

WOLVERHAMPTON PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER – ALCOHOL-RELATED ASB

Citywide Consultation Findings

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Background

- A Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) was granted in April 2017. The order was valid for 3 years and ended in April 2020.
- The PSPO gave the police powers to stop people from drinking, and to surrender alcohol if they were causing, or likely to cause, Anti-Social Behaviour. In addition to the city-wide prohibitions, an outright ban on street drinking was granted in St Peter's and Park wards, including the city centre.
- The PSPO is a useful tool amongst a number of other tools and powers which can assist Police and Enforcement Officers in deterring and preventing alcohol related public place nuisance and ASB.
- St Peters and Park Ward areas, including the city centre have a disproportionately high number of alcohol related reports of ASB when compared to other wards in Wolverhampton. This is why an outright ban on street drinking has been in place in these locations.
- In April 2020, we sought to have a new PSPO for a further 3 years, on the same terms and conditions as the previous order.
- The public consultation ran from 27 May 2020, until 29 June 2020. In total there were 537 responses to the survey. (In 2017, there were 204 respondents to the public survey).

Background

Information provided by the police shows the effectiveness of the PSPO since it was implemented in 2017.

- 2017 – 2018 – total alcohol related incidents City wide = 1202
- 2018 – 2019 – total alcohol related incidents City wide = 862
- 2019 – 2020 – total alcohol related incidents City wide = 781

Overall there has been a 35% reduction of calls to service for alcohol related ASB.

Based on discussion with local police teams, the PSPO has also acted as a deterrent when used to combat alcohol related ASB.

Sgt Plant said *“my team certainly engage with drinkers on an almost daily basis (during the warmer months) in St. Peters and Park wards advising them of the PSPO and to refrain from drinking in public.”*

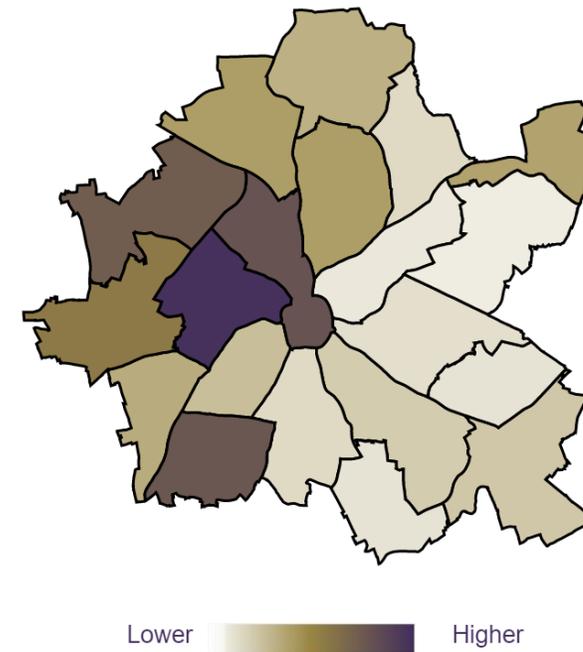
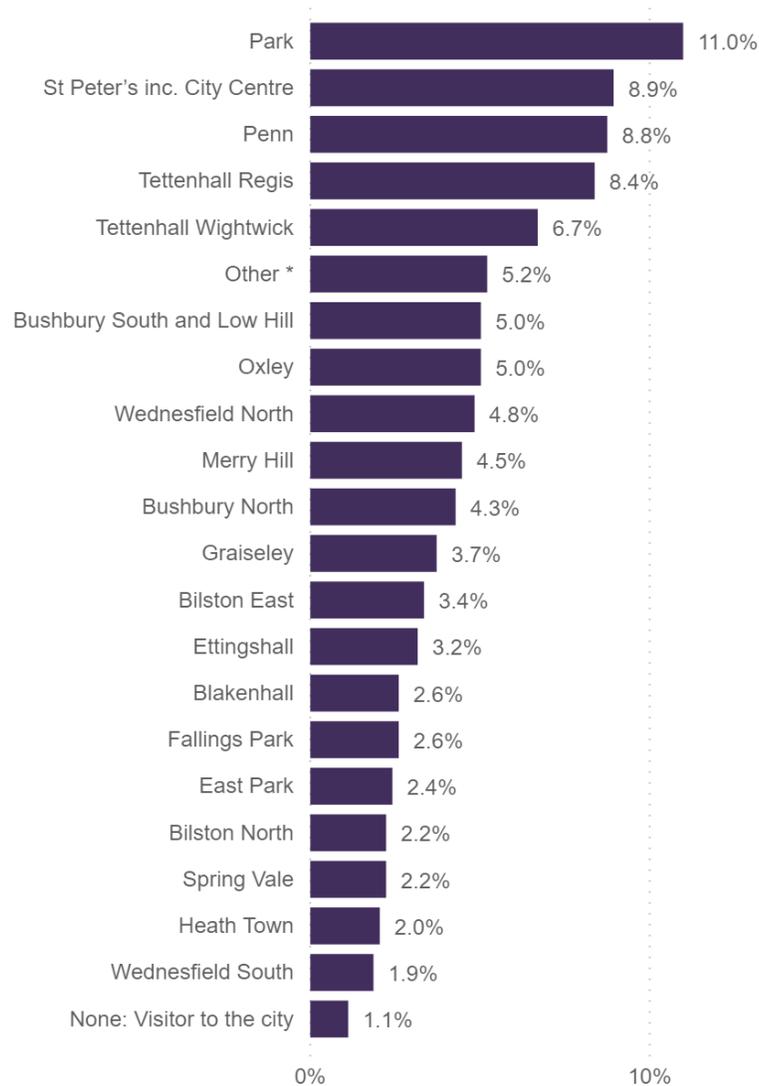
Sgt Corrigan said *“it has been invaluable in the Policing of the Night Time Economy. We use it to stop people walking between venues drinking in the street, so it is useful, otherwise we could get people turning up with their own alcohol or walking about with glass bottles and drinking in public.”*

