



Listening Learning Leading

Proposal to create a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in Thame

CONSULTATION SUMMARY

Summary of a consultation which asked for views on a proposed Public Spaces Protection Order in Thame

FEBRUARY 2018

SUMMARY

This report summarises responses to a consultation undertaken by South Oxfordshire District Council which asked for views on a proposed Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for Thame. PSPOs allow the police to tackle anti-social behaviour that occurs in public areas.

A short online survey was set up allowing people to comment on the proposed order between 30 October and 20 November. The public consultation was made available on the council's website and publicised in a number of ways for the attention of local residents.

We received 241 responses to the consultation from residents and people with a connection to the town.

Key findings:

- The large majority of respondents agreed with the proposed order. 87 per cent of respondents felt that giving the police powers to stop people from drinking in public spaces was a good idea, whilst 92 per cent were in favour of giving the police powers to deal with group related anti-social behaviour.**
- 92 per cent of respondents were in favour of the PSPO age limit being set at the lower age band of 16+ for the restriction aimed at stopping groups from congregating and causing a nuisance.**

Council officers have reviewed feedback from the consultation and made responses throughout this report.

Based on the feedback received, the council believes there is a strong case to make a PSPO for Thame as proposed. A decision to adopt the order will be made by councillors by February 2018.

BACKGROUND TO THE CONSULTATION

South Oxfordshire District Council undertook this consultation to see if there is public support for the creation of a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for Thame.

PSPOs allow the police to address specific anti-social behaviour offences that occur in public areas. Orders can be tailored to the needs of a local area.

Thame has had a Designated Public Places Order (DPPO) since 2009 which has given police the power to stop those likely of causing anti-social behaviour from consuming alcohol in public areas and confiscating it if they refuse. However, the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 requires that existing DPPOs are replaced with PSPOs.

In view of this legislative requirement, as well as conversations with Thames Valley Police officers and other stakeholders, the council felt that it would be appropriate to propose a PSPO for Thame.

The order proposed for Thame states it would restrict the consumption of alcohol in public places, as well as stopping group related anti-social behaviour. If created, it would give police officers the power to issue fixed penalty notices of £100 to people who fail to adhere to the conditions of the Order.

CONSULTATION METHODOLOGY

The proposal to create a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for Thame was published on the council's website on 30 October 2017. This included a summary of the proposed order (Appendix A).

Local residents were encouraged to comment on the proposed order by completing a short online survey. Paper response forms were also provided on request. Appendix B shows the consultation wording.

The consultation ran for a period of four weeks and closed on 20 November 2017.

To make sure local residents were aware of the proposal, we publicised the consultation using a press release and the council's Facebook page and twitter accounts. We also sent out a Thames Valley Police alert and sent out a presentation to Lord William's school (Appendix D).

To make sense of the feedback received, we employed two types of analysis. In the first instance, we looked at the headline quantitative measures of agreement with the proposed order. This was followed by coding of the free text comments to help understand the sentiment behind respondent's agreement or disagreement with the order. The codes we generated identified frequently mentioned comments and concerns. The findings of the consultation are set out in the next section of this report.

The consultation was conducted in full compliance with the council’s Public Engagement Charter¹.

CONSULTATION RESPONSES

241 responded to the consultation. Of these, 218 respondents were people who live in the Thame, eight respondents were people from a community or voluntary group, three respondents were people from local businesses and two respondents were people who regularly visited the area. Ten people did not disclose the capacity in which they were responding.

Several duplicate responses were removed and do not feature in the results presented below.

