

Public Space Protection Orders

Feeding back to you

Why we consulted

Recent consultations highlight the importance of tackling crime and anti-social behaviour. In the 'You and Your Local Area Survey' that was run with the Council's Viewpoint residents panel in 2016, the level of crime and anti-social behaviour features in the top 4 things that make an area a good place to live, and a third of respondents said that anti-social behaviour was an issue that needed to be improved. Residents also raised the issue of dog fouling. In consecutive surveys specifically considering the Town Centre, we have asked about anti-social behaviour and, again, a third of respondents have consistently mentioned that personal safety was a priority for improvement.

Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) are a new tool that local authorities can use to tackle anti-social behaviour. We wanted to engage with local residents, to seek their views on the proposals we were considering implementing under the three PSPOs for Gateshead.

When we consulted

1 September – 16 October 2016

How we consulted

The consultation included an electronic survey, which was made available on the Council's on-line consultation system. Paper copies were available on request. People were informed of the consultation in Council News, through the Council's Facebook page and it was advertised in the local press. We held face to face consultation events with Gateshead residents, local businesses and asked voluntary organisations and other partners their views.

Feedback

We asked residents to tell us whether or not they agreed with various proposals which would form the three PSPOs for Gateshead.

We received over 800 responses from residents and businesses that either completed the survey, attended consultation events or made comments about the proposals.

We also consulted with our cabinet members and councillors, Northumbria Police, the Police and Crime Commissioner and local MP Ian Mearns.

Results from the Survey

PSPO 1 – The Gateshead Borough (Total survey respondents = 223)

- 95% of respondents supported the proposal to make it an offence to not surrender alcohol when asked to do so by a police officer
- 97% of respondents were in favour of introducing measures to proactively deal with dog fouling

PSPO 2 – Town Centre (Total survey respondents = 352)

- 87% supported proposals to deter begging
- 97% supported proposals to make urinating/defecating in a public place an offence
- 95% supported measures to stop people taking intoxicating substances including alcohol (street drinking)
- 93% supported measures to deter people from being intoxicated and incapable
- 72% supported measures to stop people feeding birds
- 86% supported measures to make it an offence for those riding skateboards and other self-propelled wheeled vehicles and causing damage
- 84% agreed with the proposal to control those touting for business or collecting money on behalf of charities
- 75% agreed with the proposal to stop people distributing promotional materials for commercial activities

PSPO 3 – Metro Centre (Total survey respondents = 107)

- 83% of respondents supported measures to deter improper use of the retail car park
- 96% of respondents supported measures to make it an offence for anyone to drive in an anti-social manner

Responses from direct engagement included:

“Without these powers I have no doubt that more alcohol would be consumed and this would lead to more ASB and street drinking”

“Thank God, Trinity Square is a nightmare with energy firms and charity collectors after your money”
“I now avoid Gateshead like the plague”

“[Because of the touters, charity collectors etc] you feel like you’re running a gauntlet, I have to find different ways to get into Tescos”

“They do nothing but harass you and won’t take no for an answer”

“It’s awful opening my shop on a morning, all the wee outside the door”

“We get a number of beggars in here, next to the ticket machines, they are really off putting for our customers, we get lots of complaints”

Next Steps

The results of the consultation outlined above were used to inform the decision making process and the three PSPOs for the Gateshead Borough, Town Centre and Metro Centre were authorized on 10 January 2017. The PSPOs will be enforced from 1 March 2017 following a public awareness raising campaign.

The full orders are available online at:

www.gateshead.gov.uk/people%20and%20living/community-safety/public-spaces-protection-orders.aspx