

# TORRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL- PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER (PSPO)

<b>77</b> Responses	<b>03:36</b> Average time to complete	<b>Active</b> Status	...
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1. In the past 12 months have you experienced Anti-social behaviour taking place in the restricted area?

[More Details](#)

None	15
Occassional	27
Persistent	26
Continuous	7



2. In the past 12 months have you experiences Anti-social behaviour associated with the consumption of alcohol, taking place in the restricted area?

[More Details](#)

None	13
Occassional	33
Persistent	20
Consistent	10



3. In the past 12 months have you experiences Aggressive or intimidating behaviour, taking place in the restricted area?

[More Details](#)

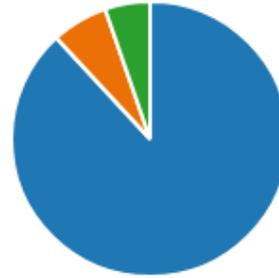
None	23
Occassional	37
Persistent	11
Continual	4



#### 4. Do you think the level of unreasonable activity justifies having this PSPO in place?

[More Details](#)

● Yes	67
● No	5
● Don't Know	4



#### 5. Do you agree with the proposed restrictions

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

● Strongly Agreed	55
● Agreed	13
● Neither Agree nor Disagree	4
● Disagree	1
● Strongly Disagree	3



#### 6. Restricted Area - do you agree with the suggested boundary?

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

● Strongly Agree	36
● Agree	25
● Neither Agree nor Disagree	9
● Disagree	3
● Strongly Disagree	2

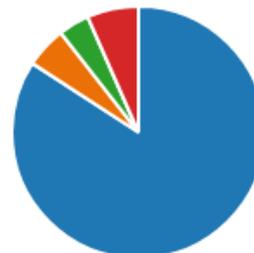


#### 7. Overall what impact do you think having this PSPO in place will have on people who live or work in Bideford?

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

● Positive Impact	64
● No Impact	4
● Negative Impact	3
● Don't Know	5



8. Overall what impact do you think having this PSPO in place will have on people who are visiting Bideford?

[More Details](#)

 Insights

- Postive Impact 63
- No Impact 5
- Negative Impact 2
- Don't Know 6



9. Do you live or work in Bideford?

[More Details](#)

- Resident of Bideford 56
- Work in Bideford 33
- Visitor to Bideford 11



10. If you are a Bideford resident please provide your postcode

[More Details](#)

57

Responses

Latest Responses

"EX39 2RL"

11. Do you have any further comments on the PSPO?

46 Responses

ID	Name	Responses
1	anonymous	I took my grandson to victoria park several times odviously the fort is what he looks to but you cannot take them there always men say in there same on the quay behind the wall you can not sit there quietly they are drunk and shouting which for some would feel threatening they all get in behind the hedge on the left hand side of the park
2	anonymous	This will only work if you are able to enforce it fully at all times very often there is nobody about also calling 101 is pointless because of the time it takes. What happens to the people when they are moved on where do they go very often they move on out of the PSPO and carry on in another part of the town. I welcome this, but if it is going to work a lot more officers are needed on the ground a notice on a lamp post will not work.

ID	Name	Responses
3	anonymous	Victoria Park needs attention, it's full of heavy drinkers as is Jubilee Square
4	anonymous	Needs to be vigorously enforced.
5	anonymous	I work in Bideford every day and during my walk back to the Bus stop I constantly feel unsafe intimidated by the men and women who hang around the public conveniences. It make me feel unsafe as I'm often there alone due to the hours I work.
6	anonymous	Once the people have been dispersed, they just congregate in different areas. Most notably in the following area: Pannier Market, Jubilee Square, Visitor Office (quayside), Victoria Park Benches and King Street. its not just the antisocial behavior, it is the mess and litter they leave behind.
7	anonymous	Restrictions and prohibition aren't a long term solution to this problem. We need a more radical and empathy lead solution. More understanding. Less authoritarian and more progressive approaches need to be explored.
8	anonymous	They need to see to parking on the street were there is a time limit as some are parked for days weeks not moved
9	anonymous	If it didn't work last time and anti social behaviour has increased, then why are we doing it again?
10	anonymous	Walk dog a lot around the park. PSPO will have no impact because it isn't policed! See people drinking nearly every day either in group in the park, or behind the building near toilets in the quay. Dog behaviour is also a joke. Never policed. Dogs off lead in the park every single day! And so much dogs mess it's unbelievable for a kids park. About time someone policed these things else it's just a waste of time.
11	anonymous	Every local person is aware of this persistent antisocial behaviour and its negative effect its having on the town. Visits to town centre, The Quay, The park are often a no go as your put off by groups of drunken, loud mouthed people. Cant go in public toilets on the quay, pannier market or park as these people are often there behaving in an intimidating way or finding needles etc there. About time something was done
12	anonymous	Think it should also includes areas over East the Water, especially with the proposed Brunswick Wharf development. The Railway Station should be included too in my opinion.
13	anonymous	During this last year with the Pandemic as advised I have only gone out as requested for shopping and exercise so have no idea really what is happening in the evenings. How ever I do think that the Skateboarders in Mill Street in the daytime are a bit dangerous when you are walking with your shopping
14	anonymous	Get them on the job fast! I have had numerous phone calls from the hairdressers, i myself feel very intimidated when i am around all of these areas, so the sooner, the better please.
15	anonymous	The sight of both men and women persistently drunk rolling around the town is dreadful. With the council making every effort to give the town a clean safe image , putting in these restriction orders is an excellent idea. The important thing , once in place, is to police them. Seeing the group meeting up in Jubilee square every

