

# additional papers 1



## Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thu 30 Nov  
2023  
6.30 pm

Council Chamber  
Town Hall  
Redditch

**REDDITCH** BOROUGH COUNCIL

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**If you have any queries on this Agenda please contact  
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# Overview and Scrutiny

Thursday, 30th November,  
2023

6.30 pm

Council Chamber Town Hall

## Agenda

### Membership:

Cllrs:

Sid Khan (Chair)  
Sharon Harvey  
(Vice-Chair)  
Imran Altaf  
Karen Ashley  
Chris Holz

Joanna Kane  
Emma Marshall  
Jane Spilsbury  
Monica Stringfellow

## 5. Pre-Decision Scrutiny - Proposal for a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in Redditch Town Centre (Pages 5 - 90)

## 10. External Scrutiny Bodies - Update Reports (Pages 91 - 98)

- a) West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Council representative, Councillor Marshall;
- b) West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Transport Delivery Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Council representative, Councillor Marshall; and,
- c) Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) – Council representative, Councillor Marshall.

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REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**EXECUTIVE  
2023****5<sup>th</sup> December****PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER IN REDDITCH TOWN CENTRE**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Lucy Harrison
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Judith Willis, Head of Community & Housing Services
Report Author	Job Title: Bev Houghton, Community Safety Manager Contact email: <a href="mailto:bev.houghton@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk">bev.houghton@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk</a> Contact Tel: 01527 64252 ext. 3194
Wards Affected	Abbey Ward Batchley and Brockhill Central Lodge Park
Ward Councillors consulted	Yes
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)	Communities which are safe, well maintained and green
Key Decision / <del>Non-Key Decision</del>	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS****The Executive Committee RESOLVE that:-****A Public Space Protection Order to restrict Antisocial Behaviour related to Alcohol and Misuse of Psychoactive Substances, as outlined in Appendix 1, is implemented.****2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Following increases in reported crime and ASB in Redditch town centre last year and complaints from local businesses and residents about the behaviour of a small number of individuals in public spaces, the Safer Redditch community safety group established a town centre operational group. This operational group was made up of local partners such as the West Mercia Police Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT), the Business Improvement District (BID) Manager, Heart of Worcestershire (HOW) College, Kingfisher Centre and Redditch Borough Council (RBC) services such as Community Safety, CCTV, Environmental Services and Planning.
- 2.2 The operational group implemented a number of actions to address the issues in the town centre including increased police patrols,

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landscaping & cleansing and targeted enforcement against individuals and landlords. To compliment this on-going action to improve the town centre, the local SNT requested that the Council consider implementing a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to provide additional powers to tackle ASB in the area.

- 2.3 A PSPO would allow the Police and other officers with appropriate authorisation to intervene early and take action quickly against people causing trouble and behaving badly in public areas of the town centre. Following consultation with the District Inspector, the SNT, community safety partners and local stakeholders, the key issues to be addressed by a Town Centre PSPO were identified as:-

- Alcohol-related ASB in open spaces
- Possession and use of Psychoactive Substances e.g. Nitrous Oxide
- Public Urination, Defecation and other Offensive, Indecent or Threatening Behaviour
- Abusive, Obscene and Threatening Language

An area of restriction was proposed which incorporated the locations where the main ASB and nuisance issues were taking place. This is predominately within Abbey Ward, however the proposed PSPO area briefly crosses into Lodge Park Ward at Other Road, then enters Central Ward at Ipsley Street leading to Station Way, across the lower part of Plymouth Road leading into Bromsgrove Road and then across to Edward Street; and then finally into Batchley and Brockhill Ward at Elm Road and a short section of Hewell Road.

- 2.4 Under Sections 59-75 of the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014 local councils are responsible for making PSPOs, provided certain conditions are met and a series of statutory processes are followed. The Order can last for a maximum period of three years and must relate to a specified location within the Authority's area of operation. A full copy of the proposed PSPO, restricted area and a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) are attached at **Appendix 1**
- 2.5 This report details the processes followed to date in respect of the proposal to implement a PSPO in Redditch Town Centre.

**3. OPERATIONAL ISSUES**

- 3.1 The Community Safety Manager provides co-ordination, support and management of the corporate delivery of the Council's statutory duties and responsibilities under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended). On receipt of the request for a PSPO from West Mercia

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Police and other local partners, briefings were provided outlining the requirements and considerations for implementing any order. A partnership briefing paper is attached at **Appendix 2**. Following discussions with partners and local stakeholders via the Town Centre Operational Group, it was agreed that an application for a PSPO was appropriate and the formal process was initiated.

- 3.2 Data and evidence of need – In order to make a PSPO, Members have to be satisfied that certain legal conditions have been met. These conditions are that the activities carried out in a public place in the Authority's area:-
- a) have or are likely to have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality
  - b) are or are likely to be of a persistent and continuing nature
  - c) are or likely to be unreasonable and
  - d) justify the restrictions imposed.
- 3.3 A data report into ASB incidents and public order offences in the town centre over a three year period was commissioned in order to establish whether the above conditions had been met. The report was produced by West Mercia Police's Partnership Analyst Team and is attached at **Appendix 3**.
- 3.4 Within the report 12 months of combined public order crime and ASB data was analysed and a clear area of concern was identified around the town centre, a hot spot map was produced which aligned almost exactly with the proposed PSPO area.
- 3.5 In summary, the crime and ASB data report provides evidence that the area of the town centre identified for the proposed PSPO is an area of significant concern for public order crime and ASB. The types of offences and incidents taking place in the proposed restricted area would be addressed by the conditions of the PSPO. The proposed order would provide police officers and other authorised officers with additional tools and powers to intervene early and remove perpetrators of ASB before situations escalate.
- 3.6 Statutory Consultation – In 2018 delegated authority was given to the Head of Community and Housing Services to initiate a consultation process to accompany any proposal for a PSPO put to Council for a decision. A delegated officer decision was taken on 14<sup>th</sup> July and a PSPO consultation process was developed.

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- 3.7 PSPO statutory guidance is not prescriptive in what constitutes appropriate consultation; however it is specified that the local authority must consult with the following:
- Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)
  - Chief Officer of Police for the area
  - Any community representatives the Council feels appropriate
  - Owner or occupier of land within the restricted area, such as local businesses
- 3.8 Consultation surveys were sent to all of the above and a list of consultees is included at **Appendix 4**, alongside a full report of the consultation findings. In summary, there were a total of 124 responses to the online and paper survey. 108 were in support of the PSPO and 15 were against. There were also two statutory responses from the Office of West Mercia PCC and a Chief Officer of West Mercia Police.

**4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Costs associated with the implementation of the PSPO will be met from existing Community Safety budgets. Costs are largely associated with advertising and promoting the PSPO, for example statutory publication of any Order made and appropriate signage around the perimeter and within the restricted area. An example of a proposed PSPO sign is attached at **Appendix 5**.

**5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014 sections 59-75 allows the Borough Council to issue a PSPO as long as certain conditions are met and statutory processes have been followed.
- 5.2 The Crime & Disorder Act 1998 and subsequent amendments places a duty on the Borough Council to work in partnership with other agencies to reduce crime, disorder, ASB and fear of crime. It also places a duty on the Council to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of those functions on crime, disorder, ASB and re-offending and do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime, disorder ASB and re-offending in its area.
- 5.3 Use of the power to implement a PSPO must be compliant with the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Equality Act 2010 (specifically, the Public Sector Equality Duty pursuant to section 149) along with all other relevant legislation.



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**6. OTHER - IMPLICATIONS****Communities which are safe, well maintained and green**

- 6.1 PSPOs are intended to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a specific public area that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life. The Order can impose restrictions, requirements or conditions on the use of that area which apply to everyone. The aim of a PSPO is to help ensure that the law-abiding majority can use and enjoy public spaces, safe from antisocial behaviour, nuisance and harassment.

**Climate Change Implications**

- 6.2 Not applicable

**Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 6.3 An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken in relation to the proposed PSPO and it does not identify any groups covered by the Equalities Act that would be adversely affected by the introduction of the PSPO. However, it was identified that some of those who might be affected by the restrictions may also have mental health concerns that impact on their behaviour such as those street drinking or those who are homeless.
- 6.4 The wording of the PSPO restrictions and actions taken on breach aim to balance the needs of the individual, principally substance misuse and/or mental health concerns, with the need to tackle antisocial behaviour, respond effectively to complaints from the public and take action against illegal activities.
- 6.5 The PSPO has the potential to have a positive impact on advancing equality of opportunity between different groups by improving the safety of public spaces for people with protected characteristics who can often be directly targeted by perpetrators of ASB and crime and may avoid public spaces for this reason. A copy of the Equality Impact Assessment is available on request.

**7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 7.1 If the statutory process to introduce a PSPO is not followed correctly this could lead to challenge, which would mean the Council could face legal costs and reputational damage. Officers have followed the process as laid out in the ASB, Crime & Policing Act 2014 Statutory

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Guidance for Frontline Professionals (last revised March 2023) to ensure that all requirements for implementation have been met.

- 7.2 There is a risk that expectations will be raised by the Order, which agencies may not be able to meet. Discussions have been held and will be ongoing with the Police SNT who will be the primary agency for enforcement of the Order. The impact and effectiveness of the PSPO will be monitored via the Town Centre Operational Group and Safer Redditch, where any issues or adjustments will be discussed as part of a multi-agency problem solving approach.
- 7.3 There is a risk that the Order could displace ASB perpetrators to more residential locations outside of the proposed restricted area. This issue has been considered by the operational group and discussions have been held with support agencies and local charities to identify alternative, more appropriate spaces that people affected by the order can be directed toward. The proposed restricted area follows the footprint of previous Designated Public Places Orders (DPPO) and PSPOs and historically there have been no reported increases of ASB in residential areas as a result of an Order being in place.

**8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Appendix 1 – Wording of proposed PSPO, map of restricted area and list of FAQs.

Appendix 2 – Partnership Briefing Paper on PSPOs

Appendix 3 – Data Report on ASB & Public Order Offences in Redditch Town Centre

Appendix 4 – PSPO Consultation Results

Appendix 5 – Example copy of a PSPO Sign

**Background Papers**

ASB Provisions Report to Executive Committee – 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Statutory Guidance for ASB, Crime & Policing Act 2014 (revised March 2023)

Delegated Officer Decision – 14<sup>th</sup> July 2023

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## **Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014**

### **REDDITCH TOWN CENTRE PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER 2023**

Redditch Borough Council ("the Council") in exercise of the power under section 59 of the Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 ("the Act"), being satisfied that the conditions set out in section 59 of the Act have been met make the following order. In that:

- *under s59(2a) the activities carried on in this public place within the authority's area have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, and*
- *under s59(3a) the effect of these activities is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature, and as such*
- *under s59 (3c) justifies the restrictions imposed by the notice.*

The land ("the restricted area") described by the map below, being land in the area of responsibility of the Council, is land to which the Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 applies and will be protected by the making of this Order.

The Order may be cited as the Redditch Town Centre Public Space Protection Order and shall come into force on [DATE] for a duration of 3 years.

The effect of the Order is to impose the following conditions on the use of the land and any person, within the restricted area, who continues to carry out activities from which they are prohibited commits an offence namely:

#### **1. Alcohol Restriction**

Within the restricted area, an Authorised Officer reasonably suspecting that a person is or has been drinking alcohol in the open air and is causing or is likely to cause a nuisance or disorder, can request that the person stop drinking; and/or surrender any container of alcohol in their possession or any container believed to have held alcohol, whether or not it has been opened and even if it is empty.

#### **2. Intoxicating Substances**

- (a) Persons within the restricted area will not ingest, inhale, inject, smoke or otherwise use intoxicating substances. Intoxicating substances being defined as any psychoactive substances with the capacity to stimulate or depress the

central nervous system as defined by the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016, but does not include tobacco, nicotine, e-cigarettes or prescription medication.

