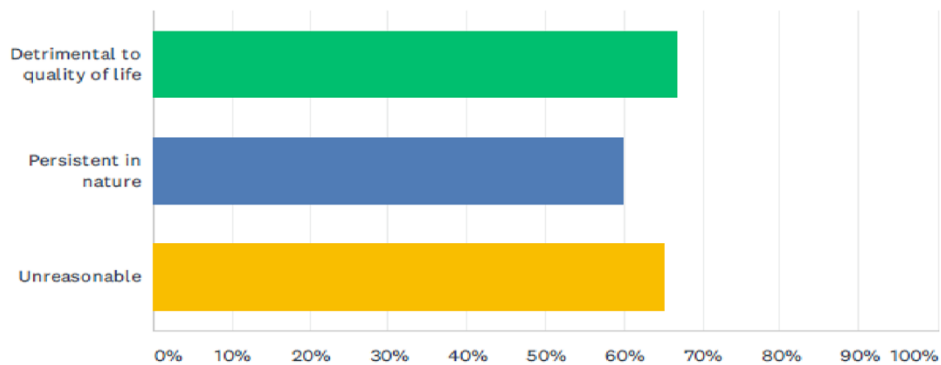
Answered: 492 Skipped: 23



QUIZ STATISTICS			
Percent Correct 96%	Average Score 1.0/1.0 (100%)	Standard Deviation 0.00	Difficulty 4/13
ANSWER CHOICES	SCORE	RESPONSES	
✓ One hour or less	1/1	19.11%	94
✓ Two hours or less	1/1	20.33%	100
✓ Three hours or less	1/1	10.57%	52
✓ More than three hours	1/1	4.67%	23
✓ Not applicable	1/1	45.33%	223
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>492</b>

## Q22 The Council has received complaints about cyclists riding on the pavement in the areas outlined in red on the plans at Appendices 1A and 1B. Do you think that this is, or is likely to have or be, any of the following?

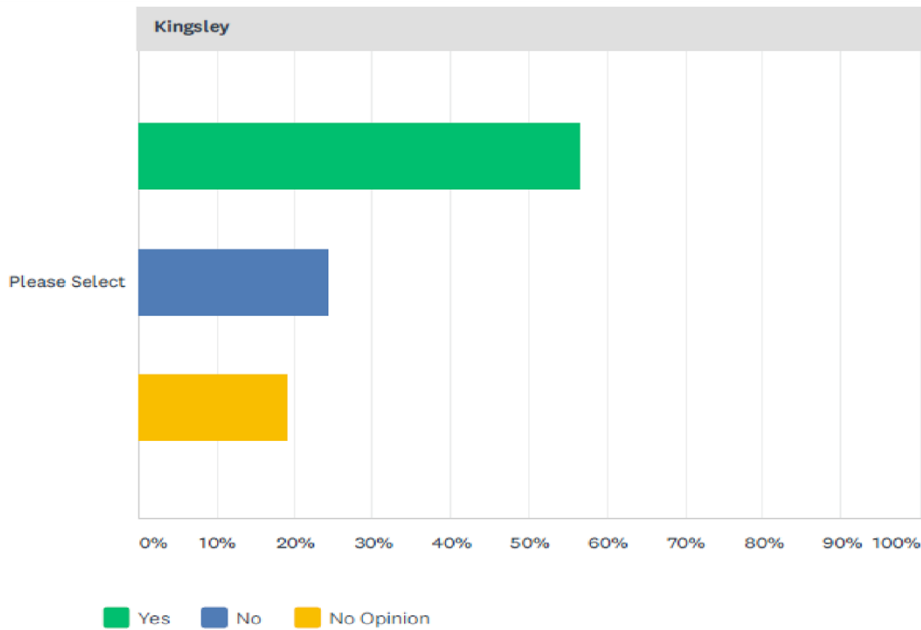
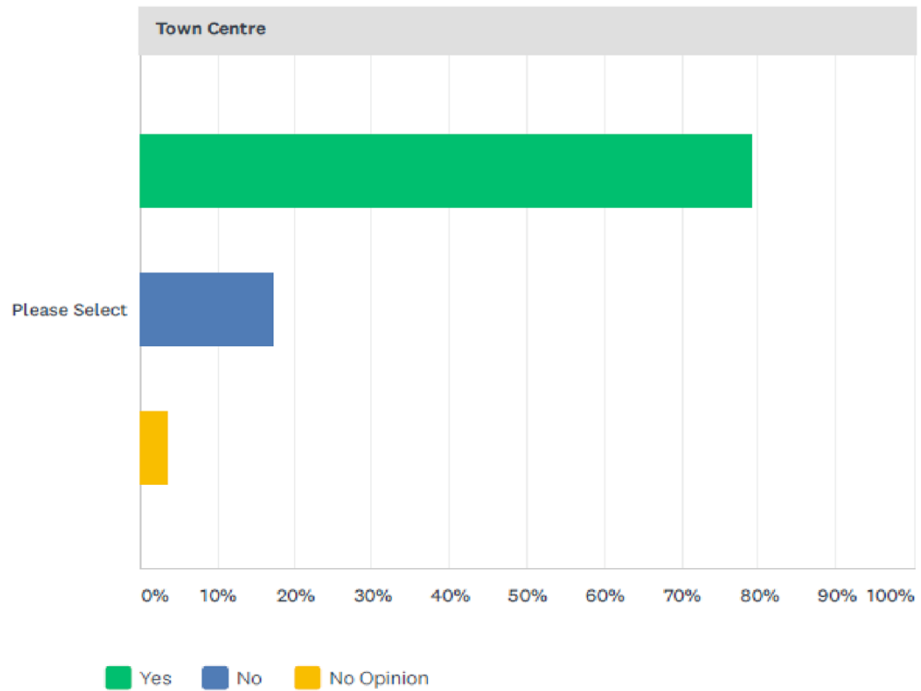
Answered: 441 Skipped: 74



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Detrimental to quality of life	66.89%	295
Persistent in nature	60.09%	265
Unreasonable	65.31%	288
<b>Total Respondents: 441</b>		

Q23 The Council has received suggestions that it should consider imposing a prohibition on any person riding a bicycle on the pavement at any time in the above areas. Do you think this would be justified?

Answered: 502 Skipped: 13

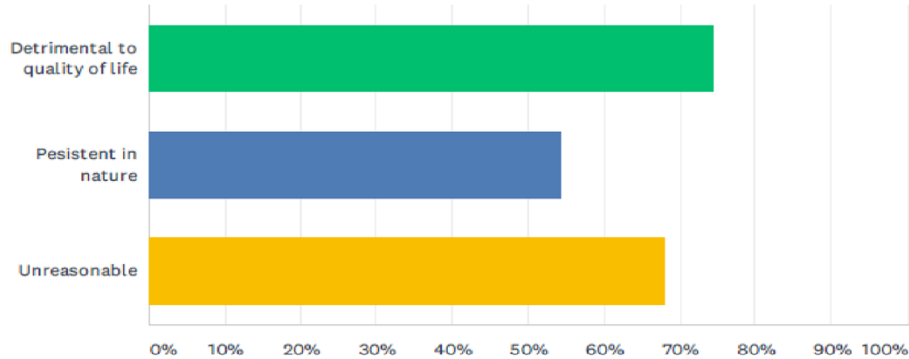


Town Centre				
	YES	NO	NO OPINION	TOTAL
Please Select	79.08%	17.33%	3.59%	502
	397	87	18	
Kingsley				
	YES	NO	NO OPINION	TOTAL
Please Select	56.58%	24.28%	19.14%	486
	275	118	93	



Q24 The Council has also received complaints about persons spitting in public places within the whole of Northampton (see plan at Appendix 1). Do you think that spitting in public places is, or is likely to be, any of the following?

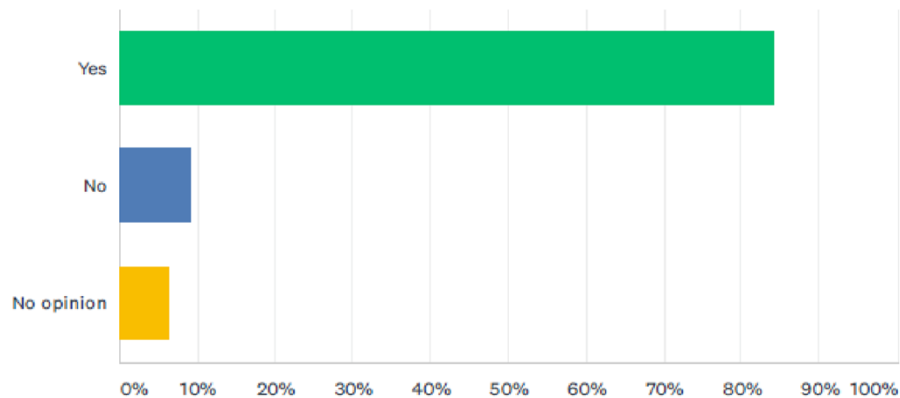
Answered: 477 Skipped: 38



QUIZ STATISTICS			
Percent Correct 37%	Average Score 2.0/3.0 (66%)	Standard Deviation 0.91	Difficulty 1/13
ANSWER CHOICES	SCORE	RESPONSES	
✓ Detrimental to quality of life	1/3	74.42%	355
✓ Pesistent in nature	1/3	54.30%	259
✓ Unreasonable	1/3	67.92%	324
Total Respondents: 477			

Q25 Do you think that prohibiting persons from spitting in any public place within Northampton would be justified?