ID	Name	Responses
		morning or running into them on the seats at Bank end does little for the towns image
16	anonymous	The area proposed will enable undesirable behaviour to be challenged and dealt with.
17	anonymous	I feel that the boundary should also cover the Nature area at the end of Northam Road, as kids linked with Anti Social Behaviour are linked to going to that area. This also could be an area that people go to if asked to leave the Town Centre area
18	anonymous	There is a continual issue with 'BOY RACERS' in the car park running parallel with VICTORIA PARK and on the PILL, these areas would benefit from some sort of chicane, better speed bumps and or a barrier restricting the access to anti social drivers into the main carpark which is not often used overnight by residents or members of the public. The QUAY is also a prime location for this behaviour and again similar restrictions to access would reduce the opportunity to gather and carry out anti social behaviour at that location. It is only a matter of time before someone's property is seriously damaged due to irresponsible driving and losing control of their car, or worse someone suffers injury, life altering injury or death due to the excessive speeds, erratic driving movements and or due to disrupted sleep of residents individuals feeling they need to confront these drivers regarding this behaviour and an aggressive altercation ensuing. All of which are avoidable but possible. Further issues are the local nominals drinking and taking drugs at particular benches within VICTORIA PARK which is in full view of Members of the Public. The behaviour and language demonstrated by these individuals is volatile, aggressive and antisocial to say the least and exposure to families with young children is unacceptable. The road of PARK AVENUE and PARK LANE is used at excessive speeds by some road users and given there is an entrance to the park from that road, again it is only a matter of time before someone is seriously injured or killed as a result of careless driving at excess speeds. Speed bumps would minimise this 10 fold.
19	anonymous	Far better than the last restricted zone, which was not fit for purpose. It would appear from extending the restricted zone, this will have a far more positive effect on stopping the alcohol/drug-related ASB.
20	anonymous	As a local business owner I would love to see Bideford thrive after COVID and this will help tremendously!
21	anonymous	I think there is an issue in Bideford and I do think it affects residents and visitors alike. However, I am not sure a PSPO is the answer. I would be interested to know if the police think it will help and can be policed. The causes of the problem need to be examined. The people involved have problems and need support. I would feel much happier if there was a safe, non-judgmental place for them to be encouraged to go to and I do not believe they would be able to pay a fine anyway.
22	anonymous	The order needs to be enforced, the people flouting the order know they can get away with it with out any punishment.
23	anonymous	I believe this is a positive step for Bideford to take for the protection of the local population and visitors,
24	anonymous	Why is this restricted to use of Alcohol? I find the use of drugs and associated paraphernalia to be as much if not more antisocial (used needles etc), and the behaviour of drug users can be every bit as threatening and intimidating as that of alcohol users

