



1<sup>st</sup> June 2026

## **Formal Representation in Support of the Renewal of the Shrewsbury Town Centre Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in my capacity as Chair of Shrewsbury Pubwatch to provide our organisation's strong and unequivocal support for the renewal of the Shrewsbury Town Centre Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO), which is due to expire on 27 July 2026.

Shrewsbury Pubwatch represents licensed premises across the town centre and plays a key role in supporting responsible retailing, promoting public safety, and working collaboratively with statutory partners to manage the evening and night-time economy. From this operational perspective, the PSPO is a critical tool in maintaining order, safety, and a positive environment for both customers and businesses.

The licensed trade operates in a highly visible and often challenging environment, where issues linked to anti-social behaviour can escalate quickly if not addressed effectively. The PSPO provides a clear and enforceable framework that enables early intervention and proportionate action where behaviours risk undermining public safety or the experience of others.

In particular, the PSPO supports:

- The prevention and management of anti-social behaviour that can impact licensed premises and surrounding areas
- The safety of staff and customers, particularly during peak evening and nighttime hours
- A coordinated approach between enforcement partners, including local authority officers, police, and authorised personnel
- The sustained delivery of a safe and well-managed night-time economy, which is essential to the town's overall vitality

The current partnership arrangements, including those set out between Shropshire Council, Shrewsbury Town Council, and Shrewsbury BID, enable trained authorised personnel to operate within a structured and accountable framework, ensuring a consistent, proportionate, and evidence-based approach to enforcement. This is particularly important in reinforcing confidence among premises that issues will be addressed appropriately and in a timely manner.

From Pubwatch's experience, the absence of such powers would create a significant operational gap. Without the PSPO, there would be reduced ability to address persistent or emerging behaviours in public spaces, increasing the risk of:

- Disorder and escalation in the night-time economy
- Increased pressure on police and venue staff
- Deterioration in customer perceptions of safety
- Negative impacts on the reputation and sustainability of the town centre's evening offer

The PSPO therefore plays a preventative as well as enforcement role, enabling issues to be managed before they become more serious or resource-intensive to resolve. This aligns directly with Pubwatch objectives of early intervention, shared intelligence, and partnership-led problem solving.

In policy terms, sustaining a safe and attractive night-time economy is fundamental to broader objectives around economic development, public protection, and place-making. The continued application of the PSPO is an essential component in achieving these outcomes.

Accordingly, Shrewsbury Pubwatch strongly supports the renewal of the PSPO in full and would urge the Council to recognise its importance as a core tool in managing both the daytime and night-time economy. We remain committed to working closely with all partners to support its effective implementation.

Yours faithfully,

**Kevin Rippard**

Chair

Shrewsbury Pubwatch