

## **AGENDA ITEM NO 7**

### **TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET AND POLICY COMMITTEE TUESDAY 28<sup>th</sup> MAY, 2024**

#### **BRIEFING NOTE PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER (PSPO) PRELIMINARY CONSULTATION**

##### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Council will recall the background to the application of a Public Spaces Protection Order for the Town previously. When the matter was last considered by the Police (following Covid) it was their recommendation that no PSPO be renewed for the Town.
- 1.2 Subsequently, at that time following further discussions between the Town Council and the Police, and extensive accompanying representations from the Council, agreement was reached that the Police were prepared to support/not object to the reintroduction of a PSPO solely to cover land in Town Council ownership within the Meadows in view of issues which had arisen during the pandemic.
- 1.3 The area Inspector has since changed and formal notification of a new appointment is awaited.

##### **2. CURRENT POSITION**

- 2.1 It is apparent from the attached email from Sergeant Ottley that a different view is now being taken to support both the introduction of an alcohol PSPO for the whole of the Town, and dispersal powers in relation to the Town centre and retail areas.
- 2.2 The accompanying correspondence from the licensing authority (WDBC) (Appendix 1) is understood to be a preliminary 'sounding' to identify whether or not the Council holds strong views on the matter.
- 2.2 Unlike for initiatives such as CCTV which have material resource implications for participating Local Authorities and stakeholders (with the accompanying need based trend analysis, evidence-based review etc) PSPOs, as the email indicates, more generally assist the Police in the conduct of their duties.
- 2.3 In the circumstances the principle consideration of the Council would therefore be the extent to which such measures appear to be both necessary and proportionate to help address the issues identified with

due regard to the views of the Police. As such it is suggested that, without prejudice to the formal consultation and associated evidence base, this initiative is worthy of support and provides welcome additionality to the Police in the discharge of their duties.

### **3 CONCLUSION**

3.1 In the circumstances it is:

RECOMMENDED THAT that, without prejudice to the formal consultation, the Council support the proposal of the Police that the Licencing Authority (West Devon Borough Council) proceed to consult upon an alcohol PSPO, and associated dispersal powers, as set out in the email from WDBC of 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2024.

3.2 The instruction of the Committee and Council are sought.

**CARL HEARN  
TOWN CLERK  
TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL  
MAY 2024**

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**Subject:**

FW: WD PSPO

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**From:** Claire Birch <Claire.Birch@swdevon.gov.uk>

**Sent:** 01 May 2024 15:54

**To:** Cllr Mandy Ewings <cllr.mandy.ewings@westdevon.gov.uk>; Cllr Kevin Ball <cllr.kevin.ball@westdevon.gov.uk>; Cllr George Dexter <cllr.george.dexter@westdevon.gov.uk>; Cllr Tony Leech <cllr.tony.leech@westdevon.gov.uk>; Cllr Malcolm Calder <cllr.malcolm.calder@westdevon.gov.uk>; Cllr Paul Vachon <cllr.paul.vachon@westdevon.gov.uk>; Cllr Ursula Mann <cllr.ursula.mann@westdevon.gov.uk>; Cllr Jeffrey Moody <cllr.jeffrey.moody@westdevon.gov.uk>; Cllr Adam Bridgewater <cllr.adam.bridgewater@westdevon.gov.uk>; Cllr Debo Sellis <cllr.debo.sellis@westdevon.gov.uk>; Cllr Anne Johnson <cllr.anne.johnson@westdevon.gov.uk>; Jan Smallacombe <janet.smallacombe@tavistock.gov.uk>; Okehampton Town Council <townclerk@okehampton.gov.uk>

**Cc:** Karen Procter <Karen.Procter@swdevon.gov.uk>; OTTLEY Thomas 17003 <Thomas.OTTLEY2@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk>

**Subject:** FW: WD PSPO

Good afternoon all

Please can you see the email from Sgt Ottley below regarding the upcoming renewal of the PSPOs we have in place in West Devon, and let us know if you have any comments regarding these proposals prior to us going to public consultation.

Many thanks, Claire

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**From:** OTTLEY Thomas 17003 <Thomas.OTTLEY2@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk>

**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2024 11:59 AM

**To:** Claire Birch <Claire.Birch@swdevon.gov.uk>; Karen Procter <Karen.Procter@swdevon.gov.uk>

**Subject:** RE: WD PSPO

**External Message:** This Message has originated outside your organization.

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Karen / Claire

Regarding the PSPO renewal in West Devon I would propose that for the towns of Okehampton and Tavistock that the following are considered.

### Alcohol PSPO

It is the view of Devon and Cornwall Police that both towns would benefit from a town wide (that is the whole town as defined by parish maps) alcohol conditions as follows;

- No person shall continue to consume alcohol, or anything which is reasonably believed to be alcohol, when asked to stop by an authorised officer who, in their view believe this would assist in preventing further anti-social behaviour, public nuisance or disorder
- No person shall fail to surrender a vessel(s) of alcohol, sealed or unsealed, when requested by an authorised officer who, in their view believe this would assist in preventing further anti-social behaviour, public nuisance or disorder
- Unless: a) he/she has an reasonable excuse for failing to do so or b) the area is subject to exemptions

This is to assist Devon & Cornwall Police to provide an effective and consistent response to anti-social behaviour linked to alcohol across the entirety of the towns. The current alcohol PSPO in place in Tavistock is a prime example as to why it is ineffective to limit this prohibition to a small area. Where it is in place in the meadowlands park and has undoubtedly had a positive impact on alcohol related ASB, it has only displaced the issues out into other areas of the town. In particular in Tavistock's case this has resulted in street drinkers now committing their behaviour in the town centre which has caused much upset among local residents and with business owners.

Specifically for Okehampton this would be of benefit as the town is currently experiencing issues with a group of youths perpetrating ASB linked to alcohol, however this is not exclusively an issue of the town centre but has migrated out into residential areas.

### **Dispersal Powers**

It is also the request of Devon and Cornwall Police for consideration to the implementation of dispersal powers to cover the town centres and retail areas.

Please refer to an example of this as written into North Devon's PSPO enacted in January this year. This is a widely used condition to target anti social behaviour which isn't always necessarily linked to alcohol. For example both Tavistock and Okehampton have had issues that have required Police intervention in regard to Street drinking and begging. It can also be used in relation to alcohol related ASB and provides Police with a strong tool to use in response to ASB.

[Public Spaces Protection Order \(PSPO\) Anti-social Behaviour \(northdevon.gov.uk\)](http://northdevon.gov.uk)

Any issues or queries please come to me

Tom

PS 7003 Thomas Ottley  
Neighbourhood Team Leader

Phone:

Mobile:

Internal:

Local Policing and Partnerships Sergeant – West Devon  
Tavistock Police Station, Abbey Rise, Tavistock, PL19 9FD

