

Appendix two – Teignmouth PSPO Consultation responses

<p>Retailer</p>	<p>Behaviour occurring for 3 years Behaviour from street drinkers causing significant concern and taking place for the majority of time the shop is open. I am absolutely behind the instigation of a PSPO. This is impacting on all shops in the vicinity We have called the police sometimes on a daily basis when the fighting was occurring regularly. We have written to you & we have liaised with the Traders Association. When we felt that no one was listening to us, we even confronted the behaviour ourselves out of desperation to make it stop. The following concerns regarding behaviour were raised Drinking from the early morning, being intoxicated in public, fighting, foul language, people leaving the area due to their behaviour, vomiting, urination, defecation, concern for public welfare and intimidation of the public. Six calls to Police. Location of concern is the Triangle.</p>
<p>Chief Superintendent, Nikki Leaper and Inspector Andrew Tomlinson</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We believe that a PSPO would be justified due to the reports of ASB in the town. • The reports causing us concern are public drinking/drunkenness and associates Anti-Social behaviour. Where the behaviour amounts to a criminal offence police action is taken. However in many cases the behaviour is not criminal, but observations of officers and reports made to them by the public show that even where not criminal the behaviour of those involved intimidates people and prevents them from enjoying or using the public amenities in the town such as bus stops, public seating areas and public toilets. We are also told it is having a detrimental impact on retail businesses as customers are discouraged from visiting. • The main focus of the reports is the area of The Triangle and surrounding streets. However concerns have been raised across the town centre including all the main shopping streets, The Den, Seafront, car parks and Back/Point/main beach. • We are aware of the crime/incident figures. These are lower than we anticipated. We believe they are not fully representative of the situation. This is likely to be a result of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A degree of public resignation to the problem resulting in only the highest level problems being reported. 2. Many reports being made directly to local officers by passing the recording mechanisms.

	<p>3. Lockdown resulting in a period when either the problematic individuals or those suffering from their activity were not present in the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The creation of a PSPO will enable police to address the ASB at a much earlier stage reducing its impact and improving the quality of life for the wider community.
Estate agent	<p>Thank you for your letter about Anti-social behaviour in Teignmouth. In answer to your questions:- I would support a public Spaces Protection Order in Teignmouth. It can feel threatening in the town and we had one party pull out of buying a house in Teignmouth (we are estate agents) because their son was attacked in the town. We have seen anti-social behaviour in Wellington Street from our office, mainly from teenagers.</p>
Teignmouth Traders Association	<p>Thank you, on behalf of the Teignmouth Traders Association and myself, for the opportunity to be involved in the PSPO Consultation for Teignmouth. My response to your questions are as follows: In my opinion and on behalf of the members of the TTA, Teignmouth needs a PSPO to be put in place as soon as possible. Over the last six months, but it as been going on for much longer, the town has suffered from two main types of ASB, Drunks/Drugged, supposedly homeless men and women and gangs of youths, who intimidate, aggressively beg, obstruct, shop lift, litter, use foul & abusive language, on occasions assault, residents and visitors to the town. Many members and non members of the TTA have reported, on many many occasions, the ASB in the town, I have personally complained to Anne-Marie Morris MP and the Alison Hernandez PCC, plus reporting and sending evidence to the Police 101 and our local PSCO. It is well documented. I have also had meetings with Sgt Jonathon Ross responsible for Neighbourhood Policing and other Police Officers in an effort to reduce ASB in the town. The majority of the ASB takes place in and around the Triangle, Wellington Street and Lower Brook Street, but other areas of the Town, such as Public Shelters along the Promenade, underpass to the Railway Station and Eastcliff, have all seen trouble in the past. The impact ASB on the Town, Residents, Visitors and Families, is immeasurable! Elderly residents, of which Teignmouth has many, often are frightened to come into town, those that do and decide to sit in the Triangle on a sunny afternoon, are often subjected to drunken antics, lewd actions, foul & abusive language and other intimidating actions from six or seven drunken individuals who have no concern for their actions. If the weather is inclement, the same elderly residents cannot sit in the bus shelter to wait for the bus home, because it is full of the same individuals.</p>