- (b) Persons within this restricted area will not have in their possessions any open containers of intoxicating substances as defined in paragraph 2(a) nor will they have any item that can be used to assist in the taking of intoxicating substances. This includes any device used for taking, smoking, inhaling or ingesting these substances; including needles unless packaged and sealed by the manufacturer and stored in a hard case.
- 3. No person shall urinate or defecate in any public place; this does not include public toilets situated within the restricted area.
- 4. No person shall use any threatening, abusive, obscene or offensive language or behave in a disorderly, indecent or offensive manner likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress within the restricted area.

Penalties:

- 5. A person commits an offence by failing to comply with any prohibition or requirement in a Public Spaces Protection Order. For the purposes of the Order an Authorised Officer is a Police Officer, a Police Community Support Officer or an Officer authorised by Redditch Borough Council to enforce the penalties of the Order.

Any person who fails to comply with the instruction of an Authorised Officer to undertake or cease an activity within the restricted area, including to leave the area and not return for a set period, also commits an offence, namely:

- a) Any person within the area who, without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with the request of an Authorised Officer to dispose of alcohol and/or surrender any containers of alcohol that are in their possession including any containers believed to have held alcohol.
  - b) Any persons within the area who, without reasonable excuse, fails to surrender any open containers of intoxicating substances in their possession and/or fails to surrender any item used to assist in the taking of intoxicating substances and fails to comply immediately with the reasonable request of the Authorised Officer to secure safe disposal of any needles in their possession, not sealed and stored as directed in Paragraph 2(b)
  - c) Any person failing to comply with the prohibitions stated at Paragraph 3 and Paragraph 4.
- 6. A person guilty of an offence under conditions (a) (b) or (c) above, under section 67 of the Act is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale or fixed penalty notice of a maximum £100.
  - 7. An Authorised Officer may also issue a Community Protection Warning to anyone believed to have committed an offence under section 63 in relation to this Order. Subsequent offences will result in a further Community Protection Notice leading to a summary conviction on breach.

8. Under section 50 Police and Reform Act 2002, if a Constable in Uniform has reason to believe that a person has engaged, or is engaging, in antisocial behaviour, they can compel that person to provide their name and address. Failure to do so, or providing a false or inaccurate name or address, is an offence and that person shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding level 3.

Exemptions:

9. For the purposes of paragraph 1, the restricted area does not include any premises or its curtilage (i.e. a beer garden or pavement seating area) that is licensed for the supply of alcohol (other than council operated licenced premises). Also exempt are locations where a temporary event notice has been given under Part 5 of the Licensing Act 2003, or where the sale or consumption of alcohol is permitted by virtue of permission granted under section 115E of the Highways Act 1980.
10. For the purposes of paragraph 2 (a) (b), legitimate substances such as tobacco, nicotine, caffeine and medical products are removed from the scope of the Order, as are controlled drugs, which are regulated under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

Appeals:

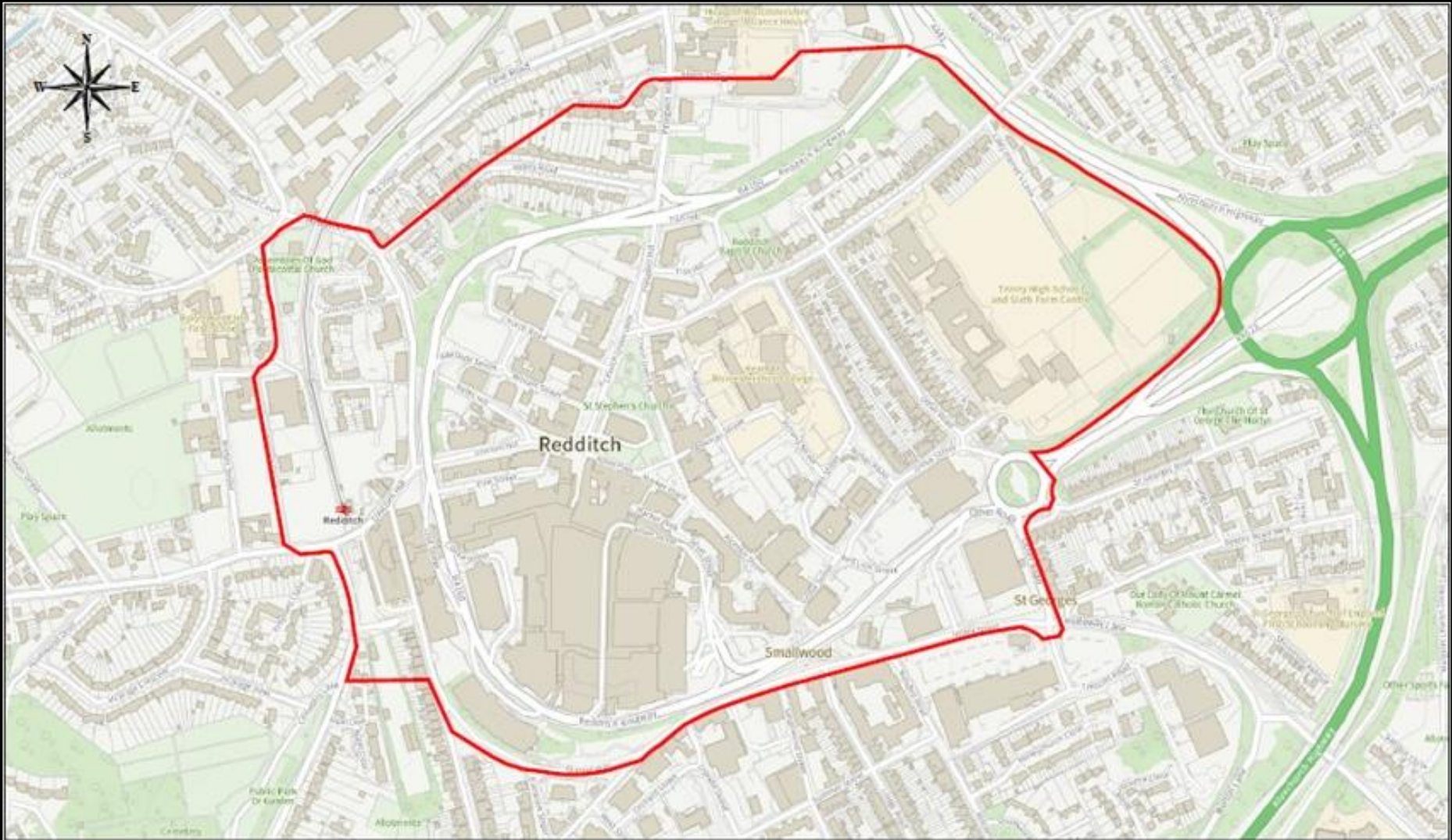
11. Under section 66 of the Act, an Interested Person may apply to the High Court to question the validity of a Public Space Protection Order. An "Interested person" means an individual who lives in the restricted area or who regularly works in or visits that area.

An application can be made on the following grounds:

- a) the local authority did not have the power to make the order or to include particular prohibitions or requirements imposed by the order, or;
- b) that the local authority did not comply with its duties under the Act in relation to the order (for example, failing to conduct consultation).

An application under this section must be made within the period of 6 weeks beginning with the date on which the order is made.





Project  
**Public Space Protection Area**

Drawing:  
**Location Plan**

Drawing No:  
**P2030/338**

Drawn: JH  
Surveyed: OS  
Scale: 1/6,000 @ A4  
Date: Jul 2023

**Engineering and Design Service**  
Town Hall  
Walter Stranz Square  
Redditch  
Worce B98 8AH  
  
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## **Proposal to Introduce a Public Space Protection Order in Redditch Town Centre**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **What are Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs)?**

These are areas where if antisocial behaviour has been causing nuisance and disorder Redditch Borough Council can protect the public space. In these areas police officers, police community support officers and officers with authorisation from Redditch Borough Council will be given certain powers to help tackle such behaviour.

In this case, officers can request people to stop drinking alcohol in the restricted area and ask them to surrender their drink and all containers. Anyone using intoxicating psychoactive substances can have their items confiscated and anyone behaving in a threatening, abusive or offensive manner can be asked to leave the area for a set period of time. Breach of a PSPO is a criminal offence and if a person refuses to comply, they can be issued a fixed penalty notice of up to £100 or they could be arrested. On conviction, the fine for breach of a PSPO is up to maximum of £1000.

#### **Can I be stopped or arrested for drinking or carrying alcohol in this public space?**

No, a PSPO does not make it illegal to carry or to drink alcohol in a public place. As long as someone is drinking responsibly and is not affecting other users of the space this is acceptable. For example, public spaces are sometimes used for events, fayres and markets where alcohol could be sold and consumed in the area. This activity is not affected by the PSPO unless a person causes antisocial behaviour, nuisance or disorder. Under these circumstances authorised officers will have the power to stop people drinking alcohol within the designated area and seize or dispose of their drink. Failing to comply with an officer's request to stop drinking and/or hand over alcohol is the criminal offence and the person could face a range of penalties.

#### **Do the Police already have these powers?**

The Police have powers to deal with serious disorder and public order offences and drug offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. However, some ASB does not fit within these powers and a PSPO gives authorised officers additional tools to act early in certain situations before ASB escalates and becomes more serious disorder. Where there is no PSPO in operation, it is not an offence to refuse to surrender alcohol, to carry psychoactive substances and items used to take these substances or to refuse an instruction to leave an area for a set period of time. However, any antisocial behaviour or disorder in certain circumstances could give cause for an arrest to be made by a Police Officer.

#### **Will there be signs in Redditch Town Centre alerting people to the new PSPO?**

Yes, Protected Public Space signs will be located in multiple places around and within the boundary to show that a PSPO is in place.

**Will people still be able to drink or hold alcohol outside of pubs and clubs?**

Yes. The PSPO does not make it illegal to drink alcohol within the boundary of a licensed premise. It only relates to a public space so if a person is drinking outside of the boundary of the licensed premise and begins to commit ASB, and they do not comply with the requests of the authorised officer, then they could be at risk of enforcement action.

**Are licensed premises affected?**

No. A PSPO only relates to alcohol consumption in a public area or space if ASB, nuisance and disorder is present. The ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014 clearly states that licensed premises are exempt from the restrictions of a PSPO

**What about street parties and events in the public space?**

Events within a public space authorised by a premises license or a Temporary Event Notice (TEN) are able to take place within a PSPO area. However, anyone committing ASB, disorder or nuisance in the area or breaching any of the other restrictions placed by the Order could be at risk of enforcement action.

**Is it already illegal to use drugs in public places?**

There are some new drugs and substances that are not covered by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. These are known as intoxicating or psychoactive substances with the capacity to stimulate or depress the central nervous system and are defined by the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016. At this time it is illegal to sell these substances but not to possess them. The Government is planning legislation to close this gap but, in the meantime, the PSPO will make it an offence to possess any containers of these substances in the restricted area or to have any item that could be used for taking, smoking, inhaling or ingesting these substances.

**Will there be any extra policing put in place to enforce the PSPO?**

No. The Police will continue to patrol and respond to incidents as part of their community response, supported by officers authorised by the council where available.

**Are there any time restrictions on a PSPO?**

No. The PSPO will be in force 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The PSPO will last for three years and can be extended following a review and a further consultation period. The PSPO can also be reviewed within the three year period if any of the restrictions need adjusting or new restrictions need to be added. Again, this would require a further consultation period of the changes or additions.

