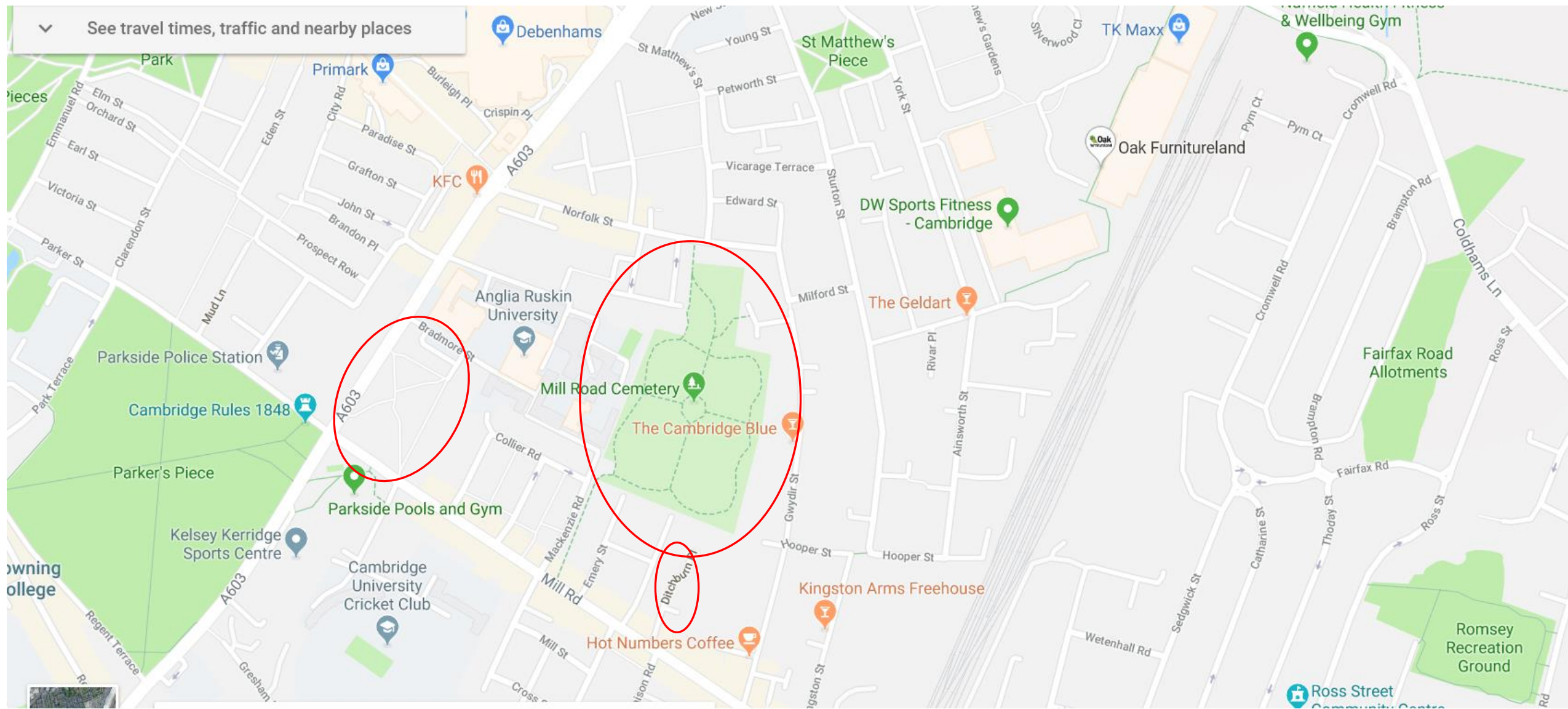


The Impact of the PSPO covering Petersfield Green, Mill Road Cemetery and Ditchburn Place Garden

A CRITICAL ASSESSMENT

We are seeking to understand, has there been:

- 1. A reduction in “need”,** (from residents, people on the streets and business) By this I mean have we problem solved, are there any success stories for individuals (inducing the drinkers). Other than the displacement the order offers us what have we done to resolve the underlying causes.
- 2. A reduction in demand, displacement of demand** – has there been a reduction in call for service, crime? Has displacement affected other areas, have we just moved the problem?
- 3. The effect on Police resources,** is enforcement sustainable way forward for the partnership and our police team.