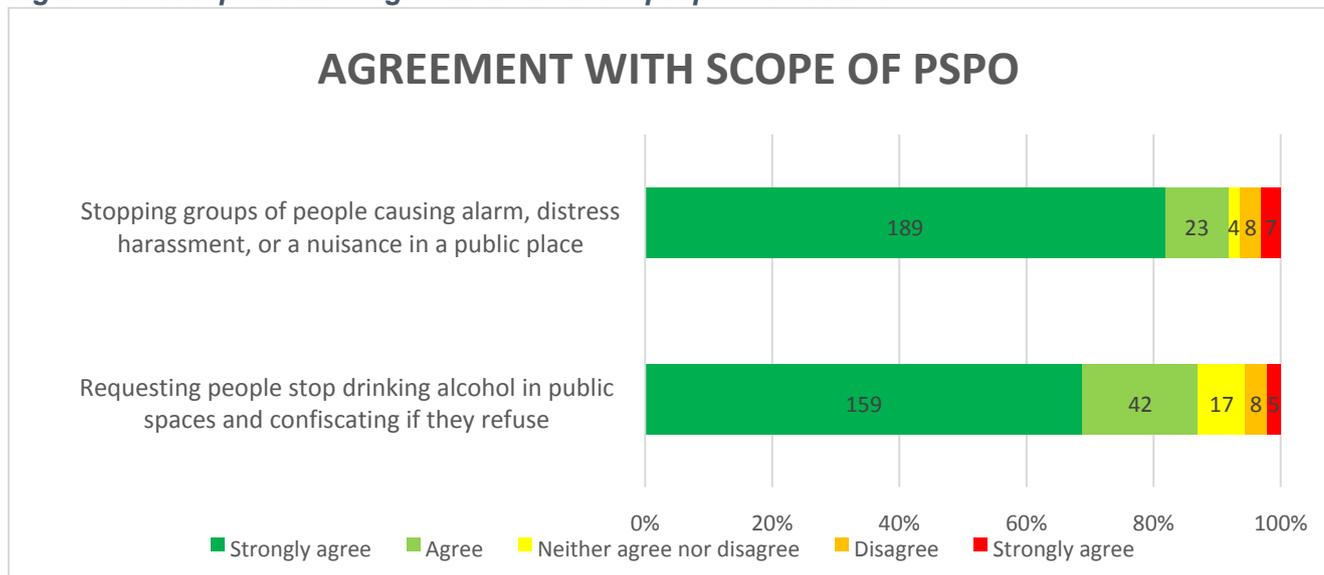
Agreement with the order

Participants were asked how far they agreed or disagreed with the proposed scope of the PSPO for Thame.

Figure one shows that more than nine out of ten respondents agreed with the proposal to stop groups of people causing alarm, distress, harassment or a nuisance in a public place. In contrast, only 15 (six per cent) respondents disagreed.

Similarly, Figure one shows that a similar number of people agreed with the alcohol element of the order, however there were fewer people who said they ‘strongly agree’ by comparison. Only 13 (six per cent) disagreed.

Figure one: respondents’ agreement with the proposed orders.



Respondents were also asked if they had any further comments or suggestions to make on the order. 107 responses were received; Table one shows the frequency of the different types of comments made.

The majority of comments received were statements in support of the proposed order. Other comments included suggestions for other types of anti-social behaviour which could be

¹ <http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/about-us/have-your-say/our-commitments-public-engagement>

addressed by the order or questions about how the order would be policed. These comments are described in more detail below.

Table one: frequency of comments

Comment type	Frequency
Supportive statement/no further suggestion	25
Enforcement concerns	21
Suggestion for an alternative approach	15
Against PSPO	15
Reporting drink/drug use	12
Reporting vehicle offence	11
Area of the PSPO	10
Reporting other problem	7
More lighting needed	5
Concerns for displacement of ASB	5
Increased CCTV is necessary	4
Raise awareness of the order	4
Definition of ASB too subjective	3
Specific point of contact needed	3
Time span of PSPO	1
Minimum age query	1

SUPPORTIVE STATEMENT/NO FURTHER SUGGESTION

Nearly one in four respondents who made comments said they supported the proposed order.

Excellent proposal - (ID: 66525427)

I think it's a great idea and much needed - (ID: 66546714)

It seems the groups of teenagers hanging around can often be abusive to passers-by. The trouble seems to happen in larger groups. This can only be a good idea for our area- (ID: 666950254)

ENFORCEMENT CONCERNS

Almost one in five respondents raised concerns over how this PSPO would work in practice – with many referring to a lack of police.

How feasible is that we have enough police available to police this or will it depend on the general public reporting incidents? - (ID: 66670079)

There should be a system that members of the public can report online people who are causing problems and be able to submit private CCTV or evidence to support complaints/ This could then mean SODC [South Oxfordshire District Council] could also issue fines retrospectively with the information provided. Insufficient police due to cuts to manage this alone. (ID: 67017758)

Other responses coded under this category contained concerns of how and who could enforce the PSPO.

I would hope that the powers would be exercised with common sense and discretion - (ID: 66528952)

Will the PCSOs have powers to implement this? Surely this will only be successful if there are enough officers to police public areas. - (ID: 66526854)

We will produce a briefing note to the police to provide guidance on the enforcement of the order and to outline the underlying principles behind it. The briefing note will emphasise that discretion should be used when deciding on when a FPN should be issued.