**What are the benefits of a PSPO?**

The main benefits of this proposed PSPO are to help tackle antisocial behaviour associated with street drinking, misuse of psychoactive substances and offensive, threatening behaviour that negatively affects other people using public spaces. PSPO can contain many different restrictions or requirements and they aim to ensure that the law-abiding majority can continue to use and enjoy public spaces, safe from antisocial behaviour, nuisance and disorder.

**Other Information**

If you or someone you know has an alcohol or drug related problem, there is help available at:

Cranstoun Drug & Alcohol Service  
15 Alcester Street  
Redditch  
Worcestershire  
B98 8AE

<https://cranstoun.org/help-and-advice/alcohol-other-drugs/worcestershire/>

Opening times:

9:30am to 5pm Monday to Friday excluding Bank Holidays

Call 0300 303 8200 to make an appointment at the Redditch Hub

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North Worcestershire  
**Community Safety Partnership**

# PSPO – Public Space Protection Orders

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Community Safety Manager  
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# Purpose of a PSPO



- Designed to stop people committing anti-social behaviour in a public space.
- Addresses behaviour having or likely to have a detrimental effect on quality of life
- Behaviour must be persistent or continuing in nature and;
- Unreasonable



# Who can make a PSPO

- Borough/District Councils in consultation with Police, PCC and other relevant bodies
- Restrictions are set by Council and enforced by a Police Officer, a PCSO or an officer authorised by the Council.
- Breach of a PSPO is a criminal offence, a fine of up to £100 can be issued and a fine up to level 3 (£1,000) can be imposed on prosecution.



# What can be tackled

- PSPO legislation replaced Designated Public Place Orders (DPPO), Gating Orders and Dog Control Orders
- A single order can include multiple restrictions and requirements within a specified area
- It can prohibit or restrict certain activities or place requirements on individuals carrying out certain activities (e.g. dogs must be kept on leads in a designated area)



# Where can a PSPO be used



- On any public space within the council's area of operation. The definition of public space is wide and can include any place to which the public or section of the public have access
- The council must consult with partners, stakeholders and community representatives, particularly any specific groups likely to have a particular interest such as residents' associations, regular users of a park or those involved in specific activities in the area e.g. buskers and other street entertainers.



# What to consider

- **Vulnerability** - Any use of these powers must be compliant with the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Equality Act 2010 (specifically, the Public Sector Equality Duty pursuant to section 149) along with all other relevant legislation. Consideration should be given to the needs and circumstances of the most vulnerable when applying any powers to ensure that they are not disproportionately and unreasonably impacted upon. Local agencies must be satisfied that the behaviour meets the legal tests
- **Risk Assessment** - Agencies should assess the risk of harm to the victims, and their potential vulnerability, when they receive a complaint about anti-social behaviour. This should be the starting point of a case-management approach to dealing with anti-social behaviour complaints. The welfare, safety and well-being of victims must be the main consideration at every stage of the process



# What to consider

- **Proportionality** – as PSPOs restrict what people can do or how they behave, the order must focus on specific behaviours and must be proportionate to the detrimental effect being caused; and must be necessary to prevent the behaviour continuing/recurring
- **Reasonableness** – The restrictions being introduced should be reasonable and designed only to prevent or reduce the detrimental effect of the behaviour taking place
- **Openness and accountability** – The council must consult on the draft order in accordance with Secretary of State regulations and ensure that the consultation is on the website as a minimum

# What to consider



- **Controlling the presence of dogs** – When making requirements or restrictions on dogs and their owners, local councils should consider whether there are suitable alternative public areas where dogs can be exercised without restrictions. Councils should also consider if the proposed restrictions will displace dog walkers onto other sensitive land, such as farmland or nature conversation areas
- Consideration must also be given to how any dog walking restrictions would affect those who rely on assistance dogs, ensuring that any prohibition or requirement is compliant with the provisions of Equality Act 2010 or consider what exemptions should apply for assistance dogs

# What to consider



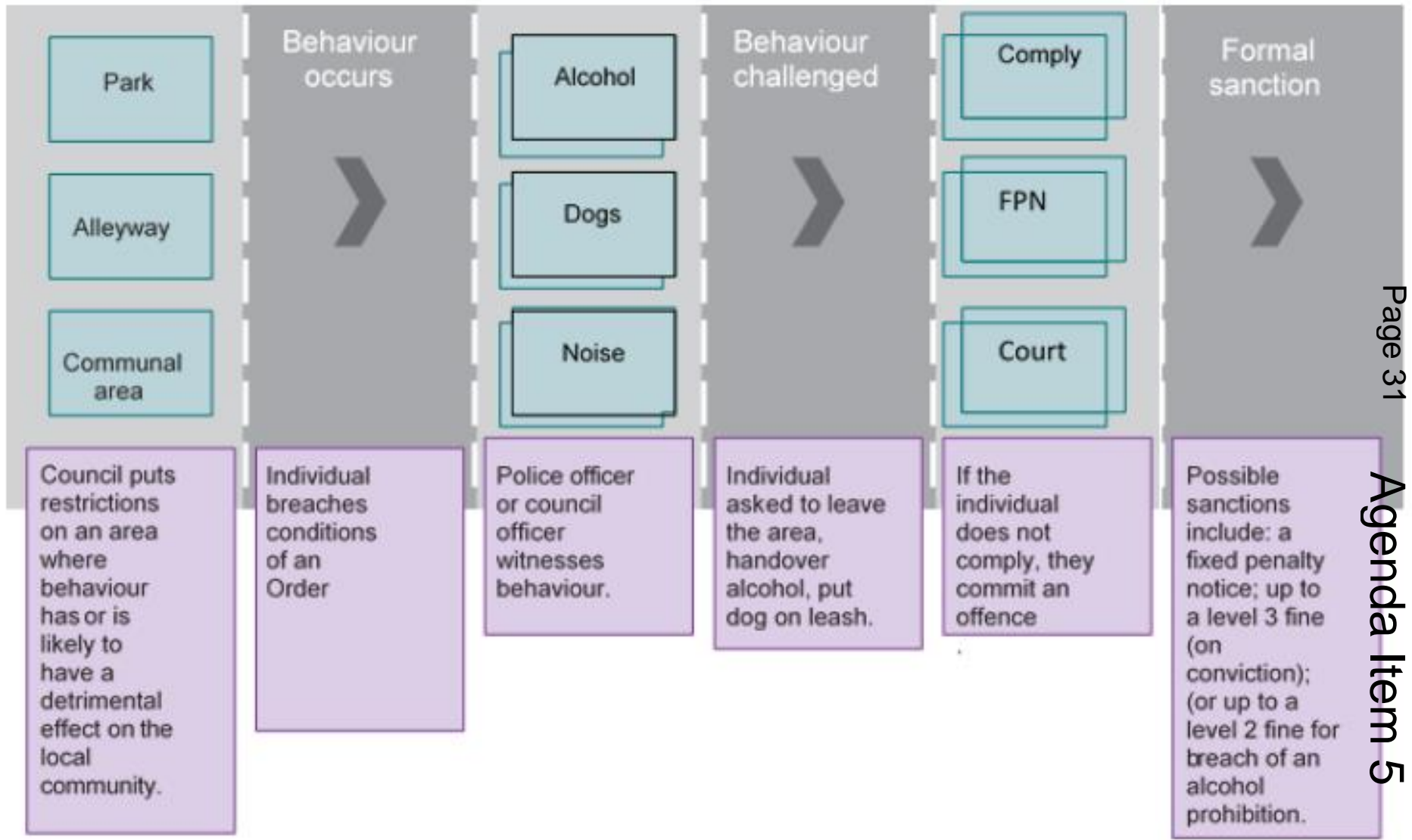
- **Homelessness and rough sleeping** – PSPOs should not be used to target people solely on the fact they are homeless/sleeping rough. Orders should only be used to address the specific behaviour that is causing a detrimental effect on the community in the area's quality of life
- **Group hanging around/standing in groups/playing games** - Councils should not inadvertently restrict everyday sociability in public spaces. A PSPO should target specifically the problem behaviour that is having a detrimental effect on the community's quality of life, rather than everyday sociability, such as standing in groups which is not in itself a problem behaviour

# What to consider



- **Young People** - Councils should think carefully about restricting activities that young people are most likely to engage in. Restrictions that are too broad or general in nature may force the young people into out-of-the-way spaces and put them at risk. In such circumstances, councils should consider whether there are alternative spaces that they can use.
- **Early and informal interventions** - Early intervention, especially through informal approaches, may often be all that is necessary to stop incidents of anti-social behaviour. Such interventions can establish clear standards of behaviour and reinforce the message that anti-social behaviour is not tolerated. It is recommended that the use of informal methods be considered first in most cases, and particularly when dealing with young people as a means of preventing poor behaviour from escalating

# Process



# Summary



Purpose	Designed to stop individuals or groups committing anti-social behaviour in a public space.
Who can make a PSPO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Councils issue a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) after consultation with the police, Police and Crime Commissioner, the owner or occupier of land in the restricted area and other community representatives they see fit.</li> </ul>
Test	<p>Behaviour being restricted has to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>be having, or be likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality;</li> <li>be persistent or continuing nature; and</li> <li>be unreasonable.</li> </ul>
Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restrictions and requirements set by the council.</li> <li>These can be blanket restrictions or requirements or can be targeted against certain behaviours by certain groups at certain times.</li> <li>Can restrict access to public spaces (including certain types of highway) where that route is being used to commit anti-social behaviour.</li> <li>Can be enforced by a police officer and council officers.</li> </ul>
Penalty on breach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Breach is a criminal offence.</li> <li>Enforcement officers can issue a fixed penalty notice of up to £100 if appropriate.</li> <li>A fine of up to level 3 on prosecution.</li> </ul>
Appeals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anyone who lives in, or regularly works in or visits the area can appeal a PSPO in the High Court within six weeks of issue.</li> <li>Further appeal is available each time the PSPO is varied by the council.</li> </ul>
The legislation	Sections 59 to 75 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.
Protecting the vulnerable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consideration should be given to how the use of this power might impact on the most vulnerable members of society.</li> <li>Consideration should also be given to any risks associated with displacement, including to where people may be dispersed to</li> <li>There is value in working in partnership to resolve ongoing problems and find long term solutions.</li> </ul>





North Worcestershire  
**Community Safety Partnership**

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# Antisocial Behaviour and Public Order in Redditch Borough

Providing a quality  
policing service,  
protecting  
people from harm.

GS Classification	OFFICIAL
Reference number	SPI_2023_331
Version	FINAL
Purpose	Evaluation of Antisocial Behaviour and Public Order offences within Redditch town centre as part of a PSPO application.
Author/s	Emma Amies, Partnership Analyst
Quality assurance	Julia Stiff, Senior Crime Intelligence Analyst
Owner	Sue Hanley, Chair of North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership
Publication date	7 September 2023

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# Aims and Purpose

## Aims:

To provide details around antisocial behaviour (ASB) and public order offences in Redditch town centre.

## Purpose:

To increase awareness and understanding of ASB and public order offences amongst partners and to be used in support of decision making and the proposed intervention of the application of a Public Space Protection Order.

## Data parameters:

### 1 May 2020 to 30 April 2023 for public order

Most recent quarter: Q4 2022/23

Previous quarter: Q3 2022/23

Samer quarter last year: Q4 2021/22

### 1 August 2020 to 31 July 2023 for ASB

Most recent quarter: Q1 2023/24

Previous quarter: Q4 2022/23

Samer quarter last year: Q1 2022/23

Full details at the back of this product.





