



Cambridgeshire
Police & Crime
Commissioner

Lynda Kilkelly
Safer Communities Manager
Cambridge City Council

By email: lynda.kilkelly@cambridge.gov.uk

3rd March 2015

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lynda Kilkelly".

I refer to your letter dated 17th February 2015 regarding Cambridge City Council's proposal for a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for Petersfield Green, Mill Road Cemetery and the gardens in Ditchburn Place, Cambridge.

Firstly, I both welcome and thank Cambridge City Council for undertaking the consultation to seek both my views and those of the public in response to problems that are occurring. This letter is my formal consultation response.

To inform my response I have considered both the views of those members of the public who have raised their concerns with Cambridgeshire Constabulary and those of the Constabulary's Local Policing Team for Cambridge.

I fully appreciate the effects that anti-social behaviour has on individuals, businesses and communities. Continuing to tackle crime and disorder, including responding to and preventing problems caused by alcohol misuse, is a priority in my Police and Crime Plan, and as such is a priority for the Constabulary. Partnership working such as that between the Constabulary and Cambridge City Council is key to co-ordinating both an effective response to anti-social behaviour to protect individuals, communities and businesses from the harm caused and to ensure those responsible are effectively held to account.

The misuse of alcohol has wide ranging implications for everybody – the individual, businesses and communities and the cost to the public purse when public services that have to pick up the pieces. This can put a huge pressure on these resources, including those of the Constabulary.

I understand that there has been a long history of complaints concerning alcohol related anti-social behaviour within the proposed PSPO and the surrounding area and thus is a significant problem. The Constabulary are dealing with an increase in calls to deal with such incidents and are of the opinion that as a result of this behaviour fear within the community has also increased. I appreciate that such behaviour can have a detrimental impact on the quality of life of those residents, views that residents have shared with the Constabulary.

I am not against people enjoying themselves responsibly or safely but drinking so much that puts that person or others at risk of harm is a problem for all. I am cognisant that the area subject to the proposed PSPO focuses on areas where alcohol is consumed by members of the street-life community, as opposed to the drinking of alcohol as part of a recreational activity, such as a picnic or community event. Therefore, by virtue of the locations selected within the proposed area, responsible drinkers are less likely to be affected.

I am very aware of the need to provide support and increase opportunities for preventative work to help people understand the harm that excessive drinking can have on them and others and encourage them to change their behaviour in the future. This will enable all partners to deal with the root cause of this crime and disorder.

I support the Constabulary's call to have the PSPO in place. The Constabulary directs its resources on the basis of threat, risk and harm. Whilst I am unable to get involved in operational matters, including those regarding the allocation of policing resources, I understand that in adopting the threat, risk and harm approach the Constabulary's response to the PSPO will be proportionate to the harm being caused. Consequently, the Constabulary have informed me that where there is no harm being caused or likely to be, there would not need to challenge individuals.

In conclusion, I support Cambridge City Council's proposal for a PSPO as given in the consultation for the purpose of controlling the consumption of alcohol. I hope that the PSPO is effective in preventing the detrimental effect that public drinking and alcohol related disorder and nuisance is having so that the law-abiding majority can use and enjoy public spaces, safe from anti-social behaviour.

I understand that the proposal will be to have the PSPO in place for a year. Should any review of the PSPO be undertaken at that point, I welcome the opportunity to provide any further views.

Yours sincerely,



Sir Graham Bright
Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner