



Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 1215110
Date 30 December 2015

Public Space Protection Order

Request:

I am requesting the following information under the Freedom of Information Act:

1. The number of homeless people's tents (or similar makeshift accommodation, e.g. boxes) that were confiscated or cleared by the council during 2015?
[None.](#)
2. Any information on how the homeless people referred to in response to Q1 were rehoused by the council?
[Not applicable.](#)
3. Details of any Public Space Protection Orders the council currently has in place, including the dates they were implemented, the areas they cover, the activities they regulate or prohibit, and the reasons for their introduction?
[We can confirm that the department holds information that you have asked for in relation to the above. However, the information is exempt under section 21 of the FOI Act because it is reasonably accessible to you, and I am pleased to inform you that you can access it on our disclosure log via the following link under reference FOI 11157:](#)

<http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/article/6264/Leisure-community-and-the-environment?cur=5>

[Section 21\(1\) of the Freedom of Information Act exempts disclosure of information that is reasonably accessible by other means, and the terms of the exemption mean that we do not have to consider whether or not it would be in the public interest for you to have the information.](#)
4. Details of any Public Space Protection Orders the council is currently proposing or considering, including the dates they would be implemented from, the areas they would cover, the activities they would regulate or prohibit, and the reasons for their proposed introduction?
[None.](#)

5. All consultation responses submitted to the council regarding the Public Space Protection Orders referred to in questions 3 and 4?

Low Hill PSPO

- Initial consultation visits were carried out on 4th August 2014 when a 'door knock' was conducted and a letter hand-delivered to households in two particular streets within the proposed zone for a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO).
- Of those spoken to, each person was advised of the proposal to apply for a PSPO to control the movement of caravans on the highway and adjacent public land only.
- Of the fourteen residents spoken to on 4 August 2014, eight were non-committal or did not wish to make a comment, two were against such an order, and four were in favour of such an order.
- Each of the four residents in favour of a PSPO expressed views that the 'unauthorised encampments' created nuisance levels that were excessive.
- One person said that the "council had not done enough to control the encampments"; a second person said that they agreed with having more control on the highway when encampments occurred as "things got out of hand"; one person who was in support of a PSPO said they would come to court in support of any action.
- Second consultation visits were made to residents on 4th February 2015. Over 500 letters explaining the proposed PSPO were also hand posted on this day to every resident within the proposed zone. Time was specifically spent speaking to residents of a travelling background, explaining why it was felt that such an order was necessary, but also reassuring them that genuine, compassionate circumstances would always be considered and that the order would only apply to the highway and public land and not their private driveways.
- Ten residents were spoken to on 4 February 2015, four of whom were ambivalent about the prospect of a PSPO and six were in support of such an order and said they could see the need to control the situation.
- A letter explaining the intention to apply for a PSPO was sent to the Gypsy Council via email on 2nd February 2015. This letter explained the background and the reasons why it was felt use of a PSPO was appropriate in the circumstances. There was no response from the Gypsy Council.
- A third consultation was carried out on 6th August 2015 when letters were posted again to all addresses (500+) within the zone prior to implementation on the PSPO on 1st September 2015. The ASB Team was contacted by two residents seeking further clarification of the prohibitions but no objections were received.

Park Village PSPO

- On 24th February 2015, letters explaining the proposed PSPO and proposed prohibitions were delivered to all properties within the zone (600+); these included a self-addressed envelope and offered residents a

- chance to express any views and choose prohibitions of the order.
- 54 returned envelopes were returned by 6th March 2015.
- 20 of the 54 responses simply ticked or selected all 6 choices with no preference in terms of priority.
- In terms of TOP PRIORITY: 13 people choose Littering/Fly-tipping, 9 chose Dog-fouling, 5 chose Excessive Noise, 5 chose Ball Games, 3 chose Alcohol in the Street.
- In terms of SECOND PRIORITY: 10 people chose Littering/Fly-tipping, 10 chose Urinating, 6 chose Excessive Noise, 4 chose Dog-fouling, 3 chose Alcohol in the Street, and 0 chose Ball Games.
- In terms of THIRD PRIORITY: 11 chose Dog-fouling, 8 chose Littering/Fly-tipping, 5 chose Urinating, 4 chose Alcohol in the Street, 2 chose Ball Games, and 2 chose Excessive Noise.
- In terms of top three priorities: 31 chose Littering/Fly-tipping, 24 chose Dog-fouling, 15 chose Urinating in Public areas, 13 chose Excessive Noise, 10 chose Alcohol in the Street, 7 chose Ball Games.
- On 5th and 6th August 2015 a further letter was sent to all affected properties within the zone prior to the implementation date of 1st September 2015 – this letter was sent in English, Lithuanian, Russian, Romanian, Czech, Latvian, Polish, along with a Good Neighbour Pack. There were no responses prior to implementation opposing the proposal for a PSPO.