Answered: 506 Skipped: 9



QUIZ STATISTICS			
Percent Correct 98%	Average Score 1.0/1.0 (100%)	Standard Deviation 0.00	Difficulty 4/13
ANSWER CHOICES	SCORE	RESPONSES	
✓ Yes	1/1	84.19%	426
✓ No	1/1	9.29%	47
✓ No opinion	1/1	6.52%	33
TOTAL			506

## APPENDIX 2 Comments Made During Consultation

### Alcohol & Drugs

- Stop drinking and drugs on the street. Dogs pooping. Cats to be kept in at night
- we need to do something and fast the towns drunks are killing off our once lovely town
- I find it infuriating to see street drinkers using the town centre church yard as a place to drink, I have even seen one person urinate up the side of the church. I am not a religious person, but this is extremely disrespectful. Many of these people are not homeless, so I have no sympathy for them. But I do agree that fining these people will have no effect whatsoever. The council needs to provide more funding to those who provide alcohol and substance abuse programmes to help these people, rather than just imposing fines. drugs and alcohol are the biggest issues we have found, along with littering which is persistent
- Drug and alcohol problems which may cause anti-social behaviour are best tackled through appropriate rehab and support facilities rather than fining people
- Banning alcohol in public spaces far is too broad a statement. It is perfectly socially acceptable to have a summer picnic in a park with a glass of Pimms and this should not be banned
- I avoid town centre because of the 'characters' that loiter at all times of the day. Drug/alcohol misuse is clear to see and litter not dealt with effectively
- Most ASB can be prevented by increasing the facilities in public places to develop pro social behaviours such as public drinking. Problems are with drug use in the main and people's intolerance of different cultures
- Use of drugs in public parks needs to be stopped
- I think a question you have missed is how much drug dealing now takes place within the town, and often in broad daylight. It is so brazenly done that there is no recourse at all. Drug taking, especially with needles, has increased in the town centre and regularly I've seen needles either in the car park behind my place of work or inside my place of work. As for the issue of alcohol consumption - why is alcohol so readily available for people to buy, in large quantities, so early within the day, in the town centre? I've come across many drunks even before 8 a.m., most days in the town centre, which is horrendous. This is a shameful dereliction of responsibility to these people, to allow them to perpetuate their addictions with alcohol with no challenge or barrier, at all
- street drinking and associated ASB and empty doorways filled with drug using rough sleepers is the reason many people avoid the town centre. The town would flourish if this was reduced or eradicated
- Street anti-social behaviour in general, seems to be an increasing issue with drugs and drink appearing high on the list
- If something is to be done about people using drugs and alcohol around Northampton town then you had better try and help the people suffering instead of just moving them on and hoping they won't come back, otherwise you will just annoy everyone that's not some jumped up rich kid, help the poor don't f\*\*k with them
- Drinking in public areas has, I thought, been in force for quite some years and should be a continued ban. I have had eggs thrown at me from the roofs in Abington Street, Also have had abuse from Drug and alcohol users at work.
- Alcohol and drug use are on the rise not just in town centre but in the suburbs too. People are more brazen than once were and should be dealt with more severely. It is also the case that people seek these highs because there is not a lot of other entertainment in the town centre so more events, activities and ideally free activities are needed too

- stop all the drug deals and prostitution being brought and sold from the blocks of flats
- I live next to St Giles church yard and the amount of litter left, the constant drinking and drug use is appalling, I have even seen PSCO's walk through and totally ignore it. Something need to be done

### **Urination**

- There should be public toilets more readily available for use in the town centre
- Witnessed public urination around Kingsthorpe shops. Gross, and occurred at a time when lots of kids & older people around
- If you don't want people to urinate and defecate outside it would be helpful for facilities to be provided There should be more toilets in town-then people wouldn't need to 'do there business' on streets.
- If you don't provide sufficient public toilet facilities, don't be surprised if people urinate in public spaces
- Urinating in public won't be stopped until the Council provide enough decent toilets!

### **Begging**

- Begging has no impact on my life. People who are forced to turn to begging have their lives impacted far more
- I feel intimidated being asked for money by anyone including charities
- Begging generally and drunks/drug users can be very intimidating especially when it is directed towards the elderly
- If there were more provisions in the day for the homeless, begging would not be visible as they'd have a place to go. Prohibiting begging in certain areas would just mean moving the problem to somewhere else down the road. It needs to be tackled head on and provide support for the homeless instead of using punitive measures
- Be It is ridiculous to ban begging, as if life is not hard enough for people living on the streets, how about more action from the council to house people, rather than trying to hide the issue by banning begging. The idea of banning busking is also ridiculous, try busking licenses. There's barely any culture in this town as it is, and you're proposing taking music off the street. Some bars and cafes should be allowed to have outdoor seating areas out the front of their establishments to promote a European cafe culture, which would work great on St. Giles' street if it were to be pedestrianised
- Begging should be stopped as well as people sleeping in doorways.
- Beggars, rough sleepers and drunks staggering around are making a lot of people avoid the town centre
- Street begging and street drinking are my biggest issues. My wife who is Northampton born and bred refuses to come into the town centre. If I didn't work here I would never shop here which is a shame as parts of the town centre are very beautiful and it has potential. I would like a concerted effort by the council and police to clear the streets of beggars and drink and drug takers
- Beggars in the town centre making me feel unsafe. They need to be helped or moved on
- continual begging from BIG ISSUE sellers, not the familiar faces, just the new influx of immigrants

### **Dogs**

- No dogs should be on the market square as food is sold there
- Bradlaugh fields is particularly bad for dogs off leads and owners not picking up mess.

- The Abington area, particularly the park is awash with dog faeces. There should be clear signs about this and enforcement
- Whilst I agree that people should clear away dog faeces, I feel that this should be extended to horses too. I find horse defaecating on paths, walkways and roads far worse than a dog doing so
- When walking to school (Kingsley) my children have to negotiate dog faeces every day. Faeces is often stepped in away some point by a child attending school with the potential odd being walked around in school where children sit on the floor. Definitely hazardous to their health
- Dogs should be kept on leads at all times in public places and only let off in designated areas. This allows those with a fear of dogs to be know when they might meet an unleashed dog.
- Dogs need to be on leads in ALL public parks
- dogs running free in the street scare my kids why not ban dogs not under control by being on a lead everywhere. they shit in my garden
- I think dogs should not be allowed off lead in children's play areas, but if there are other areas of the park that are not specifically for children, the dog is not out of control & the owner picks up their dogs faeces then they should be allowed off lead
- Irresponsible dog owners are my pet hate - If a dog is not controlled by its owner and runs at people and other dogs, it should be kept on a lead at all times. Dogs that are obedient with responsible owners should be allowed to run free off a lead. Living on a park, I have dogs run at myself and my dogs regularly on a daily basis. This is not acceptable, regardless as to whether their dog is friendly or not. Some dog owners allow their dogs to urinate and defecate on people gardens, up their fences and walls and make no attempt to clean up after their pets. Some owners pick up after their pets and toss the bag down. What is the point? We need more Wardens patrolling the park and actually dishing out fines
- Have more bins so people can deposit litter including bagged dog faeces in and around the town and especially in open spaces.
- Dog owners shouldn't let dogs run off lead or jump up-as a disabled person on 2 sticks I've had so many dogs trouble me. So often owners say 'their dog won't hurt you'-They aren't disabled with additional bad leg wound. Unleashed dogs on pavements and cycle paths can be a problem
- I am fed up of encountering dogs off leads on a daily basis in Abington Park. My young child has been barked at by angry/excited dogs within the play area on several occasions and is now reluctant to play there as a result. It ruins the enjoyment of what is otherwise a lovely outdoor space
- Dog owners should keep their dogs on a lead when around the lakes in Abington Park having witnessed a dog attacking a swan and seeing the horrific aftermath of a dog badly injuring another swan that had to be put to sleep

### **Busking**

- Facebook speaks this week - every post, over 50 wants the buskers and all got likes. However, no one is supporting drunks, drugs, dogs, cyclists, spitters!!
- I feel the council is trying to justify making buskers buy a licence by claiming to have had complaints just to try and make money it has lost through poor management. Try looking at high paid, unnecessary staff instead
- Busking is a boon to areas, I love hearing a lot of the often very skilled people who are performing and would welcome an open mic type event or stage within the town centre where they could showcase their talents I think Buskers should be protected. They are just trying to earn a living, and are often in vulnerable situations. I think restricting or banning buskers would

be detrimental to their physical and mental well-being and could well lead to homelessness and starvation

