

London Borough of Bexley

News Release

For Immediate Release

12 December 2016 / PR 8429

PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER FOR BROADWAY, BEXLEYHEATH

A Public Spaces Protection Order is being implemented in the Broadway Bexleyheath following consultation with local people, including businesses and school students.

The order will come into effect at 00.01 hours on Monday 19 December 2016.

London Borough of Bexley agreed to consult on the proposed order in response to ongoing complaints from the public and local traders. Incidents were also reported or witnessed by the Police, where harm or distress was being caused to people in the town centre. Businesses in the area also reported a drop in sales at times when anti-social behaviour took place.

The Order means that people must not -

- Behave in a manner which causes, or, is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to another person.
- Ride pedal cycles, skateboards, roller blades, hoverboards or other similar devices within the restricted area in a manner which causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to another person.
- Play any type of ball games in the designated area.

The designated area is shown on signs that will be displayed in the town centre.

“The consultation showed that there is clear support for the introduction of the PSPO from people of all ages,” said Cllr Peter Craske, Chairman of the Bexley Community Safety Partnership. “Putting the order in place was something we identified as the best option following research and after evaluating evidence of best practice from other town centres. It has the support of the police, Council and Bexleyheath Business Improvement District, as well as local people.”

Superintendent Stuart Bell of Bexley Police said: “Bexley Police are fully supportive of this order. We will continue to work with partners to make The Broadway a safe and enjoyable environment for all. We will use these additional powers in a proportionate way to assist with some of the issues affecting the area and the local community.”

Tony Garrett, Bexleyheath BID manager added: “The business community and the BID are happy to work with the police and the Council to identify, engage and address the issues highlighted in the Order. We hope that clear rules and information on what is appropriate behaviour in our busy town centre – backed up with enforcement where necessary – will benefit everyone.”

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.

Council staff will take action to try to manage the risk that any young people who receive a fixed penalty notice gain a criminal record without fully understanding the potential of their actions.

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.

In accordance with Section 66 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, any interested person who wishes to challenge the validity of the Order may appeal to the High Court within six weeks from the date upon which the Order is made. An “interested person” is defined as an individual who lives in the restricted area or who regularly works or visits that area.

‘ENDS’

Note to editors

A copy of the notice and of the notices that will display in the town centre will be made available at www.bexley.gov.uk/communitysafety

Please contact: John Ferry on 020 3045 4867
john.ferry@bexley.gov.uk