# Summary

- In the data period, public order offences comprised 10.1% of total crime in Redditch. This was 1,903 offences of 18,888 offences across the Borough.
- Within the recording period of Jan - Mar 2023, 45% (n=77) of Public Order offences in Redditch related to causing intentional harassment, alarm and distress and 14% (n=24) of offences were fear or provocation of violence.
- Between Apr – Jun 2023 there were 336 reports of ASB in Redditch, this was a 29% decrease compared to the same period last year (n=470). This decrease can be attributed to changes in recording practice which saw some ASB incidents reclassified as Public Order Offences from Feb 22 onwards.
- Analysis of twelve months of combined Public Order and ASB data indicated a clear area of concern around the Town Centre, a hot spot map was produced which aligned almost exactly with the proposed PSPO area.
- More than half of the 189 public order offences in the area (54%, n=102) were recorded at various locations on these five streets; Evesham Walk, Unicorn Hill, Market Place, Alcester Street and Kingfisher Walk. Offences on these five streets were primarily recorded at various shops and licensed premises (n=61). There were also 34 on-street records, 6 offences at the library, and one at the bus station.
- The log text from every public order offence in the focus area (n=189) over the past twelve months was examined to identify if the offence was linked to a licensed premise. Offences are only included if the premise name is specifically mentioned and details the offence being inside or outside of the premise, it is therefore likely to be an underestimate of the actual picture. If the offence details alcohol-related offending but does not identify a specific licensed premise, the street name of the location is included. It shows that 24 offences took place outside licensed premises and on the surrounding streets. These offences included affray, racially or religiously aggravated harassment, alarm or distress and violent disorder.
- Differences were identified when comparing the Public Order offence types within the focus area compared to across the Borough as a whole. For example, 20% of public order offences were for a breach of a criminal behaviour order compared to this offence being just 7% public order offences across the Borough as a whole. This indicates that a number of prior offenders operate within the focus area and as offending in the Town Centre is often the subject of Criminal Behaviour Orders, this increased proportion of offences within the focus area is understandable.

# Key Findings

## Recording changes

- There have been a number of recording changes issued by the Home Office which are active as of May 2023. As these changes directly affect public order offences and ASB, it is worth keeping this in mind when reading this product.
- The requirement to notify the Home Office about Section 5 Public Order Act crimes involving harassment, alarm or distress will cease. The power to use this crime will still exist and the Home Office will monitor charge and caution rates to display that, where necessary, the crime is still being prosecuted.
- Where a victim has been identified and feels under immediate threat or danger, that will be recorded as an offence under S4 (Intentional, harassment, alarm or distress) or S4.a (Fear or Provocation of Violence).
- Where the offence is racially aggravated, there is a requirement to record.
- At the time of reporting, only one month of data was available since the recording change. Therefore, the extent of the impact of this change is not yet known, however, a decrease in public order offences is likely or probable, along with a rise in ASB reporting.
- Offence categories most likely to be affected are the section 5 offence, Harassment, alarm or distress (S5 POA), but there may also be changes seen to intentional harassment, alarm or distress.
- In addition to this, there was a change in the local recording practice for ASB in February 2022, which resulted in reports being more frequently converted to public order offences. The result from this was an increase in public order and a decrease in ASB. This period is outlined on three-year trend graphs in this product for clarity.

## Redditch Borough

- Public order is gradually decreasing following a sharp increase after the February 2022 change in recording practice.
- Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress comprised 45% (n=77) of public order offences for the most recent quarter, Q4 2022/23 (Jan-Mar 2023).
- ASB is decreasing, with reports being below the three-year average since November 2021. Part of this decrease is attributed to changes in recording practice which took place in February 2022, reclassifying some ASB as public order offences.
- The most recent quarter for ASB, Q1 2023/24 (Apr-June 2023) (n=336) shows a decrease of 29% (n=134) compared to the same quarter in the previous year.

## Focus area

### Location

- The focus area was identified from hotspot mapping of public order offences and ASB reports. This aligns with the proposed PSPO area.
- When zooming into this area, localised hotspots of activity are shown to be around Market Place and Unicorn Hill.
- More than half of the 189 public order offences in the area (54%, n=102) were recorded at various locations on these five streets; Evesham Walk, Unicorn Hill, Market Place, Alcester Street and Kingfisher Walk.
- When asked to describe the premise type, 30% (n=57) of the 189 public order offences in the focus area were described as taking place 'on the street' as in a public street or pathway location, rather than inside a house or premise.
- 23% of ASB reports were located on Unicorn Hill (n=53), at various locations including inside premises and on pathways.

# Key Findings (continued)

## Focus area (continued)

### Public order trends

- Reflecting the Borough-wide trend, public order showed a gradual decline following a sharp rise in offences since the change in recording practice in February 2022.
- The average volume of offences has doubled since the change in recording practice, rising from 8 offences per month to 16.
- Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress was the dominant offence type, although it comprised a smaller proportion of offences in the focus area, 35% (n=67) compared to 50% Borough-wide.
- 20% of public order offences in the focus area were breach of a criminal behaviour order compared to a 7% Borough-wide proportion.
- 42% of harm was contributed by 37 breach of criminal behaviour order offences.
- The highest harm offence type in the focus area during the 12-month period was violent disorder, of which there were 3 offences recorded.
- Key times were Friday evenings/Saturday mornings between 01:00 – 04:59 and Tuesday afternoons between 15:00 – 17:59.
- 76% (n=91) of suspects were male and 53% (n=57) of victims were male.
- Younger people aged between 20-29 years were more commonly victims or suspects.

### ASB trends

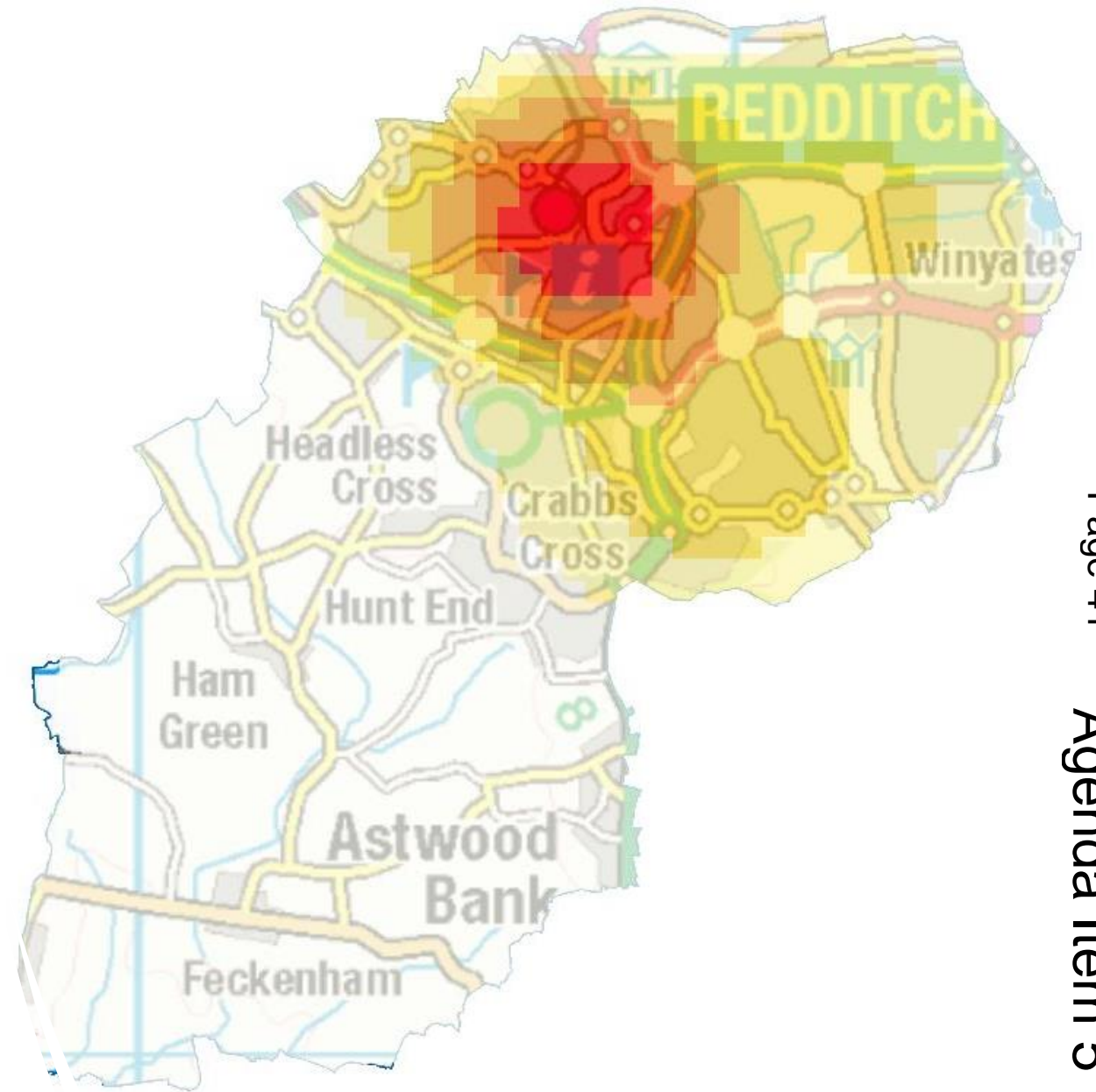
- ASB reporting across the Borough has decreased, which was reflected in the focus area, to a lesser extent.
- The three-year average was 26 reports per month, which reduces to 19 per month for the past 12 months.
- Periods of increased activity were Friday and Saturday nights, and Tuesday afternoons.
- Alcohol markers and licensing markers were most frequently applied.
- Fighting and problems associated with licensed premises comprised a significant proportion of reports.



# Borough Wide Trends

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- This section contains three-year trend analysis across Redditch Borough for public order offences and ASB reports.
  - Trends
  - Breakdown of offences
  - Combined public order and ASB
  - Borough-wide combined public order offences and ASB incidents hotspot map



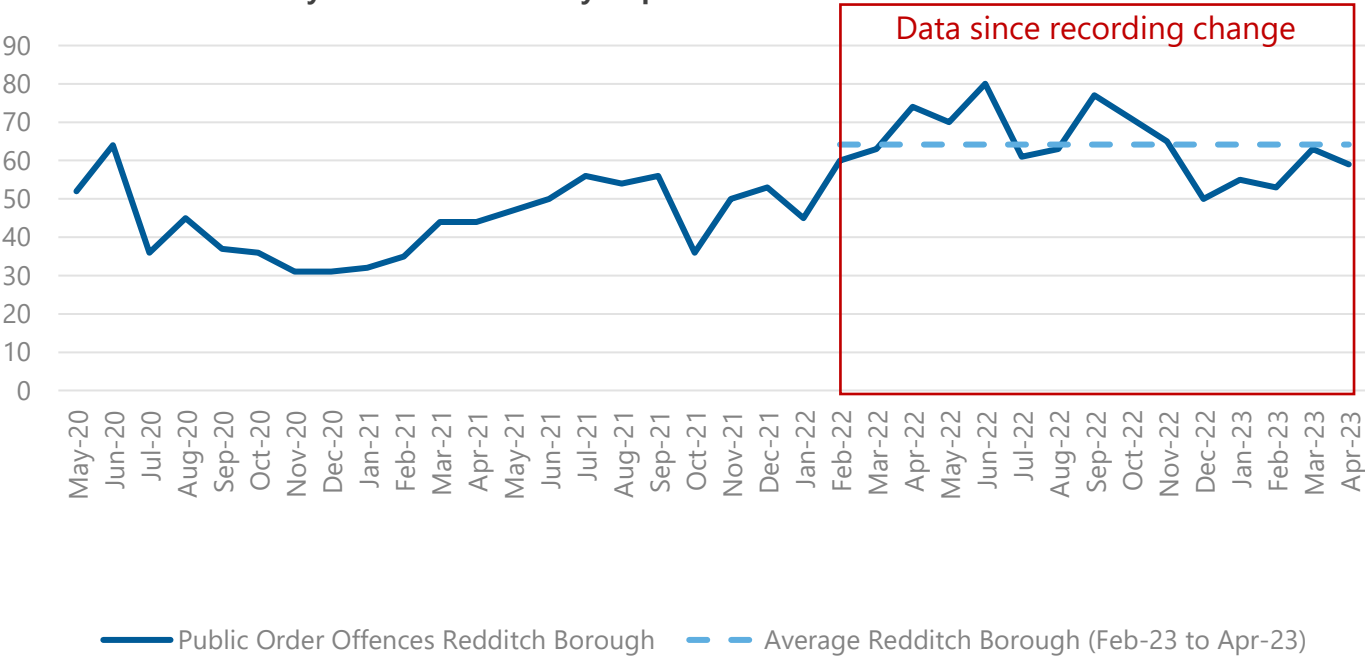
# Trends in Public Order Offences

The change in recording practice in February 2022 is almost certainly a contributor to the increases in offences seen from this point on. This period is marked on the graph for clarity.