- There should be a heavily enforced time cut off around 9pm for buskers and street entertainers
- I enjoy the buskers, cheers me up to see them
- Busking brings me joy and entertainment when shopping and is a gift to the community. Of course there may be some busking that is considered too loud in which case perhaps it should be required when asked by an authority to turn down or switch off amplification, otherwise, I personally enjoy buskers
- Leave buskers alone. Get rid of the street hawkers.
- I don't think the buskers are a problem. I feel sometimes they can brighten the shopping areas and peoples' moods. They do not beg for cash and generally perform because they enjoy it themselves and bring pleasure to others
- Buskers are ok but often too loud. Keep it but go easy on the amplifiers as it's too intrusive
- Busking is generally entertaining and brightens the town up, especially in Summer and at Christmas Time. Not an anti-social activity at all • No problem with buskers - they liven the place up!
- This survey is not worded well... I would like to see more busking in Northampton. It makes the town feel more vibrant. I don't think that they should be in one place for a whole day for their own welfare
- With regard to busking you ask if a time limit should be considered, I answered no but I actually mean it should not be allowed at all and this option was not available to select. I fully support all efforts to make the town more appealing, safer and cleaner for all
- busking: busking is culturally important, and there is no benefit in time restricting. For some this is a single income stream. My advice, walk a mile in their shoes before imposing unnecessary rules
- Northampton has some talented buskers and we should promote their performances. I personally enjoy walking through the town at the end of the day and listening to the music our local buskers are playing. Stop pandering to those who complain and leave them be.
- I would like to add that I do not object to street buskers who do not use amplifiers. Those who do use them are far too loud and can be heard from a great distance away. Amplifiers should be banned. Those without should be allowed to busk. They have a beneficial impact on the town centre
- I enjoy the buskers, cheers me up to see them
- Ban buskers altogether. Especially the bagpipes man on Abington Street. And the preachers with microphones
- Busking SHOULD NOT be banned or even ticketed by an officer. It's often pleasant to be in town Centre and hear something nice. The town Centre is depressing enough without it being silent too
- Consider licensing buskers to control better, there is a difference between a musician creating a living from entertaining and someone putting down a cap and just singing
- Quality busking should be encouraged and controlled by NBC
- Give buskers to opportunity to apply for a licence and be assessed on their ability. Give them specific places and times that they can play
- The banking of busking from the town centre would have a negative effect on the atmosphere of the area. An organized form of busking should be considered to make the centre more vibrant. I have seen the effect of busking in centre across the country and the result makes the area a more enjoyable experience

- I hope you will not ban buskers; many add to the atmosphere in the town. But at busy times they can cause an obstruction so being able to make them move on after half an hour in one place would offer a degree of control. I believe some years ago Nottingham required that a busker obtain a licence (which was free) on condition applicants demonstrated a degree of musical ability but I don't remember how or who was the judge or if this still continue
- Busking is a positive contribution to our town centre
- I think that a limit on the number of buskers in an area would be a good idea
- Maybe offering the buskers places around the market square to entertain lots of people enjoy listening to local talent
- No problem with busking - they can add to the environment!
- Busking of quality entertainment can add character to areas and as our town is hideous a need to have something attractive
- Buskers should be auditioned, as happens in my former hometown in Brisbane, Australia

### Cycling

- Cycling on pavements is dangerous, particularly on Cliftonville road. This is a narrow pavement next to a bust road and cyclists seems oblivious to pedestrians
- Cycling on pavements is dangerous, particularly on Cliftonville road. This is a narrow pavement next to a bust road and cyclists seems oblivious to pedestrians
- Numbers 22 and 23 - while I agree that cycling on the pavement is not acceptable, simply banning it is not the answer. It is clearly not safe to cycle on the road in many of the places outlined. We need to provide proper segregated cycle routes in order to address this issue and make the town better for everyone. We need to be doing everything we can to get more people to cycle rather than drive, as stated in the policies of central government and the county council Small children practicing cycling on pavements should be allowed. Teens and above going at speed should not
- Wellingborough Road to town is not a cycle friendly for work commuters / school children, sort out a cycle scheme, improve the already lacking infrastructure available. Get some form of recycle incentive machine /scheme (cans bottles etc) in this town.
- Almost knocked over by someone cycling on the pavement on Wellingborough road. Danger to health especially for the less able people
- In Kingsley I have often almost been knocked over by cyclists on the path and received verbal abuse from the cyclist
- I nearly got knocked over by a cyclist when I was heavily pregnant
- The current PSPO seems to have worked well and extending this to include spitting and pavement cycling is to be welcomed ensure cyclists have dedicated cycle lanes, especially along major roads, but do away with joint footpath/cycle paths. These encourage cyclists to use pavements instead of roads. If not possible, make it mandatory for all cyclists to have a bell on their bikes to warn pedestrians of their approach
- I've been almost knocked down and then sworn at by kid on bike in town centre
- As a pedestrian I have been hit by cyclists 3 times, with many near misses. Once I was pushing a Pram with a new-born in it. Cyclists need to be off the pavements everywhere, and someone needs to be monitoring it. It is after all a criminal offence
- There are few safe cycle routes around the town centre so I think people who feel unsafe on the road should be able to cycle responsibly on pavements
- follow European model and place cycling lanes through pedestrianised areas. The cycling lane provision in this town is shockingly poor and in fact puts cyclists at danger when forced to use the road.

- There needs to be more safer routes of cyclists, you have to ask why people are cycling on the pavement in these areas. I personally would never cycle down the Kingsley front due to cars opening doors into the road without checking their mirrors for cycling. It's dangerous, and I'd happily take repeated fines than risk my life. The same applies for the town centre and billing road. Highways England have recently made it worse for cyclists on the Wellingborough road despite apposition during their consultation. The rest of the world seems to be making the roads more accessible for cyclists, and we seem to be going backwards. Why?
- Whilst cycling on the pavements in town is a nuisance, the Council need to provide better cycle infrastructure (as part of a joined up network) in these areas to allow a clear and safe access to town for cyclists and pedestrians.
- Cyclists going through the town centre do so at speed . They are not young children they are generally adults . It is dangerous as we do not expect to need to dodge cyclists at speed on the pavements. The same situation arises in Kingsthorpe
- Cyclists on pavements all over Northampton a hazard and needs action especially as most are adults
- My personal annoyance is cyclists on the pavement. I have been placed in danger of being knocked over on many occasions. People should be made aware of the dangers and CCTV footage used to prosecute them
- I think cycling on pavements is only a problem if the cyclist is inconsiderate e.g. Cycling fast, not giving way to pedestrians etc. However as Northampton is woefully inadequate in respect of providing safe cycle paths and as the roads are so busy I think it is understandable that cyclists feel the need to use the pavements and as long as they are careful and respectful of pedestrians I think they should be allowed to. I would urged the council to invest in better cycling infrastructure to help with reducing air pollution, reducing carbon emissions and encouraging people to take more exercise
- Cycling on pavements is thoroughly dangerous. No bells or any regard for pedestrians in most cases
- Until the roads improve for cyclists we will often be forced into the pavement for our own safety
- I am 74 years old and at the age of 11 enforced previous information by the school cycling scheme that cycling on any pavement was illegal. This still seems to follow through with current school instructors. We do have combined cycle tracks and footpaths which are clearly marked. Why then are your above proposals not town wide? If it is the law it is the law and should be administered by those we pay for to uphold the law. Cycling in Abington Park, in this context private land, is prohibited by local bye laws with signs indicating this prohibition. Why is this order not extended to paths in Public Parks that do not have sign posted cycle ways within them
- Cyclist are an issue in the town as are motorbikes. Causing disturbance and endangering the public.
- Cyclists riding on the pavement in Kingsthorpe are a danger.
- It is just very unpleasant and in some cases (especially cycling on the pavement) dangerous
- Provision for cyclists who have the use the roads at peak times (8-9am 5-6pm) would reduce use of public footpaths as cycle ways
- Surely cycling on pavement is illegal. Police should intervene

- cycling on pavements is prolific and I have nearly been run over by cyclists previously! but I do think that cycling on the roads is difficult and at times unsafe. I have stopped cycling due to concerns over safety
- a bike on pavement Kingsley Park Terrace-came from behind & caught one of my sticks in front wheel-as I was walking it jarred my neck. This was a few months ago-neck still painful from it I am particularly concerned about motorists in Northampton. I have witnessed far too many jumps at red lights, failure to stop at pedestrian crossings, vehicles in advance stop boxes which are dedicated to cyclists. I find that there are also unsafe potholes for cyclists, which do not meet classification for repair. I consider that these barriers to cycling which is a healthy lifestyle to be to the detriment of those making good environmental and healthy choices. I consider that cyclists should be encouraged and on that basis improved provision should be made. This would include dedicated and shared cycle lines with pedestrians, better bicycle parking, safe spaces on roads, And consideration of routes which are short and easy to cycle, An example of a route which is not easy to cycle is Dychurch Lane which is lumpy (Road surface), bumpy (cobbed in places), often badly parked by delivery lorries, obstructed by bins, misunderstood by drivers and has no obvious places for pedestrians to walk
- I live in Kingsley and there are many cyclists on the pavement, the amount of near misses to the public is unreasonable we have a lot of elderly and they are worried to walk around streets. Cars speeding along ketteringbriad please put speed camera back on Kingsley park terrace there will be a terrible accident. Shoppers going into the capital shops on Kingsley park terrace t Parking in the Bus stop with no regard to passengers one bus couldn't pull in as the passenger was in a wheelchair I have actually fallen off the step of the bus due to having to get off by the tree because the bus couldn't park. No traffic wardens either
- Northampton desperately need fully segregated cycling infrastructure. As a cyclist I feel very vulnerable and unsafe cycling around Northampton - it's not a nice experience as it is the Netherlands. If Northampton is to take it's climate change obligations seriously then we need to get more people cycling, but they won't want to do this if it's dangerous
- Cycling on pavements must be an obvious case of "Health and safety" and to ignore that is to encourage accidents to happen.
- Regarding cycling, adults and teenagers should be prohibited, but common sense applied for younger children (do you really want a 5 year old to cycle on the road along Wellingborough Road for example)
- Instead of targeting cyclists as criminals, maybe work with Highways and looks at updating out road systems to make safe spaces for cyclists. The Council did agree to taking steps to becoming greener afterway. Your blaming the wrong people.
- Cycling in the town centre is prohibited in the first place! Cyclists on pavements are very dangerous, especially to those who cannot hear or see
- Adults riding bikes on the path is a major problem
- I always thought cycling on pavements was illegal, but this is a problem all over Northampton, e.g. along the Billing and Wellingborough Roads, where it is dangerous given the speeds and lack of consideration for pedestrians. My husband has been hit by cyclists twice, when coming out of a shop on the Wellingborough Road
- More and safer roads for cyclists, in order to prevent them from using the pavements. Roads feel very unsafe. Having more safe areas would be hella. Limiting busking limits freedom of expression
- Cycling in the town centre is a natural symptom of a confusing disjointed road network, this affects pedestrians too, particularly since the demolition of Greyfriars bus station. I sometimes cycle into town, since I work in the town centre, and it's a right royal pain in the



backside, the roads just peter out when you get to Abington street and to go around is an annoying detour. The volume of traffic also deters people from using the roads. I would suggest we need investment in public transport, investment in safe, clearly marked cycle routes and for driving in town to be dis-incentivised.