PCSOs will be given the authority to issue FPNs.

Our legal team will offer a further safe guard for FPNs that are not paid – discretion will be used to decide whether prosecution is appropriate in the individual's circumstances.

We will also monitor the use and effectiveness of the order and raise our concerns if we feel it is being misused.

South Oxfordshire District Council do have an online reporting service for Anti-Social Behaviour incidents: <http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/community-adviceand-support/safer-communities/antisocial-behaviour/report-antis>. However, we would encourage people to report any crimes directly to the police via the non-emergency number 101 or 999 if it is an emergency. The neighbourhood police team can also be contacted via email: ThameWatlingtonChinnorNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

SUGGESTION FOR AN ALTERNATIVE APPROACH

15 respondents suggested measures in addition to the PSPO that may help reduce anti-social behaviour problems in Thame.

Alternative methods should be sought for younger groups causing problems. - (ID: 66480571)

The addition of lighting around the scout hut (rather than parents having to light the carpark with their cars after cubs to get our children home without hassle), CCTV and use of it and perhaps a specified email address or telephone number to report incidents might all be helpful. It is frustrating when so many local people know who the individuals are that are creating problems. It's shutting the stable door stuff – it seems such a shame that these kids (& they are just kids) can't somehow be engaged as individuals and provided with some support to achieve something more than getting in trouble and upsetting their community. - (ID: 66274419)

A decent youth centre might help especially in the winter months - (ID: 67274512)

The District Council are exploring options with Thame Town Council who own the recreational grounds area to what measures could be introduced to make this area safer for the community.

The Community Safety Partnership has budget to support youth centres and other projects set up to provide support to youths. Bid applications can be requested from the Community Safety Partnership via Elizabeth Smith – Elizabeth.Smith@southandvale.gov.uk

AGAINST PSPO

A further 15 respondents indicated that they were against the PSPO coming into place at all

Abandon the idea and make better use of existing powers. Whatever problems there are relate to lack of police, not lack of powers. - (ID: 66375308)

Public spaces should be available for protests, celebrations (including alcohol) and gatherings for any age. Rather than asking the police to waste their time on trying to enforce petty and arbitrary rules the council should focus on dealing with relevant issues such as the chronic shortage of affordable housing and increased numbers of rough sleepers. - (ID: 66428829)

This is a piece of legislation which is draconian and is being used to prevent people enjoying themselves. - (ID: 67252461)

The alcohol requirement in this order is identical to (and merely replaces) the Designated Public Place Order which has been in Thame since 2009. Therefore, this is a requirement that has been in place for some time and not something new that is being introduced.

The order is not being introduced to interfere with protests or to stop people from gathering – only to address those who are gathering with the intent to cause harassment, alarm, distress or nuisance to others which is preventing members of the community from feeling safe and able to enjoy themselves.

REPORTING DRINK/DRUG USE

A dozen people used the consultation as an opportunity to report anti-social behaviour problems they have experienced related to drink and drug use.

A known group of youngsters are known to be supplying drugs etc. Sort them out and make sure the cattle market is clear in the evenings. - (ID: 66529275)

I know living on a main road just off the high street comes with its occupation hazard of noise and disruption but frequently I am woken by groups of people who have clearly been drinking or are drinking. A few weeks ago, one of the groups decided to smash their bottles on the wall of our property and proceed to do it again as they walked through the Cattle Market car park. So as on individual this specific topic is important to me without the context and details behind the other drivers. I'm all for it. (ID: 67039021)

REPORTING VEHICLE OFFENCE

A similar number also noted concerns about anti-social behaviour of some motorists.

I think you are definitely on the right track. Would it be possible to monitor the speed of motorists who drive at far too high speeds in Nelson Street, Windmill Road and other roads in Thame - (ID: 66535942)

The most annoying ASB in Thame is youths congregating round cars and playing loud music from their cars. - (ID: 66677255)

Drug related and vehicle related offences have not been considered for inclusion in the PSPO as they are already covered under existing legislation.

Reports of drug and vehicle related offences have been passed onto the neighbourhood policing team for their intelligence.

AREA OF THE PSPO

10 people made comments on the area of the proposed order with a view that this should encompass areas experiencing problems with anti-social behaviour.

