

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Policy and Performance Portfolio Holder's Meeting 13 October 2011
AUTHOR/S: Chief Executive / Corporate Manager, Community & Customer Services

PROPOSED REVOCATION OF DESIGNATED PUBLIC PLACE ORDER IN BAR HILL

Purpose

1. To update the Portfolio Holder on the Bar Hill DPPO Task and Finish Group's review of the Designated Public Places Order (DPPO) introduced in Bar Hill in 2006 to reduce alcohol-related anti-social behaviour.
2. This is not a key decision, however authority to set up or remove a DPPO falls within the remit of the Portfolio Holder responsible for Community Safety to make the decision.

Recommendation

3. The Portfolio Holder is recommended to note the report.

Background

4. A DPPO can be made by local authorities to address alcohol related anti-social behaviour. These powers do not make it a criminal offence to consume alcohol within a designated area, but an offence is committed if the individual refuses to comply with a police constable's request to refrain from drinking.
5. The Bar Hill DPPO was introduced in April 2006 in response to large groups gathering on the open spaces and consuming alcohol. Problems of this scale have not occurred for a number of years in Bar Hill, and DPPO guidelines recommend reviewing regularly to ensure that a need remains for use of the power.
6. In November 2009, it was agreed to continue the DPPO, collect more detailed information for 12 months, and then review the order again.
7. At the Leader's Portfolio Holder's meeting on 11 November 2010, responding to concerns of local members and the Parish Council, it was subsequently agreed to continue with the Designated Public Place Order (DPPO) and establish a Task and Finish Group to directly address alcohol related problems in Bar Hill.
8. The group includes representatives from the Parish Council, Police, and the local District and County members and has met three times to discuss the issues and agree an action plan, which recommends that the DPPO is removed, and also sets out a multi-agency trigger plan to swiftly address problems that might emerge once the DPPO is revoked.
9. The Task and Finish Group's Action Plan will be presented to the Parish Council on Thursday 20 October, seeking agreement to the plan and support for the revocation of the DPPO at its following meeting on 17 November 2011.
10. Following that decision, a report recommending the revocation of the DPPO will be presented to the Portfolio Holder at his meeting on Thursday, 26 January 2012.

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