- If you want people not to cycle on the pavement then improve the cycling infrastructure of the town and take action against aggressive drivers. Also, protect and improve pedestrian areas, including acting on pavement parking, parking on corners, blocking crossing points (where the kerb has been lowered) and improve public transport
- Cycling in Abington Street, where there is clear signage that it is not permitted and spitting (which is disgusting) are the worst
- Cycling on Northampton Roads is extremely dangerous. I cycle where possible on roads but on paths where safe for all
- As an older person with some loss of hearing cycling on pavements can be especially hazardous for me. Most of the other activities are just unpleasant and make me not want to visit certain areas
- Pavement cycling seems to be getting worse all around town, especially on the Wellingborough Rd, where no sign of people being stopped and fined as on the signage
- I agree with all points except the cycling issue. It is not the activity that is the issue, but the user's and their lack of awareness/ignorance to other users that is the issue
- Everywhere in Europe seems to be taking steps to encourage cycling over driving, however, in Northampton, the reverse is happening. Northamptonshire Highways are currently removing a cycle lane from the Wellingborough road. I personally do not cycle on any paths in Northampton, but as the roads are becoming more dangerous, I can see why some choose to cycle on the path. It is interesting that Kingsley is mentioned in this consultation as this one of the roads I refuse to cycle down in Northampton due to motorists opening their stationary cars into oncoming cyclist traffic, the same applies to the Kettering road. The billing road just sees idiotic parents sitting in cycle paths who drop their children off at the boys school. The headteacher is more than aware of this ongoing issue. I've previously complained after being knocked off. Regarding buskers, let them play their music, I'd love to see who has complained, no doubt the business owning counsellors of the town and nobody else!
- Cyclists riding on areas marked already as 'no cycling' are a nuisance and have no regard for people trying to walk on a Pedestrian area. There are council authorised people who seem to ignore things in front of them. If you do any of these orders you need to enforce them properly. If the town was cleaner people would respect it more. Veolia needs to step up to fulfil its contract.
- As a cyclist, being forced to cycle on roads could be very dangerous without proper cycle lanes due to motorists poor attitude towards cyclists on roads
- Cyclists on pavements are a nuisance and dangerous. Now I'm an OAP I notice this more. We were told it was against the law to cycle on pavements, this should be enforced. Also enforce no cycling in Abington Street
- Bikes on path and skateboards going up and down Cliftonville Road, Northampton
- People cycle on the path in town because there are no cycle routes, its risk getting killed on the road or annoy a few mindless pedestrians not looking where they are going. Cycling on the footway is already an offence under the Road Traffic Act. Further sanction is unnecessary
- As a cyclist I can let you know that the roads are very often a dangerous place here in Northampton, and most of your cycle routes and roads are in a terrible state

- People wouldn't be cycling on the footpaths if there was adequate cycling infrastructure in / around town Centre
- If you had proper cycling infrastructure, you wouldn't have this problem. The town is laughably behind in this in most areas
- You must install Dutch style cycle infrastructure if you want safe streets for all . You cannot impose fines on cyclists if you don't offer a safe alternative to the pavement when car drivers do not follow Police and Highway code instructions
- The roads are not safe enough to ride in due to the lack of cycle lanes and the persistence of people parking in the cycle lanes, e.g. Rushmore road. Park across north is wide enough to allow cyclists safely on the path, which they do so mark it so they can. Make it easier and safer for cyclists and you'll get more people cycling which would mean less drivers and cars in the road in town. A fence around the play area at Abington park would be ideal to stop people taking dogs in there. The park is big enough for dog walkers to take their dogs but keeping them away from the play area will keep children safe and stop fouling. And I say that as a dog owner
- Ref cycling. At many junctions in the town it is impossible for a cyclist to remain safely on the road e.g. White Elephant junction, they must be allowed to use the pavement.
- Regarding cycling on pavements. Cycling at a speed similar to walking poses no danger. However, cycling on the roads when there is no segregated lane is dangerous
- Taking care of our existing cycling infrastructure (e.g. cleaning slippery leaves out, removing potholes), and adding actual segregated cycleways would promote cycling without causing conflict
- Segregated cycling to alleviate cycling on pavement and to increase this greener transport by making it safer
- Please provide more cycle lanes to encourage sustainable transport and make the town safer for cyclists
- Cycling is not detrimental to the quality of life. Please prohibit motoring in the town centre (air quality) and parking on pavements throughout the borough (harmful to pedestrians, wheelchair users and those pushing prams; also persistent
- The council have not provided a full segregated cycle network which forces people to cycle on the pavement out of safety concerns. The mixture of shared paths also creates confusion for cyclists as the network appears to abruptly end and provide no guidance on what route to use next. Therefore, cyclists continue to use the pavement as it appears to be a continuation of the route. The cycling ban should be lifted on Abington street and replaced with cycle with caution signs. The majority of people cycling on the street do so in a conscientious and considerate manner. It is a vital street for connecting a safe cycling route. People 'wheelieing' or riding too fast on Abington street should be told to stop. Providing a complete segregated cycle network would stop people cycling on the pavement and would cost considerably less than car lane expansions or new roads
- How could limiting cycle use in town be justified when it's healthy and environmentally friendly ! Should be encouraged, not the opposite
- Need to be more healthy and good to the environment. We need to get more people on bikes and public transport. I know this issue of cyclist is mainly caused by wheelie kids and people being scared to ride on roads
- As a responsible cyclist I feel Northampton's safe cycle provision is inadequate and improving this will reduce congestion and pollution however educating cyclists who ride on pavements that pedestrians have priority should be encouraged. More safe road routes though please

- Build some segregated cycling infrastructure and people won't have to ride on pavements

### **Spitting**

- With the current virus crisis spitting is of particular concern
- Spitting - disgusting any time, (use drains or bins if you have to), esp. with CV19 on the way
- To add to spitting, I'm against it but understand at times its necessary. I always deliberately spit into the gutter or a drain if I can find one. Spitting randomly is out of order
- Seeing spit on the floor or objects is unhygienic and disgusting (especially with current epidemic). It should be clamped down on
- The spitting issue I 100 percent agree with, it's absolutely vile, way too many times I've stood in some germ ridden splatter of glob wanting to be sick. Absolutely no need
- Spitting carries disease and should be banned and people who do it should be fined, Heavily
- Spitting is dirty, disgusting and spreads viruses etc
- Spitting in public is offensive, is unhygienic and can spread illnesses or germs, so again, I think there is a "Health and safety" issue at stake rather than just it being impolite
- Spitting, dropping of litter, gum, fly tipping - all are constant in all areas of town, and impact upon quality of life
- As we have seen from the Chinese experience, the habit of spitting in public increases the spread of disease as well as being unpleasant to others
- I'd love to know how you intend to stop someone from spitting? The question is somewhat ridiculous
- There needs to be engagement with immigrant community regarding spitting. This is a cultural issue which may be acceptable in other counties so the new population may not realise that local residents find it unacceptable
- I think one has to be a little bit careful about the penalties for spitting. Some of them are really delightful and community spirited residents whose lives originated in the Indian subcontinent to believe that it is healthy to clear ones throat and spit into the gutter and I feel that we can't penalised someone for the way their culture teaches them to behave health wise
- The spitting thing, yes it's disgusting but where do you draw the line for illnesses and spitting out a disgusting drink etc? Would I be fined if I was to do this over an open drain but missed a little?
- I have had someone clear their nasal passage through spitting and be directly hit by it, unintentionally
- Spitting is probably the worst one mentioned in the survey, it's disgusting & there is absolutely no need to do it

### **General Comments**

- I am raising a young family in this area and because I want to protect my I feel very strongly about stopping some of the anti-social behaviour described in the survey. All of which happen in the highlighted area of Kingsley. It would be good to have an email address where we could anonymously send footage of this antisocial behaviour so it can be quickly dealt with
- Society must uphold decent and proper minimum standards of behaviour at all times and places in public, without maintaining such standards life will become deplorable. Don't let slack and low standards drag the rest of decent society down wo their depths