Research Methods

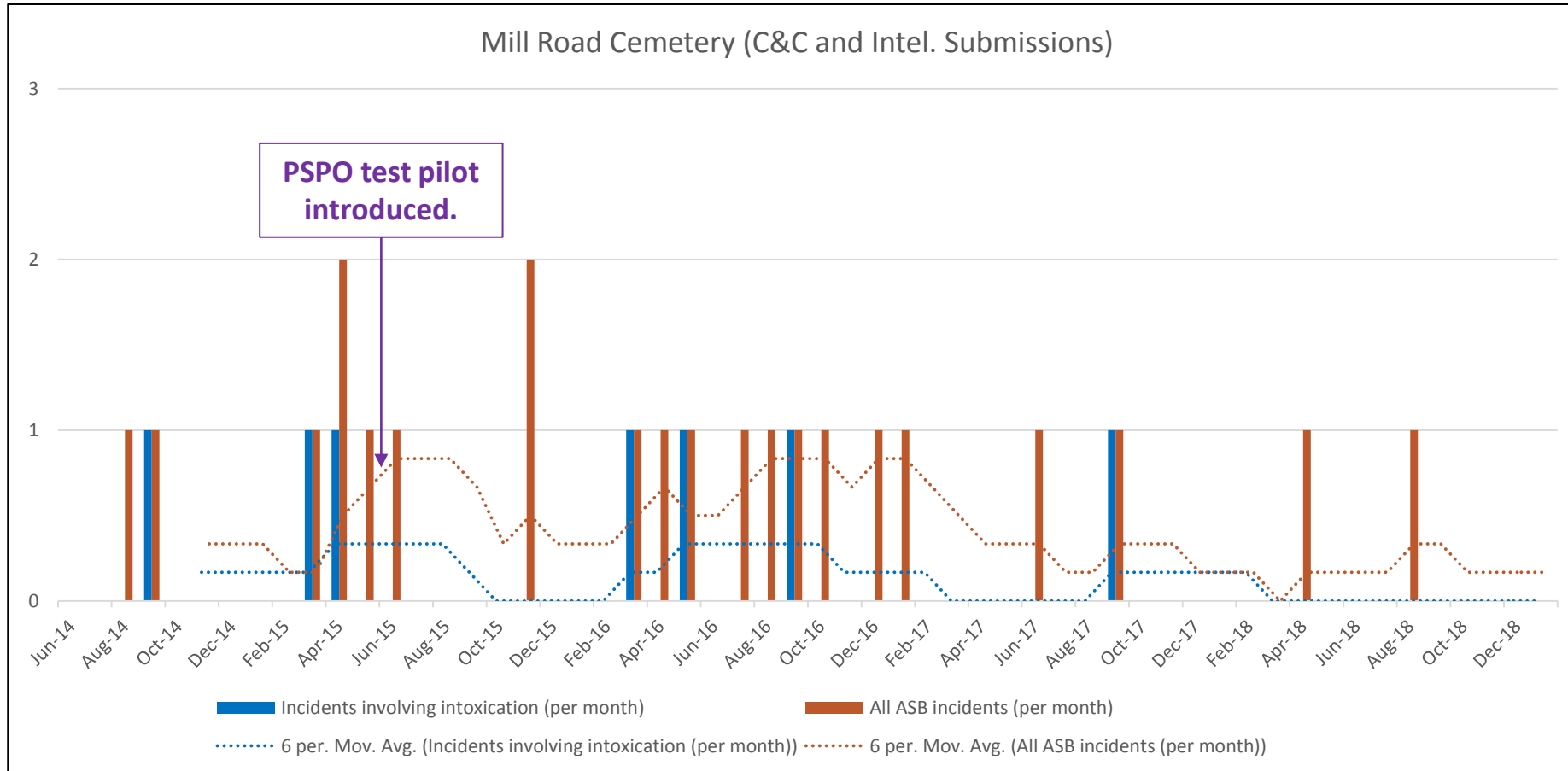
Quantitative data on police reports:

- All data collected from Cambridgeshire Constabulary's Command and Control log and Intelligence system.
- The assessment spans the period from June 2014 (one year before PSPO implementation) to January 2019.
- Graphs display monthly totals for alcohol related incidents and antisocial behaviour incidents more generally.
- 6-month moving averages of these totals have been plotted to smooth out data irregularities and show longer term trends.

