

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Leader's Portfolio Holder Meeting 12 November 2009
AUTHOR/S: Chief Executive / Community Safety Officer

BAR HILL DESIGNATED PUBLIC PLACE ORDER

Purpose

1. To propose that the Designated Public Places Order (DPPO) introduced to reduce alcohol-related anti-social behaviour in Bar Hill is continued and a further review set for November 2010.

Background

2. DPPOs are orders made by local authorities using powers given to them under Section 13 of the Criminal and Justice Act 2001 to address alcohol related anti-social behaviour.
3. The DPPO in Bar Hill was introduced on 21 April 2006. Home Office guidelines advise that DPPOs are regularly reviewed.
4. To help inform the Portfolio Holder in the decision making process, a consultation meeting was held on Thursday 29 October 2009, with local Parish, District and County Council representatives to identify their views. Appendix A was circulated prior to that meeting and summarises available Police data.

Considerations

5. At the consultation meeting, Police advised that enforcement activity relating to the DPPO has not been required on many occasions. A log was initially created to record activity, but after only two seizures of alcohol in the early months of the order being introduced, there was so little activity relating to the DPPO that it was closed down. However, local officers advise that there have not been any seizures or warnings given in the last 18 months.
6. Parish Council representatives commented that residents are well aware of the order, and that in their opinion it has helped to reduce problems of alcohol related anti-social behaviour. In summary, Parish Council representatives were strongly in favour of continuing the DPPO.

Options

7. (a) **Option A Continue the DPPO:** to continue the DPPO, Home Office guidance advises that data and evidence of "alcohol related nuisance or annoyance to the public" would be required to justify the continuation. However there is nothing in legislation to say this should be done but it is recognised as good practice.

Data provided by the police (see Appendix A) does not highlight a particularly high level of incidents or enforcement activity in the DPPO area, however Parish Council

representatives commented that awareness of the order amongst residents has contributed to this.

(b) **Option B: Revoke the DPPO:** If the DPPO was revoked then Home Office guidelines recommend consulting with local police and parishes, premises licence holders, and where appropriate owners and occupiers of the land as well as local residents. If it is decided to revoke the DPPO, then this should be published in the local newspaper, giving at least 28 days notice.

Since the DPPO was introduced in Bar Hill, additional legislation has been introduced under the Violent Crime Reduction Act (2006), which provides the Police with powers to issue a direction for an individual to leave a locality for up to 48 hours, which produces an alternative to using DPPO powers.

Implications

8.	Financial	None
	Legal	None – though it is advised that if it is agreed to continue the DPPO that the District Council re-signs the appropriate documents to reflect the review has taken place and the DPPO continues
	Staffing	None
	Risk Management	None
	Equal Opportunities	None

Consultations

9. A meeting took place on Thursday 29 October 2009 to gather the views of local representatives including Police, Parish, District and County Council. A briefing document was circulated prior to this meeting (see Appendix A)
10. No other recent public consultation has taken place as this would only be required if a decision was taken to revoke the DPPO. However, the Police distributed two feedback surveys in 2006; one had 58 responses (from 250 sent out), the other 16 responses. Most respondents in the second survey indicated a visible reduction in the level of (i) anti-social behaviour and (ii) street drinking in Bar Hill, whilst 68% said they had seen no increase in Police presence. A public feedback survey was run in June 2007; 12 forms were returned, all but one indicating that they would like the DPPO to continue indefinitely

Effect on Strategic Aims

11	Commitment to being a listening council, providing first class services accessible to all.
	The review has included consultation with the Parish Council and if revoked further and wider consultation would be required.
	Commitment to ensuring that South Cambridgeshire continues to be a safe and healthy place for all.
	The DPPO is a tool available to the District Council, acting as part of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP). One of the current objectives of the CDRP is to reduce anti-social behaviour.
	Commitment to making South Cambridgeshire a place in which residents can feel proud to live.

Commitment to assisting provision for local jobs for all.
Commitment to providing a voice for rural life.

Conclusions/Summary

12. Whilst Police data indicates that there may no longer be a statistical case to extend the DPPO, it is important to recognise that local opinion is that by keeping the DPPO in place, it will help to ensure that anti-social drinking does not return to Bar Hill, even if only by clear signage, rather than extensive police patrols and enforcement.
13. Revoking the DPPO would require wide public consultation, and by doing may so result in those wishing to engage in alcohol related anti-social behaviour assuming that it is now appropriate to do so in Bar Hill.

Recommendations

- 14 Taking into account the views of the Parish Council, it is recommended that Option A is taken to continue the DPPO, with a further review set for November 2010.

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