The average volume per month across the Borough shifted from 44 offences per month to 64 since the recording change. However, the line graph and quarterly chart illustrate a Borough-wide sharp rise after the recording change, followed by a gradual decline.

It is highly likely that these figures are in the process of stabilising and reverting towards the mean, however, the recent changes in recording are also expected to reduce the volume of public order offences.

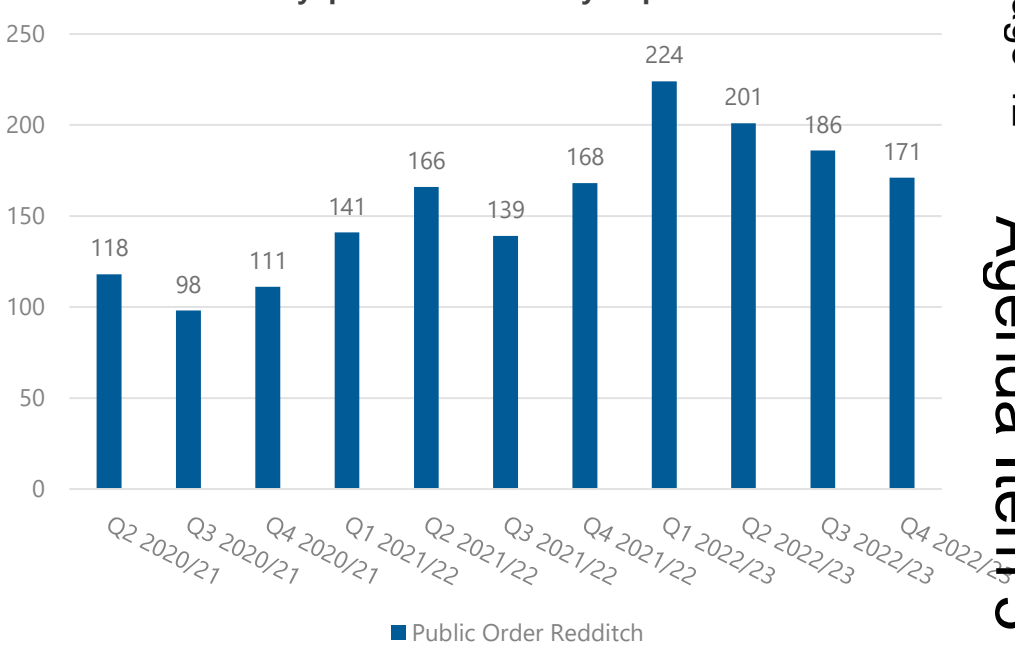
Public order offences by month over a three-year period



## Public order trends

<b>Three-year total:</b> 1,898	<b>Monthly average since recording change:</b> 64 <b>Average before change:</b> 44
<b>Trend:</b> Decreasing following a period of increased offences	<b>Most recent quarter:</b> Q4 2022/23 171

Public order offences by quarter over a three-year period



# Trends in Public Order Offences

Due to the change in recording practice in February 2022, increases cannot be put down as an organic growth in crime types. However, conclusions can still be drawn:

- Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress comprised 45% (n=77) of public order in the most recent quarter Q4 2022/23.
- Fear or provocation of violence comprised the second greatest proportion of offence types in the most recent quarter Q4 2022/23 (14%, n=24).

Public order trends

**Greatest proportion overall:**

Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress

**Greatest proportion this quarter:**

Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress

**Second greatest proportion overall:**

Fear or provocation of violence

**Second greatest proportion this quarter:**

Fear or provocation of violence

Ten offence types with greatest volume within public order for Redditch Borough, by quarter

Public order offences	Q4 2022/23	Q3 2022/23	Q2 2022/23	Q1 2022/23	Q4 2021/22	Q3 2021/22	Q2 2021/22	Q1 2021/22	Q4 2020/21	Q3 2020/21	Q2 2020/21
Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress	77	84	117	105	71	52	79	74	46	43	65
Fear or provocation of violence	24	22	24	29	23	14	20	17	18	16	14
Racially or religiously aggravated intentional harassment, alarm or distress	19	13	8	11	12	16	9	9	5	2	11
Breach of a criminal behaviour order	13	13	16	21	29	23	12	6	5	13	2
Affray	10	19	14	8	10	9	15	8	6	4	5
Harassment, alarm or distress (S5 POA)	10	13	7	22	3	7	9	8	10	6	7
Committing or conspiring to commit, an act outraging public decency	5	2	0	1	2	1	3	1		3	1
Breach of non-molestation order	4	7	2	11	7	8	7	6	11	4	6
Racially or religiously aggravated harassment, alarm or distress	4	4	4	6	8	3	6	8	4	2	4
Failure to comply with (Sexual Offence) notification order	3	2	1	7	0	0	0	0	2	0	0

# Trends in Antisocial Behaviour Reports

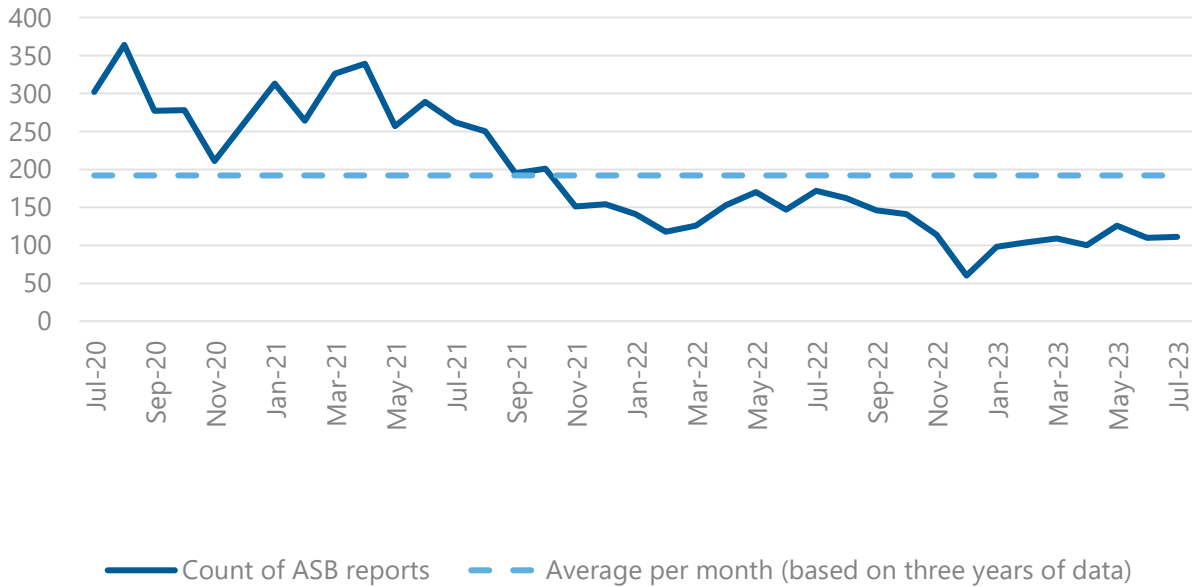
ASB is decreasing, with reports being below the three-year average since November 2021. Part of this decrease is attributed to changes in recording practice which took place in February 2022, reclassifying some ASB as public order offences.

Over the three-year period there were on average 192 reports per month, which reduced to 115 when only considering the past 12 months.

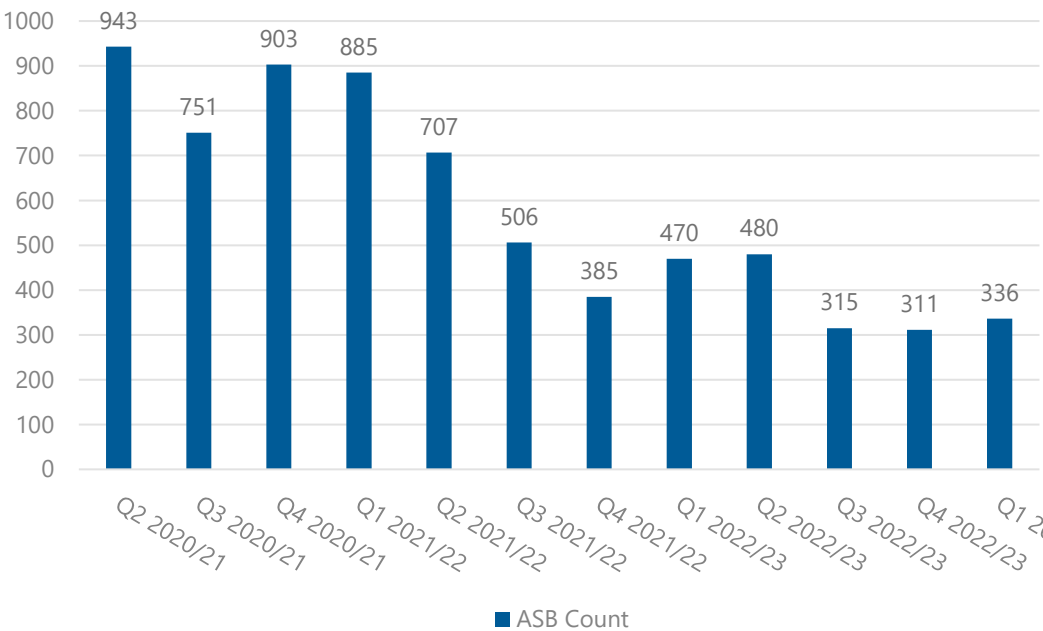
The most recent quarter, Q1 2023/24 (Apr-June 2023) (n=336) shows a decrease of 29% (n=134) compared to the same quarter in the previous year (Apr-June 2022).

The past three quarters have been relatively stable, however, recent changes to the Home Office notification policy for public order offences may result in an increase in ASB reporting.

