

Should the police have extra powers to tackle anti-social behaviour in the town centre?

Why are we asking?

Fareham Town Centre is a pleasant and safe place to live, work and visit. However, there has been a recent increase in reports of street drinking, drug taking and acts of anti-social behaviour linked to these activities. There has also been an increase in begging in the centre.

Many of the people involved have a complex range of problems underlying their actions and behaviour. We work closely with the police and a range of specialised organisations such as local substance misuse support groups and a homelessness charity, to support them and help them to try and turn their lives around.

Some of the anti-social behaviour taking place in the town centre is having a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those living and working there. One way we could try to address this is by introducing a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO). This would give police officers and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) extra powers so they when tackling instances of street drinking and begging in the town centre.

What would a PSPO allow the Police to do in the town centre?

- Officers can order people to stop engaging in an activity e.g. street drinking, drug taking and begging which is prohibited by the Order.
- Officers can request the surrender of any alcohol a street drinker may have on them.
- An officer can issue a fixed penalty notice (up to £100) to anyone who fails to comply.
- Further failure to comply with the PSPO is an offence which can result in a fine of £1000 on conviction.

A PSPO is not the option of first resort. As already mentioned, the Council and Police work with a number of specialist agencies, to help people who are engaged in anti-social activities deal with the complex problems they may be facing. The powers given by a PSPO will only be used, following consultation with these agencies on a case by case basis about the best approach to take.

How can I have my say?

We would like to know what you think about this approach. Please tell us by taking part in this quick survey by xxx. What you say will help us decide whether to put in place a PSPO.

1. How often do you visit Fareham town centre?

- Almost every day
- At least once a week
- About once a month
- Within the last six months
- Within the last year
- Longer ago
- Never visited
- All the time, I live there

2. What is the best thing about Fareham Town Centre?

3. What could be made better about Fareham Town Centre?

4. Would you support the police having extra powers (PSPO) to tackle the following in the town centre?

- Street drinking
- Drug taking
- Persistent begging
- Rough sleeping

5. What impacts do you think a PSPO may have on the town centre or local people?

6. What impacts do you think a PSPO would have on the people involved in the anti-social behaviour?

7. Do you have any comments about the possible PSPO?

8. Please tell us your postcode (this will only be used to map responses)