

Why has West Berkshire Council chosen to consult on restrictions on street drinking and anti-social behaviour?

The council and partner agencies have gathered evidence that highlights the impact these behaviours are having on individuals and businesses. Restrictions can only be included in the PSPO if there is evidence to show that the behaviours are causing an issue.

The Test

Under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act, 2014 a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) can be made by West Berkshire Council if it is satisfied on reasonable grounds that two conditions are met.

First condition

- activities carried out in a public place in the local authority's area have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, or*
- it is likely that the activities will be carried out in a public place within the area and that they will have such an effect.*

Second condition

The effect or likely effect of the activities:

- is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature,*
- is, or likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable, and*
- justifies the restriction imposed.*

Dispersal Power

Section 35 dispersal power has been used regularly by police in Newbury town centre to deal with individuals engaging in anti-social behaviour or crime and disorder. This is a temporary power and Police have applied for and been granted the dispersal authority on 21 occasions in the town centre since 2018 and have had to issue the Section 35 Notices in 52 instances. The Notice requires that a person leaves an area for a specified time. This is a significant number and one of the highest for a police area within Thames Valley.

Since 01/01/2018	Section 34 authority	Section 35 Notice issued
Newbury Town Centre	21	52

Reports of ASB

Between April 2018 and June 2019 police received 222 reports of anti-social behaviour in Newbury town centre.

13 reports concerned people gaining access to the roof tops of various buildings within the town centre.

14 people have been excluded from an area within the town centre due to anti-social behaviour which included threats, abuse and disruption.

Community Protection Warning/Notices

Three Community Protection Warnings (CPWs) have been issued by the police relating to anti-social behaviour in the town centre. All three were breached and Community Protection Notices (CPNs) have been issued.