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- If certain activities were banned in certain areas where are the staff coming from to enforce it.  
I think NBC need to look at why some of these behaviours occur - or drugs and alcohol and be looking at strategies to deal with the cause rather than the symptom. Why would anyone object to busking some notable artists began their careers busking - Dermot Kennedy to name one. There are some really miserable people in this town
- All of the activities in this survey have had an impact on my decision as to whether I use the town centre or not and unfortunately it shows, as I go elsewhere. Perhaps having controlled zones where some of these activities can continue would be the answer
- I avoid going into Northampton because of these behaviours
- A lot of the drinking, drug taking, urinating, begging etc is from the homeless people living in the town centre, if the council were to deal with these people and find them a shelter they wouldn't be in the town centre! Homelessness is the real issue here not buskers
- There is a problem with cleanliness in the town centre. There are practically no public toilets available once shops are closing. This is something the council could address and would help with the problem of public urination etc. Street entertainers are not antisocial in nature and I never see them performing very early in the morning or very late at night to warrant a noise complaint. I do find it unacceptable to treat street performers as antisocial
- Most of the above activities can be attributed to the homeless issue in Northampton. If that can be sorted there would be less incidents of anti-social behaviour
- Most of this needs controlling AND enforcing. You will fail to enforce it. Also look at disposing of litter and chewing gum
- It just adds to the general malaise. Northampton is a run-down dirty place that I'd rather not visit. I go to other towns to shop
- Busking and cycling-no problem. Spitting, dog fouling, drinking and drug use-prosecute!
- Littering, dog mess, spitting, swearing in public, shouting unnecessarily
- These are all obvious answers to anybody who lives in this town. Come down hard on people who think its ok to allow drinking at 9am. Spitting in the street is just disgusting, Automatic on the spot fine
- I just wish something was done when reported
- I don't think busking should be criminalised, nor should cycling on the pavement be criminalised, however anti-social. We should avoid giving young people criminal records for things which may be illegal but are not actually crimes. Otherwise I would have a record as I have had points for speeding! Also it should be possible to have picnics with wine and beer in Becketts park and places like this
- The fact that these elements are included in your survey highlight how they need to be controlled or preferably eliminated
- Littering is also anti-social and continues to happen. Especially that left behind by the homeless and street drinkers. I Think all street entertainment should be pre-arranged. I don't not go into town to be sang at badly or preached at about religion
- If the council and police were to actually enforce any of the above there would be an improved quality of life for all. But as the council don't care about anything other than lining their own pockets and wasting the tax money taken from me I don't see anything changing. Also police help and presence would help with above issues but they only will help if the antisocial behaviour is caused by someone doing 35 in a 30 zone
- Priorities for me are ultimately relating to actions by others which mean I am prevented from access to the areas by virtue of concern for my own health and safety. I currently avoid

entering the centre of Northampton because I feel intimidated by people urinating and defaecating on the pavement, being under the influence of alcohol and other substances even during the daytime

- More police presence moving & dispersing groups needed
- My walk to work is often littered with vomit, faeces, general spoils of the night before , broken bottles . When I go out at lunch time there are piles of bedding and belongings from the homeless in empty shop doorways . This is unpleasant and intimidating, esp. in the Drapery area when waiting for buses. I no longer come to Northampton unless it is to work - I chose to shop either in MK or Birmingham . The Town centre is a thoroughly unpleasant area
- Why has lower, town end of Kettering Road not been included in the proposal: (White Elephant/Old Racecourse down to town/Steffans jewelers) ? Have witnessed poor behaviour as survey questionnaire there
- I think some action should be taken everywhere within the borough not just in particular areas
- The prohibitions & controls should be extended to ALL public places, including parks, cemeteries, churchyards and the like throughout the whole of the Borough
- any rules, prohibitions etc. only make sense if they are then controlled and enforced
- I find everything you have mentioned to be anti-social. We need to make Northampton a nicer place to visit
- Drinking, drug taking, defecating, urinating and spitting in public places are all disgusting activities which should be clamped down on. The council needs to provide cycle paths and stop persecuting people who are helping cut down on carbon emission
- There needs to be adequate and appropriate support in place for people that are going to be engaging in these behaviours who are vulnerable for one reason or another. You can't be reactive and punish people without having proactive support in place
- Very few have. Town centre is a downtrodden area and this survey just appears to want to have a bullying enforcement
- The environmental wardens should spend less time waiting for smokers to drop cigarette butts and more stopping idiots on bikes and smoking weed on the market square
- The town is not the place it was and not a pleasure to visit
- Can the above areas be expanded to include Kingsthorpe shopping Front?
- Most of the activities are not 'policed' or enforced effectively - this renders the Order and this survey somewhat pointless. The potential powers need to be used effectively to provide any benefit. One only has to walk around the area to see multiple examples daily of the activities in question and the absence of anyone or anything to prevent them. 'Quality of life' will only improve if what is being done now is changed; the present approach clearly isn't working.
- I feel some of this is slightly over the top and people will continue to carry out certain behaviours regardless. Surely there can be better things to focus time and money on in the town
- Please extend the PSPO to and including Racecourse. In the past restrictions have moved drunks from town centre & onto Racecourse. Police need to be more committed to dealing with the issues
- I oppose most of the measures listed, even where I see there is a problem, because I see that they are symptomatic of deeper problems within the town centre and they are pitched directly at homeless people who are already vulnerable and don't need to be stung with

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punitive measures. If you want to stop their behaviour then invest in them as people. The most anti-social drinkers are not the ones drinking on the street, they're the ones who head into the pubs and clubs spoiling for a fight or drink until they have no idea what they're doing. Rather than persecuting street drinkers it would be more effective to target them.

- Perhaps those places should all close by midnight? On the subject of busking, I am extremely opposed to any measures which restrict people's freedom of expression to perform music on the street. We have some good buskers and some not so good ones, but I respect them all. Some of them are using their respective talents to earn something instead of begging. See above: more investment required. Prohibiting people from spitting is also problematic. Yes, ideally, it would be polite if people didn't, but imposing fines is too much. If an insect flies into my mouth what do you want me to do, swallow it? Sometimes it's reasonable to spit. Some of us find it necessary during exercise. Again, I do not think this is the problem. I think there is someone, or some group, which you do not like, who sometimes does this. How could you help them?
- All the above are classic examples of unsociable behaviour which I feel is endemic in Northampton. All the above is however pointless if not enforced, enforcement I am not currently seeing
- All of the above (except for busking) are issues that have a detrimental effect on the public visiting the town centre. It's good to clamp down on these issues but they need to be strongly enforced. For example, drug dealing has been rife in town for a long time now yet dealers rarely hide their activities now. There are numerous reports of public dropping cigarette ends (which needs addressing) but drinking, drugs, graffiti etc are all bigger issues that need eliminating. Add violence and knife crime to the list too.
- I would include Marefair and railway station within the restrictions
- All of the above affect my daily quality of life. The behaviour of some is disgusting and needs to be shown it is not acceptable. This needs to be constantly policed. I am not against buskers per se however they often create noise outside the central library which is now used to register births, deaths and marriages. It is not appropriate to hear buskers whilst carrying out this type of business.
- Drinking on the street, dog poo on the street and spitting should all be criminal offences
- All of this antisocial behaviour can be easily viewed multiple times on a daily basis as I go to and from work. There is nowhere in town centre that I or my peers feel safe anymore, either alone or with someone else
- Many of the questions raised here e.g. urinating in public, cycling on pavements are illegal anyway regardless of where they are, and should be enforced. Cycling in the town centre is downright dangerous. Cycling, and dogs off the lead are forbidden in Abington Park but not enforced. No point in having any rules if they are blatantly ignored because they are not enforced

### **Enforcement**

- None of the activities are tackled by anyone. This exercise is pointless without enforcement. Zero or very low tolerance is needed for an effective change
- No point having pspo's unless you intend to enforce them!
- The main problem that I have is the fact that while we have PSPOs in place, and equally advertised by street signage in the town, no enforcement is ever carried out. Officers within the council have the authorisations in place, as part of their job role, to deal with ASB; however, they are prevented from doing so. The Neighbourhood Wardens are one such
- Trying to work registering deaths with buskers and drunk shouting and the smell of cannabis is totally inappropriate, there does need to be more action taken though, having the rules but no enforcement is pointless
- designation with these delegation of duties. Why aren't PSPOs being enforced? Without appropriate enforcement, PSPOs are completely pointless. Town Centre Patrols was, in the

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- past, a useful tool to combat ASB why was this activity completely removed from being effective? In addition to this, the job descriptions of Neighbourhood Wardens clearly include this activity but are prevented from carrying this task out!
- Education and enforcement are key to being successful. Signs are useless unless the restrictions can be enforced. Situation is currently very bad with spitting, drug and alcohol. Councillors and staff should spend a few hours on the streets to see the problems for themselves
- There are too few police to control anti-social behaviour but common sense and a reasonable approach should be taken
- If the proposed measures are implemented make sure there is enough staff from all agencies to enforce, otherwise it becomes a waste of time

**Do you have any other comments that you would like to add regarding any impact that the above activities may have had on you and your quality of life?**

- Can the chewing gum be removed from pavements in the town centre IT is quite disgusting and can this be included in the PCSO. Thank you
- Disabled badge parking spaces being used by non-badge holders And VANS
- I do not like seeing duvets left in doorways by homeless people also do not like how in some cases they congregate in doorways along Abington St. In some cases I have found this quite threatening
- Any salesperson stopping people on the street
- I grew up in Northampton, and have seen the demise over the years to the point of we are thinking of relocating. With people continuously dumping rubbish in the street, fly tipping, rat infestation in the town and surrounding area due to poor hygiene will take a mammoth effort to put right. I am not sure the town can be fixed as these types of issues have become less important and a culture of the way of living. There are so many other things that need fixing, such as Northampton's roads again something that used to get done is now acceptable as a way of life, drink and drug driving seems to be on the increase, this is a form of antisocial behaviour. I don't really need to be telling you none of this as it's nothing you don't already know as you must see on social media platforms.
- Groups of men smoking outside coffee shops is extremely intimidating and is primarily why I choose to shop in Milton Keynes
- What about smokers? They are anti-social, because they cause phenomenal mess, yet nothing is mentioned about them. If drinking is not allowed, then neither should smoking be allowed antisocial behaviour puts me off going into Northampton
- Rubbish left over pavements, no decent provision for homeless people
- Town is dirty and run down. People behave in response to their environment. See broken window theory of criminology
- I think it's about time people came out for the day and started to see what is really going on the street daily. We see it all from our store taking drugs selling it drinking , stealing begging and selling fake goods e.g. Eau de Toilette toys balloons
- This is a very negative poll, nowhere to allow a positive reaction or answer, typical of the CAD's in government, no matter what position
- Council can find officers to nab cigarette butt droppers but cannot find officers to stop unauthorised vehicles using the Drapery