	<p>The local shops are subject to aggressive begging and shop lifting. I must add, that certain shop keepers are knowingly selling alcohol to these individuals, knowing that they are already intoxicated.</p> <p>The town has two of the “old fashioned” red telephone boxes, in the small square in Wellington/Regent Street, these are now being used as toilets by our drunken individuals.</p> <p>To add to this, the town also has a major problem with gangs of youths who are intent to intimidate and abuse anyone who happens to get in their way.</p> <p>Many of the youths, fall into the 13 to 16 year old age group, but are often seen with bottles/cans of alcohol, smoking weed, plus evidence in the town of them inhaling Nitrous Oxide, the small canisters can often be found around the town.</p> <p>As Community Safety and Safe Guarding Manager, you will obviously be aware of the detrimental effect the actions of these two groups has on a small resort such as Teignmouth, families come on holiday, witness the goings on, including the recent stabbing, don't come back, but worse than that, they advise friends and family NOT to go to Teignmouth.</p>
<p>Teignmouth Resort staff</p>	<p>Not particularly necessary if laws/byelaws already in place were enforced eg. drinking in public, vandalism, threatening behaviour etc. If PSPO would help with the enforcement of these rules then, yes, I am in favour of one being introduced.</p> <p>Alcoholics/drug users congregating early in the morning and remaining throughout the day in highly visible areas, eg. seafront shelters, by the bowling green.</p> <p>Petty vandalism/graffiti by groups of youths in the evenings.</p> <p>Reports made to Police</p> <p>Location - Teignmouth seafront, Den</p> <p>As a TDC worker I am often the first port of call if members of the public are upset or concerned about the behaviour of drunks/drug users/groups of youths. If it is a regular ‘character’ I will not contact the police but simply explain that this is usual behaviour for that person. If a PSPO would make it easier to discourage regulars, away from highly visible areas then it would improve the quality of my work environment and, hopefully, improve the local environment for residents and visitors.</p>
<p>Police and Crime Commissioner</p>	<p>Background information: In September 2020 the Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly was contacted by Teignbridge Council to submit evidence as part of a consultation for a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in Teignmouth. Under the <i>Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014</i>, a PSPO provides the police, local authorities and other local agencies with a range of flexible tools and powers to respond to anti-social behaviour within a designated public place. These tools include, but are not limited to, Civil Injunctions, Community Protection Notices and Dispersal Powers. Teignbridge Council are considering the implementation of a PSPO in Teignmouth town</p>

centre to address concerns regarding anti-social behaviour. This document shall provide the Police and Crime Commissioner's submission of evidence to the Council's consultation.

What is your view on a Public Spaces Protection Order in Teignmouth to address anti-social behaviour in the locality?

After liaising with Devon and Cornwall Police, **the Crime Commissioner is satisfied that a PSPO may be a beneficial response to anti-social behaviour in Teignmouth.** PSPOs provide a useful means to preventing anti-social behaviour and have proved successful in locations such as Exeter City Centre for tackling street drinking. Importantly, PSPOs provide local councils and city council officers with the autonomy to combat unwanted behaviours and sends a clear message that such acts shall not be tolerated. Anti-social behaviour - such as street drinking and nuisance - is often concerning to members of the community and the Commissioner is aware of the negative impact this has had on local businesses in the Teignmouth area when she visited this summer. It is therefore pivotal that we use whatever tools are available to us to address these matters swiftly and efficiently. It is the Commissioner's understanding that the PSPO will be used in selected areas of Teignmouth town centre, as evidenced by the Council's consultation responses.

What anti-social behaviour has caused you concern over the last six months?

The Commissioner has received 7 written complaints by members of the public over the past 6 months regarding anti-social behaviour in Teignmouth. These include reports of street drinking, fighting, swearing and general nuisance. The Commissioner's Covid-19 Safer Summer Scheme marshals, who were placed in Teignmouth from July – September of this year, also dealt with many incidents related to drug taking and drinking.

Where does this anti-social behaviour take place? Information reviewed from the complaints suggests that much of the anti-social behaviour occurs at the Jubilee Bus Shelter and Triangle area of Teignmouth town centre. Some reports also mentioned anti-social behaviour around the beach front. You may also wish to use the evidence that the Commissioner funded street marshals as part of the Covid-19 Safer Summer Scheme. This was due to the police's view that there would be a likelihood of increased alcohol-related anti-social behaviour in these particular areas.

Do you have any evidence of that anti-social behaviour, for example reports to Police or concerns raised with an agency?

In addition to the complaints that the Commissioner has received, police data shows that the number of recorded anti-social behaviour incidents in Teignmouth has risen between May – September 2020. In the 5-month period, recorded anti-social behaviour incidents increased by 36% (53 incidents) in comparison to the same period in the previous year (May – September 2019). However, there has been a general trend of increase in anti-social behaviour this year linked to Covid-19 that has not been seen previously. For instance, in the period between May – September