ID	Name	Responses
25	anonymous	<p>Having people to enforce the PSPO is as important as having the PSPO in the first place. The council shouldn't rely on the Police to singularly enforce the PSPO on their behalf - the council should make sure it has its own enforcement officers who can undertake that role alongside the police who have many other serious matters to deal with alongside low level antisocial behaviour. The council should also strongly consider designing out opportunities for ASB - simple things like seating or covered areas if poorly designed attract ASB and actually become counter productive - these things are put in to enhance the experience for visitors - but end up being a focal point for ASB due to poor design or lack of thought. It's a combination of measures that will reduce ASB in the longer term.</p>
26	anonymous	<p>I feel the area should extend to the other side of the river and along the Tarka Trail in both directions. Persistent drinking during the day in Victoria Park and alongside the river by a large group of individuals is VERY intimidating. Visiting the park or walking last with young children and having to encounter them is not acceptable. The same can be said for those who now venture along the Tarka Trail and leave behind all their drink cans and bottles. Again, having to pass them is very unsettling as you cannot gauge the level of intoxication.</p>
27	anonymous	<p>The problem with attempting to control behaviour by way of categorising actions as anti-social behaviour is; everybody's behaviour is anti-social in someone else's eyes. It's not fair for somebody to decide what is or what isn't anti-social behaviour without there being an exhaustive list of anti-social actions, which as the draft states it's the authorities duty to decide, so prosecution for anti-social behaviour will literally come down to that individual's personal preference.</p>
28	anonymous	<p>Essential to maintain a safe and secure town for all</p>
29	anonymous	<p>As the current Sector Inspector for Torrington, I would like to provide feedback on the draft Bideford Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) 2021. I am wholeheartedly in favour of this proposal, which if implemented, will collectively enable Police and the Council to deal with Anti-Social Behaviour in a much wider area, as detailed in the associated map. The current PSPO, has had limited value due to the small area it covers. Where anti-social or substance-related behaviour falls outside of the current prescribed area, accredited staff can often be left with limited powers to provide an effective resolution. The area covered in the proposed PSPO provide us with greater opportunity to keep the town safe and not simply move the problem 'down the road'. The conditions are very clear and unambiguous and allow for the Council and Police to be able to issue sanctions if they are breached. I do not believe any of the proposed conditions to be controversial, complicated or unachievable and in fact allow for previously excluded behaviour such as anti-social driving around the town to be covered. In considering the size of the area proposed for the PSPO, I have been provided with relative data for the years 2019 and 2020. Over that 2-year period we had the following Police Logs in the proposed area: 2019: • 30 logs relating to drinking • 3 relating to Urinating • 126 relating to Anti Social Behaviour • TOTAL: 167 logs 2020: • 52 relating to drinking • 2 relating to urinating • 108 relating to Anti-Social Behaviour. • TOTAL: 162 logs These numbers only relate to reports made to the police by the public. They do not detail incidents discovered by officers who patrol the area or behaviour that is witnessed by the CCTV operator. Local business owners or councillors also make reports directly to the neighbourhood team, often by email. I therefore believe the number of incidents to be a good deal higher. It should also be noted, that over the last year, COVID-19 lockdowns have periodically been in place and therefore activity in the area has been less than it might usually be. As such, I consider that extending the PSPO so widely is necessary. Bideford is a busy town with a thriving tourist industry. The incidents of anti-social behaviour or those relating</p>

