

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS RECEIVED for Place Scrutiny Committee – 12 January 2017 for Cllr Rob Hannaford**

**Question for Place Scrutiny Committee  
From John Taylor**

**Could the St Thomas area of the PSPO map be extended to cover further areas of St Thomas, as many people requested at the meeting held in St Thomas on the 5 December 2016, when the operation of the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) is reviewed after 6 months?**

*Response by Councillor Rob Hannaford, Portfolio Holder for Place*

*Councillor Rob Hannaford as Portfolio Holder for Place responded to the question. He advised that those Members who attended the open public meeting at St. Thomas on 5 December last year, recognised the strength of feeling from the audience. In their opinion, the proposed Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) boundary in St. Thomas should be widened to include public areas, where, there had recently been continuing anti-social behaviour, that had a detrimental impact on residents.*

*The Council, and certainly he, as both Lead Councillor for Place and also one of the Ward Councillors for St. Thomas, would be asking officers to work with the Police and collate information about the level and types of anti-social behaviour being experienced with a view to establishing whether there were grounds to extend the boundary of any PSPO (should it be approved), in the St. Thomas area. He stated that he would expect this to be carried out and a decision made within six months of the PSPO being implemented.*

*The Assistant Director Environment responded to a comment from Mr Taylor, and outlined the process. He confirmed that if the PSPO was approved by Full Council, on 21 February it would be implemented in June 2017. There would be a review of the PSPO reported back to Place Scrutiny Committee and also the Community Safety Partnership within six months of implementation, and this could include any recommendations to modify the PSPO, such as alterations to the boundary. He reiterated that if there was a justifiable case of severe anti-social behaviour taking place in St Thomas or any other area, Exeter City Council officers would work with the Police to coordinate the collation of evidence, and if the appropriate response was to extend the boundary, then a report would also be presented to Place Scrutiny Committee, Executive and Council with that recommendation in due course.*

**Question for Place Scrutiny Committee  
From Trish Oliver**

***As medical guidance states that people addicted to alcohol should not stop drinking “suddenly” due to the risk of seizures and death, how will this risk be managed?***

*Response by Councillor Rob Hannaford, Portfolio Holder for Place*

*Councillor Rob Hannaford as Portfolio Holder for Place responded to the question and referred to the risk management approach by the Council which would always include an empathy and understanding of the needs of an individual’s addictions. He stated that there was very little risk that a person addicted to alcohol would find themselves subject to an enforced abstinence, as a consequence of any Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) being implemented in the City Centre. It was important to understand collectively about the complexity of addiction and how the individual could be on a journey to reduce or change their drinking habits, and to offer the appropriate support through a variety of outreach and partnership working.*

*The PSPO was designed to reduce anti-social drinking in public places, such as in a park or on a street corner. Anyone with an addiction to alcohol could avoid an intervention under the powers of the PSPO and be able to consume alcohol if they did so within a building, at a licensed premises, or outside the boundary of the PSPO. They were only likely to risk an intervention if they choose a public space that brought them in to conflict with other users of that space, and he hoped that they would be unlikely to face an intervention if they chose a discreet place out of public gaze where such conflict with other users did not occur.*

*The Assistant Director Environment stated that the PSPO powers in relation to alcohol, were a continuation of the current Designated Public Places Order (DPPO) which had been in place since 2005 to help reduce problematical street drinking in the city centre, and interventions under the DPPO had been pragmatic and proportionate. This style of police intervention was unlikely to change should the PSPO replace the DPPO (which by law had to take place by October 2017). He was not aware of any negative impacts on an individual’s health caused by the implementation of the DPPO, in fact the DPPO and the PSPO should it replace it, were more likely to have a positive impact, because any intervention was likely to diminish the total amount of harmful over-consumption of alcohol that day for someone with an addiction to alcohol.*

*Ms Oliver thanked Councillor Hannaford for the reply, but stated that she was still concerned with the likely approach. Councillor Hannaford invited Police Inspector Simon Arliss for the city centre to speak. He echoed the views of Councillor Hannaford and the Assistant Director Environment, and agreed it was about working closely with other partners to offer a solution, rather than a punitive action.*