
Licensing and Protection Panel

Report of the meeting held on 27th January 2015

Matters for Information

11. PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER

Following a request from Cambridgeshire Constabulary and to address an increasing number of complaints about individual's street drinking and acting in an anti-social manner in the area, the Panel has approved the implementation of a Public Space Protection Order for Huntingdon Town Centre. Huntingdonshire is the first Local Authority in Cambridgeshire to utilise a Public Space Protection Order which will enable Police Officers, Police Community Support Officers and designated Local Authority Officers to have more powers to deal with issues arising where individuals are in possession of open containers of alcohol and acting in a manner that causes alarm, harassment or distress. Consultation had been carried out throughout November 2014 with statutory consultees, identified relevant bodies, residents and businesses and there has been no opposition to the proposal.

Breaches of the Order will be a criminal offence and enforcement officers will be able to choose to issue a fixed penalty notice (FPN) or proceed with prosecution. Any income obtained via the use of Fixed Penalty Notices will be awarded to Huntingdonshire District Council. Members have discussed the level of policing resources which will be required to enforce the Order and have emphasised the need for this to be rigorously enforced.

Following approval by the Panel, the draft Order will be published in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of State. Although the Order will remain in place for three years from the date of commencement, there is flexibility to vary its terms if a new issue arises in the area where the Order is in force. The Council can also seek to discharge it at any time.

J W Davies
Chairman