Survey Results

Q1. Please tell us which ward you live/work in:

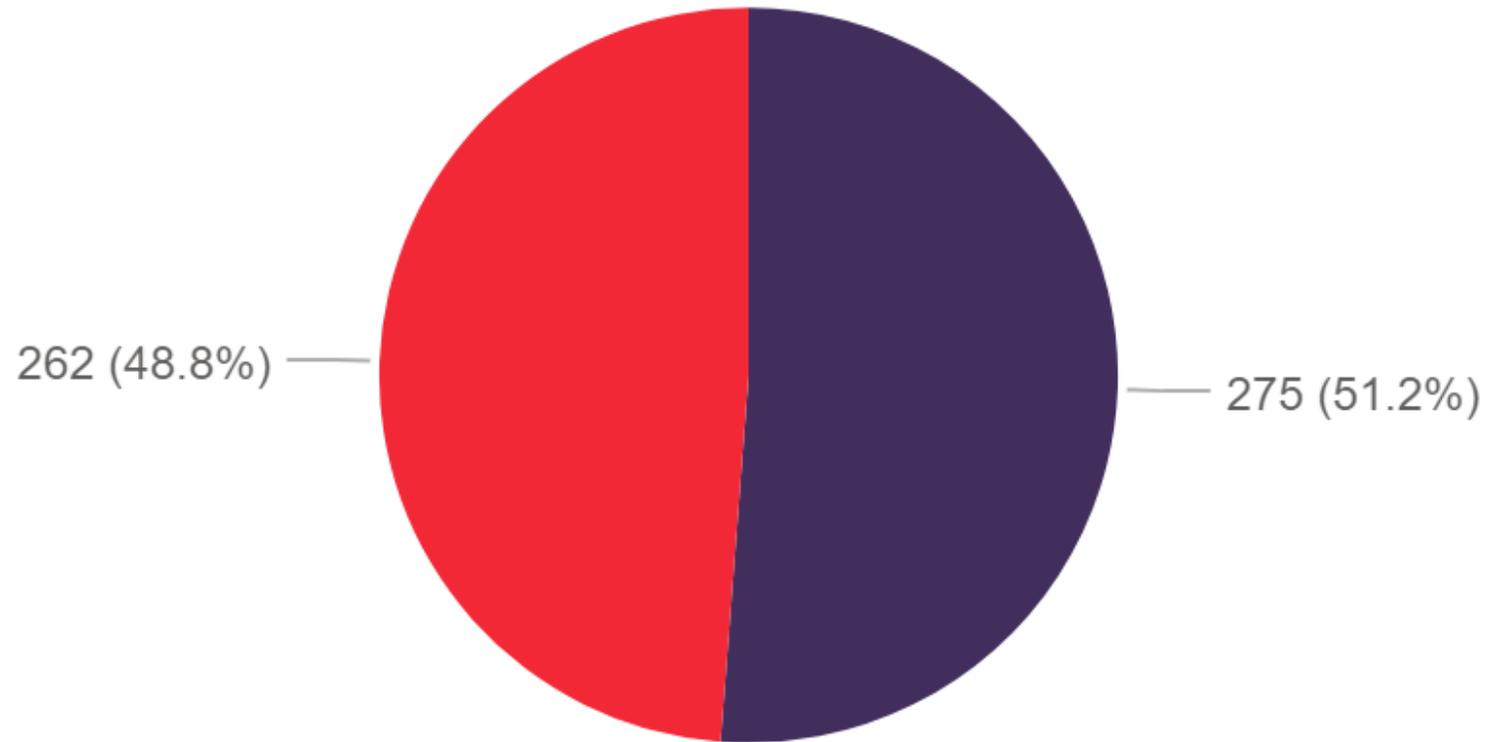
Ward:

All



Q2. Does this locality suffer from disorder, nuisance and/or annoyance associated with street drinking?