This shouldn't just be in the immediate town centre. Everywhere within the ring road should be included as there's annoying groups in the Lee park estate also and getting drunk in children's play parks out of the town. - (ID: 66565553)

Should incorporate the south road recreation ground, town centre, skate park, Queen Elizabeth Circle play area and Elms park. To have clear grounds on acceptable behaviour. - (ID: 66816869)

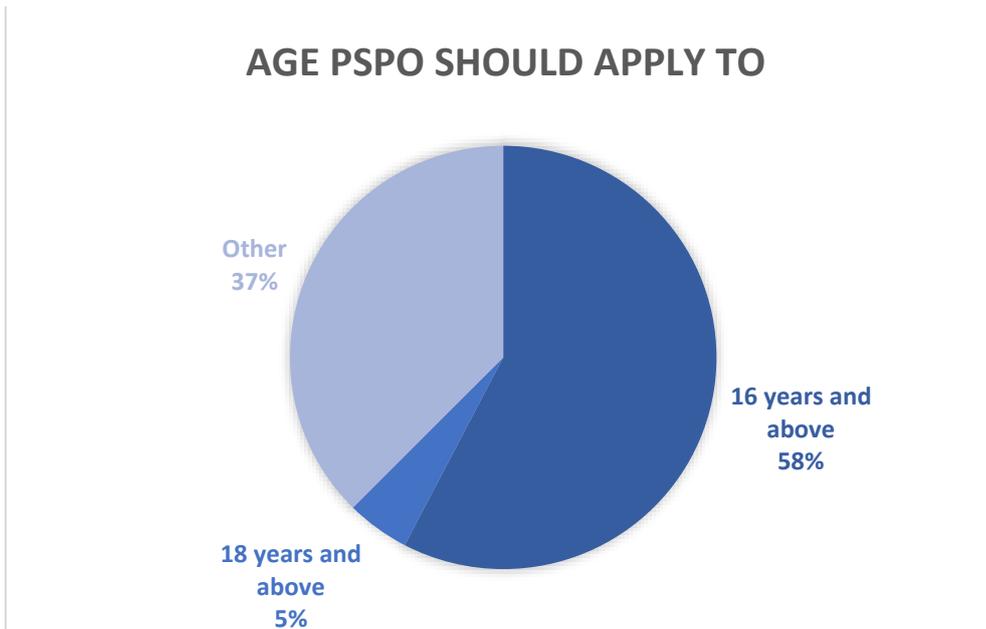
The areas included in the PSPO can be found in Appendix C and include the town centre, the southern road recreational ground, the skate park and Elms park.

These areas have all been selected as they have been the source of most reported ASB. Should there be evidence of group ASB occurring in other areas, the PSPO can be reviewed and the area covered amended.

Views on the age of residents the proposed PSPO should apply to

Participants were also asked what age restriction should be applied to the PSPO and given three options: '16+', '18+' or 'Other'. Figure two shows that over half the respondents were in favour of the lower age limit.

Figure two: age the PSPO should apply to.



When exploring the responses within the ‘Other’ category 79 of the 86 respondents who selected this category suggested an age limit lower than 16 years old. The remaining seven from this category either suggested a higher than 18 age limit, or suggested the PSPO should not come into place at all. Therefore, 92 per cent of respondents were in favour of a 16 or lower age limit to be enforced with this PSPO.

Respondents were asked to explain why they supported the PSPO being implemented from that age group. Table two shows the frequency of the different types of comments made.

Table two: frequency of comments

Comment type	Frequency
ASB is committed by younger individuals too	125
Anyone responsible for ASB, regardless of age should be included in this legislation	29
Group at the Scout Hut/Recreational Grounds.	13
Anti PSPO	11
Prevent behaviour from escalating	11
Suggestion for parent involvement	4
16 is old enough to be responsible for your actions	3
Fine payment concern	3
Police discretion	2
Alternative approach for youths	2
Age of criminal responsibility	1

ASB IS COMMITTED BY YOUNGER INDIVIDUALS TOO

The majority of responses raised the concern that if the PSPO age limit was set at 18, it would not be able to address the nature of anti-social behaviour that is experienced in Thame.

