

Public Consultation (until 12th March 2017)

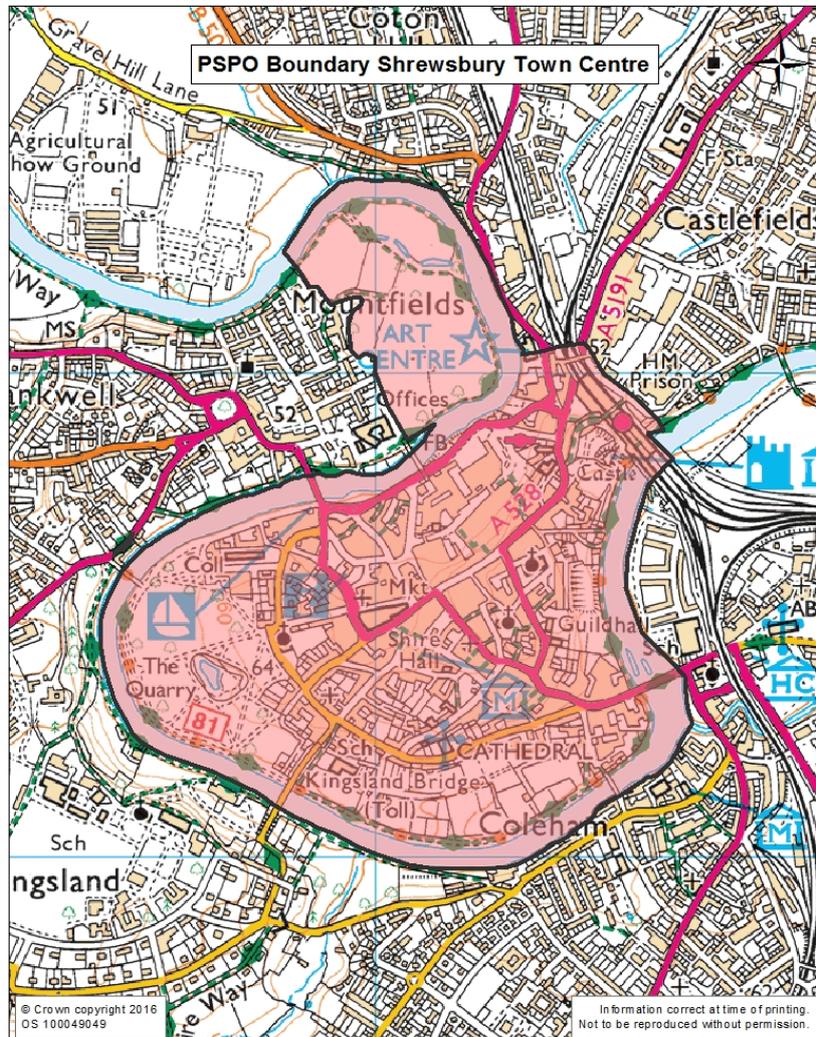
Proposal to introduce a Public Space Protection Order for Shrewsbury Town Centre

Shropshire Council is consulting on a proposed Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for an area of Shrewsbury town centre (see map below).

We'd like to hear your views, so please complete this questionnaire by 12th March 2017 and return it to: Public Space Protection Order consultation, Community Protection Team, Public Protection, Shropshire Council, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6ND.

Accompanying this survey is a copy of the draft PSPO on which we are consulting and a Frequently Asked Questions leaflet which will help explain what a PSPO is and how it can help address antisocial behaviour in our Public Spaces.

AREA AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSED PSPO



Public Protection

Shropshire Council
Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6ND

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Scale: 1:8,198

Prohibition One

No person shall urinate or defecate in a public area not being a facility intended for such use.

Do you consider this to be a problem within the public areas defined by the map?

Yes / No

Has this type of behaviour had an impact on your enjoyment of the public areas defined by the map?

Yes / No

Would you please provide details of this impact and the effect it had on you.

Has this type of behaviour improved or worsened over the last 12 months?

Improved / Same / Worse

Do you consider this proposal should remain within the PSPO?

Yes / No

Please provide any additional comments you wish to make with the proposal to prohibit this behaviour through the proposed PSPO.

Prohibition Two (please note this would not apply to licensed premises)

No person shall refuse to stop drinking alcohol or hand over any containers (sealed or unsealed) which are believed to contain alcohol, when required to do so by an authorised officer, provided that officer has reason to believe that that person is causing or is likely to cause nuisance, alarm, harassment or distress to any other person or to prevent public disorder.

Do you consider excessive alcohol consumption in public areas to be a problem within the area defined by the map?

Yes / No

Has this type of behaviour had an impact on your enjoyment of the public areas defined by the map?

Yes / No

Would you please provide details of this impact and the effect it had on you.

Has this type of behaviour improved or worsened over the last 12 months?

Improved / Same / Worse

Do you consider this proposal should remain within the PSPO?

Yes / No

Please provide any additional comments you wish to make with the proposal to prohibit this behaviour through the proposed PSPO.

Prohibition Three

No person shall refuse to disperse from a public area and not to return to that public area for 48 hours when required to do so by an authorised officer, provided that officer has reason to believe that that person is causing or likely to cause nuisance, alarm, harassment or distress to any other person or to prevent public disorder.

Do you consider there are behaviours that would be preventable by including this prohibition within the public areas defined by the map?

Yes / No

Have these behaviours had an impact on your enjoyment of the public areas defined by the map?

Yes / No

Please provide details of these behaviours and the impact and effect these behaviours have had on you?

Have these behaviours improved or worsened over the last 12 months?

Improved / Same / Worse

Do you consider this proposal should remain within the PSPO?

Yes / No

Please provide any additional comments you wish to make with the proposal to prohibit this behaviour through the proposed PSPO.

Prohibition Four

No person shall, for any duration of time, leave unattended in a public area any personal effects or belongings or any other material or paraphernalia including anything that may be considered discarded or waste material.

Do you consider this to be a problem within the public areas defined by the map?

Yes / No

Has this type of behaviour had an impact on your enjoyment of the public areas defined by the map?

Yes / No

Would you please provide details of this impact and the effect it had on you.

Has this type of behaviour improved or worsened over the last 12 months?

Improved / Same / Worse

Do you consider this proposal should remain within the PSPO?

Yes / No

Please provide any additional comments you wish to make with the proposal to prohibit this behaviour through the proposed PSPO.

Are we missing anything?

Are there any other behaviours you would like to see included in a PSPO that you feel are detrimental to the quality of life in Shrewsbury Town Centre?

Suggestions	Reasons

Your Relationship to Shrewsbury town centre

Please identify your relationship to Shrewsbury Town Centre. Please cross all that apply.

- Local resident who lives in the shaded area shown on the map.
- Local resident who lives outside the shaded area shown on the map.
- Person who works in the shaded area shown on the map.
- Local Business owner/manager.
- Land owner within the proposed restricted area.
- Street Entertainer in the shaded area shown on the map.
- Visitor to the shaded area shown on the map (e.g. tourist, on business, shopper)
- Local Councillor (Town or County).
- Representative of a local community or voluntary group.
- Employed by the Council, Police or any other agency with an interest.
- Other (please state)

Public Space Protection Order Consultation – Shropshire Council

Frequently Asked Questions

- Q: What is a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)?
- A: PSPOs were introduced in October 2014 by the Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and are designed to allow a Council to deal with a particular nuisance or problem behaviour in a particular area (a public space) that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life, by imposing conditions on the use of that area which apply to everyone. The order will specify those behaviours or conditions that are designed to ensure the law abiding majority can use and enjoy the public space, safe from anti-social behaviour.
- Q: Why do we need a PSPO in Shrewsbury Town Centre?
- A: It has been identified by Shropshire Council and the partners we work with that there are a number of issues that are having a persistent negative impact with people who live, work or visit Shrewsbury town centre. These issues have been identified via multiple complaints made to the police and the Council from the public, businesses and other interested parties around the issues of public safety and from what we and our partners regularly witness.
- Q: Why is only Shrewsbury Town Centre included in the Order?
- A: When identifying the area to include in the Order, we looked at the areas where the complaints and other information highlighted the greatest need. However, this is part of the consultation so please let us know if we have not covered all the areas that suffer from this type of ASB.
- Q: Is there not already legislation to deal with excessive alcohol consumption in public places already?
- A: Currently within the town centre a similar prohibition exists to that within the proposed Order with respect to stopping drinking and disposal of alcohol. The PSPO will update and replace the previous restriction and provide the opportunity to deal with any breach by means of a Fixed Penalty Notice as opposed to taking legal proceedings through the courts.
- Q: Is urinating or defecating in the street already unlawful?
- A: No, whilst it is undesirable there is no specific offence at this time and the police are limited to what action they may take.
- Q: How is the PSPO going to be enforced? Is there not a danger that you could be accused of picking on some of the most vulnerable people in our society?
- A: Enforcement of the PSPO will be undertaken in the main by the police and authorised officers of Shropshire Council. The PSPO is not intended to target any particular person – it will apply to all persons whose behaviour is considered unacceptable and is causing alarm and distress to others. However, any matter would need to be considered carefully in line with the

Councils Better Regulation and Enforcement Policy and this will be included within an enforcement memorandum agreed with the police. In addition significant support is already available to help vulnerable individuals and this will continue irrespective of the implementation of a PSPO.

Q: What happens if I breach the PSPO?

A: Where a person breaches the PSPO, an authorised officer will have a number of options open to them and will exercise discretion in how they handle any situation. Depending on the nature of the breach the authorised officer can issue a verbal warning and require an immediate cessation of the behaviour causing the breach of the PSPO. However, in some instances the authorised officer can also require that person to leave the area and not to return within a 48 hour period or to issue a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) either at the time or at a later date or to report that individual for consideration of legal proceedings. In any case where an individual fails to pay a FPN issued by an authorised officer for a PSPO breach within the specified timescale, Shropshire Council will review the evidence obtained and where appropriate commence legal proceedings for the original breach.

Q: When is the consultation taking place and how do I get involved?

A: The consultation will start on the 9th January 2017 and you will have until the 12th March 2017 to respond by completing the survey questions and by submitting any other information you consider is pertinent. The survey is available on our website <http://new.shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/> and you can respond by completing the on-line survey, by sending in your survey response via email to community.protection@shropshire.gov.uk or by posting it to the Public Space Protection Order consultation, Community Protection Team, Public Protection, Shropshire Council, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6ND. Alternatively you can drop in to the Shropshire Council Community Hub at 1a Castle Gates, Shrewsbury and access the survey there.

Q: What will happen to the information I provide as part of the consultation

A: The data collected will be analysed to help determine whether the correct conditions are being included in the PSPO. The data will not be shared outside this consultation but will be made available for Cabinet reports. Names or other personal data will not be published unless permission is specifically given by the consultee.

Q: How will the decision be made whether or not to implement the PSPO?

A: The survey responses will be analysed with the results and any proposed amendments reported back to local councillors at the next suitable Cabinet meeting of Shropshire Council. A decision on whether or not to implement the PSPO will then be made. There has already been a great deal of evidence gathered that has helped inform what the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) will attempt to address and this consultation data will help further this review and help modify the PSPO if necessary.