Qualitative data on views of experienced officers:

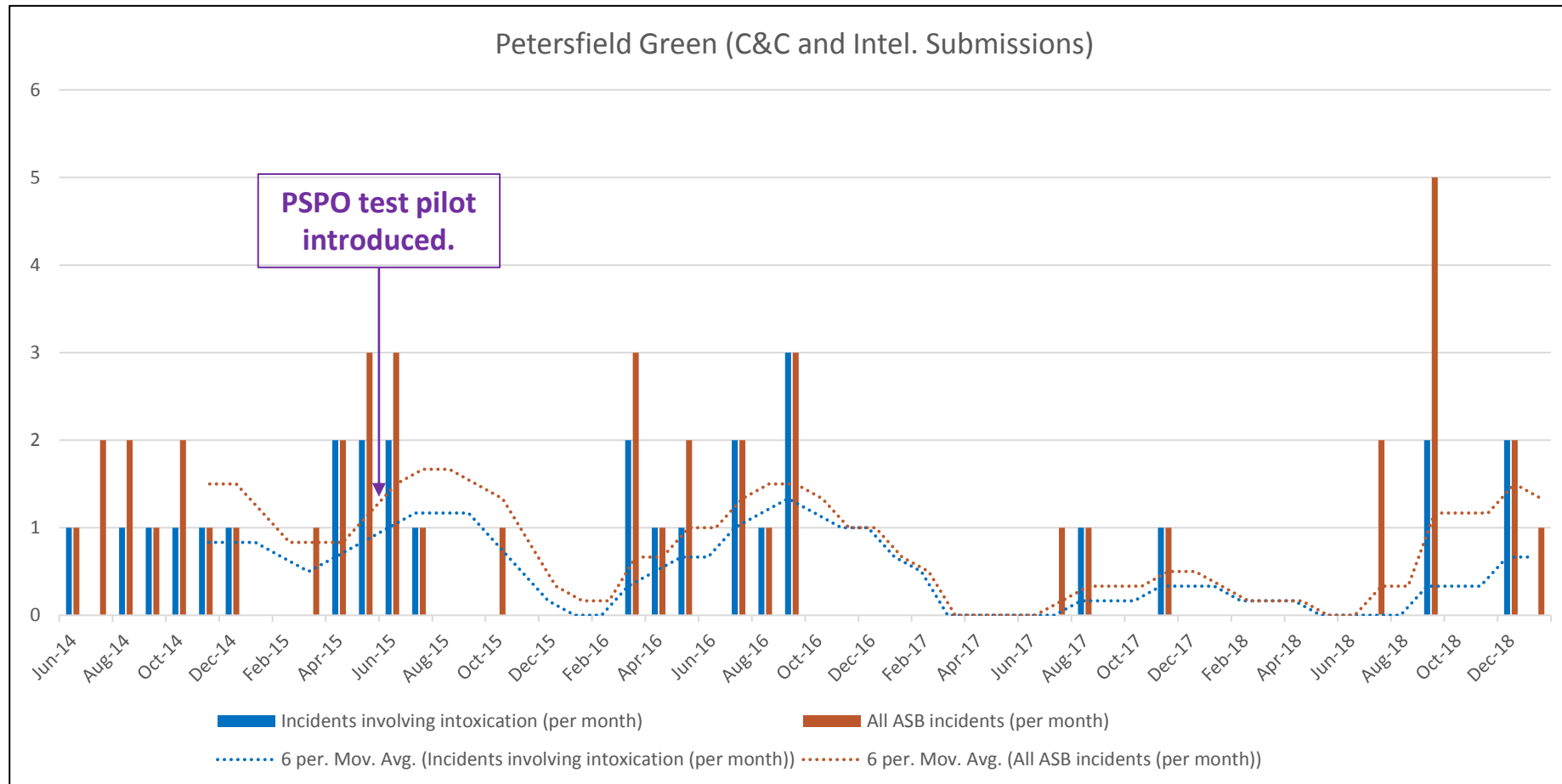
- An email was sent to members of the Cambridge City Neighbourhood Team asking their views on the PSPO. If they failed to reply, some were asked in person.

