

**Public
Key Decision – No**

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Public Spaces Protection Order (Eynesbury)

Meeting/Date: Licensing and Protection Committee
27 June 2024

Executive Portfolio: Executive Councillor for Residents Services and Corporate Performance

Report by: Community Protection and Enforcement Team Leader

Ward(s) affected: Eynesbury

Executive Summary:

In response to anti-social behaviour in the area of the B1043: Berkley Street and The Parish Church of Eynesbury, and other locations in the vicinity, Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) is looking to put in place a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO).

Behaviours that have been concerning people local to the area include public intoxication, public urination/defecation, intimidating behaviour and camping on public land without permission.

These anti-social behaviours in the area have become synonymous with the behaviours of guests from the 'Nag's Head Hotel' in Eynesbury, which is used as temporary accommodation by several Local Authorities, including HDC.

PSPOs are a power granted to councils in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and are designed to stop individuals and groups from committing anti-social behaviour in a public place. A PSPO allows HDC to put in place restrictions and requirements. Breaches of a PSPO condition or requirement are a criminal offence and offenders may face fixed penalty notices (currently set at £100), or prosecution in criminal court.

This proposed PSPO has been designed as a partnership response to the anti-social behaviour which has negatively impacted local people and is expected to be used by Police and HDC as a tool to respond to anti-social behaviour occurring within the public spaces surrounding the Nag's Head Hotel.

Licensing and Protection Committee Members need to be aware that there are limitations to a PSPO and should not be expected to wholly prevent these

behaviours from occurring. However, it is felt by Police and HDC that a PSPO is the best community enforcement tool reasonably available currently.

Licensing and Protection Committee Members are asked to review the proposed PSPO and decide whether they agree that it should be implemented with immediate effect.

Recommendation(s):

Committee Members are recommended to decide on whether:

- 1. To approve the proposed PSPO for Eynesbury.**
- 2. The proposed PSPO location outlined in Appendix A is suitable.**
- 3. The proposed PSPO conditions outlined in Appendix B are suitable.**
- 4. The PSPO for Eynesbury should be put in place for 3 years with annual review.**
- 5. To delegate authority to the Chief Operating Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Community Services, to make minor amendments or variations to the conditions and scope of this PSPO.**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Licencing and Protection Committee for a proposed Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) as a response to increasing concerns in relation to anti-social behaviour occurring in Eynesbury, predominantly attributed towards temporary accommodation guests staying at The Nags Head Hotel on Berkley Street, Eynesbury.
- 1.2 PSPO's are a statutory enforcement power which can be implemented by a Local Authority and enforced by District Council Officers and Police Constables. A PSPO can put in place requirements and prohibitions on anyone using a public space within the specified boundary of the order. Penalties for breaching a PSPO can result in a £100 fixed penalty notice or prosecution at Court with a maximum penalty of £1000.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Members of the public living and visiting the area of Eynesbury, St Neots including Burkley Street (B1043), Buckley Road, Luke Street, Montagu Street, Washbank Road, Pope Road, School Lane and the Parish Church of Eynesbury have experienced persistent and unreasonable anti-social behaviour which is having a detrimental effect on those in the locality.
- 2.2 Experienced behaviours include public intoxication (drugs and alcohol), public urination/defecation, intimidating behaviour and camping on public land without permission.
- 2.3 Perpetrators have been predominantly identified as temporary accommodation guests staying at The Nag's Head Hotel on Burkley Street, Eynesbury. The Nag's Head is used by several Local Authorities, including HDC as temporary accommodation for people experiencing homelessness.
- 2.4 Some temporary guests of The Nag's Head have been known to be linked to criminality, which in conjunction with influencing the behaviours occurring at the location, also impacts the perceived lack of safety felt by other members of the public in the area.
- 2.5 HDC have been working directly with the owners of the Nag's Head to address issues arising in the area, especially behaviours occurring within the boundary of their premises.
- 2.6 HDC have been engaging with temporary guests of the Nag's Head, local residents and internal and external partners and have ended homelessness duties to people who's behaviour has not been acceptable. These actions will continue alongside the proposed PSPO.
- 2.7 Police have been responding to multiple calls to service in the area, taking appropriate action as necessary.

- 2.8 The proposed PSPO conditions aim to be used as an enforcement tool by Police and HDC against perpetrators of anti-social behaviour in the area, act as a deterrent from the behaviour, and improve the feelings of safety experienced by members of the public.
- 2.9 HDC's Community Protection and Enforcement Team engaged in public consultation between 30 May 2024 to 14 June 2024, collecting responses by Microsoft Forms.
- 2.10 Public consultation produced 48 responses, of which 47 supported the proposed PSPO. Consultation results have been provided as Appendix C. In summary, 47 respondents either agree or strongly agree with all the proposed conditions, all but one person agreed with the proposed location, with the only exception being that one respondent felt the PSPO should cover a wider area. One person wholly disagreed with the proposed PSPO, as they felt it targeted vulnerable homeless people.
- 2.11 When offered to provide open comments on the proposed PSPO, most respondents identified temporary guests of The Nag's Head Hotel as causing the issues.
- 2.12 The scope of the PSPO has no direct influence over behaviours within the boundary of The Nag's Head Hotel and is not designed to target specific known groups or individuals. Rather, it includes specified anti-social behaviours which have been persistently occurring in this area of Eynesbury and will be enforced against anyone who is found to be in breach of the conditions.

3. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 3.1 The following are core enforcement powers that can be used by HDC's Community Protection and Enforcement Team in response to anti-social behaviour, pursuant to the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. Options listed below are in order of the current preference, but all are valid responses to the issue and have been considered when formulating a response to the issue.
- 3.2 **Option One: PSPO** – In response to reports of anti-social behaviour occurring in the areas surrounding The Nag's Head Hotel, the proposed PSPO conditions are currently considered to be the preferred option. PSPO conditions allow for immediate enforcement action to be taken against identified offenders. This can allow for effective response against transient offenders, comminating anti-social behaviours which could otherwise go unenforced. Potential drawbacks for this option have been presented in section 4 of this report.
- 3.3 **Option Two: Closure Order (Nag's Head)** – Local Councils, County Councils or Police can apply for a closure order, restricting any access to a premises for up to six months. Breach of a Closure Order can result in up to 51 weeks in prison, or an unlimited fine. In the context of a premises used as temporary accommodation this could be seen an extreme option and would have the implication of preventing multiple Local Authorities

from using the Nag's Head for un-housed people. Short-term, this option does not directly address anti-social behaviour occurring in the public spaces surrounding the premises but may prevent some offenders of anti-social behaviour coming to the area; long-term, extensive planning for contingencies would need to be put in place by HDC to prevent behaviours re-occurring after a Closure Order expires. Public consultation has shown that most respondents want the Nag's Head to be permanently closed due to crime and serious nuisance to the public; therefore, this option has been considered.

- 3.4 **Option Three: Direct Enforcement (Community Protection Notice) –** Local Authorities and Police have powers in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 to issue offenders of anti-social behaviour with a Community Protection Notice (CPN). Breach of a CPN is a criminal offence and can result in a £100 fixed penalty notice, a £2500 court fine, or a remedial, forfeiture or seizure order. Prior to serving a known person with a CPN, the enforcement agency must first warn the person; this is often referred to as a Community Protection Warning (CPW). This effectively creates a three-stage process to issuing an offender with a fixed penalty notice, or conviction. In the context of targeting a mostly transient population, this would not be considered an effective response.

4. RISKS

- 4.1 The anticipated impacts have been discussed in this report. In the interest of transparency, it should be noted that there are risks associated with the PSPO which should be considered.
- 4.2 There is a risk that the PSPO could be unsuccessful in influencing lasting change in the area for various hypothetical reasons; for example, lack available resource from enforcement agencies, lack of judicial support resulting in ineffective penalties, or inability to positively identify perpetrators. An unsuccessful PSPO could cause negative public confidence in enforcement agencies, continued victimisation of those experiencing anti-social behaviour, or the need to escalate action at the location, or premises (The Nag's Head) directly.
- 4.3 Reported anti-social behaviour largely attributed towards some un-housed temporary accommodation guests staying at The Nag's Head Hotel has been the impetus for this proposed PSPO. The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 Statutory Guidance for PSPOs is clear that Local Authorities should not use the power to target people based solely on the fact they are homeless or rough sleeping, rather should address specific behaviours that are causing a detrimental effect on the community's quality of life which is within the control of the person concerned. The proposed PSPO condition for 'Encampments on Public Land' could be seen as directly targeting a person for being homeless or rough sleeping, which may attract criticism. However, careful consideration has been used for this proposed condition. HDC do not have any PSPO conditions anywhere within the Huntingdonshire district which prohibits rough sleeping or homelessness. This condition is clear to target the behaviour of setting up an encampment (tent, mobile home, caravan

or any other temporary structure) on the land specified in the PSPO area, unless permission is granted to do so. In relation to encampments on the public graveyard of St Mary the Virgin, The Parish Church of Eynesbury, the detrimental effect on the quality of life of those using the facility has been clearly communicated to HDC and Police.

- 4.4 A PSPO must be publicised and signposted, clearly outlining the conditions and boundaries. This is to ensure members of the public are fully aware of any conditions which might affect them. This could have the positive effect of demonstrating that there is action taking place to protect the community; conversely, there may be some risk that doing so might highlight the location as a problematic area for anti-social behaviour. This could have further implications.

5. TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- 5.1 The following dates are expected for the implementation of the PSPO:
1. 31/05/2024: Public consultation begins.
 2. 14/06/2024: Public consultation ends.
 3. 18/06/2024: Report submission to Licensing and Protection Committee.
 4. 27/06/2024: Licensing and Protection Committee meet to decide on whether to authorise the PSPO.
 5. 27/06/2024: Publish PSPO consultation results.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Between 31/05/2024 and 14/06/2024 public consultation received 48 responses, of which 47 responded supported the proposed PSPO. Consultation results have been enclosed as Appendix C, including comments from respondents.
- 6.2 Cambridgeshire Constabulary and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner have also been consulted with. Support is also presented in Appendix C.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 **Section 59** of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 makes Public Spaces Protection Orders a statutory provision of Huntingdonshire District Council. To make a PSPO, HDC must be satisfied that on reasonable grounds two conditions are met:
1. Activities carried on in a public place within the authority's area have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, or is likely that activities will be carried on in a public place within that area and that they will have such an effect.
 2. The second condition is that the effect, or likely effect, of the activities –
 - a) is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature,
 - b) is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable, and
 - c) justifies the restrictions imposed by the notice.

- 7.2 **Section 60** of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 sets the duration of a PSPO for no more than 3 years, unless extended under this section.
- 7.3 **Section 66** of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 provides an interested party the right to apply to the High Court to question the validity of a PSPO, or variation of a PSPO within 6 weeks from when the order or variation was made.
- 7.4 **Section 67** of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 makes it an offence for a person without reasonable excuse to do anything that they are prohibited from by the PSPO or fail to comply with a requirement of the PSPO. Conviction may result in up to six months imprisonment, or a fine of up to £1000.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Enforcement of the proposed PSPO for Eynesbury will utilise resource from Cambridgeshire Constabulary and HDC's Community Protection and Enforcement Team.
- 8.2 There will be resource required for Police patrolling for this PSPO to be effective. Cambridgeshire Constabulary have committed to this through their application for PSPO and support in consultation.
- 8.3 HDC's Community Protection and Enforcement Team can respond to reports of anti-social behaviour, including PSPO breaches as part of their day-to-day duties.
- 8.4 A deployable CCTV camera has been provided by HDC's CCTV Department, at a cost of £1800 for 6 months. Funding for this camera will be sourced and funded by HDC's Communities Department.
- 8.5 HDC's CCTV Department will conduct 24-hour monitoring and review of incidents at the location via HDC's CCTV Control Room.
- 8.6 A3 signage, displaying the PSPO conditions and location, has been sourced at £104.40 by HDC's approved supplier and will be funded from HDC's Community Protection and Enforcement Team's fixed penalty notice funds.
- 8.7 Monthly meetings between Police and HDC will be held to review enforcement of the proposed PSPO and the efficacy of the conditions in reducing anti-social behaviour in the area.

9. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

- 9.1 These recommendations have been presented to the Licensing and Protection Committee so that we can continue responding to issues of anti-social behaviour in the area of Eynesbury surrounding the Nag's Head Hotel.

10. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

Appendix A - Proposed location for the 2024 Public Spaces Protection Order: Eynesbury

Appendix B - Proposed conditions for the 2024 Public Spaces Protection Order: Eynesbury

Appendix C - Consultation results for the proposed 2024 Public Spaces Protection Order: Eynesbury

CONTACT OFFICER

Name/Job Title: Ashley Dolling, Community Protection and Enforcement Team Leader
Tel No: 01480 388 388
Email: Ashley.dolling@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Appendix A

Proposed location for the 2024 Public Spaces Protection Order: Eynesbury

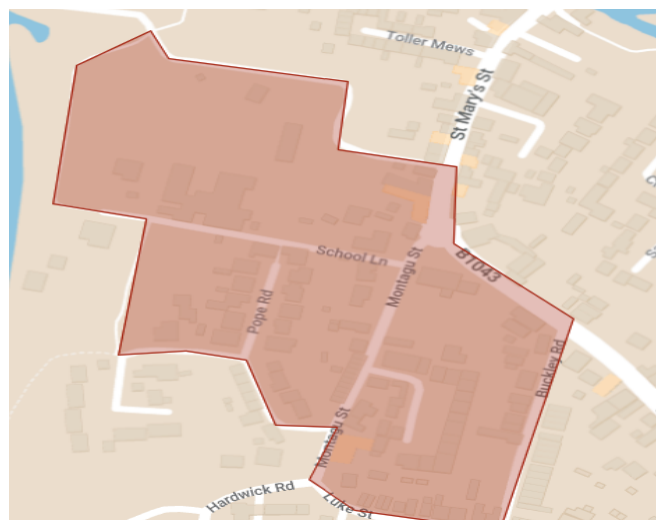
The conditions of this Public Spaces Protection Order apply to the land within Eynesbury, St Neots which encompasses all public highways, footpaths, bridleways, and public access which are part of Berkley Street (B1043), Buckley Road, Luke Street, Montagu Street, Washbank Road, Pope Road, School Lane, St Mary's Street (B1043), and connecting public footpaths.