- Homeless Northampton dangerous  
Stricter littering laws where those found guilty of littering should have to spend several hours litter picking
- Dumping rubbish on the streets is also antisocial when the vast majority of persons abide by the guidelines - the streets are awash with rubbish and plants growing where they shouldn't - the place has a general unloved feel to it
- It makes me feel that the area is unsafe
- Illegal camping by gypsies/travellers in public parks and green spaces
- Making the town safer and more economically environmentally friendly
- it's not my quality of life I'm worried about , it's the homeless I worry about if excluded from town you are hiding the problem
- Prohibit the disposal of chewing gum other than in a waste bin
- provide more shelter for rough sleepers
- We need to bring an air of wellbeing back to our town and people being irresponsible needs to be clamped down on with a firm hand. You can enjoy yourself without being a nuisance
- Anti-social and inappropriate behaviour sadly appears to be becoming the norm. Lack of police presence must be a major factor
- I think there is a wider issue of supporting the homeless properly and providing further activities for young people that do not involve drinking which would help beyond general bans on drinking etc in public spaces. I also wonder who knows and how people know about bans and how often fines are actually given
- Fearful of being out in public areas
- Large groups or gangs of people is very intimidating. There should be a presence or power to disperse
- Stop people loitering in Birchfield Road East near the shops
- The town is filthy - anything to stop people littering/fly-tipping/graffitiing is a good measure. The council also needs to clean it up - they are terrible at this and it really isn't difficult
- Discarding used chewing gum should be banned and a fine imposed. Northampton has spent a huge amount redoing paved areas in the town centre and they are covered in chewing gum.
- Town centre - Improving the market alone will not increase footfall throughout the centre. The place as a whole is dirty, dark and has attained a stigma. Market Walk is a lovely short cut that is wasted and forgotten. Kettering road is disgusting, visitors to this town are met with squalid pathways covered in gum and litter. Wouldn't it be a better start to have Northamptonian drug addicts cleaning up the town to fuel their heart breaking addictions? Rather than stealing from local businesses who are already struggling.
- Rough sleepers in shop doorways, need to be moved away from the town centre these all contribute to the above
- been here nearly two years and never see Police in town centre except very late at night at weekends. higher presence required to help quality of visiting town
- This town is only going to get worse no matter what you do
- Large groups congregating causing noise disturbances around the town centre. Especially when near residential dwellings
- Coming into the town centre is an unpleasant experience now with lots of suspicious males loitering in doorways. There are a lot of rough sleepers who are not included in this survey. That needs addressing too. I think we need to look at the underlying causes for these

- antisocial behaviours- why there are so many street drinkers, drug users and people who are generally antisocial in their behaviours. An analysis of the demographics would be helpful and working with community groups to end this blight that is ruining our lovely town.
- You haven't mentioned street parking I have yellow lines outside my house and I persistently get people parking on the pavement outside my house and nothing is done about it despite many complaints to the Police and Northampton parking all is linked to general decline in order bring back regular police patrols on foot I have noticed lots of anti-social acts in the town centre and never ever see police there other than if there is an incident and even then it takes time for them to arrive deterrent is the key visible police around the town I would like to see a Police box like the old days where maybe 2 or 3 Police can sit in this box and people in the town would know where to go if an incident was to happen to get help by not giving this reassurance the people of Northampton are being made targets and problem people and gangs can act without fear I do very much appreciate the Police but they should be given more powers and options to deal with problem people. I have been pleased to see the guys stopping people from littering in the town centre these measures should be expanded all around the town excessive littering really brings down an area and stops descent people from having a sense of pride living in other people's mess and rubbish it really is degrading. Regarding homelessness and begging why can't the government construct a large warehouse type building offering a bed and running water we can build warehouses to store food stuffs but we allow people to decline in health sleeping on the streets how many beds do you think you could get inside a large warehouse then you could ban encampments in the town centre of course such a place would need policing but if someone is truly in need and such a place was safe the people would use it
- Don't feel safe walking around Northampton town centre
- This is all well and good but when the town centre/ town in general has litter everywhere people think they can do as they please. Maybe having a dedicated town centre police team would help, as the University Campus has. I would put my police council tax contribution up for these two things (litter control and permanent visible town centre policing)
- I do not enter the Town Centre (consequently traders there have lost my custom) as I am not allowed to walk my fully trained dog off-lead there
- Town centre is extremely dirty, shop facades disgusting no shops, too scared to go into town in case of assault etc
- Whilst I have sympathy for some homeless people. I object to seeing tents and encampments being set up in the town Centre. Especially in shop doorways whilst I'm trying to go about my daily business. It's intimidating and not nice to see. I, Myself as a law abiding taxpayer would not be allowed to pitch a tent or make a home in a public place. Being followed whilst asking for money. Passing or being in areas where there's a strong smell of weed is not healthy. I don't want to be breathing in other people's use of this drug. People begging by ATM machines is very intimidating especially for a women on her own. Groups of men standing around Abingdon street smoking Can also not be very pleasant. Bike riding is a real nuisance and dangerous. I once passed a young women laying in a shop doorway totally out of it covered in baked beans. In fact I thought she was dead. I searched for a community police person to report this to but could find no one ! I avoid coming into Northampton for all of the above reasons.
- I have lived in Northamptonshire for approx. 28 years. I used to go into town, but haven't been for about 5 years and no longer go into town as it's so horrible
- I believe it is a forlorn task to attempt to improve Northampton town, particularly the centre, which is becoming less attractive over time - as are many other towns across the UK. As an

inward looking society full of the “me me” types there is no prospect of improvement. All that can be done is to contain those low-lives in cages. Erect a cage in the town centre, throw the scummers in and hose them down with cold water

I just think it's disgusting

- Please tidy up the town centre and reopen shops that have closed and make it a town worth coming to. Part of this is to prohibit those creating a nuisance and using drink and drugs
- Smoking in public, there should be designated smoking areas within town if people wish to smoke. This is something other countries do and I feel this is something that would make Northampton a better and cleaner place to shop
- On street parking area rules need to be reviewed to prohibit even disabled drivers parking in high traffic/narrow areas. The Drapery traffic fiasco needs to be policed
- The police should have all the powers they want. Anti-social behaviour in Northampton is a big reason for its decline. Gangs of kids hanging out should be dispersed. Weston Favell car park has that problem. The Drapery/Gold St access is not a nice place to walk. The bus stops on the drapery have caused a lot of anti-social behaviour. It's way too crowded. So has Mc Donald's. They should be closed down. Much more police presence in the town centre is needed
- Our Town Centre is not a place now to go to, it is dire, and the anti-social behaviour just adds to it
- Some of the anti-social behaviours mentioned are driving people away from our town centre as the law-abiding citizens feel threatened by them. Also, large gatherings of people need to be banned as well as accosting people to sell/give them reading material. These can be quite intimidating for normal shoppers in the town
- Homeless people gathering at the top of Abington street seems a particular trouble spot. As mentioned previously we avoid town at all costs mainly due to this and all the anti-social behaviour we see occur each time we visit. Spitting, swearing, drunk people and I'm sure drugs have been involved too. The town needs a huge clear up!
- Its not pleasant for people who have clear all the drug rubbish and alcohol rubbish plus the verbal abuse you can get
- Just improve the town centre. It's a dump. Because nobody goes there, then all this antisocial behaviour happens. There is no pride in our town centre. You will never get rid of these behaviours until society stops it. Police are just wasting their time and efforts

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## APPENDIX 3

### Responses from Statutory Consultees

#### **NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL - ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND LICENSING MANAGER**

**Drinking alcohol and the taking of drugs in public spaces** - The PSPO provides a potentially effective mechanism for controlling anti-social behaviour resulting from these activities . There is potential for further increased street drinking as compliance with covid-19 secure requirements will limit the numbers of people admitted to pubs. The PSPO provides a mechanism for control of groups of drinkers in public spaces who are not observing social distancing.

**Cleaning up dog fouling** - The adverse health effects associated with dog faeces are well known – risk of toxacara infection which can lead to blindness. Failure to clean dog fouling is at best inconsiderate and at worst a significant health risk. Significant number of complaints continue to be received about dog fouling . The PSPO provides an effective means of controlling this.

**Dogs on leads in Town Centre, children’s play areas and cemeteries** - A number of members of the population have a fear of dogs, in areas such as the town centre where there are large number of people in a limited space, loose dogs can cause significant harassment alarm and distress. This is also true in children’s play areas and cemeteries.

**Urination and defecation in public spaces** - Unacceptable behaviour in a public place and has potential for the transmission of infection.

**Spitting in a public place** - Means of transmission of infection, particularly important as part of the mechanism for controlling Covid 19 infection.

#### **NORTHAMPTONSHIRE POLICE – Sergeant, Neighbourhoods Team**

I support all of the recommendations for inclusion (the drug taking obviously comes with its own police powers, including the power of arrest) but having the PSPO in place for seizing alcohol is really handy. Also urination and defecation in a public space as well as spitting. Any extra powers/policies in place can only be a good thing.

#### **WEST HUNSBURY PARISH COUNCIL**

In response to the consultation on the review of Public Spaces Protection Orders the parish council of West Hunsbury would like to comment that the councillors do not see a problem with busking in the town centre, in some cases good buskers can add to the atmosphere of a town in a positive way.

