

Public
Key Decision – No

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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

Meeting/Date: Licensing and Protection Committee
22nd October 2025

Executive Portfolio: Executive Councillor for Residents Services and
Corporate Performance, Councillor S W
Ferguson

Report by: Community Safety Partnership Delivery Officer

Ward(s) affected: Ramsey

Executive Summary:

On 16th October 2024, the Licencing and Protection Committee supported the proposed implementation of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to tackle anti-social behaviour that was occurring in a localised area of Great Whyte, Ramsey.

The Public Spaces Protection Order came into place on 7th November 2024. Since this date, the Community Action Team and St Ives Neighbourhood Policing Team have worked in partnership to respond to reports and patrol the area of the Great Whyte (and surrounding areas). There is pre-existing CCTV in the Great Whyte area of Ramsey monitored by HDC's CCTV department.

A first review report was completed in January 2025, which reviewed the PSPO's impact from October - December. This concluded 2 breaches in which Fixed Penalty Notices were issued, and one possible breach, however Police were unable to proceed due to insufficient evidence and identification.

A second review report was completed in March 2025, which reviewed January and February. This concluded 1 breach in this timeframe, and it was noted that the PSPO was having a positive impact on the local area.

A third review reported was completed in June 2025, which reviewed March, April and May 2025. This concluded 4 breaches in this timeframe.

This report will be a fourth review covering June, July, August and September 2025, but also will include a first yearly review of the PSPO being implemented in Ramsey.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 On 16th October 2024 the Licencing and Protection Committee agreed with the recommendation for a proposed Public Space Protection Order for Ramsey, aimed at tackling anti-social behaviour linked to street drinking. Committee Members also requested that an update be provided, on enforcement outcomes following the implementation of the PSPO.

1.2 On 7th November 2024, the PSPO was introduced in Ramsey where signage was installed to notify residents / visitors to the area of the conditions and location covered by the PSPO. This was completed jointly between HDC's Community Action Team and St Ives Neighbourhood Policing Team. Social media coverage was also released on both organisations' accounts, as well as local news outlets.

1.3 In June, July, August and September 2025, there have been 3 reported breaches of the PSPO to Huntingdonshire District Council. A summary of these are outlined below:

13/08/2025 - Malting Yard (path between Great Whyte/New Road), group drinking and one of the group being abusive/threatening to complainant. Unable to progress as victim no longer wished to support.

31/08/2025 – in Newtown Park, New Road, male drinking. Identified and issued fixed penalty notice.

08/09/2025 – Great Whyte (outside the library), male drinking and shouting at members of the public. Fixed Penalty Notice & Community Protection Warning issued.

Additionally, in August 2025, the HDC Community Action team completed a successful prosecution in relation to 2 breaches of the PSPO and non-payment of the FPN issued for an individual who causes prolific anti-social behaviour in the PSPO vicinity.

1.4 HDC have received no other reports of breaches of the PSPO, other than stated above.

1.5 The Neighbourhood Policing team have received a total of 5 breaches in the 2025 period, detailed below:

25/06/2025 - 2 males shouting/threatening each other using inappropriate language - drinking and under the influence of alcohol or drugs in a PSPO area.

27/06/2025 - Male on the bench in the PSPO area drinking alcohol - drunk and about 3 other men shouting at each other slurring & staggering. Both reports were made from the same individual, however NFA'd due to victim no longer wished to support.

12/08/2025 – behaviour causing alarm and distress to visitors/those in the PSPO vicinity – victim no longer wished to support so closed.

31/08/2025 – reports of 3 males on a bench drinking in the PSPO area, one male identified. Statement taken from victim, awaiting signature to be progressed.

08/09/2025 – reports of 3 males drinking in the PSPO area. One male identified, passed to HDC who issued Community Protection Warning and Fixed Penalty Notice (detailed above in HDC reports section).

- 1.6 As this report is the first annual review of the PSPO, below is the annual figure from November 2024 – September 2025:

Total recorded breaches for the year across HDC and Police: **13**

- 1.7 HDC's CCTV department have a camera located along the Great Whyte that was pre-existing to the PSPO and will continue to be monitored.

- 1.8 The local Neighbourhood Police Sergeant has provided the following update for this report:

"The PSPO continues to have the positive effect on street drinking since it was introduced, we have seen a reduction in complaints and demand especially in the Great Whyte area. The PSPO area remains a fixture of my team's patrol plan. As expected, there has been some displaced ASB to Mill House and New Road green space, but we have responded to these quickly with Mill House looking to be in a good place and reports on New Road remaining low. Breaches of the PSPO have served as good evidence for a Criminal Behaviour Order application for an individual causing prolific anti-social behaviour in the location. I am of the strong opinion the PSPO should remain in place."

2. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 **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:

2.2

Activities carried out 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.

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.

- 2.3 **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.

- 2.4 **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.
- 2.5 **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.

3. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Continued enforcement of the proposed PSPO for Ramsey will utilise resource from Cambridgeshire Constabulary and HDC's Community Action Team.

3.2 HDC's Community Action Team will respond to reports of anti-social behaviour, including PSPO breaches as part of their day-to-day duties.

3.3 A CCTV camera is already in place along Great Whyte Ramsey, monitored by HDC's CCTV Department.

3.4 HDC's CCTV Department will continue to conduct 24-hour monitoring and review of incidents at the location via HDC's CCTV Control Room.

3.5 This order will remain in place until November 2027. In this time, HDC and Cambridgeshire Constabulary will continue to ensure the conditions of the PSPO will remain enforced proactively and reactively. The Community Action Team will provide Licensing and Protection Committee Members with an annual progress report to notify of any amendments to the PSPO by the Community Services Manager, and to demonstrate the effectiveness of the works undertaken to tackle anti-social behaviour in this area of Ramsey. From November 2027 the Community Action Team will begin a process of consulting with members of the public and Elected Members to determine whether there is necessity to extend the duration of the PSPO for Ramsey. The results of this consultation will be shared with Licensing and Protection Committee members.

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