ID	Name	Responses
		<p>to alcohol and other substances, has a considerable impact on members of the public being able to go about their daily business. Trying to police these issues through cooperation is not enough and therefore a legal framework is required. I have one concern about an area not included as part of the PSPO on the proposed map. This is the grassed area and car park near to where the old skate park used to be, between the rugby ground and river. This is adjacent to a river boat café and other houseboats. Should the ASB be pushed into this area, this may still have an impact on both a local business and residents. So I would request that consideration is given to extending the PSPO area here. Finally, with regard to the wording of the PSPO, I would request that it is changed to include the term 'intoxicating substances' as opposed to just alcohol. Whilst primarily, the complaints we have received have related to alcohol, I am mindful that trends change and in fact nearby boroughs have issues with substances such as gas/solvents or other psychoactive substances.</p>
30	anonymous	<p>I work as a Bideford Police Officer and strongly believe that the PSPO gives council enforcement officers, PCSOs and Police Officers the necessary legislation and backing to curb Anti-Social Behaviour. I most definitely back this being put in place!</p>
31	anonymous	<p>For support of service users of alcohol dependent members of the public would be at risk of death by alcohol withdrawal. This is deemed as a punishment and not actually addressing the root cause and supporting individuals with support and working through their challenges and recovery needs. What is deemed to be missing is alternative places and support off the streets, lack of housing, lack of suitable supported accommodation, what work is being done with younger people with regards to health awareness, ASB, family relationships and employment. Somewhere safe, protected and educational needs to be on offer. Moving the problem by closing an area off, my banning access to an area you are moving it not resolving it. Fines won't be paid by someone who is unemployed, homeless or alcohol dependent as their minimal money will be used to fund a habit which if not presupposed could lead to alcohol admission and death. Recycling bins and access to waste disposal more readily will help with littering and control of waste. From a service where by we support and promote recovery we would be happy to look at alternatives to this order. This order will see wider debts, push back to authorities and negative reaction to supportive agencies without other options being made available. More hope less punish!</p>
32	anonymous	<p>Although just out of Bideford it's our main town to shop, eat out etc especially of an evening. So to us the PSPO must be maintained.</p>
33	anonymous	<p>I often enter the protected space with my two year old daughter and have at times felt intimidated by the drug and alcohol misuse taking place. I'm a 6ft tall, 15 stone heavy, fit and active male with a keen interest in boxing. I can't imagine what it's like for less physically able people to have to tolerate such miscreants.</p>
34	anonymous	<p>Alcohol is a problem in Bideford, but also widespread and flagrant use of restricted drugs. My responses are based on a period which included lockdowns. It was worse before and will inevitably get worse again when pubs re-open and the weather improves. The toilets on the quay are unusable, except in an emergency, due to drug taking paraphernalia and general filth. If this PSPO measure goes ahead, the proceeds should be used to maintain an acceptable level of public facilities in the proposed area.</p>
35	anonymous	<p>The Police made several arrests after complaints of anti social behaviour on the Pill , noise of engines very loud exhausts etc etc. A prohibition stopping gatherings would be of immense help</p>

<b>ID</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Responses</b>
36	anonymous	I think just restricting the survey to analysis over the previous twelve months, but then with the various Covid restrictions, etc., this will have reduced the problems, but during the previous twelves again 2019/2020 then I experienced antisocial behaviour every time I was in Bideford especially on The Quay all the way and in to the park, plus youngsters from school bullying others always in Jubilee Square which is intimidating to anyone, thus the want for people to avoid these areas. The behaviour of persons who flout the PSPO, never seemed to be any different on a daily basis, so how was it all being policed. I never once saw anyone being approached by an enforcement officer to move these nuisances out of these areas. I surely want this review to be able to mean total enforcement for Bideford and keep residents safe.
37	anonymous	no
38	anonymous	OK IN THEORY BUT DIFFICULT TO POLICE. I SUGGEST THAT THE EXISTING LAW ON PUBLIC ORDER COVERS MOST SITUATIONS.
39	anonymous	None
40	anonymous	This last year hasn't been normal so it's not really representative.
41	anonymous	I have answered 'occasionally' in the questionnaire as I tend to keep away from the Quay and Mill Street in particular in the evenings. If I went there more often I am sure that the incidence would rise in proportion. I think the terms of the PSPO should extend to also cover those under the influence of illegal drugs.
42	anonymous	Was required in the past and used to good effect. Should keep it in operation. Also a valuable tool along with section 35 orders.
43	anonymous	A PSPO is all very well but to be effective we must have a police presence in Bideford. At the moment, and for several years we have had none, especially down Mill Street.
44	anonymous	Any measures that help keep people safe from Covid etc.. should be welcomed.
45	anonymous	drug dealing/ taking is clearly visible daily - yet no one is arresting anyone - what is the point of laws if you don't enforce them??? Just walk through the park, the quay side & you will see antisocial behaviour, drug dealing and addicts taking drugs and no police despite the police station being only minutes away.
46	anonymous	Due to Covid I have made very few visits anywhere, and hope that once we can visit/shop again this will be in place to enable officers to prevent events escalating. Littering rubbish (ie drink cans) would also be useful - make the offender clear up the rubbish. I do feel intimidated when walking through Jubilee Square with some of the groups of people during the day!

## 2 Additional Responses received (not via the web form)

Dear Janet,

I have in the past received phone calls from the hairdressers on Jubilee Square, and have indeed visited them myself, it is very intimidating when these people are sat there drinking with there dogs.

Also the other area's, Victoria Park , Landvisiau walk, a lot of young families, visitors use this area, including myself, these people make me feel very uncomfortable. It's not a nice thing for our families and visitors to see.

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a resident of Bideford. I was alerted to your PSPO scheme by Councillor Tony Inch and I understand you are seeking feedback for your proposal.