1. B1043 – Berkley Street, north-west and south-east between the roundabout connecting to Montagu Street and St Mary's Street, to Buckley Road.
2. Buckley Road, southbound between Berkley Street and Luke Street.
3. Luke street, west and eastbound from the corner of Buckley Road, to where Hardwick Road and Montague Street connect.
4. Montagu Street, north and southbound between Luke Street and the roundabout connecting to St Mary's Street and Berkley Street.
5. Glenariff Close, east and southbound from Montagu Street.
6. Washbank Road, west and eastbound between Montagu Street and the northbound public footpath towards Eynesbury Old Cemetery.
7. Pope Road, north and southbound from Washbank Road.
8. The public footpath connecting Washbank Road and School Lane, through Eynesbury Old Cemetery.
9. School Lane, west and eastbound between Montagu Street and the footpath running northwards alongside the River Great Ouse.
10. The footpath running northwards from School Lane to the east of the River Great Ouse, and veering westwards towards St Mary's Street.
11. St Mary's Street, from the footpath on the northern corner of 36 St Mary's Street, to the roundabout connecting Montagu Street and Berkley Street.

The conditions also apply to all public green spaces, recreational land, waterways, riverbanks, structures (permanent or temporary) and churchyards/graveyards within the boundary of the surrounding public roads and footpaths within this order, including:

12. The public access land (graveyards, etc) of St Mary The Virgin, The Parish Church of Eynesbury.
13. Millie's Swing Memorial Park.
14. Eynesbury Old Cemetery.
15. Greenspace to the west of River Great Ouse between School Lane and St Neots Marina.

Location Map:



Appendix B

Proposed conditions for the 2024 Public Spaces Protection Order: Eynesbury

a. No open vessels:

On all land described by this PSPO, a person commits an offence if they have on their person an open vessel of alcoholic/intoxicating substance, unless:

- i. Prior permission has been granted by a Local Authority (Parish, Town, District or County Council) for the purpose of an arranged public event.

b. No personal use of narcotic substances:

On all land described by this PSPO, a person commits an offence if a Constable believes that, on the balance of probabilities, they are consuming illegal narcotic substances for personal recreational use, unless:

- i. Substances being consumed are for medicinal purposes and are prescribed to the person by a medical professional.

c. Encampments on public land:

On all land described by this PSPO, a person commits an offence if they are found to be, or have been in the past 48 hours, using a tent, mobile home, caravan or any other temporary structure (improvised or otherwise) for the purpose of residing in, unless:

- i. Prior permission has been granted by a Local Authority (Parish, Town, District or County Council) for the purpose of an arranged public event, or
- ii. Prior permission has been granted in writing by the landowner and is presented to the Local Authority and Police as proof.

d. Public defecation/urination:

On all land described by this PSPO, a person commits an offence if they defecate or urinate in any public place described by this PSPO, unless:

- i. They do so in a dedicated public toilet facility, or a private toilet facility with the property owner's permission.

e. Intimidating behaviour:

On all land described by this PSPO, a person commits an offence if they act in a way that is considered to be harassing, alarming or distressing to others within the vicinity of the PSPO area; behaviours include, but not limited to:

- i. Aggressive shouting at any person
- ii. Any offensive language
- iii. Physical altercation
- iv. Street harassment (Heckling or cat-calling passersby).
- v. Excessive noise (including music played from a device or instrument)

Appendix C

Consultation results for the proposed 2024 Public Spaces Protection Order: Eynesbury

In the area of the proposed PSPO, I have experienced the following behaviours:	
Public intoxication	2
Drug taking	2
Illegal camping/rough sleeping	2
Public urination or defecation	0
Intimidating behaviour	0
All of the above	21
More than one of the above	20
None of the above	1

These behaviours made me feel:		
Inconvenienced	Very	59.6%
	Fairly	21.3%
	Unsure	8.5%
	Not much	6.4%
	Not at all	4.3%
Offended	Very	59.6%
	Fairly	23.4%
	Unsure	8.5%
	Not much	4.3%
	Not at all	4.3%
Scared	Very	66%
	Fairly	25.5%
	Unsure	4.3%
	Not much	2.1%
	Not at all	2.1%
Harassed	Very	42.6%
	Fairly	34%
	Unsure	12.8%
	Not much	8.5%
	Not at all	2.1%
Alarmed	Very	76.6%
	Fairly	19.1%
	Unsure	0
	Not much	2.1%
	Not at all	2.1%
Distressed	Very	57.4%
	Fairly	27.7%
	Unsure	6.4%
	Not much	2.1%
	Not at all	6.4%
Intimidated	Very	74.5%
	Fairly	21.3%
	Unsure	2.1%
	Not much	0
	Not at all	2.1%

The locations proposed by the PSPO are correct:	
Agree	46
Disagree	1
I answered 'disagree' to Q3 because:	
I disagree with all of the proposed PSPO	0
I feel the PSPO should cover a wider area	1
I feel the PSPO should cover a smaller area	0
I feel the proposed PSPO covers the wrong area	0
I feel the location proposed by the PSPO should be changed to:	It should encompass the riverside park/car park up to the main bridge too