Mill Road Cemetery



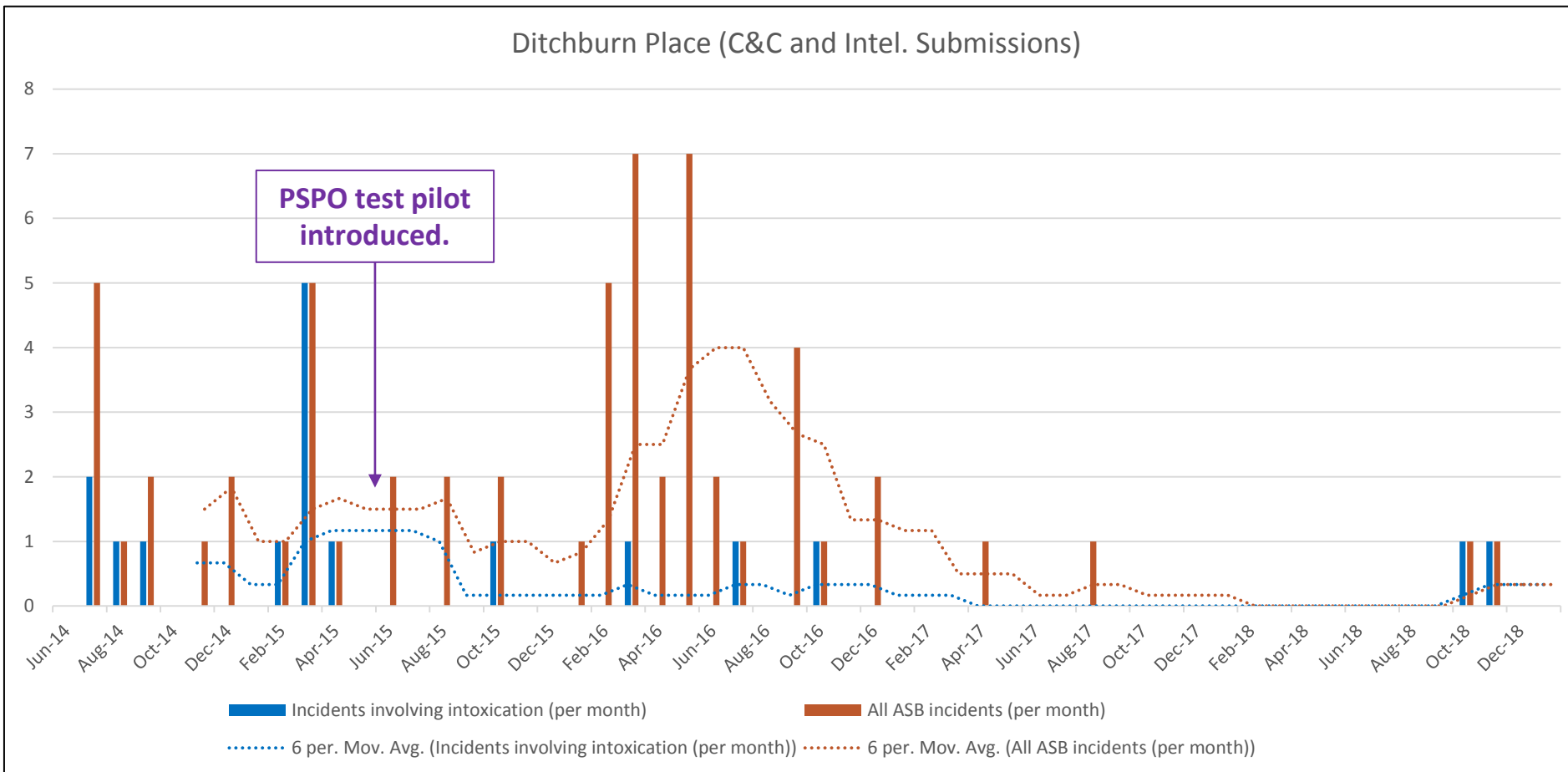
- Decline in both types of incidents following PSPO introduction.
- However, this trend reversed in 2016, and seems to be better explained by seasonal variations, with peaks in summer and troughs in winter.
- Possible long term decline in incidents over whole period – however this could be due to a quiet 2017, rather than systemic change.