ASB reports by month over a three-year period



ASB reports by quarter over a three-year period



ASB trends

Three-year total::  
7,103

Most recent quarter:  
Q1 2023/24  
336

Trend:  
Decreasing

Monthly average:  
192  
Average for past 12 months:  
115

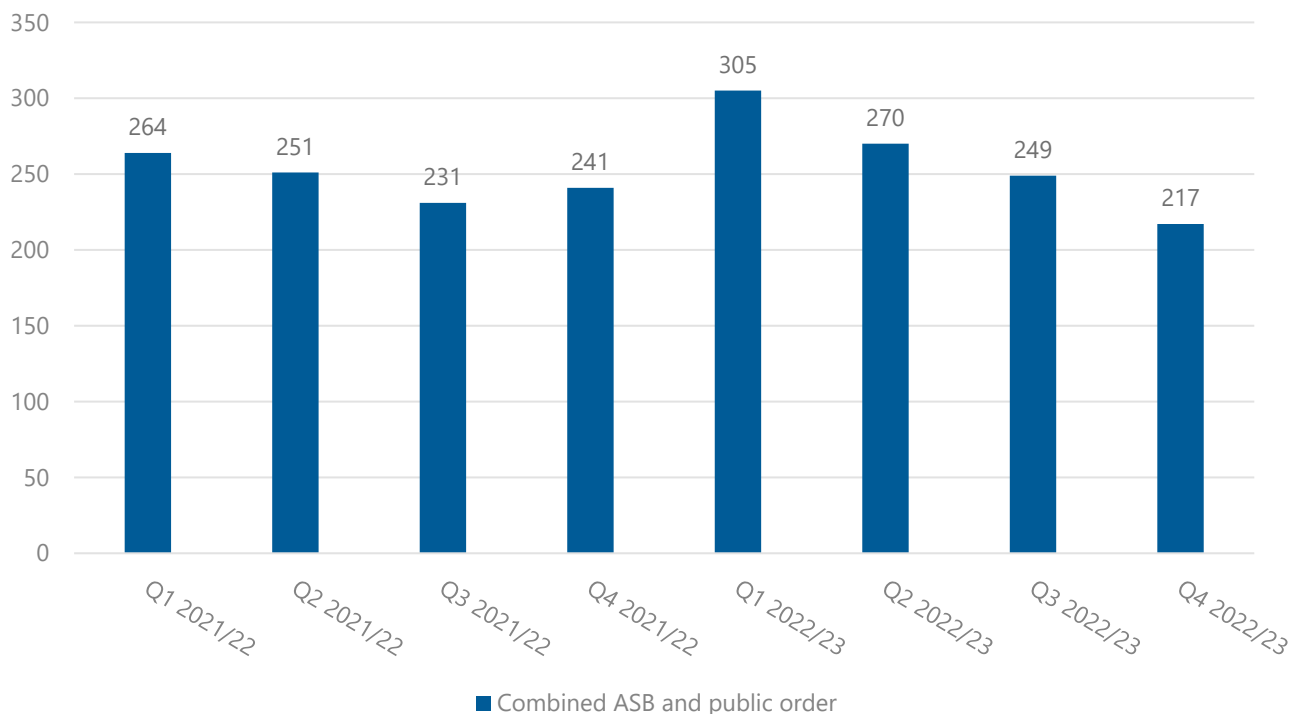
# Combined Public Order Offences and ASB Reports

The past twelve months of data across the Borough (1 May 2022 to 30 April 2023) for public order (n=767) and (1 August 2022 to 31 July 2023) for ASB (n=1,381) was analysed.

The hotspot map identifies one clear hotspot for the Borough around the town centre.

There were 217 public order offences and ASB reports in the most recent quarter, Q4 2022/23 (Jan-Mar 2023). This was a 10% decrease compared to the same quarter in the previous year, Q4 2021/22 (Jan-Mar 2022) (n=24).

Combined public order and ASB totals by quarter

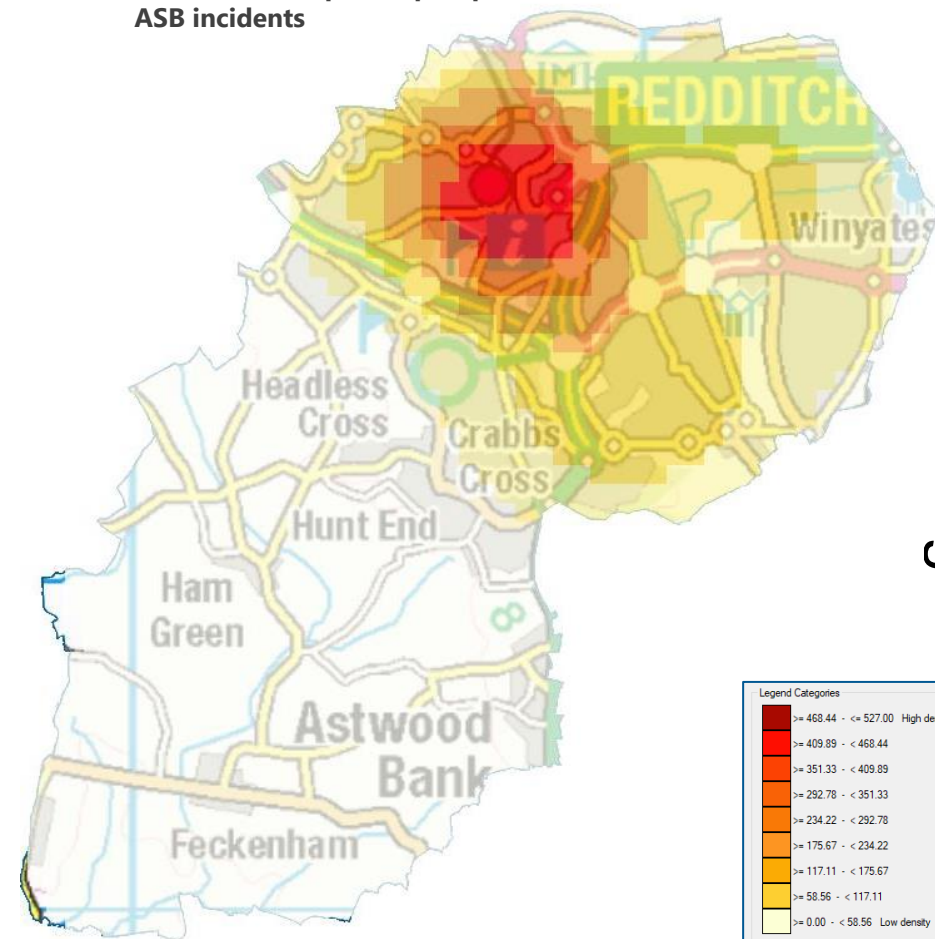


Public order and ASB trends combined

Combined data shows an overall decrease over time following a peak in Q1 2021/22.

Hotspot mapping focusses activity around the town centre

Combined hotspot map of public order offences and ASB incidents





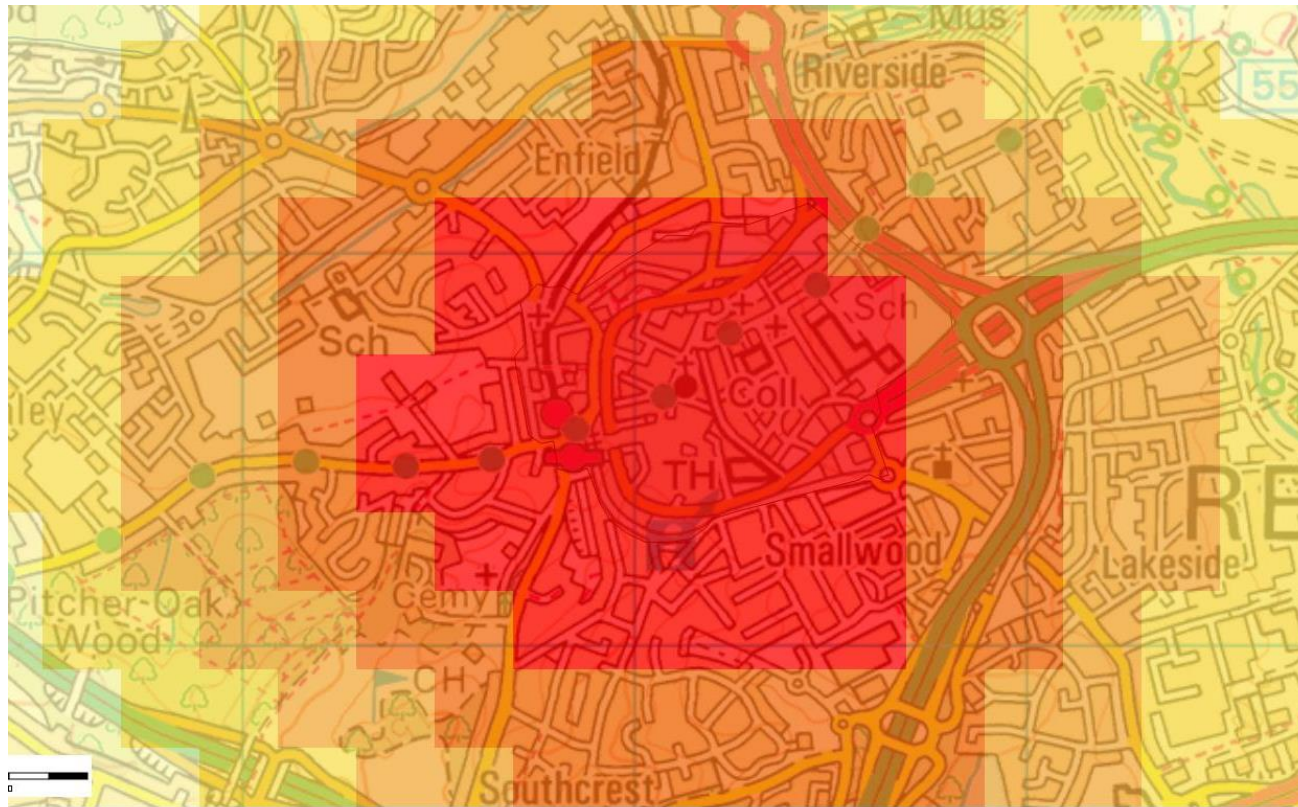
# Combined Public Order Offences and ASB Reports

The hotspot area aligns with the proposed PSPO area, which will be used for the remaining analysis in this report.

## Public order and ASB trends combined

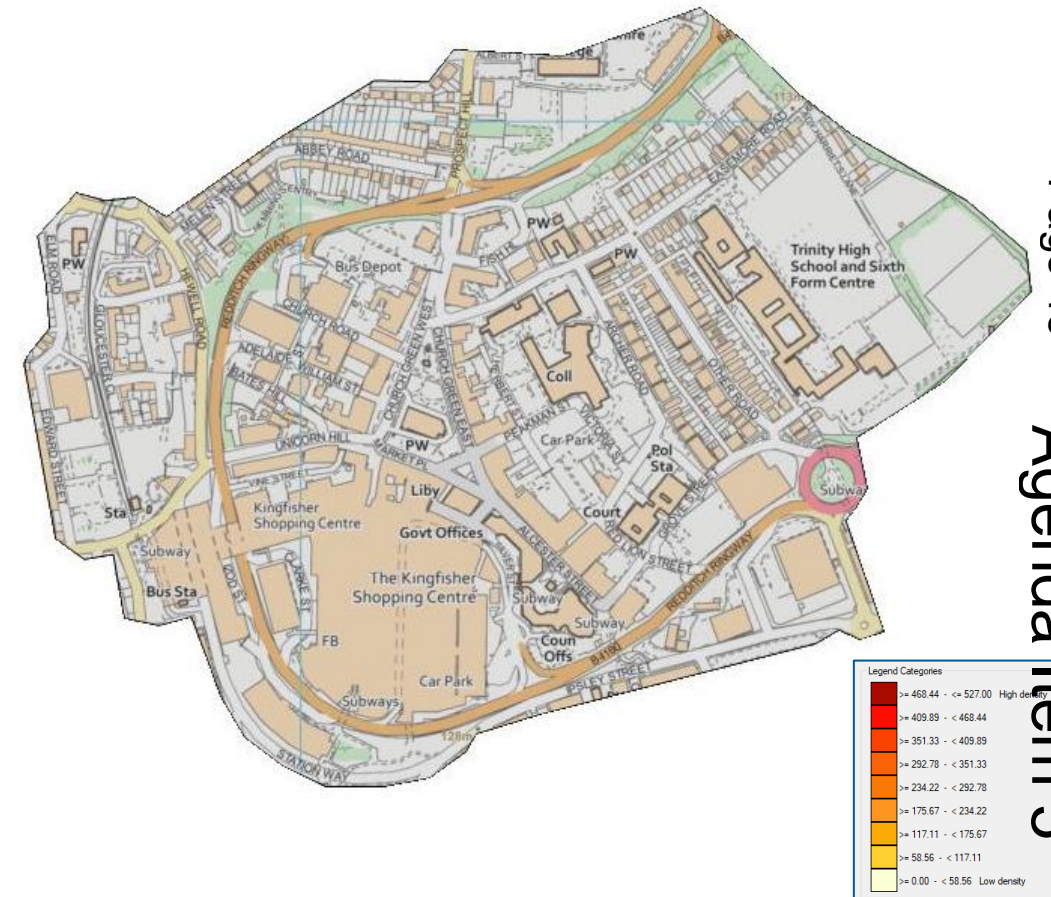
The hotspot area is around the town centre and proposed PSPO area.