*A lot of anti social behaviour appears to be from individuals below the age of 18
- (ID: 66238297)*

Bad behaviour is not restricted to those over 18 not is access to alcohol and drugs - (ID: 66525797)

I think most disturbances in the area are cause by young adults between 16 and 18 so the order should be applicable to this age group to be most effective - (ID: 66736183)

Almost one in five respondents proposed an age limit younger than 16, arguing if the age limit were 16, the problem would not be addressed in full.

Those younger than 16 drinking or causing a disturbance should be stopped too. (ID: 66296955)

Groups of youths aged under 16 congregate in Thame town centre and do cause distress to other members of the community. - (ID: 66528511)

As a teacher in the local area I am fully aware that people involved in such behaviour range from 12 upwards and if we put a limit/ - age cap on it then we will only be dealing with a part of the problem. - (ID: 66564192)

ANYONE RESPONSIBLE FOR ASB, REGARDLESS OF AGE SHOULD BE INCLUDED WITHIN THIS LEGISLATION.

15 per cent of respondents believed that the conditions of the PSPO should have no age restriction.

We have seen individuals considerably under 16 years old behaving as described in this survey – no one should be above (or below age) in the law. (ID: 66524009)

Anybody should be stopped making a nuisance no matter what age - (ID: 66558015)

GROUP AT THE SCOUT HUT/RECREATIONAL GROUNDS

13 respondents directly referred to groups that cause trouble around the scout hut as justification for needing a lower age limit.

Many of the youths that gather around the Scout Hut are young and so I think the PSPO should apply to people as young as possible. - (ID: 66548246)

The groups, particularly the one at the Scout Hut in Thame, go as low as 14 years of age. Therefore, anyone below should face consequences as well as the older ones. - (ID: 66329884)

As the punishment for breaching a condition outlined in the PSPO is a Fixed Penalty Notice of £100, the district council have taken the decision not to reduce the age any lower than 16, as individuals younger than 16 cannot be expected to have a source of income with which to pay any fines. Furthermore, as a failure to pay fines will result in court proceedings, the district council do not want to see under 16s disproportionately penalised within the criminal justice system as a result of failure to pay.

However, under 16s that are engaging in this type of behaviour will still be dealt with. The neighbourhood police team work alongside parents and schools to address this type of behaviour.

The age restriction for the alcohol condition of the PSPO will remain at 18 years, as there is already existing legislation that allows Police/PCSOs to seize alcohol from under 18s: Confiscation of Alcohol (Young Persons) Act 1997.

ANTI PSPO

11 respondents indicated that they were not in support of the PSPO for any age group.

There are very few activities & spaces for the young people of Thame to gather together. Community and being together is incredibly important for young people.

Doing this just alienates them further. - (ID: 66757132)

What evidence is there on the need to introduce the PSPO and is the proposal that it will cover the whole of Thame?

I've not encountered these issues during 3 years of living in Thame so this seems disproportionate. - (ID: 67110905)

It is expected that this legislation will improve the quality of life for all residents of Thame including young individuals who are also reporting to be negatively affected by group ASB see Appendix D.

Key stakeholders including Thames Valley Police have provided evidence that group-related ASB is an ongoing issue that warrants further powers to address properly. Areas where this type of behaviour is most frequently reported have been included in the proposed PSPO.

PREVENT BEHAVIOUR FROM ESCALATING

11 respondents felt that a younger age limit was needed as it would prevent poor behaviour from escalating and give police the opportunity to address it in the early stages.

I feel that an earlier age to nip issues such as these in the bud would be better. - (ID: 66545741)

It's not really adults it is kids from the local school who think they can get away with it. A bit of authority will demonstrate that they cannot just go around doing what they want.

I believe that if they are allowed to go unpunished then they will continue as they grow up. - (ID: 67040284)

HOW WE HAVE USED RESULTS OF THE CONSULTATION

We would like to thank everyone that responded to this consultation.

The feedback we received shows that there is support for the proposed order, albeit there are some concerns about whether it is needed and how it would be implemented. We have addressed these concerns in the report.

Based on the evidence available to us, including the results of this consultation, the council believes there is a strong case to make a Public Spaces Protection Order for Thame with the restriction on group ASB being lowered to those aged 16 and above. As such we will be making a recommendation to council leaders to put this in place.

A decision will be taken in February 2018 and the outcome will be published on the council's website.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For information about the consultation or the results presented in this report, please contact:

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To enquire about the council's work on community safety and PSPOs, please contact:

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APPENDIX A – CONSULTATION SUMMARY



Proposal to create a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in Thame

PROPOSED CHANGE

South Oxfordshire District Council is proposing to introduce a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in Thame.