I think the following conditions are needed in the proposed location of the PSPO:		
No open vessels	Strongly agree	95.7%
	Agree	2.1%
	Unsure	0%
	Disagree	0%
	Strongly disagree	2.1%
No personal use of narcotic substances	Strongly agree	97.9%
	Agree	0%
	Unsure	0%
	Disagree	0%
	Strongly disagree	2.1%
No encampments on public land	Strongly agree	95.7%
	Agree	2.1%
	Unsure	0%
	Disagree	0%
	Strongly disagree	2.1%
No public defecation/urination	Strongly agree	97.9%
	Agree	0%
	Unsure	0%
	Disagree	0%
	Strongly disagree	2.1%
No intimidating behaviour	Strongly agree	93.6%
	Agree	4.3%
	Unsure	0%
	Disagree	0%
	Strongly disagree	2.1%

The following are open text responses provided by public consultees:

"I think this is a needed and necessary PSPO that will help the local community, mothers taking children to and from school and people generally from being intimidated."

"I am disappointed that the Nags Head became a "halfway house" and that we were not consulted....clearly the person who agreed to this, lives nowhere near to it and it did not impact them The Nags Head is unkept, no management is visible and the people there are drunk, drugged up or loitering and making me feel like they are watching and feel very intimidated every time I walk past it. Sleeping in tents in the churchyard and seeing a man urinate whilst naked was not a sight I expected to see early on Sunday morning and with them loitering on the street and around the Church. We have also had intruders come into our driveway and peer through our kitchen window - which we have on camera. As I understand it, that individual was arrested to destroying a neighbours garden. The sooner the Nags Heads is shut down and closed the better."

"Rather than imposing a PSPO, which will require an overstretched Police Force or HDC's Enforcement team to intervene, a better solution would be to revoke the licence of the Nags Head Hotel. I would also be interested to understand what the responsibilities of the owners of the Nags Head are in respect to the anti-social behaviour of their residents."

"- Issues largely seemed to start with the change of use of the Nags Head, there was largely no consistent problems like this beforehand

- Bright and highly positioned floodlights at the Nags Head pointed at nearby houses flashing on and off sometimes every few mins into peoples houses all night and waking people up all night long (people going in and out of the Nags head all night), which continued for years

- attack on neighbours garden ripping up flowers etc and throwing these into all of our gardens

- screaming and shouting/arguing at all hours from the direction of Nags Head it seems which we can hear in houses in the neighbouring streets it can be so loud, broken windows, bottles/drug paraphernalia discarded on nearby streets, washing drying on gates

- lots of screaming and shouting during night from side streets with people walking through and loitering (again, never used to happen much until last couple of years or so)

- Nags head sometimes has lots of people sitting around the front/churchyard/carpark and can be intimidating when you walk by

- Followed at one point by a man who then went into Nags Head, often feel scared of sexual assault due a lots of single men/groups of men suddenly hanging around and shouting at you

- I now often have to take a different and longer route walking so I don't have to walk by the Nags head/churchyard

- Tents in the Churchyard (there are some there now 30/5/24), question whether this is friends attracted by other homeless people placed in the Nags head?

- There was a one homeless man who was around for years who didn't bother anyone and sort of became a local, however in the last couple of years there have been a number of more intimidating homeless/anti-social people seen around who seem to be congregating around the area in question

- Friends have been robbed on Berkley street (phone taken) and shouted at/harassed - rubbish thrown on streets

- Issue worse on Berkley street, corners of Buckley rd /silver st/ montagu I feel, again I believe this correlates to the change of use of the Nags head/position of Nags head/churchyard

- As a local resident who has lived here for a long time, I have really noticed the change in the last couple of years, and I know many residents have reported issues related to the Nags head and the surrounding area for a good while

- Area is generally quite quiet with the church and the school, and the Nags head change of use is perhaps not the right place for this, as shown by the issues that have arisen the last couple of years from this and the distress it causes other nearby residents. I feel more on edge and worried in my own home now since the B&B shut and changed its use. I noted that cameras have now been installed, which is good but it doesn't change the fact that this shouldn't have been approved for this area. We did not even know this change of use was happening until the anti-social behaviour started, and there was no consultation regarding the change of use that we were aware of for us to be able to object to. Now, have had to live with the anti-social behaviour/increase in crime for the past couple of years, which is getting worse."

"I hope they will be monitored to ensure compliance."

"An increase in anti-social behaviour has been an issue since the Nags Head opened in its current capacity. I caught one former resident trying to break into my car, that went to court and he pleaded guilty. Openly drinking and smoking weed in and around St Marys Church is common, as well as Eynesbury old cemetery."

"It seems that most of the proposed enforcement orders cover issues that should be policed as a matter of course. Will this really make a difference? Placing a number of people together who appear not to conform to the norms of society, is surely a recipe for a high level of dissent among the local population. The current use of the property should be brought to an end forthwith."

"Residents in the vicinity of the proposed PSPO were not notified of the change of use in the Nags Head in the first place. I have been shouted at, stared at and generally felt scared by certain individuals who linger around the street drinking and taking dope. This has been going on too long and now has spread to Montagu Square where dealing is rife. I have witnessed urination, defecation and general litter dropping including breaking glass. I am often woken at night by shouting in the street by drunken behaviour. I feel that the cameras which are supposed to be installed will have no effect as the dealing and public nuisance will just move elsewhere."