Combined hotspot map of public order offences and ASB incidents



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Proposed outline of area for further analysis

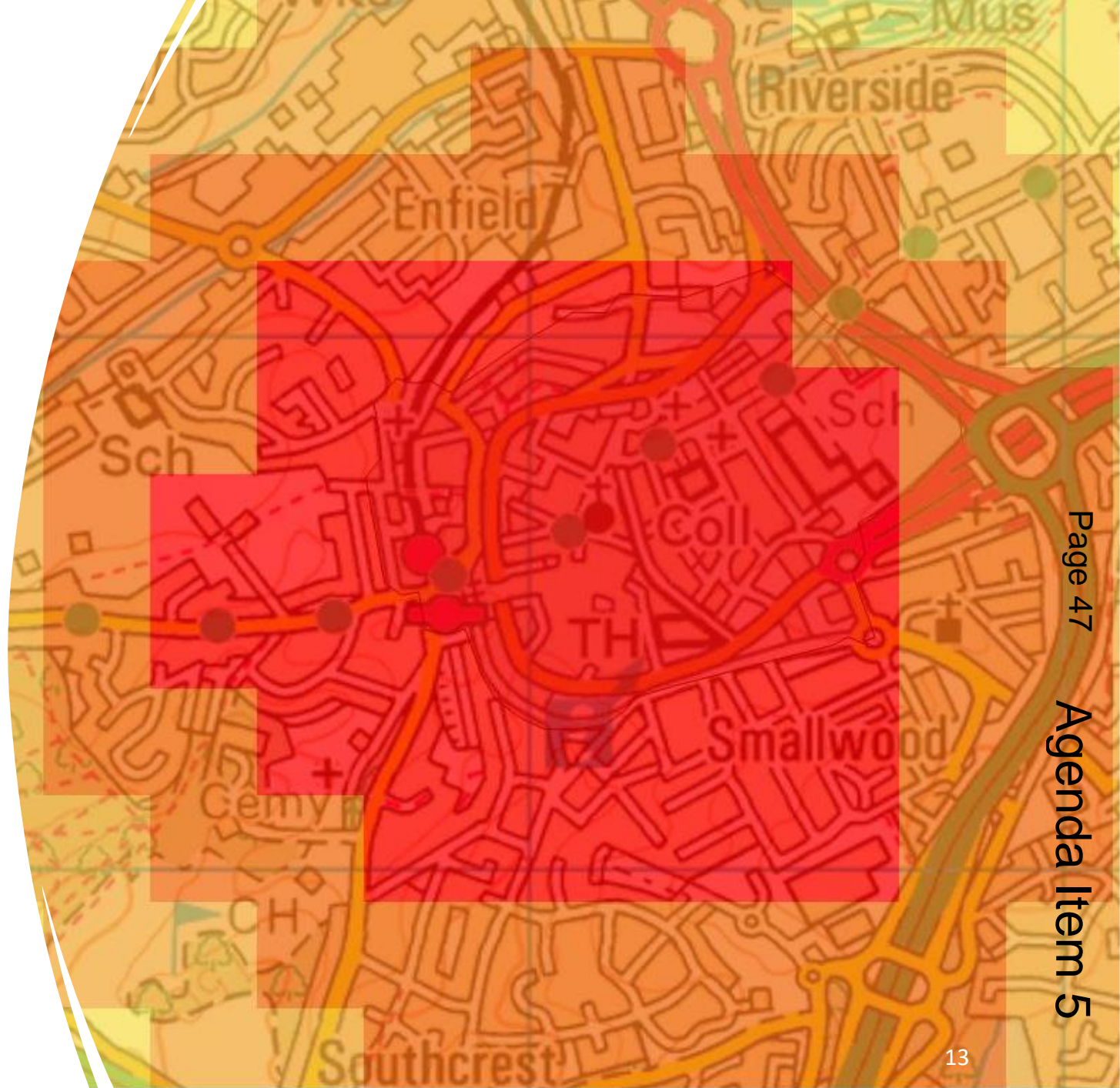




# Focus Area Analysis

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- This section contains specific analysis of ASB and public order in the focus area over the past twelve months.
  - Combined hotspot maps of public order offences and ASB incidents
  - Point maps
  - Trends
  - Breakdown of offences
  - Temporal analysis
  - Nominal analysis



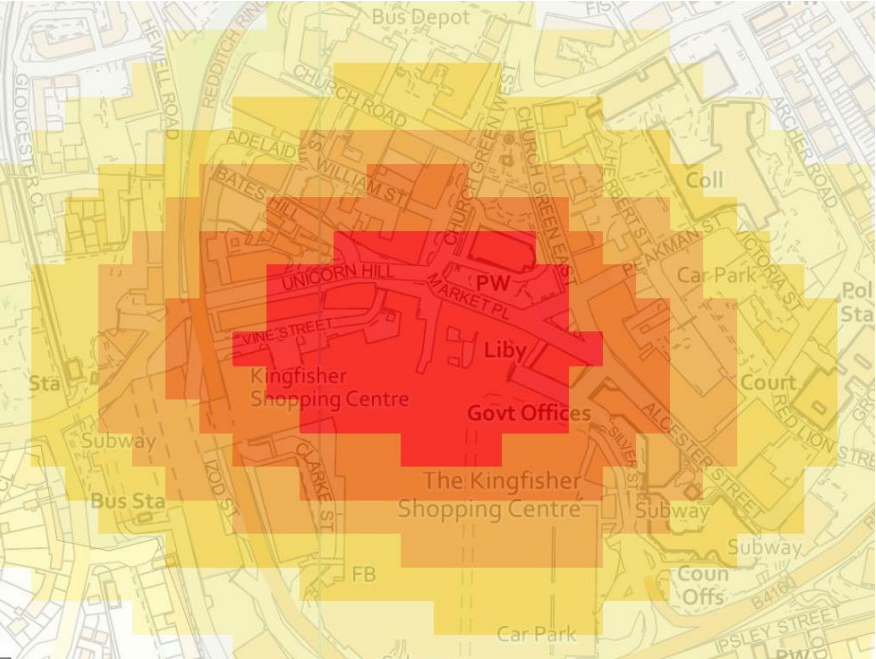
# Hotspot Maps

When zooming into this area, localised hotspots of combined public order offences and ASB incidents are shown to be around Market Place and Unicorn Hill.

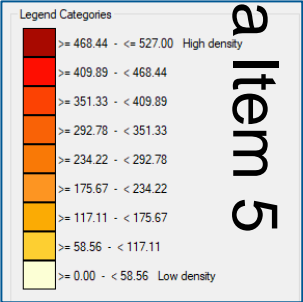
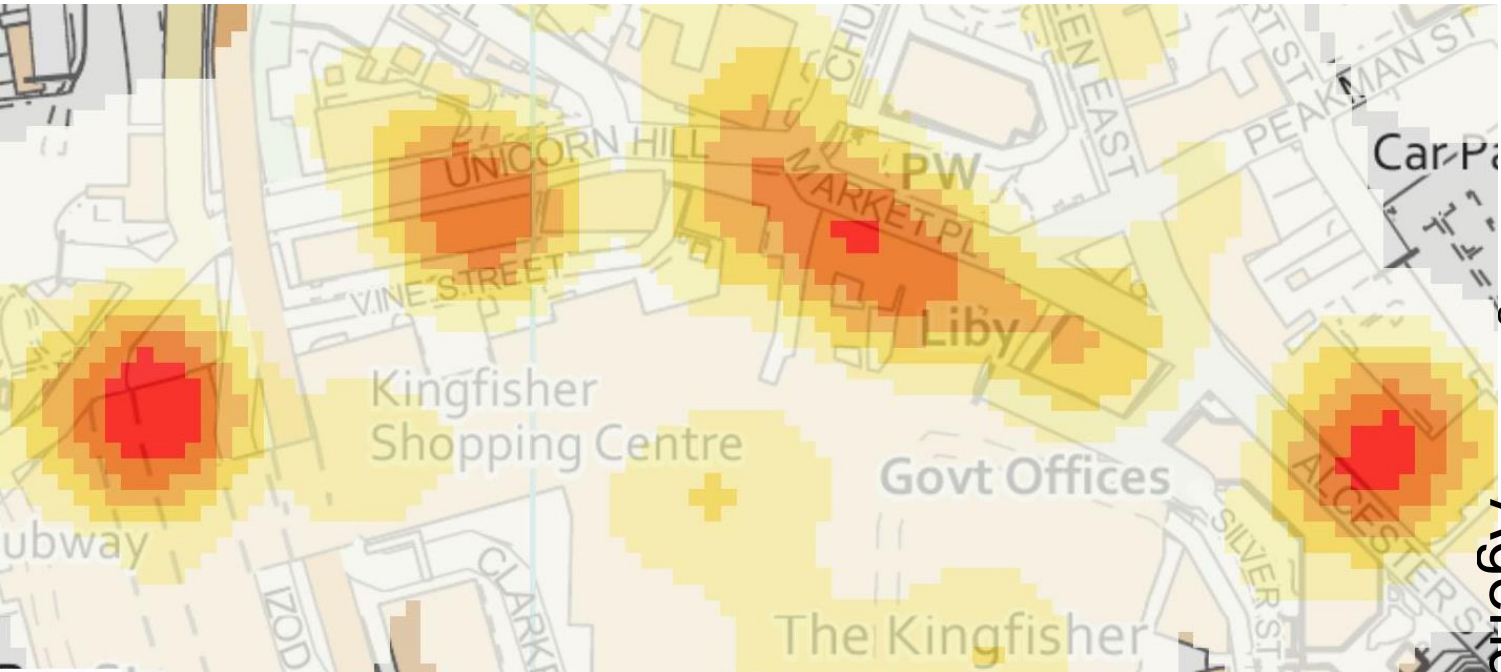
Public order and ASB trends combined