The aim of the proposed order is to tackle persistent anti-social behaviour occurring in a public area which is having a significant, detrimental impact on the quality of life of those in the local community.

The order, if put in place, will mean that police are given discretionary powers to:

- 1. request people stop drinking alcohol and confiscate it if they refuse, and;**
- 2. stop groups of people causing alarm, distress, harassment or a nuisance in a public place**

The police would enforce the order and officers could issue Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) of £100 to people who breach these conditions. We are proposing that the order applies to people aged 18 years and above.

The wording of the proposed order is provided in Appendix A, along with a map showing where we think the order should apply in the town.

WHY WE ARE PROPOSING TO MAKE THIS CHANGE

The district council already has alcohol restrictions in place in Thame in the form of a Designated Public Place Order (DPPO) which has been in place since 2009. This Order will automatically convert to a PSPO in October (in accordance with legislation – Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014). As PSPOs can tackle more than just alcohol related anti-social behaviour (ASB), we are taking the opportunity to a) check that the alcohol restrictions are still required in Thame and b) consider if there is a need to include any other significant, persistent anti-social behaviour (ASB) issues that are negatively affecting the local community.

Following initial discussions with a number of agency stakeholders, we are proposing to keep the same DPPO restriction relating to alcohol on the new PSPO. **If someone is drinking in a public area but not causing any problems they will not be affected by the order.** Also, the order does not apply to licenced premises, including beer gardens or seating areas.

In addition, we are also including a condition to help stop groups of people from causing alarm, harassment, distress or a nuisance to others in a public place. There is evidence to support

this request: over the past few months, the town has been a hot spot for ASB perpetrated by groups of people mainly aged 18+. The matter has been a Local Police Area priority due to its impact on the local community.

We believe that creating a new PSPO which addresses the problems of alcohol consumption and group related anti-social behaviour will have a positive impact on the wellbeing of the community.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The council wants to consult members of the local community before the new order is created. We are therefore seeking comments on these proposals to inform our decision whether or not to proceed with this.

Members of the public are able to comment on the proposal to create a PSPO in Thame by completing an online survey, available from 23 October 2017. Paper copies of the survey form can also be requested from the council's Corporate Consultation Officer by phoning 01235 422154.

Responses to the public consultation must be received by midnight Monday 20 November 2017.

APPENDIX B – CONSULTATION WORDING

Proposal to create a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in Thame

COMMENT FORM

Please see supporting information explaining the proposed order before completing this form.

1. In what capacity do you wish to respond to this consultation?

- As a local resident
- On behalf of a local business
- On behalf of a community or voluntary group
- Other (please specify)

2. What is your postcode?

3. What is the name of your organisation or group?

4. How far do you agree or disagree with the proposed Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for Thame? (Please tick)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Requesting people stop drinking alcohol in public spaces and confiscating it if they refuse					
Stopping groups of people causing alarm, distress, harassment or a nuisance in a public place					

5. Do you think the PSPO should apply to people aged

- 16 years and above
- 18 years and above

Other (please specify)

6. Please explain your answer

7. Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposed Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for Thame?

Thank you for your responses.

Would you like to hear from us in the future?