● No ● Yes

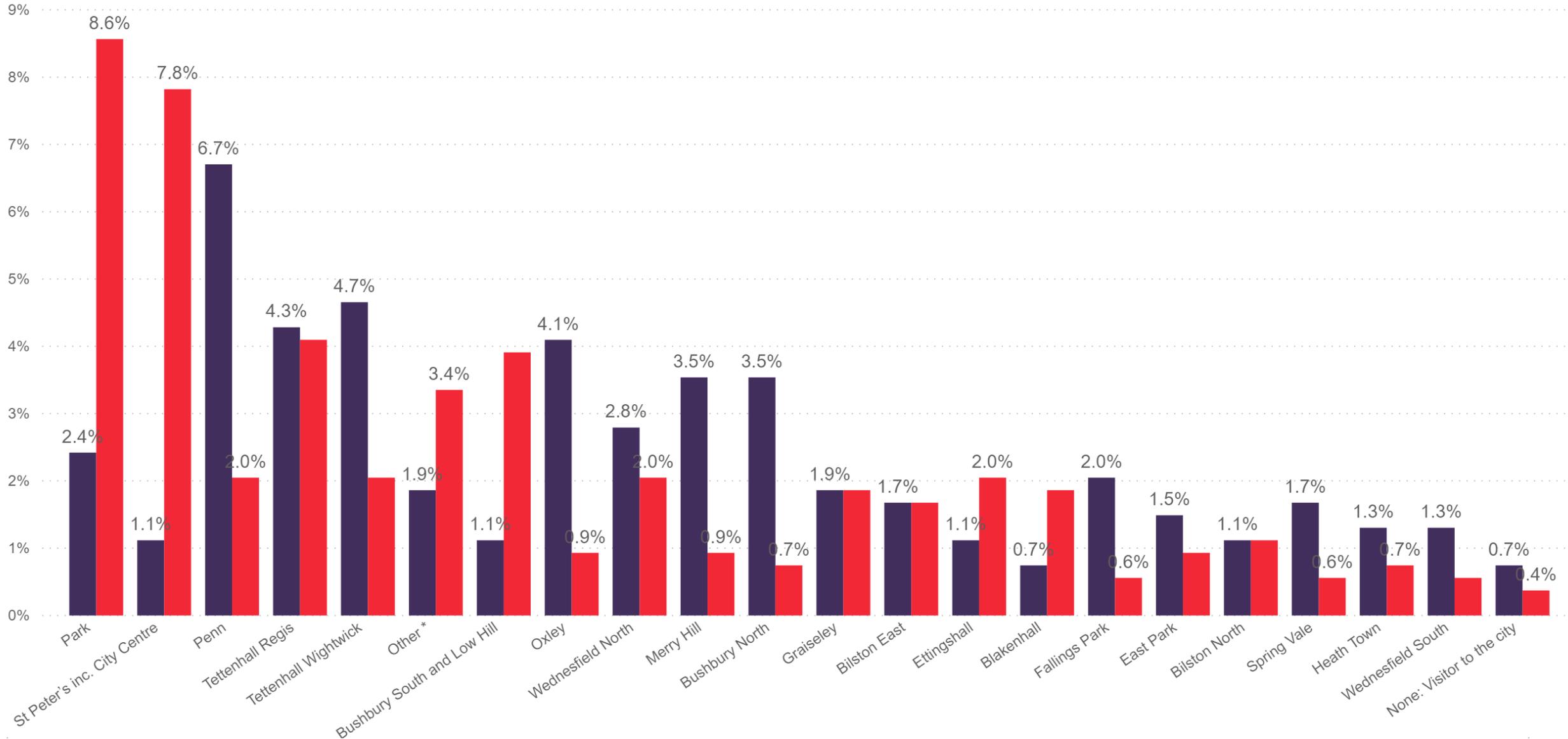


Ward:

Q2. Does this locality suffer from disorder, nuisance and/or annoyance associated with street drinking?