	<p>2019, compared to May – September 2018, incidents had decreased by 34%. What is the impact of that behaviour on you and your community’s quality of life?</p> <p>1 Data covers the whole Teignmouth neighbourhood area, as defined within police geography.</p> <p>It is clear from the written complaints that the Commissioner has received that the reported anti-social behaviour in Teignmouth is having a detrimental impact upon members of the public and their enjoyment of the area. All respondents expressed discontent at the behaviour, and many were concerned about the impact it was having on other members of the community. Also, whilst visiting the town during the summer, the Commissioner met with a number of businesses and heard about the negative impact that anti-social behaviour was having on them and their customers.</p>
Retailer and resident	<p>RE: Teignmouth PSPO Consultation</p> <p>Please accept my email in response to the letter received from the Police regarding the Teignmouth PSPO Consultation which we are very much in support of.</p> <p>We live with our family above the shop. To the rear of our property there is a service lane which we regularly use. This alleyway is shared with five other properties and the only means of access for two of these properties. One of which is a holiday cottage. This is where we store our recycling boxes and bins and it is also our walkway to the river beach (back beach) and Osmonds Lane, the oldest lane in Teignmouth.</p> <p>Public Toilets & Alcohol Consumption</p> <p>This year has been a particularly bad year with anti-social behaviour occurring during the Spring/Summer time Covid Lockdown and after. On many occasions in the middle of the day we would encounter drunken men using the alley as a toilet. On more than one occasion we have opened our back gate to find human poo on the ground! My neighbours have also witnessed people use the alleyway for drug taking and sex.</p> <p>On 26th May 2020 I sent photos of a person urinating in the alley to PCSO Liz Francis. 30420@dc.police.uk Urinating in the alley has become a regular occurrence when there are groups of people gathered together on the back beach behind our property drinking alcohol every day during hot weather. Very often the alcohol is brought with them and not bought from the nearby pub. These people are discouraged by the landlord from using the pub toilets because of the drug taking that takes place by them and the mess they leave behind when using. I have heard that the publicans have no control over the behaviour of these people on the beach because they are not paying customers and gather to the side of the pub. For the lockdown and following months after many of the public toilets in the town were closed. Furthermore The Den and The Point public toilets close in the early evening when people are still on the beach often past midnight resulting in them using the alley as a toilet.</p>

	<p>I would like to stress as a local business and as a family, each year this issue arises but this summer has been particularly bad. A further problem a result of alcohol consumption is broken glass. Two years ago we had our shop windows smashed by a drunk. On many occasions we have had to clear up the broken glass from outside of our shop doorway. This is because of the numerous pubs in this street. On a recent incident, when looking back on our CCTV I witnessed a woman throwing her beer glass across the road. I sent this footage to Teignmouth & Dawlish Police but never heard back from them with a promise they would get back to me. I understand pubs try not to let customers walk away with glass however in the summer periods this isn't always implemented.</p> <p>Large Gatherings</p> <p>My family and I find it intimidating to see such large gatherings in a small place. They are often drunk, take drugs and play loud music until the early hours of the following morning.</p> <p>During the summer months we cannot use this piece of beach. We cannot walk our dogs here or sit and enjoy the views with our grandchildren without feeling intimidated by their behaviour and bad language. We dare not say anything to these people in fear of repercussions, especially as we are aware of the local gang issue.</p>
Retailer and resident	<p>Do you live or work in Teignmouth? I live and run a shop in the town</p> <p>What is your view on a Public Spaces Protection Order in Teignmouth to address anti-social behaviour in the locality? - This is a must to make the town more friendly to work, live and visit</p> <p>What anti-social behaviour has caused you concern over the last six months? - Youths threatening behaviour to all generations</p> <p>Do you have any evidence of that anti-social behaviour for example reports to Police or concerns raised with an agency? - Yes</p> <p>Where does this anti-social behaviour take place? - Normally Public places like the Den and Sea Front</p> <p>What is the impact of that behaviour on you and your communities quality of life? - The impact is very serious our elderly generation are not getting scared to go out especially in the evening and it could impact the holiday trade which the town relies on so much.</p>
Responses from Teignmouth Town Councillors	<p>I have passed comments through for inclusion in a town council response about the proposal for a PSPO but didn't include a detailed case for a blanket order across Teignmouth as I didn't realise that it actually did not cover the whole town. I am concerned that the proposed Order doesn't appear to cover the whole parish since St James churchyard, Bitton Park, Estuary Park (think that's what it's called, the little one down at Teignmouth side of Shaldon Bridge), Teignmouth letters (Sprey Point? we have always called it Teignmouth letters) probably Coombe Valley, etc, etc, and many other areas north of the railway line are magnets. It would also have been useful when, during COVID lockdown the first time, some households took to socialising out on the street because the weather was good, including other households, in</p>