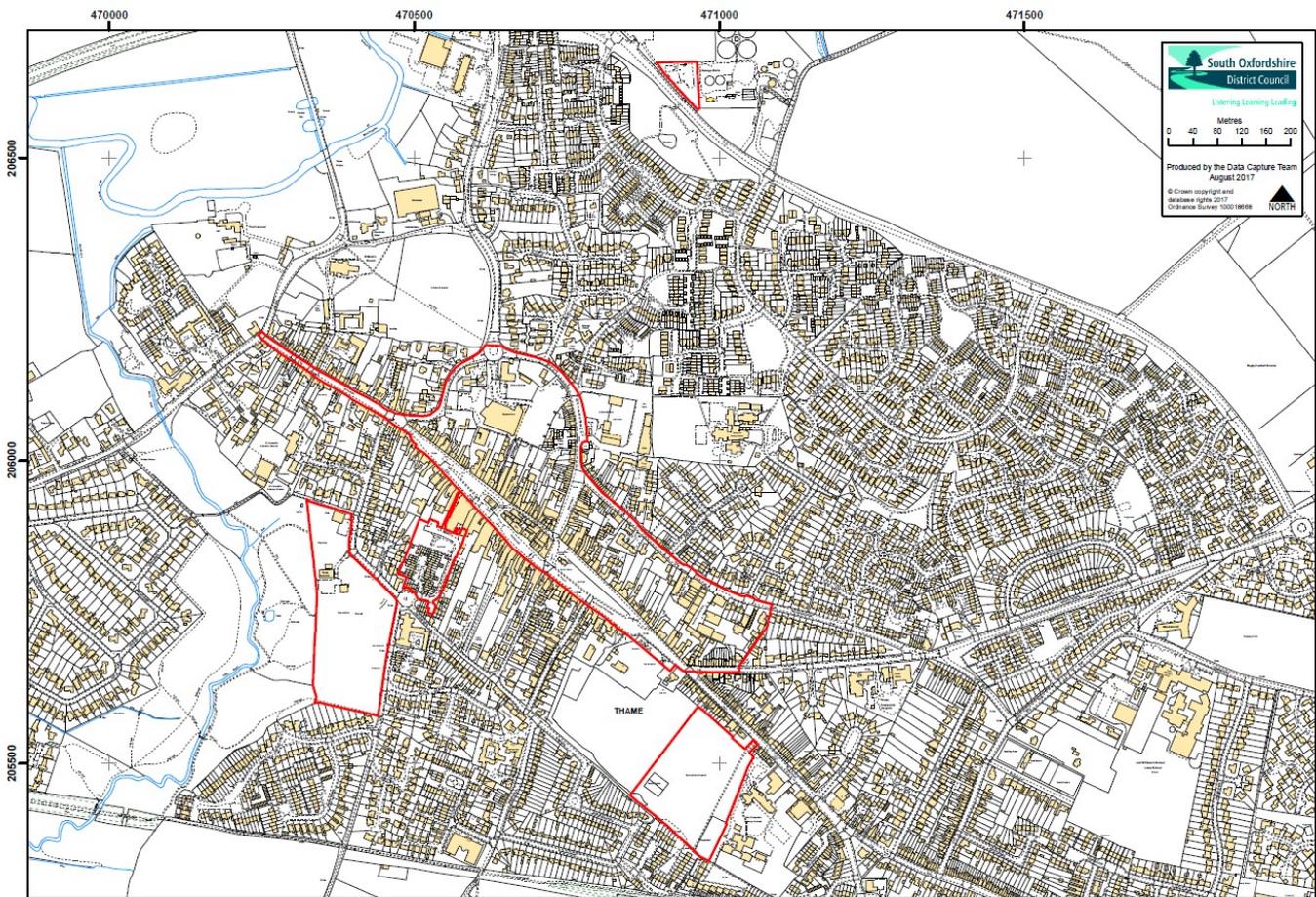
	Yes	No
I am happy for the council to get in touch about the comment I have made		
I would like to be kept informed about other consultations being undertaken by the council		

If yes, please provide us with some contact details below.

Your information will only be used for the purpose of contacting you in relation to council consultations.

Name	
Email	
Phone	

APPENDIX C – MAP OF PROPOSED PSPO AREA



APPENDIX D – YOUTH CONSULTATION

As the proposed PSPO condition for targeting group ASB was identified to have the potential to disproportionality affect young people in the area; a separate youth consultation was carried out in partnership with Lord William’s School & Sixth Form and Thame Youth Café.

MEETING WITH SCHOOL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

The district council’s Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator, Elizabeth Smith and Young People’s Co-ordinator, Karen Tolley attended a meeting with the school council representatives of Lord William’s school from year 11, 12 and 13 (ages 15-18) to seek their opinion on the proposed PSPO.

Students were informed of the proposed PSPO that is going to be coming into effect and asked if in they had experienced any problems relating to group ASB.

