

Appendix J – Consultation Response received from individuals

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 November 2021 18:23
To: Community Safety <community.safety@exeter.gov.uk>
Subject: Exeter PSPO Consultation

Dear Sirs,

I both live and work in the city centre, and as a result spend the majority of my time here.

The antisocial behaviour has become increasingly problematic throughout much of the city centre. It has now got to the stage where I genuinely think that it affects the quality of life of people in Exeter. In addition to this, it is incredibly discouraging for people attempting to run businesses. It is particularly striking that at the moment the Christmas Market and various stalls have been set up which should make Exeter a nice place to visit for families, but actually due to the disproportionate amount of antisocial behaviour in a comparatively small city leaves it feeling rather the opposite. In addition to this – and perhaps more seriously - parts of the city can now feel very unsafe at times, with the following areas being particular hotspots:

- Bury Meadow Park
- Various points along the entirety of Sidwell Street
- The area outside Sports Direct
- The top of South Street
- The alley between British Heart Foundation and Amplifon
- The steps outside Hospicare next to Market Street

Having consulted the map, all of these trouble spots are within the existing PSPO area. Personally, while I would like the PSPO strengthened as much as possible, and I certainly think that being able to deal with individual troublemakers is a step in the right direction, it's vital that enforcement also takes place. There's very little point in strengthening the order when often, large groups of people are drinking and causing problems – behaviour that is already in breach of the existing order – without any action being taken. Particularly when this behaviour is consistently being carried out by the same people. If action was taken and enforced to the maximum allowable extent it feels as if these people should already be able to be dealt with.

In addition to this, I think there are a number of other areas which need to be addressed as part of this. Firstly, all of the town supermarkets and off licenses need to take some responsibility for serving alcohol to obviously intoxicated people with a known history of antisocial behaviour. Secondly, I think it's important to consider the roles of the various charities that - presumably - are licensed to carry out their activities in these areas. The soup kitchen at the top of South Street and St Petrocs, for example, act as gathering places for people who are often responsible for antisocial behaviour - generally in the immediate vicinity of where they have been encouraged to gather. As a result of this, I think it's important that they also take some responsibility for enabling antisocial behaviour and this is robustly considered as part of any future licensing process.

However, I am at least encouraged to see that this consultation is taking place as – like all Exeter residents – I would like the city to be as nice a place to live and work as possible.

Yours faithfully,



From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 22 November 2021 09:23

To: Community Safety <community.safety@exeter.gov.uk>

Subject: Response to consultation : Public Spaces Protection Orders

Dear Sirs

I write to express my support for an extension of the powers under the *Public Spaces Protection Orders* relating to Exeter City Centre.

The behaviour of individuals in South Street / Fore Street and in Cathedral Green - shouting, swearing and threats of violence (often driven by intoxication, I believe) - is very disruptive and threatening to the local community, to families, and to visitors to our City.

I feel additional action is necessary and urgent - to address this increasing problem.

Therefore, I support the extension of PSPOs to apply to individuals as well as groups. And I support the lengthening of the dispersal time to 24 hours.

I would also support such additional action as the Council (or other agencies) can take to tackle this problem.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 November 2021 09:57
To: Community Safety <community.safety@exeter.gov.uk>
Subject: PSPO

[REDACTED]

We daily have antisocial behaviour on and around south street, at the moment the police can only disperse a Group for 6 hours. This has proven to be not enough as soon as the police are gone the culprits come back. We would really like for them to be able to disperse individual people frightening and being physical to and in front of the public for 24 hours and if happens often banned from the city centre.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 November 2021 10:35
To: Community Safety <community.safety@exeter.gov.uk>
Subject: Exeter City Council public space Protection

Dear Sir/Madam

This is [REDACTED], the owner of [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] Cathedral Yard, I am agreed and happy that city council will help the community to protect and deal unacceptable behaviour in the city centre.

Thank you
[REDACTED]
Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 December 2021 09:24
To: Community Safety <community.safety@exeter.gov.uk>
Subject: Public Space Protection Comments

FROM: [REDACTED]

As a local business based in South Street, we are at the forefront of the disturbances that occur on a daily and weekly basis outside of my business door and in the general area. These take the form of homeless/drunks/drugged-up groups collecting in the doorway of both my own shop and the "Family Matters" office above my shop. It is quite normal to see continuous drinking of alcohol and drug taking in all its' forms.

It is also very obvious when a drug "drop" is due or taken place as in the city, due to the change in behaviour and movements of the people – the collecting in corners and waiting, observing and phone-use.

The groups of people also hand around like packs of dogs, arguing and screaming at each other on occasion.

South Street is now used as the main coach and visitor drop off point and this is a most depressing site for all to see on their arrival in the city.

I very much support any additional powers the police and PCSO's can be granted to help the situation.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 December 2021 09:12
To: Community Safety <community.safety@exeter.gov.uk>
Subject: PSPO

As shown in the media, I would like to take part in the Exeter City Centre PSPO consultation

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 December 2021 10:23
To: Community Safety <community.safety@exeter.gov.uk>
Subject: PSPO Consultation

Good morning,

Your proposals would certainly be welcome in principle and in practice. The 24 hour dispersal time frame however is too short - a 48 hour time limit would carry more weight. Although many ASB issues involve groups there is a gap in the enforcement armoury. This would be somewhat addressed if an individual could be dispersed.

The cathedral is the centre of Exeter, both historically and culturally, and represents the city to the outside world. We remain open and welcoming to all, particularly in these difficult times. Regrettably the behaviour of a persistent minority puts people off and frightens away the less obviously vulnerable. Enforcement is the key, without it PSPOs will be toothless and ineffective. Unless the proposals are backed-up with increased police and additional authorised person resources, we will be back where we started. Boundaries to unacceptable behaviour cannot be watered down as time goes by.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 December 2021 11:28
To: Community Safety <community.safety@exeter.gov.uk>
Subject: ASB dispersal consultation

Working in South Street can be challenging some days when the street attached are kicking off and in-fighting. This is particularly so as a day progresses and more alcohol and or drugs are taken. The larger numbers accumulating at the top of South Street are of high concern and their attitude and behaviour are intimidating and bringing this side of the City down. Although a dispersal order moves the problem on, and does not resolve it, a 24 or 48 hour order would have more impact and should be approved.

This city is losing a battle it cannot afford to lose. Being in the vicinity daily we have observed a lot of new arrivals on an almost daily basis, which is creating even more ASB. It is bad for business and bad for this lovely city

[REDACTED]