"Me and my wife do worry about what's going on as we have grandchildren round which they will be frightened if someone said anything to them, and we should not have to worry about this situation as we do have someone sleeping rough in the church at the bottom of my road."

"I support the proposal whole-heartedly and hope that it will go some way to alleviating some of the many issues that have arisen from that place."

"I fully support the PSPO although it doesn't deal with the root problem of large groups of people with significant social issues being placed unsupervised at the Nags Head Hostel. Ultimately this is a reactive solution and not a complete resolution"

"Long overdue"

"I live in Camden, London and the antisocial behaviour I see around the Nags Head when I visit my parents who live on Montagu Street is worse than anything I see at home"

"Although I welcome the PSPO I consider it effectively an Eynesbury ASBO that could impact the reputation of the area and potentially impact insurance and house prices. All because of incredible mismanagement of a facility that residents were not consulted on. The only long term solution is to stop allowing the property to be used this way and it should be closed (something the council and police have the power to do immediately as other LAs have done, why haven't you?). The fact that other LAs can place individuals here with no vetting begs the question whether local residents safety is at risk not to

mention the safety of children at a school 250 yards away. From an FOI we are aware of at least 4 reported sexual offenses for example. This PSPO will not address the critical underlying issues caused by the fact that public officials have chosen to create and then defend an intolerable situation for local residents and have repeatedly failed to take proactive rather than reactive measures that rely on homeowners to fill in forms to get a picture of the issues. NOT GOOD ENOUGH.”

“Strongly agree with the implementation of the PSPO, the Police need to be properly resourced to enforce it.”

“Just shut the place, it's a disgrace and a blot on Eynesbury and st neots as a whole. This is causing anxiety, stress and mental health issues amongst local residents. many have or are planning to install additional security measures to protect property and themselves. The PSPO is welcomed and may help but it isn't a magic bullet. My trust in the local council and HDC as a whole has been irrevocably broken due to the underhand way this situation was dumped on us. It feels like the true use of the Nags Head was kept from us during the planning process which is disgraceful, made worse by the way the same authorities appear to be closing ranks beggars belief. Also the total lack of care for residents of the Nags Head is appalling.”

“Put the PSPO in place asap to give some protection. Although I don't understand how this will be enforced, is it down to local residents to report breaches or are proactive measures being put in place? I welcome the proposal but I am incredibly sad that due to the council's actions and inaction that this is in anyway necessary and it puts us on a level with deprived inner cities. This was a lovely place to live, the fact we need this leaves me gobsmacked. I hope the HDC are proud of the situation created that deems this warranted.”

“In conjunction with the PSPO what guarantees are there that HDC and other LAs can control who goes into the Nags Head? What guarantee is there that people with a history of violence or child exploitation are not placed there considering the location near a school? Please do not underestimate the level of frustration, anger and fear felt by a now large group of residents. The PSPO is welcomed but time will tell whether this blunt tool really does help the situation.”

“I have had multiple negative experiences with people living in the nags head, this includes people throwing things out the window, people threatening me, people scratching my parked car, people playing loud music late at night, people fighting in the street, people smoking weed”

“I agree with the PSPO although can you give any assurance that breaches will dealt with? I reference the fact that we have a homeless man in the church grounds that we have repeatedly been told will be moved and helped including serving a CPO weeks ago, guess what.....he is still there! The PSPO needs to be backed by real action which is where I am sceptical you will provide.”

“Welcomed. Get in place now. So sad it's come to this. How much are we as taxpayers paying to the owners of this place? Add on police, council and emergency services costs can't see anyway there is a valid business case for HDC to fill the pockets of a private business that has no accountability for the issues. When you take a step back and look at this.....planning sneakily approved, my tax paying for it, the misery it's causing to a once peaceful neighbourhood that is now one of two crime hotshots and the need for PSPO with the monitoring and policing needed...its total and utter madness. The other madness is you can end it tomorrow by closing under the asb act 2014. I see the PSPO as first step in a process but by NO means the end of it.”

“The PSPO although great and is required to address the ongoing presence of anti social behaviour in the area, they do not address the issues with The Nags Head itself! I get constant knocks on my door from new residents thinking I am no 2 Berkley Street. I have even had one man walk in my side door, no knocking, just walked straight in. I was at the time home alone and was frightened! I looked at the man’s paperwork and no where on it stated ‘The Nags Head’. Even the place itself does not state in their signage that it’s a hotel! Simply because IT IS NOT A HOTEL!! You can not book to stay at the hotel, you cannot call them because IT IS NOT A HOTEL!! It was passed through planning permission without consultation from neighbours as it wasn’t classed as a change of use, it has been a change of use, and now the council are ignoring and cancelling all FOI requests regarding the issue. And allowing more councils to use this facility with no safeguarding protocols put in place is quite frightening! There have been young families in there and criminals, of which their backgrounds have not been checked to ensure safety for all those that need to be temporarily housed. And with it being in the close vicinity of a school, this is a major oversight which is being ignored by all those with the power to do anything about it.”