## APPENDIX 4

### Letter from Liberty

# LIBERTY

PSPO Consultation  
Northampton Borough Council  
Guildhall, St. Giles Square  
Northampton  
NN1 1DE

9 March 2020

BY POST AND EMAIL TO: email [pspo@northampton.gov.uk](mailto:pspo@northampton.gov.uk)

#### LAWYERS

HEAD OF LEGAL CASEWORK  
Emma Norton, Solicitor

Rosie Brighthouse, Solicitor  
Debaleena Dasgupta, Solicitor  
Lara ten Caten, Solicitor  
Megan Goulding, Solicitor

The solicitors employed by Liberty are individually authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority

Dear Sir/Madam

#### **Proposed renewal of the Public Spaces Protection Order Covering the Borough of Northampton**

I write in relation to the proposed renewal of the Public Space Protection Order for the Borough of Northampton ('the PSPO'), as set out on your website. I note that a copy of the proposed renewed PSPO has not been published on your website; in breach of s. 72 (4) Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014. In the interests of expedience, our response to the consultation here is based on the version of the PSPO published on 1 April 2017. If the wording proposed is different then we request that you send us a copy of it without delay to enable us to make further representations.

We enclose for your attention:

1. Poole Centre PSPO
2. Court order of 20 February 2020

#### **1. Background to Liberty's concerns**

Liberty has been concerned about the impact of PSPOs since their inception and has successfully persuaded a number of local authorities not to pursue their proposed PSPOs. We are particularly concerned about the potential misuse of PSPOs, especially those that punish poverty-related behaviours such as begging. For the reasons set out below, we are against renewing the proposed PSPO.

Liberty is currently instructed on behalf of a Poole resident in a statutory appeal before the High Court challenging Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council's PSPO which includes a prohibition on begging (CO/2060/2018).<sup>1</sup> Since proceedings have been issued, BCP Council's officers have stated they will recommend to BCP's Cabinet that it varies the order to remove the prohibitions relating to begging and rough sleeping; the case has been stayed to allow them to do so (see enclosed court order). We urge Northampton to reconsider its proposed PSPO. If the Borough of Northampton decides to implement the begging provisions, it would be vulnerable to a similar legal challenge.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-dorset-51219444>

## 2. Lack of evidence

We are disappointed that no evidence has been published on the Northampton Borough Council's ('the Council') website to support the PSPO. The Council is required by s.59 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (the '2014 Act') to be satisfied on reasonable grounds that the conditions to implement a PSPO are met before it can lawfully make a decision to introduce a PSPO. The Council cannot reasonably be satisfied of the relevant conditions without first considering robust evidence on the situation in the area which will be covered by the proposed PSPO. It is unclear whether any such evidence exists. If there has been a thorough assessment of the impact of the PSPO to date, it should be published.

By way of comparison, we have found that other councils have relied on, and published, data, witness statements, police reports, surveys, impact assessments, and many other sources of information to justify the need for a PSPO before setting out a proposed order and starting a consultation. If the Council goes ahead with renewing this PSPO without sufficient evidence then it will be unlawful and vulnerable to challenge in the High Court. Further, when considering the evidence, the Council should ensure that its consultation has heard a representative sample of views, including from those who will be negatively affected by the PSPO, who are likely to be among the most vulnerable and marginalised members of the community.

## 3. Begging

Provision 3(a)(V)

*"Persons within the town centre tennis racquet area (Appendix 1A) will not place themselves with the intention to make any verbal, non-verbal or written request from a standing, sitting or lying-down position for money, donations or goods – including the placing of hats or containers for money."*

Provision 3(a)(VI)

*"Persons within the Kingsley shopping area (Appendix 1B) will not place themselves with the intention to make any verbal, non-verbal or written request from a standing, sitting or lying-down position for money, donations or goods – including the placing of hats or containers for money."*

As mentioned above, the Council is required by s.59 of the 2014 Act to be satisfied on reasonable grounds that the conditions to implement a PSPO are met. No reasons have been provided here.

Further, the Council can only impose PSPO requirements that it is reasonable to impose. It is clearly not reasonable to impose requirements that are simply not needed. It is not reasonable (or efficient) to slap those who are begging with fines that they cannot afford to pay. Indeed, it would be particularly cruel and perverse for those caught begging in violation of the PSPO to have to pay a fine using what little money they might have saved from charitable donations.

The Government's current statutory guidance (the "Statutory Guidance") emphasises that the prohibited behaviour itself must be unreasonable, and that PSPOs should only be used to address any specific behaviour which is within the control of the person concerned. Begging when destitute is not in itself harmful or unreasonable, nor does that person have any other option where begging is their only source of income.

The only method of enforcing a PSPO is by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice (an 'FPN') of up to £100 or, upon prosecution, a fine of up to £1,000. A PSPO does not give council officers, police officers or Magistrates any other additional powers, for example powers to require engagement with substance misuse services.

This measure also wrongly targets those who are homeless, who are likely to beg, and those who are otherwise destitute. Begging is not anti-social behaviour: it is often an act of desperation. There is no evidence that the Council has considered whether a blanket ban on all forms begging is the least intrusive way of achieving its aims or whether alternative measures can be pursued which would not risk drawing vulnerable people into the criminal justice system.

We consider that a ban on begging would have a harmful and disproportionate effect on the most vulnerable people in Northampton, and would result in the unfair penalisation of poverty. People who resort to begging are likely to do so because of poverty, addiction and/or mental health issues. They are also highly unlikely to be able to pay an FPN or a Magistrate's Court fine, and a resulting criminal record will not alleviate their poverty or address the underlying causes.

We are also concerned by the broad and vague wording of the PSPO. Which behaviours does "placing yourself with the intention to make any verbal, non-verbal or written request from a standing, sitting or lying-down position for money, donations or goods" include? Would sitting on a pavement in dishevelled clothing be sufficient? Does this PSPO effectively amount to the criminalisation of anyone who appears to be impoverished and in need of financial assistance? This is a very dangerous and wide-ranging discretion to give to your enforcement officers, and we would urge you to consider removing this part of the wording of the PSPO in particular. A blanket ban on begging would be too vague to be enforceable, disproportionate and also potentially discriminatory. There are well-established links between begging, homelessness and disability (mental or otherwise), as recognised in the Government's August 2018 *Rough Sleeping Strategy*.<sup>2</sup> The publication also notes that while rough sleeping is the most visible form of homelessness, "street activity such as begging, street drinking, street based drug use and street based sex work can be more visible again, often causing concerns for local communities. People engaged in street activity will not always be sleeping rough, however as with people who sleep rough they will have a range of housing and support needs and will often be vulnerable or contributing to the vulnerability of others."<sup>3</sup> Those who fail to engage with support services among the homeless and destitute are precisely those who are the most vulnerable – they should not be criminalised.

There is therefore a risk that this provision will unlawfully discriminate against disabled people. There is no indication that the Northampton Borough Council has conducted an Equality Impact Assessment or in any other way considered the equalities implications of the PSPO. Failure to do so is likely to amount to a breach of the Equality Act 2010.

Blanket bans on begging are also likely to be ineffective. As the Statutory Guidance suggests, "introducing a blanket ban on a particular activity may simply displace the behaviour and create victims elsewhere."<sup>4</sup> This is likely to be the result of including such a provision within a PSPO, as has been the experience of many other local authorities who have enacted similar provisions.

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<sup>2</sup> See *Rough Sleeping Strategy*, August 2018, para 34.

<sup>3</sup> See para 147.

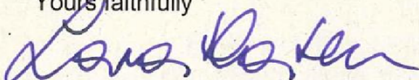
<sup>4</sup> See p 49.

This measure would also constitute an interference with Articles 8 and 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights ("the Convention") and therefore the Human Rights Act 1998. The measure interferes with these rights in two ways: firstly, begging is arguably an expression of poverty and disadvantage, and criminalising such conduct may undermine the right to freedom of expression under Article 10 of the Convention. Secondly, Article 8 of the Convention extends to the protection of personal autonomy and can apply to activities conducted in public. Begging is a form of interaction with others and, in our view, its blanket and untargeted criminalisation falls within the scope of the right to respect for private life in Article 8.

### **CONCLUSION**

We are therefore concerned that the existing PSPO contains inappropriate provisions and that your proposed renewal of the PSPO would be wrong and potentially unlawful. We urge you to consider the arguments above before renewing this PSPO.

Yours faithfully



Lara ten Caten

Solicitor

0207 378 3657

[laratc@libertyhumanrights.org.uk](mailto:laratc@libertyhumanrights.org.uk)



## APPENDX 5 Equality Impact Assessment



### Equality Impact Assessment Part 1: Screening

When reviewing, planning or providing services Northampton Borough Council needs to assess the impacts on people. Both residents and staff, of how it works - or is planning to – work (in relation to things like disability). It has to take steps to remove/minimise any harm it identifies. It has to help people to participate in its services and public life. “**Equality Impact Assessments**” (EIAs) prompt people to think things through, considering people’s different needs in relation to the law on equalities. The first stage of the process is known as ‘screening’ and is used to come to a decision about whether and why further analysis is – or is not – required. EIAs are published in line with transparency requirements.

A helpful guide to equalities law is available at: [www.northampton.gov.uk/equality](http://www.northampton.gov.uk/equality). A few notes about the laws that need to be considered are included at the end of this document. Helpful questions are provided as prompts throughout the form.

