

AGENDA ITEM NO 12

TITLE: Update on the East Cambridgeshire District Council Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) at Footpath 102 in Soham (Village College and Ross Peers Sports Centre).

Committee: Commercial Services Committee

Date: 22 November 2016

Author: Neighbourhood Support Officer

[R125]

1.0 ISSUE

1.1 To update Members on the implementation and effectiveness of the Public Spaces Protection Order approved at 13 January 2016 Commercial Services Committee for land designated at footpath 102 and adjacent areas at Ross Peers Sports Centre in Soham.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 That Members note the progress achieved via the 'East Cambridgeshire District Council Crime and Policing Act 2014, Public Spaces Protection Order 2016 (Footpath 102 and adjacent areas at Ross Peers Sports Centre)'.

3.0 BACKGROUND/OPTIONS

3.1 The vicinity of footpath 102 running through Soham Village College and adjacent areas at Ross Peers Sports Centre was identified by Constabulary as an area suitable for a PSPO.

3.2 Concerns raised included abusive language to drugs related offences and assault. Customers and staff at Ross Peers Sports Centre had experienced abusive language and intimidating behaviour and trespass.

3.3 Accordingly the case for implementing a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to deal with these issues was heard and approved by Members at the 13 January 2016 Commercial Services Committee.

3.4 At the 13 January meeting it was agreed that an update report on effectiveness be brought back to this Committee after a six month implementation period. This report therefore presents initial feedback from Agencies that supported the implementation of the PSPO. The following questions were asked regarding effectiveness and a numerical rating sought;

Please indicate the following;

- Any incidents of anti social behaviour occurring in the prescribed PSPO area as reported by your staff?
- Any incident of anti social behaviour occurring in the prescribed PSPO area as reported to the Police?
- Any follow up actions taken, including cautions, words of advice etc?

In terms of Qualitative data if you would comment on the following;

- Staff and management satisfaction with how the Order is going (say on a scale of 1= ineffective and 5 = highly effective) in tackling the ASB issues.
- How do you feel the management of the PSPO can be improved (in terms of reporting incidents and procedures for handling incidents)?
- Do you feel the PSPO needs to remain in place for the full three year period?

3.5 A summary of comments received from the relevant Agencies is included below. Representatives were asked to provide comments and also numerical feedback on a scale of 1= Ineffective in dealing with the issues to 5 = Highly effective in dealing with issues.

Agency	Lead contact providing feedback	Key Question including incidents reported between March 2016- September 2016	Response and Comments	Effectiveness rating
Soham Village college	George Price (Vice Principal)	A very positive response as below.... Any incidents of anti social behaviour occurring in the prescribed PSPO area as reported by your staff? ·	Zero	5
		Any incident of anti social behaviour occurring in the prescribed PSPO are as reported to the Police? -	Not aware of any.	
		Any follow up actions taken, including cautions, words of advice etc?	- None needed	
		How do you feel the management of the PSPO can be improved (in terms of reporting incidents and procedures for handling incidents)?	NA	
		Do you feel the PSPO needs to remain in place for the full three year period?	Yes its effectiveness has been proven and it has helped to break the cycle of issues we had previously. We have now had a whole cohort of leavers from the school who have not had	

			bad examples set for them by older youths hanging around. If the order stays in place for the full three years that change of habits will be well and truly established.	
Ross Peers Sports Centre	Sharon Hickmott (Centre Manager)	Any incidents of anti social behaviour occurring in the prescribed PSPO area as reported by your staff? .	None recorded	5
		Any incident of anti social behaviour occurring in the prescribed PSPO are as reported to the Police? -	None recorded	
		Any follow up actions taken, including cautions, words of advice etc?	None made. General comments below; We here at the Sports Centre have not had any problems like we were having, a few minor issues of hanging around but no trouble and as soon as we go out to see they have moved away so we have not had to even tell them about it. I believe it would be helpful to keep it in place by which times it will become second nature. it is a 5 highly effective from us here	5
		How do you feel the management of the PSPO can be improved (in terms of reporting incidents and procedures for handling incidents)?	No response	
		Do you feel the PSPO needs to remain in place for the full three year period?	No response	
Cambridgeshire Constabulary	John Bailey – Partnership & Prevention Constable	In response to your original email regarding the PSPO for Soham Village college I have been through any incidents held on our systems and I have only been able to find one, this relates to a male walking his dog on school grounds and when asked to leave he stated he had a right to be there before shouting and leaving, this occurred in April this year, this was closed as an ASB incident hence the reason it has been attached. I have found no other incidents that relate to the area defined by the map for the PSPO. Obviously this can mean one of two things, the PSPO is working or that it is under reported to Police.		