“I’m not overly enthralled about having my home surveyed by CCTV, this is a breach of my privacy. And will turn the area into a ‘Bug Brother’ state. The issue lies with the Nags Head!! Simple as!! Address the issue there and the need for the PSPO goes away!”

“This should have been in place before now.”

“I think it is an excellent idea. People are taking drugs more openly. The smell of cannabis comes through our window and I worry about the quality of the air my daughter is breathing in.”

“I think this a very positive move and needs to be implemented. I travel to the school on School Lane on a regular basis. The behaviour of some individuals from this establishment is unacceptable. There are children who walk to school on their own past this establishment who are intimidated by the residents.”

“We’ve not had many personal problems, apart from some residents of the Nags Head smoking around our front garden. They’ve moved on if we’ve had to ask them. There are often people sitting on the church wall drinking alcohol at school drop off/pick up which is not great for children to see. There is alot of litter around this area from food packaging or broken glass. I’ve been out with a brush to sweep this a few times. I’d be interested to know how to report any incidences that are in breach of these problems (they are already offences) and how it will be acted on as you will not know who has been causing the offence. Will there be plans to put up CCTV around the church?”

“I rarely go there, but there are schools and vulnerable people in this area. I think this is a good idea as the people around this area need protection.”

“I am concerned for my child's safety, with the new behaviours witnessed in the area. As an adult it is intimidating & unsociable, so as you can imagine this is very scary to a child.”

“I agree with this proposal as the area is so close to the primary school which my young children attend.”

“Something needs to be done, this feels like a step in the right direction but I would argue this business should never have been allowed to operate so close to a school and nursery. I have three young children and have to walk this route to school each day. It is very intimidating to have to walk past groups of people gathered along Berkley Street, often they sit drinking alcohol or smoking drugs. The smell of drugs is noticeable as you walk past open windows of The Nags Head. I no longer feel comfortable with the prospect of letting my child walk unsupervised due to these groups of people.”

“I’m glad. I walk my daughter to school at Eynesbury Church of England school. We have to park by the Nags Head as the other streets are always too busy to park on. I’m constantly cat called and have comments thrown at me as I walk past groups of men with my daughter taking her to school. Let alone smoking weed sitting on the wall as we walk by”

“Temp accommodation located next to the church and food bank is increasing people hanging around on the streets doing drugs openly also laying on the floor due to drugs alcohol, even my young daughter was offered the small gas cylinders, she now won’t leave the house unless I am with her we live next to the Methodist church and have felt the full impact since the Nags Head was used as temp accommodation. I understand but please can these people be vetted if suitable to be in a residential area right next to a school.”

“I feel the proposed PSPO is essential to re-establish what was a much safer residential area where people on the street behaved, on the whole, appropriately towards one another. We should not have to cross the road to avoid a gathering of drunk and intimidating people. I should not have to walk my dog around broken bottles on the pavement (and then go back to sweep it up) We should not have to wonder if guys hanging around our street are waiting for a drugs delivery, or worse, watching our comings and goings. Where I understand there is a need for social housing, I strongly believe that people placed in this community should not be a nuisance or danger to it. So, if necessary there needs to be a protection order to enforce this. I hope that this does have a positive result.”

“I would hope that it includes Jubilee Close where the Methodist church entrance is. I work in a town with a PSPO and it has made a difference. In the town I work the PSPO states you cannot be homeless persisted to be homeless and no begging. The Nags Head and its residents are detrimental to the area and constantly sit outside the church. There is a tent in the grave yard.”

“Definitely needed”

“This situation is now so out of hand. There are safe guarding issues. Several occasions have occurred where vulnerable people have been assigned to stay at the Nags Head. And from as far as Scotland. In which case a young vulnerable adult has somehow gotten caught up in somehow being assigned to the Nags Head and due to the politics this young man is stuck here. Alongside all the drug use, violence and public disorder. This needs to be managed immediately. I recently couldn’t get into my car due to the amount of men hanging around. Making me feel unsafe. I was late to an appointment. This ain’t the first time it’s happened. Where I almost feel locked up in my own home as I can’t leave and head out whenever I please.”

