



To: Supplementary Report to the West/Central Area Committee
24th June 2010

Report by: The Director of Community Services

Wards affected: Market ward

Subject: The police review of the existing s.30 Order covering the Grafton Centre, Parker's Piece and Christ's Pieces area.

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 The section 30 Dispersal Order currently covering the Grafton Centre, Parker's Piece and the Christ's Pieces areas is due to come to an end at 2359 hours on 2nd July 2010.
- 1.2 In accordance with the s.30 Operational Guidance published on the City Council and Constabulary websites in March (revised May 2010) which is due for discussion at the meeting of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee on 1st July 2010, the police have now submitted their "Review of the section 30 Dispersal Order covering Grafton Centre, Parker's Piece and the Christ's Pieces Areas". A copy is attached.
- 1.3 Data collection and analysis in this report has been broadened to look not just at the ASB relating to the behaviours of the streetlife community but also at the overall levels of all reported anti-social behaviour in Market, Petersfield and Romsey wards between January and May 2010. Petersfield and Romsey wards are included to see whether there has been an increase in reports since the Dispersal Order covering that area ceased in January 2010.
- 1.4 The report then separates and looks in detail at the types of incident that Dispersal Orders were introduced to address making comparisons with similar periods last year. It then further divides those incidents of ASB looking at where and when they occurred and the types of behaviour exhibited.
- 1.5 Whilst it is acknowledged that there have been some increases, for example in begging, the overall picture compared to the preceding five month period, shows a decrease in the total number of ASB incidents in Market, Petersfield and Romsey of 12.5%. i.e. a drop from 1,252 incidents to 1,090 making a total of 162.
- 1.6 The total number of incidents that have occurred in the s. 30 area and the comparison with the remainder of Market is considered significant. The 164 incidents equate to just over one a day, significantly less than in the remainder of Market ward which was nearly 3 a day. Further, when studying the detail of actual reports, the number of incidents where the dispersal order could have been used to address 'street life' type issues falls to 105 for the 3 ward areas.

- 1.7 In order for a s.30 Dispersal Order to be implemented certain tests need to be applied namely, that it is a necessary, proportionate and appropriate response to the problem being experienced. As can be seen from the report the police have taken the view that none of these tests can be satisfied.

How does a Dispersal Order come to an End?

- 1.8 Members should note that legislation dictates that a Dispersal Order may end automatically with the ending of the period of authorisation as it has in this case - this would happen when the police consider that the anti-social behaviour is no longer sufficiently "significant and persistent" to justify its continuation or where the police consider that alternative measures can adequately deal with the problem.
- 1.9 Also, because this is not a withdrawal of the Order, there is no duty for the police to consult the local authority. However, under the local operational guidance the police will always consult with the Council and, wherever possible, with stakeholders in these situations.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is requested to note:

- 2.2 The police report and very positive progress made resulting in a situation of marked improvement in the City centre area.
- 2.3 That, having taken all the relevant data into consideration and having applied the tests referred to in item 1.7 of this report, the police have decided not to request the City Council to approve a new s.30 Order. The existing Order will, therefore, expire at 2359 hours on 2nd July 2010.
- 2.4 That the current levels of anti-social behaviour exhibited in this and other areas of the city will be addressed using other police powers.
- 2.5 That levels of anti-social behaviour will continue to be monitored and reported to Area Committees and other appropriate forums.
- 2.6 That, in the event that problems recur to levels that cannot properly be addressed by using existing powers, urgent consideration will be given to apply for dispersal powers in accordance with the Operational Guidance agreed between the police and the City Council

3. Background

- 3.1 There has been a Section 30 Order in place to tackle street based group anti-social behaviour in the Grafton Centre, Parker's Piece and Christ's Pieces locations since October 2006.
- 3.2 Groups behaving anti-socially and congregating in residential and busy retail locations across the city predominately during daylight hours, have been managed since 2004 with the help of Dispersal Orders. A multi-agency strategy to tackle street based anti-social behaviour has been place since 2003/04 and Dispersal Orders have been seen to be an important intervention to apply control to

unacceptable behaviours whilst other supportive and management measures were introduced.

- 3.3 It was recognised that a strategy would take time to bed in and there would be a lag before any outcomes, if successful, would enable control measures of the type s. 30 provides to be relaxed.
- 3.4 In support of this, the police have reported, more recently, consistent and positive improvements in the behaviour of individuals and groups of people usually associated with daytime anti-social behaviour, which s. 30 Orders were introduced to address.
- 3.5 In addition, the Streetlife Police officers and the Street Outreach Team, reporting regularly to the multi-agency problem solving group that seeks to address the behaviour and needs of streetlife individuals, report the establishment of good relationships with the resident group that has been in the city for several years.
- 3.6 Whilst the numbers coming to and leaving the city fluctuate, the officers report that the resident group does apply a positive influence to new arrivals helping to create an understanding about what is and what is not acceptable. The officers report that they rarely need to use their powers and are able to manage situations through effective dialogue built on trust and understanding.
- 3.7 N.B. An inter-agency report will be brought to the West Central Area Committee in August on the strategy, progress and next steps in addressing the root causes behind the congregation of street drinkers.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The Committee is asked to note a situation where there has been a marked improvement where it is reasonable to assume that this has, in part, been due to the measures noted above.
- 4.2 It is also noteworthy that this change has taken place over a period of improving weather when it might be expected that the situation would be deteriorating.
- 4.3 In addition, the Committee is asked to note that there remains no evidence to justify the consideration of a s.30 Order for the historic city centre at this time.

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