1 Name of policy/activity/project/practice	Public Places Protection Order
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<b>2. Screening undertaken (please complete as appropriate)</b>	
Director of Service	George Candler
Lead Officer for developing the policy/activity/practice	Vickie Rockall
Other people involved in the screening (this may be people who work for NBC or a related service or people outside NBC)	Director of Customers & Communities, NBC Legal Services Finance, LGSS Environmental Health & Licensing Manager, NBC Environmental Services Manager, NBC Northants Police Cabinet Member for Community Safety, NBC NCC

**3. Brief description of policy/activity/project/practice: including its main purpose, aims, objectives and projected outcomes, and how these fit in with the wider aims of the organisation.**

- A Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) allows a local authority to introduce a series of measures into a defined locality.
- The proposed PSPO will allow gating of the highway known as Marble Arch, a hotspot for anti-social behaviour for many years.
- Gating Marble Arch will make it more difficult for offenders to evade the police.
- This is a legal order that can last for up to three years and it will prohibit a number of anti-social behaviour activities.
- If an element of this order is breached, the outcome could be that the individual is issued with a fixed penalty notice for £100 or fined up to a maximum of £1000 if at court.
- Cabinet agreed on 16 October 2019 that they wanted to progress to a consultation on proposals to review the PSPO made in 2017.
- Consultation ran from 17 December 2019 to 10 March 2020.

**4 Relevance to Equality and Diversity Duties**

A Public Spaces Protection Order is designed to stop all individuals or a specific group of persons committing anti-social behaviour in a public space. Much of the Order would be replacing the old PSPO with a few potential additions.

If you have indicated there is a negative impact on any group, is that impact:

No – all individuals/sections of the community will be dealt with in the same manner. Incidents of ASB will continue to be dealt with in line with our equalities framework

**Legal?**

N/A

**Please explain:**

**5 Evidence Base for Screening**

**Equality Human Rights Commission**

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/resources/case-studies-of-howorganisations-are-using-the-duties/case-studies-equality-impact-assessments/>

Section 72 of the Anti-Social Behaviour and Policing Act 2014 requires the Cabinet as decision maker to pay particular regard to rights of freedom of expression and freedom of assembly set out in articles 10 (the right to freedom of expression) and 11 (freedom of assembly and association) of the European Convention on Human Rights in considering the making any such order. The making of the said order is considered to be proportionate and will fulfil a legitimate aim of curbing anti-social behaviour in public places for the benefit of the law abiding majority and hence will not infringe article 11 ECHR.

## **6 Requirements of the equality duties:**

(remember there's a note to remind you what they are at the end of this form and more detailed information at [www.northampton.gov.uk/equality](http://www.northampton.gov.uk/equality))

Will there be/has there been consultation with all interested parties?

- Cabinet agreed on 16 October 2019 to progress to a 12 week consultation phase which ran from 17 December 2019 to 10 March 2020 via an open access online survey using 'Survey Monkey' and the Council's social media accounts

- Councillors
- Businesses
- Community Safety Partnership
- Council Officers
- Northamptonshire Office of Police & Crime Commissioner
- Northamptonshire Police
- Northamptonshire County Council
- Community Forums
- Residents Panel
- Members of the public
- Local press and media channels
- Town Centre BID
- Northamptonshire Retail Crime Initiative (NRCI)
- Pubwatch

**Are proposed actions necessary and proportionate to the desired outcomes?**

**Yes/No** Public Spaces Protection Order is designed to stop all individuals or a specific group of persons committing anti-social behaviour in a public space

**Where appropriate, will there be scope for prompt, independent reviews and appeals against decisions arising from the proposed policy/practice/activity?**

**Yes/No** The implementation of the PSPO can be challenged by any interested person within 6 weeks of the making of the Order, the challenge is made at the High Court. Anyone who is directly affected by the making of the PSPO can challenge the order

**Does the proposed policy/practice/activity have the ability to be tailored to fit different individual circumstances?**

**Yes/No** Public Spaces Protection Orders provide the opportunity to address specific problems in specific areas and create an 'Order' to enable appropriate and proportionate action to be taken.

Where appropriate, can the policy/practice/activity exceed the minimum legal equality and human rights requirements, rather than merely complying with them?

The making of the said order is considered to be proportionate and will fulfil a legitimate aim of curbing anti-social behaviour in public places for the benefit of the law abiding majority and hence will not infringe article 11 ECHR.

**From the evidence you have and strategic thinking, what are the key risks** (the harm or ‘adverse impacts’) **and opportunities** (benefits and opportunities to promote equality) this policy/practice/activity might present?

	Risks (Negative)	Opportunities (Positive)
Race		There is no evidence that the ‘Order’ will impact on any specific person based on their race
Disability	Mental Health issues and physical disability will be taken into account by officers. The restriction on the consumption of alcohol could also affect those that are alcohol dependant. The proposed ‘Order’ will not bring in any new powers in this area and will simply replace the existing Designated Public Spaces Protection Order.	The ‘Order’ may well have the opposite effect and encourage those that are drug/alcohol dependant to engage with the support that is available and this in turn will deliver health benefits.
Gender or Gender Identity/Gender Assignment		There is no evidence that the ‘Order’ will impact on any specific person based on their gender
Pregnancy and Maternity (including breastfeeding)		There is no evidence that the ‘Order’ will impact on any specific person based on pregnancy or maternity. If required pregnant women will be referred into safeguarding mechanisms
Sexual Orientation		There is no evidence that the ‘Order’ will impact on any specific person based on their sexual orientation

Age (including children, youth, midlife and older people)		Young people will be referred into safeguarding mechanisms. In some cases parent/guardian of under 16's will be spoken to
Religion, Faith and Belief		There is no evidence that the 'Order' will impact on any specific person based on their beliefs or religion
Human Rights	There could be impact on certain groups (street entertainers/the homeless) if those items were included. Both groups could feel their earning opportunities have been limited.	The 'Order' has been proposed due to the volume of incidents that are occurring that are having a significant impact on the peoples' quality of life. The introduction of this 'Order' will have a positive impact on residents, businesses, and visitors to the town.

## 7 Proportionality

All cases will be treated on an individual basis, and any decisions reached will be within existing legislative guidelines. Use of the PSPO powers and advice given will be recorded in pocket notebooks and on ECIN's data base. The information will be analysed to determine whether the implementation of the powers has had a disproportionate effect upon the equality factors.

Enforcement action will always be seen as a last resort. Through the multi-agency groups and individual case management, support and intervention will continue to be offered.

## 8 Decision

Set out the rationale for deciding whether or not to proceed to full impact assessment

Full Equality Impact Assessment is not required as all sections of the community are treated the same. The proposed restrictions will impact positively on people whose protective characteristics are impacted upon by the anti-social behaviour the order is designed to address

**Date of Decision:** 8 June 2020

**We judge that a full impact assessment is not necessary since there are no identified groups affected by these changes.**

## **1. Equality Duties to be taken into account in this screening include:**

### **Prohibited Conduct under The Equality Act 2010 including:**

*Direct discrimination (including by association and perception e.g. carers); Indirect discrimination; Pregnancy and maternity discrimination; Harassment; third party harassment; discrimination arising from disability.*

### **Public Sector Duties (Section 149) of the Equality Act 2010 for NBC and services provided on its behalf: (due to be effective from 4 April 2011)**

*NBC and services providing public functions must in providing services have due regard to the need to: **eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different groups.** 'Positive action' permits proportionate action to overcome disadvantage, meet needs and tackle under-representation.*

### **Rights apply to people in terms of their "Protected Characteristics":**

*Age; Gender; Gender Assignment; Sexual Orientation; Disability; Race; Religion and Belief; Pregnancy; Maternity. But Marriage and Civil Partnership do not apply to the public sector duties.*

### **Duty to "advance equality of opportunity":**

*The need, when reviewing, planning or providing services/policies/practices to assess the impacts of services on people in relation to their 'protected characteristics', take steps to remove/minimise any negative impacts identified and help everyone to participate in our services and public life. **Equality Impact Assessments** remain best practice to be used. Sometimes **people have particular needs** e.g. due to gender, race, faith or disability that need to be addressed, not ignored. NBC must have due regard to the **duty to make reasonable adjustments** for people with disabilities. NBC must **encourage people who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life** or any other activity in which their participation is too low.*

### **Duty to 'foster good relations between people'**

*This means having due regard to the need to **tackle prejudice** (e.g. where people are picked on or stereotyped by customers or colleagues because of their ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, etc) and **promote understanding**.*

***Lawful Exceptions to general rules:** can happen where action is proportionate to achieve a legitimate aim and not otherwise prohibited by anything under the Equality Act 2010. There are some special situations (see Ch 12 and 13 of the Equality Act 2010 Statutory Code of Practice – Services, Public Functions and Associations).*

## **2. National Adult Autism Strategy (Autism Act 2009; statutory guidelines) including:**

*3. to improve how services identify and meet needs of adults with autism and their families.*

## **4. Human Rights include:**

*5. Rights under the European Convention include not to be subjected to degrading **treatment**; **right to a fair trial** (civil and criminal issues); **right to privacy** (subject to certain exceptions e.g. national security/public safety, or certain other specific situations); **freedom of conscience** (including religion and belief and rights to manifest these limited only by law and as necessary for public safety, public order, protection of rights of others and other specified situations); **freedom of expression** (subject to certain exceptions); **freedom of peaceful assembly and to join trade unions** (subject to certain exceptions); **right not to be subject to unlawful discrimination** (e.g. sex, race, colour, language, religion, political opinion, national or social origin); **right to peaceful enjoyment of own possessions** (subject to certain exceptions e.g. to secure payment of taxes or other contributions or penalties); **right to an education**; **right to hold free elections by secret ballot**. The European Convention is given effect in UK law by the Human Rights Act 1998.*