Petersfield Green



- Decline in both types of incidents shortly following PSPO introduction.
- However, this trend also reversed in 2016, and mirrors seasonal trends in behaviour.
- 2017 experienced a quiet summer for some reason, however incidents increased again at the end of 2018/start of 2019.

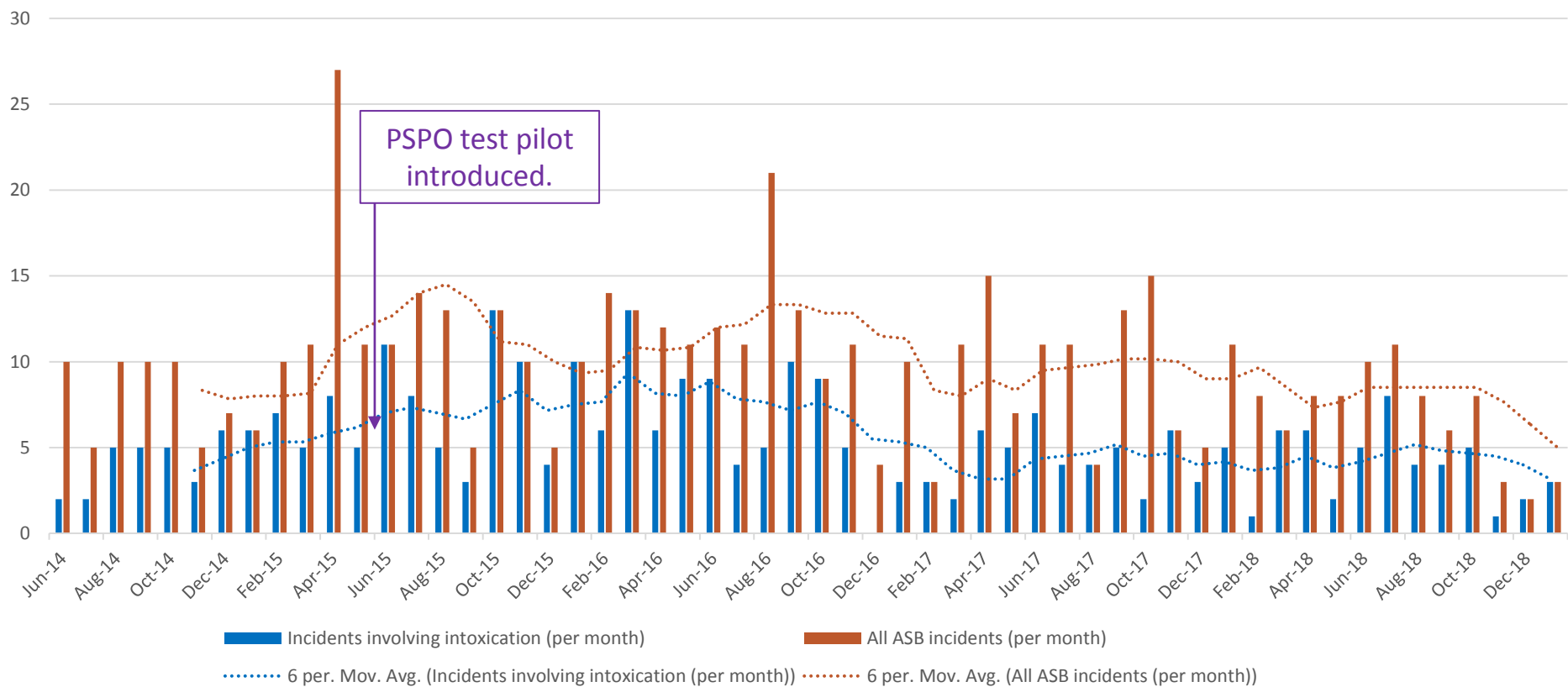
Ditchburn Place Garden



- A clear long-term decline in alcohol fuelled incidents around Ditchburn Place following PSPO introduction.
- ASB incidents did not follow this trend. However, this data includes incidents with any location around Ditchburn Place, and is therefore not restricted to the front gardens. This could explain why drinking ASB went down while general ASB did not.
- Again 2017 was particularly quiet.

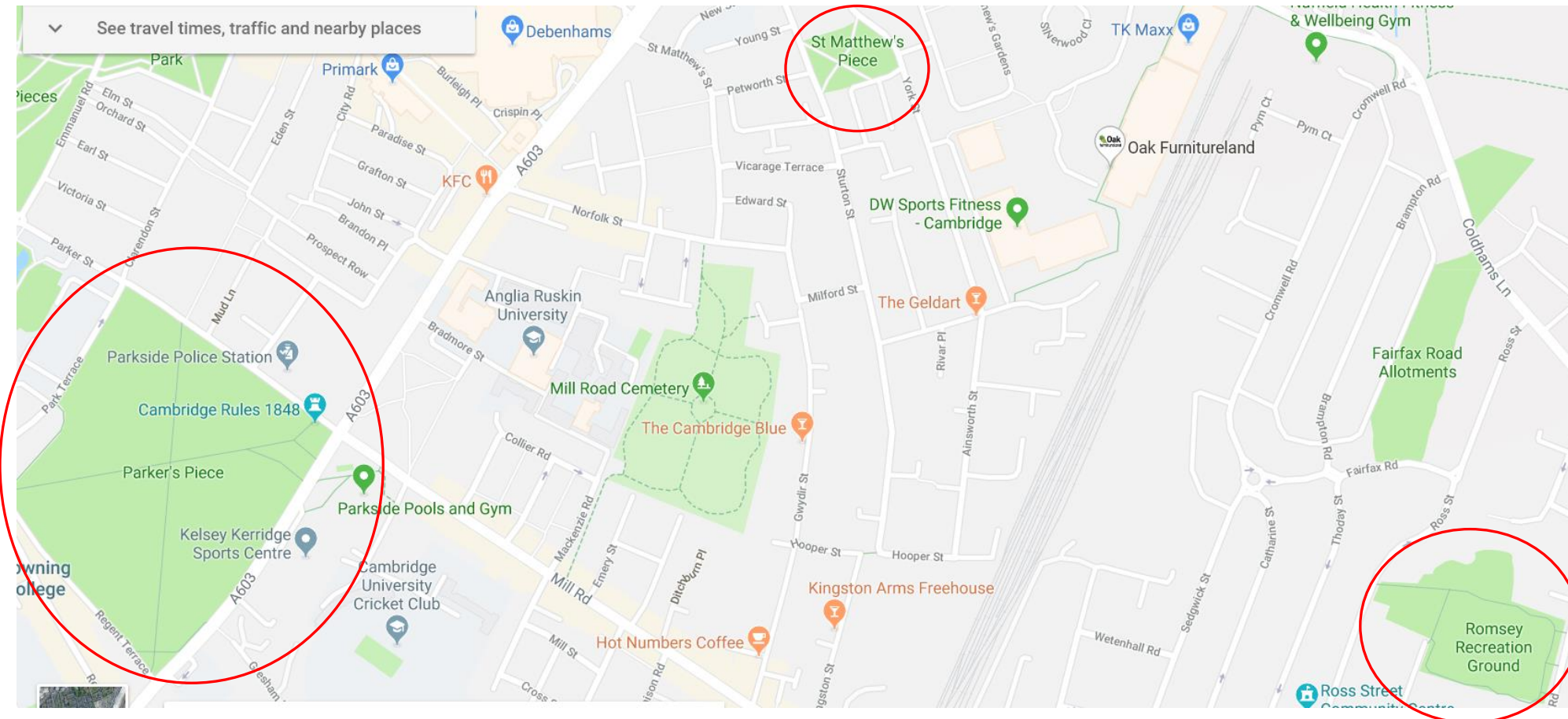
Possible displacement to Mill Road

Petersfield Stretch of Mill Road (C&C only)



