

Item 06 – Public Spaces Protection Order – The Vine Proposed Consultation

The attached report was considered by the People & Places Advisory Committee on 20 June 2023. The relevant Minute extract is below.

People & Places Advisory Committee (20 June 2023, Minute 10)

The Health and Community Safety Manager presented the report which sets out a proposed 6 week public consultation for a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for 3 years at the Vine and surrounding green areas in Sevenoaks. The Council had a duty to do all that was reasonable to prevent crime and disorder in its area and work towards delivering the objectives of the Sevenoaks District Community Safety Plan. The Community Safety Unit worked alongside Sevenoaks Town Council and it had been agreed by them as the area was owned by them.

Over many years there had been reoccurring Anti-Social behaviour and criminal damage at the Vine however this year has seen an increase in this behaviour.

The restrictions proposed for the PSPO were to include:

- Failing to comply with a direction not to consume, in breach of this order, alcohol, or anything which an authorised person reasonably believes to be alcohol where the authorised person reasonably believes that a person has engaged in anti- social behaviour.
- Failing to surrender a container of alcohol (whether open or not) when asked to do so by an authorised person.
- Engaging in anti-social behaviour which is likely to cause harassment alarm and distress to those persons in the locality.
- Not to return within 24 hours.

Members discussed the report. In response to concerns raised, the Officers advised that young people would be consulted via the schools, and looking at dates it would be possible for the result of the consultation to come to the November meeting of the Advisory Committee. Members were also advised that dispersal orders were only put in on an evidence base and would only cover weekends and may not be in place every weekend. A PSPO would involve signage and detail what could not be carried out at the Vine and surrounding areas, but people would only be asked to move on, if they were causing Anti-Social behaviour.

If the consultation was agreed to take place, Members were encouraged to complete the public consultation where they would be able to detail their thoughts in regards to the PSPO.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: That

- a) the contents of the report and the process for implementing a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO), be noted; and
- b) the recommendation to Cabinet to authorise a 6 week consultation with members of the public and partners on implementing a PSPO at The Vine and surrounding grass areas, be supported.