Only two of the school council representatives live in Thame, the others live in surrounding villages such as Chinnor and Sydenham. However, all the school council representatives except one stated they spent time in Thame town centre and reported behaviour such as:

- *Groups of three plus hanging out in the bus shelter even though they were not waiting for the bus.*
- *Shop lifting in the local Co-op.*
- *Groups hanging out in the hut in the children’s play park are uncomfortable to walk past.*

Students were asked if they agreed with the proposal to grant police the power to disperse groups of three or more responsible for ASB in the area. The overwhelming majority of pupils agreed with this proposal for the reasons outlined beneath:

- *“Make civilians more comfortable”*
- *Would see a decrease to ASB and make people feel safer*
- *It would act as a deterrent for people committing worse crimes. “Prevent anything from happening in the future”*
- *As the PSPO is only in certain areas, it is not restricting groups associating everywhere – they still have places they can go.*
- *“Limit the stress faced to staff and customers at cafes etc. “*
- *“Limits harassment and vandalism”*
- *Makes Thames a more accessible area.*
- *Elderly people would be made to feel more comfortable.*
- *“I think it should be added as although I haven’t had any experiences personally, I am aware of those have been made feel intimidated”*
- *“Parents with children might find it easier because small children can be easily intimidated”*
- *“people going into town won’t feel threatened”*

Pupils also considered what the negative consequences of this power may be and responded as follows:

- *Could be perceived as making socialising with friends illegal.*
- *Some teenagers may not know the difference between right and wrong if they have not been properly educated.*

- *The groups affected will all be young people.*
- *Could people be told to move on when they haven't done anything wrong.*
- *Relies on police to enforce who already have limited resources. - Concerns over how this will be made aware to everyone.*

To address the concerns pupils highlighted, it was clarified that socialising with friends will not be illegal, only refusing to move on after causing harassment/alarm/distress or nuisance will be illegal. It was also confirmed that although young people may be the most likely to socialise in groups around Thame, the PSPO will be enforced against all groups responsible for causing harassment/alarm/distress or nuisance. Arrangements are also being made as to having a PCSO from Thame talk in an assembly when the PSPO goes live (Spring 2018).

Students were then asked what age limit would be appropriate to enforce the PSPO from, bearing in mind that the punishment is a fine. Again, the overwhelming majority of students were in support of a 16+ age limit being introduced. The reasons they gave are as follows:

- *"16+ should be fined as I don't think the issue is exclusive to 18+. RE: '16+ don't have jobs', neither do some 18 year olds. If there wasn't a fine, I don't think people would stop their behaviour, just on a police warning"*
- *Fining from 16+ would mean that parents would be aware of their child's behaviour and could take steps to prevent it happening again.*
- *Money raised from fines could go towards repair costs for criminal damage/vandalism that this type of behaviour is associated with.*
- *£60/£100 is a lot of money to a 16yearold, so would be an effective deterrent.*
- *16yearolds are old enough to have responsibility for themselves and they will be given the opportunity to move on before being fined.*
- *Introducing for only 18+ would really limit the effectiveness of this order.*

Some cons to introducing the fines to 16 year olds were also highlighted:

- *An alternative punishment such as community service would be more appropriate for under 18s.*
- *Income/backgrounds of families should be considered.*
- *If parents pay, offenders would not necessarily learn their lesson as they have not necessarily faced any consequences.*
- *"People behaving in such a way usually come from poorer backgrounds. You're making the poor poorer."*

It was confirmed with students that the income and backgrounds of families would be considered both when the police use discretion in issuing the fine and when the council pursue receiving payment. Payment plans to pay the fine back in manageable portions will be made available to those who need it.

Overall after all questions had been asked and answered, the majority of school council representatives were in favour of the proposed PSPO being introduced with an age limit of 16.

PRESENTATIONS IN TUTOR GROUPS

Following the meeting with the school council and taking on board the suggestion to raise awareness amongst their peers, a presentation and a vote was carried out in Tutor Groups at Lord Williams. The presentation included an overview of what the PSPO was proposing and

asked students which age group would be most appropriate for the group ASB condition of the PSPO.

26 tutor groups took part in the vote (Five Year Nines', Ten Year Tens', Six Year 11's, Five Year 12/13's) totalling just under 600 students.

54 per cent of students supported the PSPO and the lower age limit of 16.

YOUTH CAFÉ CONSULTATION

The youth café runs weekly on Tuesday evenings and is free to attend for 14-16 year olds. The district council's Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator, Elizabeth Smith and Young People's Coordinator, Karen Tolley attended the session to speak with individuals and gauge their views on the proposed PSPO.

All attendees of the youth café were spoken to informally and were given the opportunity to ask any questions they had about the proposed PSPO before being asked if they in support of it and for what age would it be most appropriate. All 16 of the youths that were spoken to supported the proposed PSPO with 94 per cent of them supporting the 16+ age limit. Several individuals also relayed accounts of themselves being victimised by groups in Thame, stating that the problem was widespread and known to most.