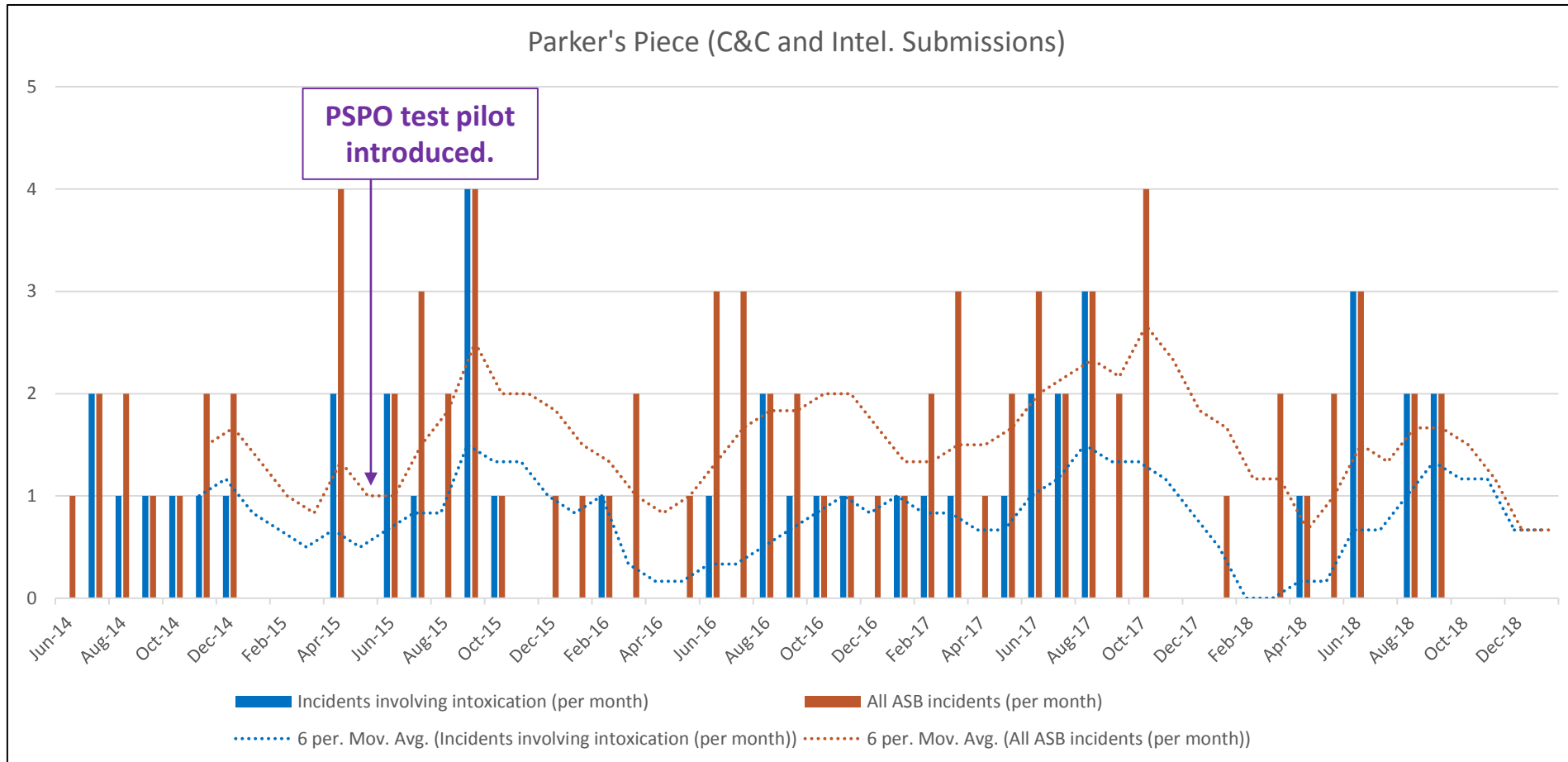
- An initial increase, followed by a sustained decline in both types of incidents.
- This suggests there has not been displacement of street drinking to adjacent parts of Mill Road.
- This could be explained by what scholars such as Weisburd et al. (2006) call “a diffusion of crime control benefits”, whereby deterrence has a spill-over effect. This is because offenders assume the crackdown is not limited to a specific geographical area and thus overestimate the scope of intervention.
- Furthermore, green spaces/parks offer specific characteristics that attract antisocial drinkers. Other parts of Mill Road do not have these pull factors.