"It is a step towards the right direction. However, more needs to be done. The current use of Nags Head has made a significant impact on my mental wellbeing. Sometimes loud noises and shouting take place in the middle of the night. A piece of wood was thrown into my back patio. The smell of cannabis makes me dizzy and nauseous, and makes me worried and nervous every time when using my own garden. The facts that Nags Head is housing recently released prisoners and drug dealing has happened in the local area make me feel very scared. Therefore, I believe that the current use of Nags Head is against the HDC planning policy LP15 on amenity. <https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/media/3409/matter-14-hdc-statement-on-requiring-good-design.pdf> There are many things that are wrong with the Nags Head situation: 1. Nags Head is supposed to be a hotel. Can you tell me why it is not possible for ordinary citizens to book a room there for holiday? It is clear that the current intent of use is a hostel. According to the planning permission application in 2021, there is no mention that it would change its use to a hostel. Was the planning department of HDC misled by the current owner of Nags Head? Why is the planning department not challenging the change of use? 2. I think that local residents should have been consulted before newly released prisoners were placed there. It is inappropriate to house them in a residential area which is also very close to a primary school and a church. The increase in crime in the local area is distressing. 3. I am deeply concerned that vulnerable individuals, including children, are placed alongside ex-prisoners in Nags Head. This potentially puts children in danger of being in contact with grooming and county lines gangs. This is a serious safeguarding problem. It must be stopped. In conclusion, I believe that Nags Head should be shut down for its current use."

"volunteer at the local foodbank (held at the Methodist church on berkley street) There have been times when I have come across very vulnerable people who have been housed in the Nags head and do not know the area, have little access to services and often only have the clothing the turn up in. Walking to and from the area I have seen many instances of distressed behaviour and people drinking alcohol. Plus I have seen people urinating in that area. Although a PSPO would help - if enforced - who does that? The real issue is the use of the building and the seeming lack of support for the residents of whom many have vulnerabilities."

"I assume at least part of creating the PSPO is regarding the homeless people who sleep in tents in St Mary's Church graveyard. I think it is incredibly hypocritical to be creating a PSPO to enforce fines and legal action against homeless people when there is a large sign right outside the church that explicitly welcomes the homeless. As a resident in the nearby street, every time I walk past, I am glad that finally the otherwise unused land that is the graveyard can be put to use towards the Christian values of helping the needy and sheltering the homeless. The Church of England is a tax-exempt charity - criminalising homeless people would seem to go against their charitable mission. Your question asked if seeing rough sleeping made me feel "inconvenienced, offended, scared, harassed, alarmed, distressed, intimidated", as if people choose to be unhoused in order to be a nuisance. This is also a highly biased way to collect information for the consultation as it only gathers negative responses. Personally, I am heartened and gladdened that the most vulnerable people in society have found a way to peacefully make their lives a little more stable in our community. I feel safer walking past knowing that if something was to happen to me, I could yell out and chances are someone in one of the tents would hear me and be able to help. I'm impressed at how discreetly they have set up their tents and how they are managing to live on the margins of society while causing a minimal amount of nuisance."

“Strongly agree with the PSPO. The residents of this area need to be better protected. We are one of many families living in the area with small children and I currently have great concerns regarding safety.”

“It needs to be done. It would make everyone feel safer.”

“The PSPO is urgently required to control the behaviour of the Nags Head residents”

“The PSPO is absolutely necessary for the area to become a safe place to live again.”

“I fully support this proposal and needs a quick decision Antisocial behaviour needs stamping out Also the drug dealing around and in the park”

“Agree it is needed as is a nice area to live and don't want it to go downhill.”

“I think the PSPO is absolutely necessary in order to make our residents feel safe again.”

“The issues at the Nags Head have affected a whole area of community in old Eynesbury, this has gone in for at least two years. So a PSPO will be welcomed.”

The following is an email from Chief Inspector Mike Jackman, supporting the proposed PSPO, as part of statutory consultation:

Please use this email as confirmation that Cambs Police have been consulted with, and have no issues to raise in respect to the PSPO.

I have reviewed the proposed conditions and consulted further with the local NPT Insp who is also supportive. Cambs police will support Hunts LA in enforcement of the PSPO in the joint endeavour of reducing the ongoing ASB in the area of the PSPO.

Regards,

Mike Jackman

Chief Inspector Mike Jackman

Southern Division

Neighbourhood Policing



The following is a letter from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, providing support for the proposed PSPO:



Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

PO Box 688

PE29 9LA

Tel 0300 333 3456

Rob Mitchell

Community Resilience Manager

Huntingdon District Council

Email; Robert.Mitchell@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Date: 18 June 2024

Dear Rob,

I refer to your email 7 June 2024, In response to an increase in reports of anti-social behaviour in the area of the B1043: Berkley Street and The Parish Church of Eynesbury, and other locations in the vicinity, to put in place a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)

Firstly, I both welcome and thank Huntingdon District Council for undertaking the consultation to seek the views of the public and myself, as Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

This letter is my formal response to the PSPO consultation.

I fully appreciate the effects that anti-social behaviour can have on individuals and communities. Partnership working such as that between the Constabulary and Huntingdon District Council is key to co-ordinating an effective response to tackling issues and problems within the district.

Having contacted the constabulary I understand that the order will provide an effective tool and that the proposed PSPO has been designed as a partnership response to the anti-social behaviour which has negatively impacted local people and will be jointly enforced by Huntingdonshire District Council and Cambridgeshire Constabulary (Police).

I see this is a positive step for the community and the Police therefore, I would have no objections and fully support Huntingdon District Councils proposal for the PSPO - outlined in your letter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'D' followed by several horizontal strokes.

Police and Crime Commissioner