I am specifically referencing my area of Bideford, which includes Tower Street, Buttgarden Street and the area surrounding St Mary's Church, all of which are heavily afflicted with the problems you highlight in your scheme. However, my concern is for the whole town. It is disappointing to note that since the scheme was introduced antisocial behaviour has increased, but this is not hard to believe given the experiences and situations Bideford residents regularly endure.

Tower Street has been especially afflicted with antisocial behaviour involving alcohol, drugs, intimidating gangs of men hanging around on the street, problematic teenagers who disturb locals and other issues that make life very difficult for residents. This is because of several issues:

1) Bideford's out-of-control drugs problem. 7 months ago it was reported that a drugs ring had re-established itself in Bideford and they are operating openly here without any fear of reprisal.

2) No police presence. No community organisation to "keep watch" on the town. No type of authority to keep things in check.

3) There are too many HMOs in the town. Bideford is being used as a dumping ground for people with drug, alcohol, homeless problems. There are 7 HMO's on Bideford High Street alone. It is clear that when you stuff them all together in this way, problems will inevitably arise as they will mingle. They will also bring out the worst in one another. This is a feeding ground for drug lords who view many of these troubled drug addicts as ripe for the picking; it is also a breeding ground for drug lords to engage in cuckooing, targetting mentally vulnerable people - not to mention the elderly - to stash their drugs. On Buttgarden Street, there is a charity which houses people with drug problems, alcohol problems, ex-convicts and other troubled individuals. My experience the last few years with this has been extremely negative and has resulted in battling back and forth with the charity, trying to explain that the system of bringing these people into the town is not working and is making life hell for locals and visitors. The charity's general attitude is that we should just shut up and put up. To them, these people are troubled and therefore we must simply just tolerate it, no matter how rude, aggressive or abusive they are. I personally captured video footage of one such resident/associate of theirs bragging loudly outside my door about stabbing someone which resulted in a police investigation.

This is not withstanding the fact that their charity is not even monitored 7 days a week - staff work there 9-5 Monday to Friday, and residents come and go as they please at all other hours and on weekends.

Given the fact that Bideford is a now well-established drugs town, is it not just plain stupidity to leave "recovering drug addicts" to their own devices where they can order their drugs any time they like?

The system is simply just ridiculous and it is extremely irresponsible what the authorities have done, resulting in a ruined town where locals are at the mercy of drug lords, drug users and alcoholics. That such a beautiful town should be destroyed in this way and infiltrated by the county lines is appalling and whoever is responsible for allowing this to happen should be held to account. Drug lords love it here. Why wouldn't they? There is no authority to oppose them, plenty of recovering drug users to target, plenty of current drug users to target, and plenty of unprotected old people and children to cuckoo and drag into the drugs world.

Dealing with local police has likewise been gruelling. Back and forth arguments with the local sergeant, not to mention a PCSO who tried to convince me it "wasn't that bad" is not something you expect from a professional police force. It is only when I sought the help of Alison Hernandez and her team that I noticed improvements started to be made.

The residents of Bideford are not being protected. The elderly are not being protected as they are potential victims of cuckooing. The children are not being protected as they too are potential victims of drug lords using them to deliver the drugs. The rest of us are not being protected either and we are left to fend for ourselves when aggressive and intimidating drug and alcohol users cross our paths or congregate outside our homes. I am not the only female who feels unsafe walking around this town after dark.

The problem of antisocial behaviour is only the tip of the iceberg. In the short-term, I would like to see Tower Street, Buttgarden Street and St Mary's Church completely free of the threats and intimidation they have suffered due to these unsavoury characters who wander in and out. In the long-term, Bideford cannot continue to house all these HMO's - no one is disputing that people need help. But when it results in unruly, intimidating behaviour, the agenda needs to change completely. There are a number of them who love the fact that they can come and live in this small quiet town and create havoc, because they know there are certain people in positions of authority who champion their right to do whatever they want because they are 'troubled'. I raised this issue at a council meeting last year and was subsequently attacked online for it by two councillors who are HMO enthusiasts; they proceeded to write about me in an abusive manner, encourage locals to find out who I was and attempted to launch a witch-hunt against me. This is the behaviour of people who are supposed to be elected politicians.

Bideford is in a dire state and it is heartbreaking to see how it has been subjected to this. Poor authority and weak leadership is the reason - however, I want to believe that this will change. I am glad that efforts are being taken to improve the existing rules in place, which are clearly ineffective.