	<p>contravention of the regulations, I think, causing disturbance to neighbours with no regard to them whatsoever (some in Grove Terrace up the road to me had that problem and found it doubly distressing because of the ill-health of some of our neighbours). If the PSPO had been in place, it would have been easier for the police to deal with such antisocial behaviour and thus I would really like to see it as a whole across the parish to enable proper escalation where it is due.</p>
	<p>I'm greatly in favour of a PSPO but a Teignmouth wide one as having spoken to Iain previously the logistics of having small areas around teignmouth seems more trouble than it's worth Having the PSPO in place will also let us use 3GS powers more widely if we choose to employ them again next season</p>
	<p>I concur it has to be a blanket cover if individual areas were PSPO it would not work. People would just move to an area not covered by the PSPO.</p>
	<p>Definitely agree the town needs a PSPO, but it has to be a blanket cover over the whole of Teignmouth, because it's just moving them on to another location nearby causing more problems.</p>
	<p>I strongly favour a PSPO, but the short consultation period and tight deadline for response is a cause for concern. Given distractions of behaviour around lockdown and C-19 it would be prudent to extend consultation to, say, late January. The protection does not become critical until the summer months. There needs to be a careful consideration of what is included in the order, the extent of the area covered and the chances of getting it enforced vs. disregarded through lack of effective sanctions. Put it to the press and social media, gauge the response, resolve TTC policy and then proceed with an order. Otherwise it will be no more effective than the current signs on the Point - No Fires, Arsonists will be prosecuted - generally ignored. I think electors will be vocal in support given the opportunity</p>
	<p>Despite the Covid restrictions we still encounter problems with street drinking and ASB, this occurs in the Little Triangle, the Den, the sea front (Back Breach, being more of a summer problem) the Rowdens, Bitten Park and various church grounds. I brought to the attention of Barry Seager (now having left the Council) and he developed a PSPO for the whole town, but that this would only relate to ASB in conjunction with consumption of alcohol in public areas. So a couple could happily and legally toast their anniversary on the Den in a glass of champagne and commit no offences, whilst a group of ruffians could be drinking beer and smashing bottles under the yacht club and would be committing an offence. In short it empowers civil enforcement officers, PCO's and Police powers to stop people going from being annoying before they commit any offences and allow these public areas to be enjoyed for the purpose they were built, both by local and visitors alike. Sadly the 2019 application did not find the approval of the town council and I understand that the same piece of legislation is again being</p>

	<p>put forward in 2020, and I encourage the council to consider the benefits granting this will achieve. Please bear in mind this legislation does not ban drinking alfresco, and only comes into play when alcohol and ASB occur at the same time.</p> <p>Noted and agree with the proposal to set up a PSPO in Teignmouth.</p> <p>I'm firmly in favour of a blanket PSPO across the town to stop a displacement problem.</p> <p>Secondly, this will not be a silver bullet for the drinking team that hangs out in the bus shelter and Triangles and behind Cherry on Top. Rapid response in Teignmouth is a bit different from a better staffed, metropolitan area. Since Smiths and numbers of the shops in this area are, on a daily basis, subjected to physical/verbal abuse, begging, shoplifting, unacceptable behaviour, etc, I don't feel anything is to be gained by augmenting the consultation period. The people who alight from or catch the bus at the stop outside are also subjected to foul language, loud music, loud raucous behaviour and there are regular altercations amongst the team as the day goes on and their intoxication increases - then you have urination in the phone boxes, vandalism of the public toilets in lower Brook Street, and the rear of the Smiths, etc. Many people are not even aware that this is happening so their contribution to a consultation will be very subjective and risks dilution of the seriousness of the situation. It does have to be publicly advertised, I believe, anyway, so they will have a chance to comment. This is the gateway to our Town and no good advert for it, at the moment.</p> <p>For me and the numbers of people who have expressed their concerns for their safety in this area to me (visitors to the Pavilions in particular), a PSPO can't come soon enough</p>
<p>Projects & Facilities Manager Teignmouth Town Council</p>	<p>Following the instigation of the PSPO process in May 2019 and in my Role with the town and Bitton Park CCTV coupled with my participation with the experiment of "enforcement officers" this year, it is clear that the original concept of the whole parish being covered is the only practicable one. Otherwise our regular nuisances will simply "cross the road" to avoid enforcement. And significant areas such as Bitton Park, St James's, Eastcliff park along with many others will have no protection.</p> <p>Should we use enforcement officers again next year either stand alone or in collaboration with TDC or another town council then these powers together with the necessary authority from TDC to use them, will be invaluable in helping reduce many anti-social issues which exist within the town.</p>
<p>Teignmouth Town Council</p>	<p>Full council meeting 1/12/20 Cllr Cox proposed that Teignmouth Town Council support Teignbridge District Council making a Public Space Protection Order for Teignmouth, seconded by Cllr Russell and unanimously agreed.</p>