3.6 Constabulary data shows only one minor incident that does not qualify as anti social behaviour. Effectiveness by the lead agencies who supported the order (Soham Village College and Ross Peers Sports Centre) were at 5 which is highly effective. There was no indication in responses from the College or Sports Centre that incidents were going unreported to the Police.

4.0 ARGUMENTS/CONCLUSIONS

4.1 The feedback from the agencies most impacted by the previous anti social behaviour is positive and supportive.

4.2 Both Soham Village College and Ross Peers Sports Centre evaluated the PSPO as 5 (Highly effective at dealing with the anti social behaviour issues).

4.3 Police data corroborates the Village College and Sports Centre feedback that no formal incidents have occurred and been duly reported. Police have reported one anomalous incident which is not indicative of true anti social behaviour as restricted by the wording of the PSPO.

4.4 Feedback is supportive of the Order remaining in place for its full three year duration and Soham Village College provided the clearest point of view in this regard.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

6.0 APPENDICES

6.1 **Appendix A – The Order**

<u>Background Documents</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Officer</u>
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Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 CHAPTER 12	Room 008 (The Grange, Ely)	Nick Ball Neighbourhood Support Officer (01353) 616455 E-mail: nick.ball@eastcamb.gov.uk
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Appendix A –The Order

East Cambridgeshire District Council in exercise of its powers under Section 59, 64 and 72 of the Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 ("the Act") proposes to make the following Order:-

**ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014
SECTION 59
PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER**

**East Cambridgeshire District Council
Public Spaces Protection Order
Soham Footpath 102 and Ross Peers Sports Centre
Number 1 of 2016**

THIS ORDER is made by East Cambridgeshire District Council ("the Council") because the Council is satisfied on reasonable grounds that activities carried out or likely to be carried out in a public space, namely Soham footpath 102 and adjacent areas at Ross Peers Sports Centre:

- Have had or are likely to have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality
- Are or are likely to be unreasonable and
- Justify the restrictions imposed

The Council is satisfied that the following activities have been or are likely to be carried out in the public space:

ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (Foul abusive language, physical altercation, harassment)

1. PERIOD FOR WHICH THE ORDER HAS EFFECT

The Order shall come into operation on Monday 7th March 2016 and shall have effect for a period of 3 years thereafter, unless extended by further orders under East Cambridgeshire District Council's (hereafter 'the Council') statutory powers.

2. RESTRICTIONS

The Order relates to areas on footpath 102 Soham and adjacent areas at Ross Peers Sports Centre in Soham as shown on the attached plan.

The effect of this Order is to make the following provisions for these areas as follows;

(a) At Footpath 102

- Use the footpath as a thoroughfare only. Do not loiter.
- Do not display threatening or intimidating behaviour , or use foul or abusive

language, so as to cause nuisance, harassment, alarm or distress, towards;

- Other persons using the footpath,
- Pupils, staff or visitors of Soham Village College,
- Staff and visitors at Ross Peers Sports Centre.

(b) At Ross Peers Sports Centre

- Do not loiter or gather in areas outside or in the entrance to Ross Peers Sports Centre unless there to use the centre at that time;
- Do not loiter outside “The Isle” unless a pupil at Soham Village College instructed to attend or by appointment;
- Do not use foul or abusive language or threatening or intimidating behaviour; so as to cause nuisance, harassment, alarm or distress towards;
 - Staff and visitors to Ross Peers Sports Centre
 - Pupils, staff and visitors at Soham Village College.

3. WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU FAIL TO COMPLY WITH THIS ORDER?

A person guilty of an offence under conditions (a) or (b) above, under section 67 of the Act is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale or fixed penalty notice of a maximum £100.

APPEALS

4. Any challenge to this order must be made in the High Court by an interested person within six weeks of it being made. An interested person is someone who lives in, regularly works in, or visits the restricted area. This means that only those who are directly affected by the restrictions have the power to challenge. The right to challenge also exists where an order is varied by the Council.

Interested persons can challenge the validity of this order on two grounds: that the Council did not have power to make the order or to include particular prohibitions or requirements; or that one of the requirements of the legislation, for instance consultation, has not been complied with.

When an application is made the High Court can decide to suspend the operation of the order pending the Court’s decision, in part or in totality. The High Court has the ability to uphold the order, quash it, or vary it.

A copy of the Order plan may be obtained by contacting the address below.
nick.ball@eastcambs.gov.uk , Tel. 01353 665555 or in writing to Nick Ball, Neighbourhood Support Officer, East Cambridgeshire District Council, The Grange, Nutholt Lane, ELY CB7 4EE. The Order can also be seen at www.eastcambs.gov.uk

THE COMMON SEAL OF EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
was hereby affixed the day of 2016
in the presence of:

