PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER: BASELINE DATA REPORT

SHREWSBURY TOWN CENTRE

- OVERVIEW

During December 2016, a proposal for a Public Spaces Protection Order to be enforced in Shrewsbury Town Centre was submitted to Shropshire Council Cabinet for consideration. The proposal has since been subject to a period of consultation which ended on 14/03/2017.

During this consultation period, the required reporting routes and data collection processes have been developed in order to establish a baseline position to ensure the impact of the PSPO can be monitored and measured.

The following report highlights data collated by Shropshire Council (Community Protection and Team Shrewsbury) as well as West Mercia Police, in relation to the conditions proposed within the PSPO. Data collated between 1st October 16 – 31st March 17 has been amalgamated and displayed in the tables below. Data analysis is in line with the geographical boundary covered by the proposed PSPO.

Data available to Shropshire Council is presented in relation to each of the conditions of the PSPO in order to highlight reporting trends, and establish a baseline in order to assess the impact of the order.

- REPORTING CATEGORIES

Following a review of the existing datasets collated by Shropshire Council and partner agencies in relation to crime and anti-social behaviour, the following reporting categories have been established in order to monitor the impact of the order. These categories were introduced as of 1st October, and are aligned with the behaviours the PSPO aims to prohibit. Other categories relevant to wider ASB issues will still be collated by a number of agencies, however the categories detailed below have been developed to reflect the most problematic issues encountered within the town centre.

Datasets are collated monthly by the 'Team Shrewsbury' multi agency operational group, Shropshire Council Community Protection Team and West Mercia Police. Please note, multiple categories may be selected in relation to a single incident.

Alcohol litter	Drug litter
Alcohol related	Drug misuse
Aggressive begging	Drug dealing
Begging	Excrement/Urinating
Nuisance busking	Fly tipping/Littering
Congregation	Personal items left
Dog fouling	Graffiti
Dog control	Suspicious behaviour
Damage/Arson	

- ANALYSIS OF DATA - PSPO CONDITIONS

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

INCIDENT TYPE	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR
Urinating/Defecating	9	7	1	3	5	4

b) 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.

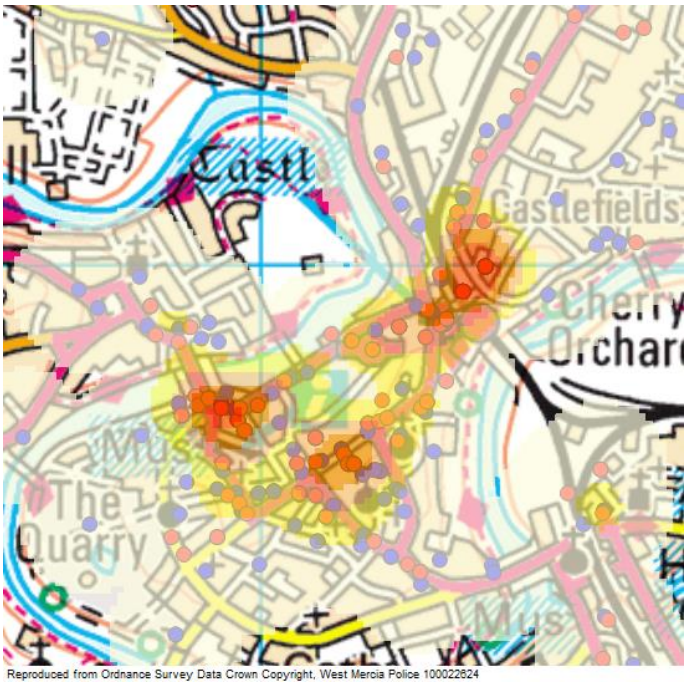
INCIDENT TYPE	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR
Personal Belongings	3	4	1	9	2	1
Alcohol Litter	4	7	0	2	2	8
Drug Litter	15	17	11	20	19	24
Fly Tipping/Littering	13	7	2	6	14	3
Total	**35**	**35**	**14**	**37**	**37**	**36**

c) 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.

DATASET	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR
Alcohol Related Incidents	13	10	2	6	9	18
Alcohol Litter	4	7	0	2	2	8
Total	**17**	**17**	**2**	**8**	**11**	**26**

The maps overleaf display all alcohol related crimes and incidents recorded by West Mercia Police during the review period, and committed within the Shrewsbury Urban section. The red points represent alcohol related crimes, and blue points are alcohol related incidents.

1st October 2016 – 20th February 2017;



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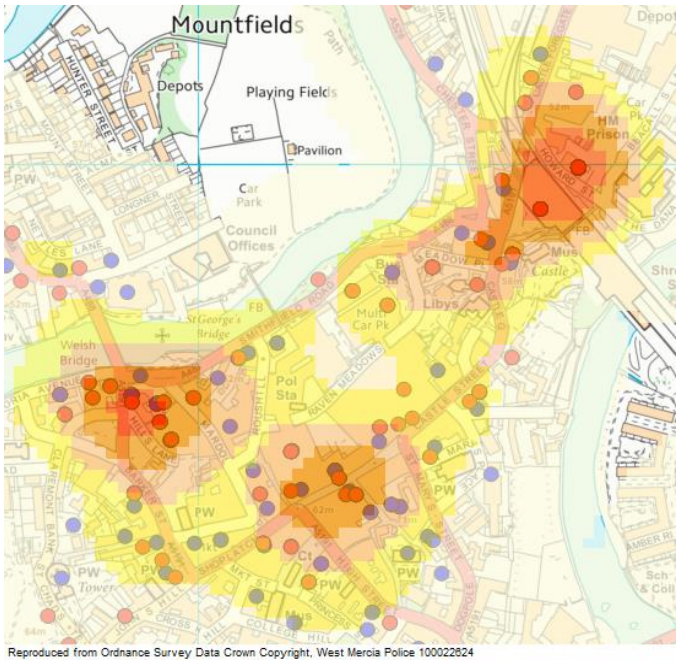

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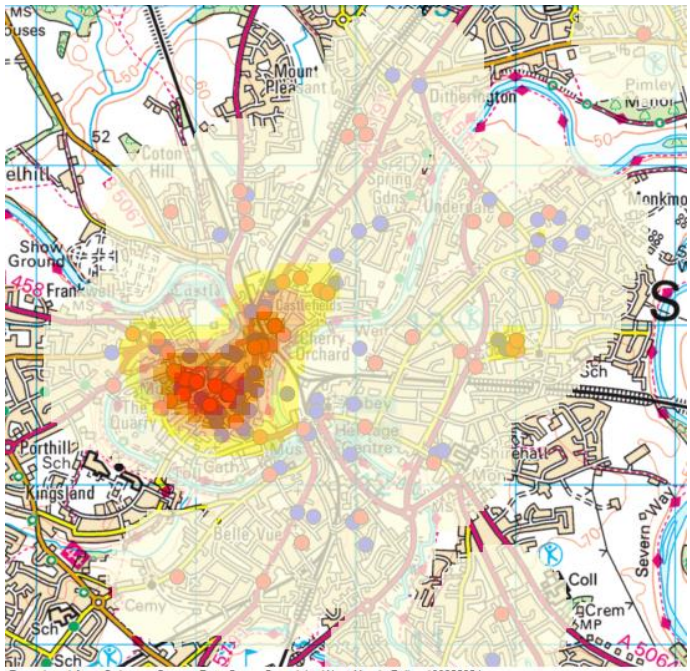
21st February – 3rd April 2017;



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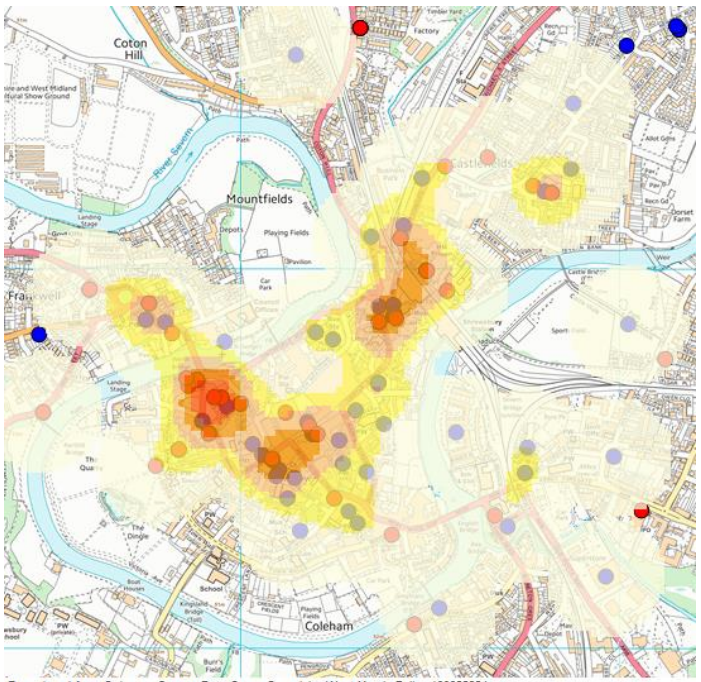

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The hotspot areas continue to be mainly within the river loop, with the exceptions of small hotspots around the Castle Gates area, and Abbey Foregate. This is primarily due to the concentration of licensed premises, fast food establishments and taxi ranks.

Nikki Armstrong-Smith 030417

d) 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.

All reporting categories can be considered relevant to this particular condition. However, it should be recognised that certain issues such as drug misuse, drug dealing, littering and dog fouling will potentially be dealt with via more appropriate and effective primary legislation.

INCIDENT TYPE	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	TOTAL
Alcohol litter	4	7	0	2	2	8	23
Alcohol related	13	10	2	6	9	18	58
Aggressive begging	0	1	0	0	1	2	4
Begging	2	4	5	2	3	8	24
Nuisance busking	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
Congregation	8	14	2	11	8	19	62
Damage/Arson	13	11	7	9	8	5	53
Dog control	2	3	0	2	2	5	14
Dog fouling	1	1	1	2	0	3	8
Drug litter	15	17	11	20	19	24	106
Drug misuse	11	7	1	2	3	7	31
Drug dealing	2	2	0	0	1	1	6
Urinating/Defecting	9	7	1	3	5	4	29
Fly tipping/Littering	13	7	2	6	14	3	45
Personal items left	3	4	1	9	2	1	20
Graffiti	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
Suspicious behaviour	4	3	2	3	1	11	24
Grand Total	**101**	**99**	**35**	**79**	**78**	**120**	**512**

- RECOMMENDATIONS

To ensure all relevant incidents are captured within the established datasets, it is important that all partner agencies encourage reporting via the ASB reporting line, and also utilise the 'Team Shrewsbury' recording route.

Data regarding incidents occurring outside the PSPO boundary will also need to be monitored in order to establish any displacement. This will require all data to be geocoded in order to ensure the data can be mapped.

- CONCLUSION

Following the development and clarification of reporting routes and data recording processes, the initial 6 month trends indicate that the established categories are still relevant and issues continue to be reported within the PSPO boundary.

The impact of seasonal trends must also be taken into account, and it is likely reported incidents will increase during the spring and summer months as people spend more time in public places.

An element of under-reporting during the initial baseline period must also be recognised, as agencies familiarise themselves with the new categories and revised reporting format.