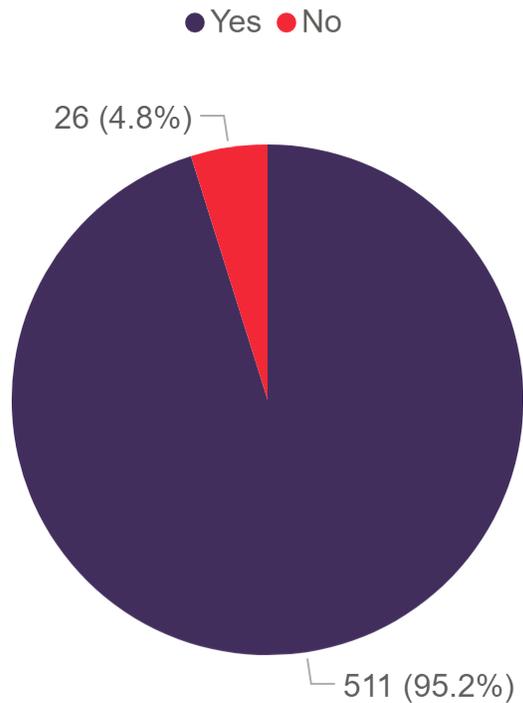
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No Yes



Q3. The PSPO would provide a renewal of previous powers held by the Police to request the surrender of alcohol where anti-social behaviour is occurring or is likely to occur as a result of alcohol consumption.

Would you be in support of Police retaining this power?

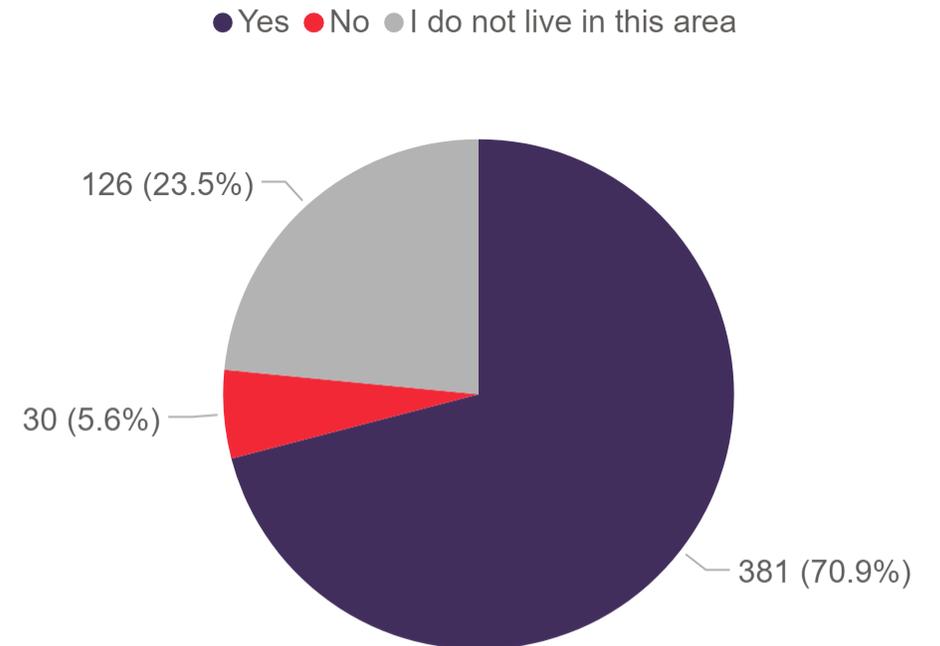


Ward:

All

Q4. The PSPO to include an outright street drinking ban in St Peter's and Park wards. The selection of these locations has been informed by data from the previous PSPO, and reports of alcohol related anti-social behaviour in these locations. This would not affect the activity of legitimate licenced premises or organised events within these areas.

If you live, work or visit these areas of the city would you support the introduction of a street drinking ban within these locations?



Summary of comments from Public Survey:

155 respondents left additional comments

Key comments / findings include:

- Majority were in favour of a city wide/borough total ban
- 'It would be of benefit to the reputation of the city'
- They were happy with any measures that would tackle problems in the city
- People want to be able to enjoy green spaces, picnic spots and places without fear of alcohol related ASB.
- 'The PSPO will discourage large groups congregating which could promote underage drinking'
- The reduction in alcohol related ASB from the previous PSPO, means there is need for another PSPO
- The PSPO could lead to an abuse of power and discrimination of marginalised groups
- The PSPO may displace people drinking alcohol on the street
- The current powers are sufficient, but insufficiently resourced
- Education and support is required, rather than a ban on drinking
- There needs to be stricter licencing on shops selling alcohol

Next Steps

- Results of consultation and the proposed renewal be brought to Senior Executive Board and Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Public Health and Wellbeing July mid 2020.
- Report presented to Cabinet on 29 July 2020 for approval; recommending Cabinet adopt the renewal of the PSPO.
- The renewed PSPO will have a statutory six-week period for challenge (legal requirement)
- The PSPO will be reviewed annually to determine its effectiveness.
- If there is evidence of other areas experiencing disproportionate levels alcohol related ASB or nuisance, consultation could be considered to vary the order to include additional specific areas with an outright drinking ban in place.

Questions / Comments / Considerations