Possible displacement to other nearby green areas



- Examined C&C data and intel on St Matthew's Piece and Romsey Recreation Ground.
- There were not enough reported incidents to plot on chart.
- However, there was no sign of displacement of street drinking/ASB to these areas.

Possible displacement to Parker's Piece



- Does not appear Parker's Piece has suffered from the displacement of street drinking or ASB.
- Number of reports seem to follow a regular seasonal pattern, rather than increasing appreciably following PSPO introduction.
- It could be that any displacement to Parker's Piece would not show up in data, as public are ossified to groups drinking there. It is a larger space and not close to residences. Therefore, people are less likely to report public drinking/other ASB.
- This could be an example of what Berk and Macdonald (2010) term desirable displacement, where crime is moved to an area where it causes less harm.

Views of experienced officers

The following 3 questions were put to all members of the Neighbourhood Policing Team in Cambridge.

1. *Has the introduction of the PSPO reduced street drinking around Petersfield Green, Mill Rd Cemetery and Ditchburn Place?*
2. *Has the PSPO reduced street drinking in the Mill Rd area more broadly?*
3. *Do you have any view on/evidence whether street drinking has been displaced to other parts of the city as a result?*

Results of survey: Five officers and one PCSO responded to survey.

Question 1 – Four officers and one PCSO said the PSPO has improved the problem of street drinking. All have many years of experience as Cambridge City officers. Furthermore, one officer is the lead community officer for East Cambridge, covering Mill Road, while the PCSO worked as a Mill Road dedicated officer for many years. The East Cambridge officer described a time prior to the PSPO when there was a lot of antisocial drinking in Petersfield Park and Ditchburn Place, with groups of street-life individuals regularly congregating and drinking cans/bottles of beer, which led to noise problems and violent incidents. Another officer corroborated this, saying that prior to the PSPO kids could not use the Petersfield play area. They went on to say the situation had vastly improved with one replying, *“After the PSPO was implemented, I have noticed that it has been a positive impact. Without looking at police systems for data, from solely listening to my police radio and patrolling the mill road area I have experienced less sightings of these street drinkers and the anti-social behaviour that it brings in general.”* Meanwhile, the PCSO said the drinking ban had particularly benefitted Ditchburn Place, *“and even though drinking in the cemetery and on Petersfield Green has not stopped completely, having the PSPO gives us a power to deal with it effectively if required.”*

Conversely, one officer said they did not have enough experience to remember the time before PSPO. They did claim that, *“The Petersfield Common certainly has daily drinking but I can’t say I’ve ever seen the handful of people being an issue for public passing through the park. The play area there is still used all the time and the bench drinking occurs on is set back from the park path.”*

Question 2 – The same four officers said the PSPO produced benefits for the wider Mill Road area. The East Cambridge officer said, *“Recently, Mill road appears to be a less problematic location in general but definitely in terms of the amount of street drinking. I can only think this is because of the PSPO as I don’t think that there has been any other factor that would cause this success, for example reduction in business selling alcohol, increased police presence.”*

On the other hand, one responder was more ambivalent, claiming, *“From a very subjective point of view (I live on Mill Road rather than work it and have only been here post-PSPO). There is street drinking daily near to the salvation army church but much less of it over the bridge towards the Coop, or the other way towards Parkside.”*

Question 3 – Three officers suggested some sort of displacement might have occurred, however were reluctant to definitely link this to the PSPO. One of these officers stated, *“Yes. Jordans Yard. Kings Street. However there is no way of linking this directly to the PSPO.”* Another officer said that while displacement had occurred, this was still beneficial as *“it is not concentrated within a particular area as it was before the PSPO and it’s not done so near an area next to vital support services which sends a strong message to that particular community of people.”* On the other hand, one officer said he was not aware of any displacement, claiming, *“In my role I am not aware of another part of the city where street drinking has increased significantly enough to indicate that it was because of the current PSPO”.*