

London Borough of Bexley

News Release

For Immediate Release

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CONSULTATION ON PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER FOR BROADWAY BEXLEYHEATH

Local people and businesses in Bexleyheath town centre are being consulted about a proposal to implement a Public Spaces Protection Order in the Broadway Bexleyheath.

Consultation started this week (Monday 3 October) and will run until Sunday 23 October.

Bexley Police asked the Council to consider introducing a PSPO following ongoing complaints from the public and local traders, together with incidents either reported or witnessed by the Police, which could cause harm or distress to others. The issues raised included the misuse of push bikes/skateboards in pedestrianised areas, large groups of individuals loitering and general anti-social behaviour.

These issues have also led to a drop in sales from businesses in the area after 2.45pm, which is a concern to those businesses, the Bexleyheath Improvement District and the Council.

You can have your say by taking the online survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PSPO16>

Bexleyheath is the Borough's main transport hub and busiest shopping town centre. At key times the town centre is very busy, particularly with many people waiting for buses.

Following research and the evaluation of evidence of best practice from other areas, the police, Council and Bexleyheath Business Improvement District feel that the implementation of the PSPO would help address the issues that have been causing concern. However, they are keen to hear the views of all those who are affected.

The introduction of a PSPO would prohibit –

Behaving in a manner which causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to another person (either an individual or a group).

- Using pedal cycles, skateboards, roller blades, hoverboards or other similar devices in pedestrianised areas.
- Playing ball games in pedestrianised areas.

Failure to comply with the PSPO without a reasonable reason for doing so is a breach of the order and a criminal offence. Significant and/or persistent breaches of the order could lead to a fixed penalty notice being issued or a summons to court. The charge for receiving a fixed penalty notice is £100, which would be reduced to £60 if paid within 14 days. All individuals breaching the conditions of the order would be monitored by a range of agencies to provide other necessary support and interventions.

Although fixed penalty notices cannot be issued to any child under the age of 10, Council staff will take action to try to avert the risk that any young people who do so gain a criminal record without fully understanding the potential of their actions.

‘ENDS’

PSPOs were introduced in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, replacing the previous ‘Dispersal Zone’ powers. The PSPO powers allow local authorities to include the activities that are prohibited.

Before authorising the use of a PSPO, the Council must satisfy itself that it meets the statutory test provided for in the Act.

PSPOs can be made for a maximum of 3 years.

Please contact: John Ferry on 020 3045 4867
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Attachments

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