**Locations:**  
Market Place and Unicorn Hill are key areas of activity

Combined hotspot map of public order offences and ASB incidents



Combined hotspot map of public order offences and ASB incidents





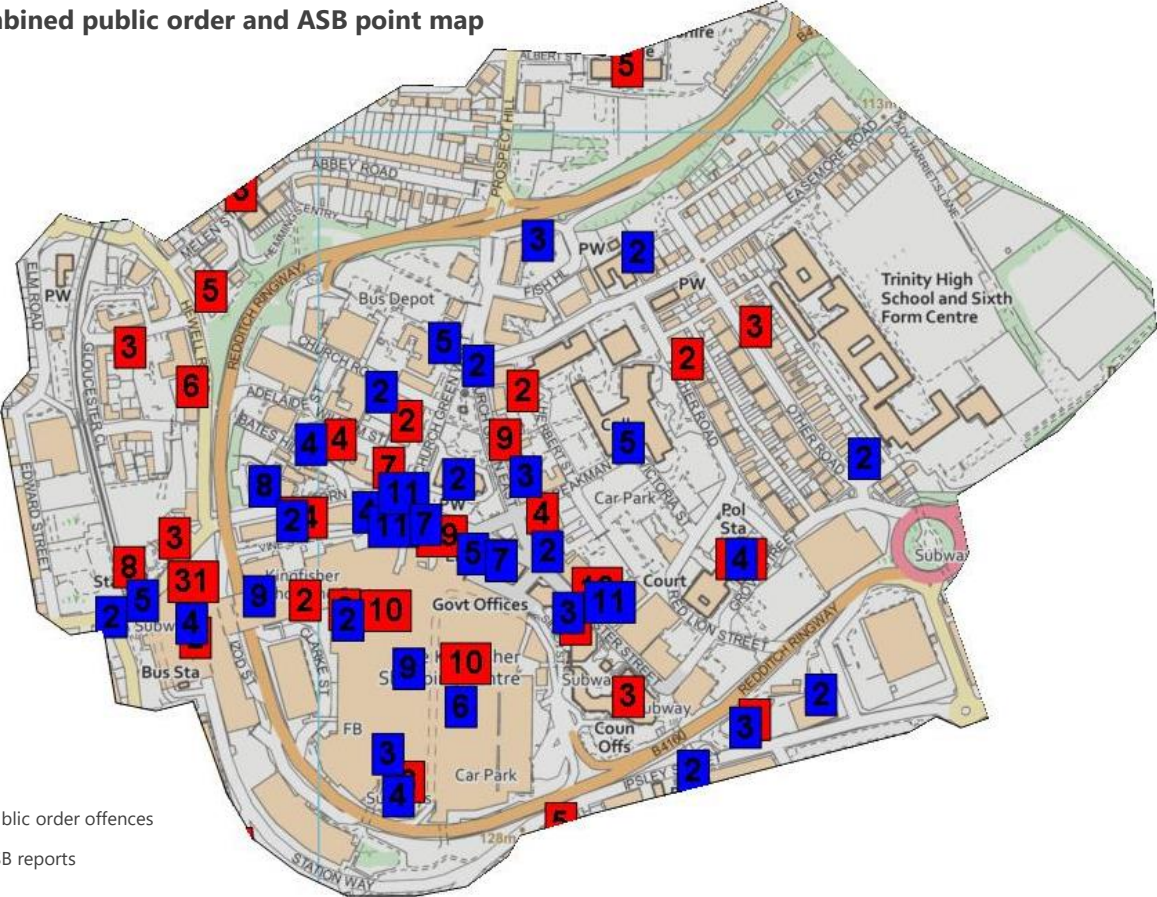
# Point Map and Locations

Combined public order offences and ASB reports for the past twelve months identify key locations for repeated reporting/offending.

It should be noted that ASB is currently mapped to a central coordinate based on the associated postcode so points may not reflect the exact location of the incident.

The area covers Redditch town centre, primarily comprising shops and food/drink establishments, although there are also some residential properties.

Combined public order and ASB point map



Public order and ASB trends combined

Public order offences in the focus area over 12 months:  
189

ASB reports in the focus area over 12 months:  
231

Public order offences in Abbey Ward over 12 months:  
193

ASB reports in Abbey Ward over 12 months:  
251

Public Order Offences

More than half of the 189 public order offences in the area (54%, n=102) were recorded at various locations on these five streets:

- Evesham Walk (n=23)
- Unicorn Hill (n=23)
- Market Place (n=22)
- Alcester Street (n=17)
- Kingfisher Walk (n=17)

Offences on these five streets were primarily recorded at various shops and licensed premises (n=61). There were also 34 on-street records, 6 offences at the library, and one at the bus station.

When asked to describe the premise type, 30% (n=57) of the 189 public order offences in the focus area were described as taking place 'on the street' as in public street or pathway location, rather than inside a house or premise.

ASB Reports

- 23% of ASB reports were located on Unicorn Hill (n=53), at various locations including inside premises and on pathways. Other key streets:
  - Alcester Street (14%, n=32)
  - Market Place (11%, n=26)
  - Evesham Walk (6%, n=14)
  - Kingfisher Square (6%, n=14)

# Licensed Premises

The log text from every public order offence in the focus area (n=189) over the past twelve months was examined to identify if the offence was linked to a licensed premise.

Offences are only included if the premise name is specifically mentioned and details the offence being inside or outside of the premise and is therefore likely to be an underestimate of the actual picture. If the offence details alcohol-related offending but does not identify a specific licensed premise, the street name of the location is included.

It shows that 24 offences took place outside licensed premises and on the surrounding streets. These offences included affray, racially or religiously aggravated harassment, alarm or distress and violent disorder.

## Public order offences inside licensed premises

Over the 12 months to Apr 2023, there were 19 public order offences committed inside licensed premises. Six of these offences were inside The Royal Enfield Pub, and six were inside The Rising Sun Pub.

## Outside licensed premises

There were 24 offences outside licensed premises and on the surrounding streets. The greatest volume of offences outside a specific licensed premise occurred outside Popworld Nightclub (n=4).

There were eight offences on Unicorn Hill but no specific licensed premise was linked to these.

## Nature of offending

Seven of these offences were affray, three offences were racially or religiously aggravated harassment, alarm or distress and three offences were violent disorder.

Combined public order and ASB point map

Location	Inside	Outside	Total
Rising Sun	6	2	8
Royal Enfield	6	2	8
Unicorn Hill		8	8
Popworld	1	4	5
Alcester Street		3	3
Easemore Social Club	2		2
Bar Fever	1		1
Church Green East		1	1
Church Green West		1	1
Fisherman's Catch	1		1
Holiday Inn Express Redditch	1		1
Pepinos	1		1
The Warwick		1	1
Trescott Road		1	1
Evesham Walk		1	1
Not related			146
Total	19	24	189

# Trends in Public Order Offences

The change in recording practice in February 2022 is almost certainly a contributor to the increases in offences seen from this point on. This period is marked on the graph for clarity.

The average volume per month across the Borough shifted from 44 offences per month before the recording change to 64 per month. Within the area of focus, the average volume of offences has doubled, rising from 8 offences per month to 16.

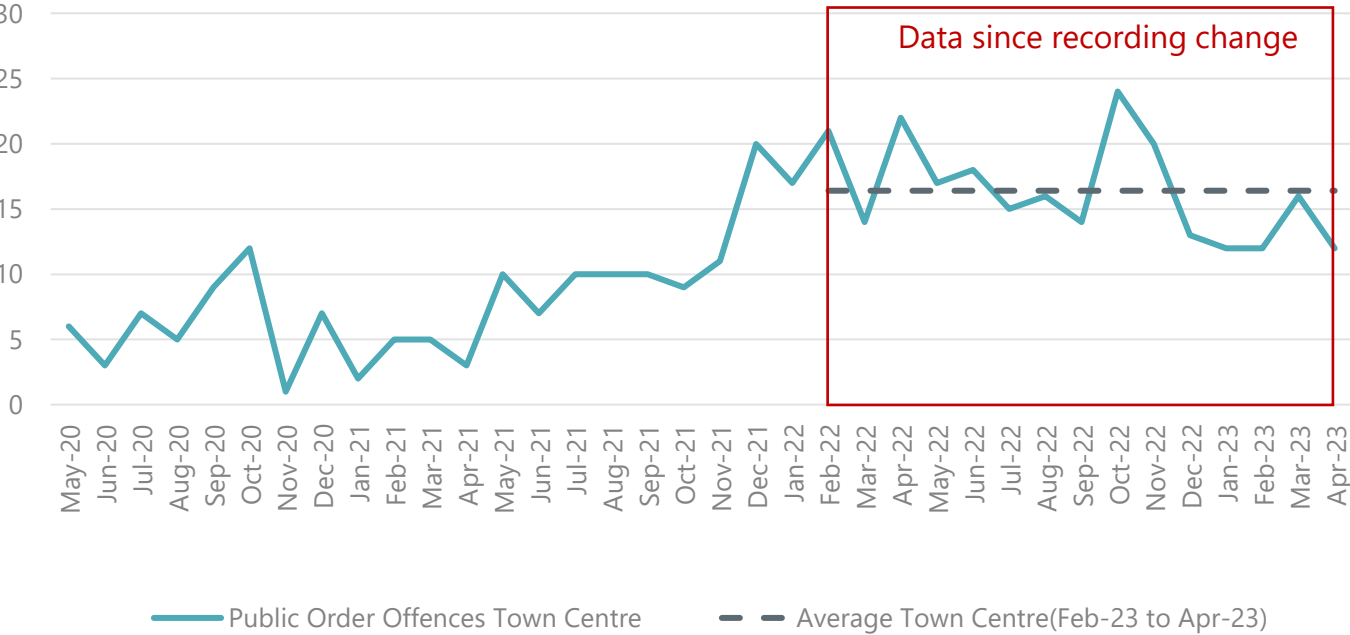
The quarterly chart shows the focus area reflecting the Borough-wide trend, a gradual decline following a sharp rise in offences around February 2022,

Given additional changes to the Home Office notification policy around public order as of May 2023, it is difficult to predict if these declines will continue going forward.

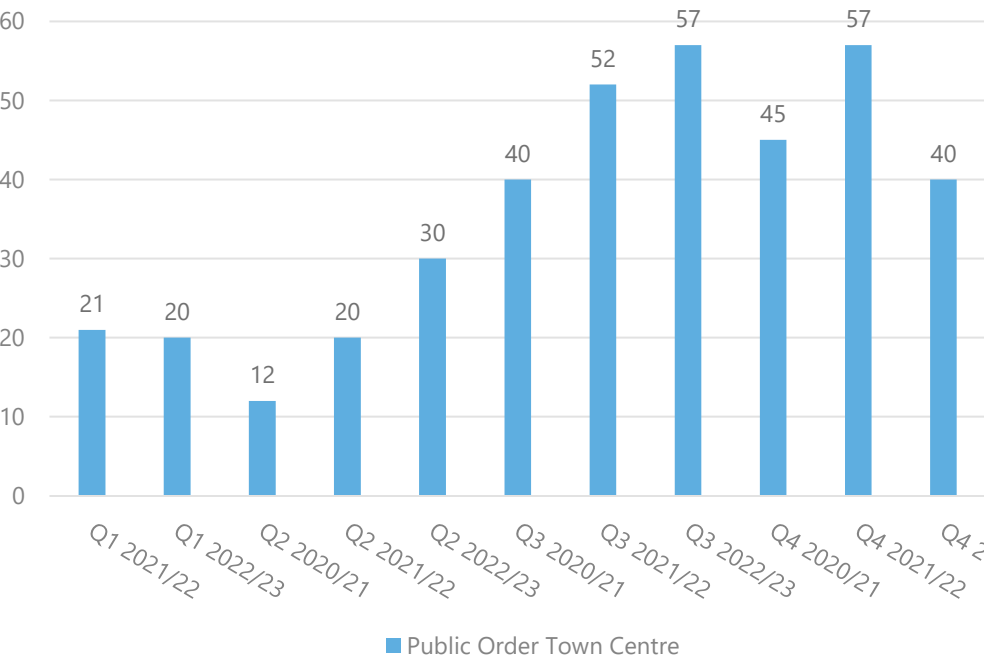
### Public order trends in focus area

<b>12-month total:</b> 189	<b>Monthly average since recording change:</b> 16
<b>Trend:</b> Decreasing following a period of increased offences	<b>Average before change:</b> 8
	<b>Most recent quarter:</b> Q4 2022/23 40

Public order offences by month over a three-year period



Public order offences by quarter over a three-year period



# Trends in Public Order Offences

Regardless of the impact of recording changes, it can be concluded that two key offence types comprise 55% of all public order offending in the area over the past 12 months:

- **Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress** (n=67, 35%).
- **Breach of a criminal behaviour order** (n=37, 20%).

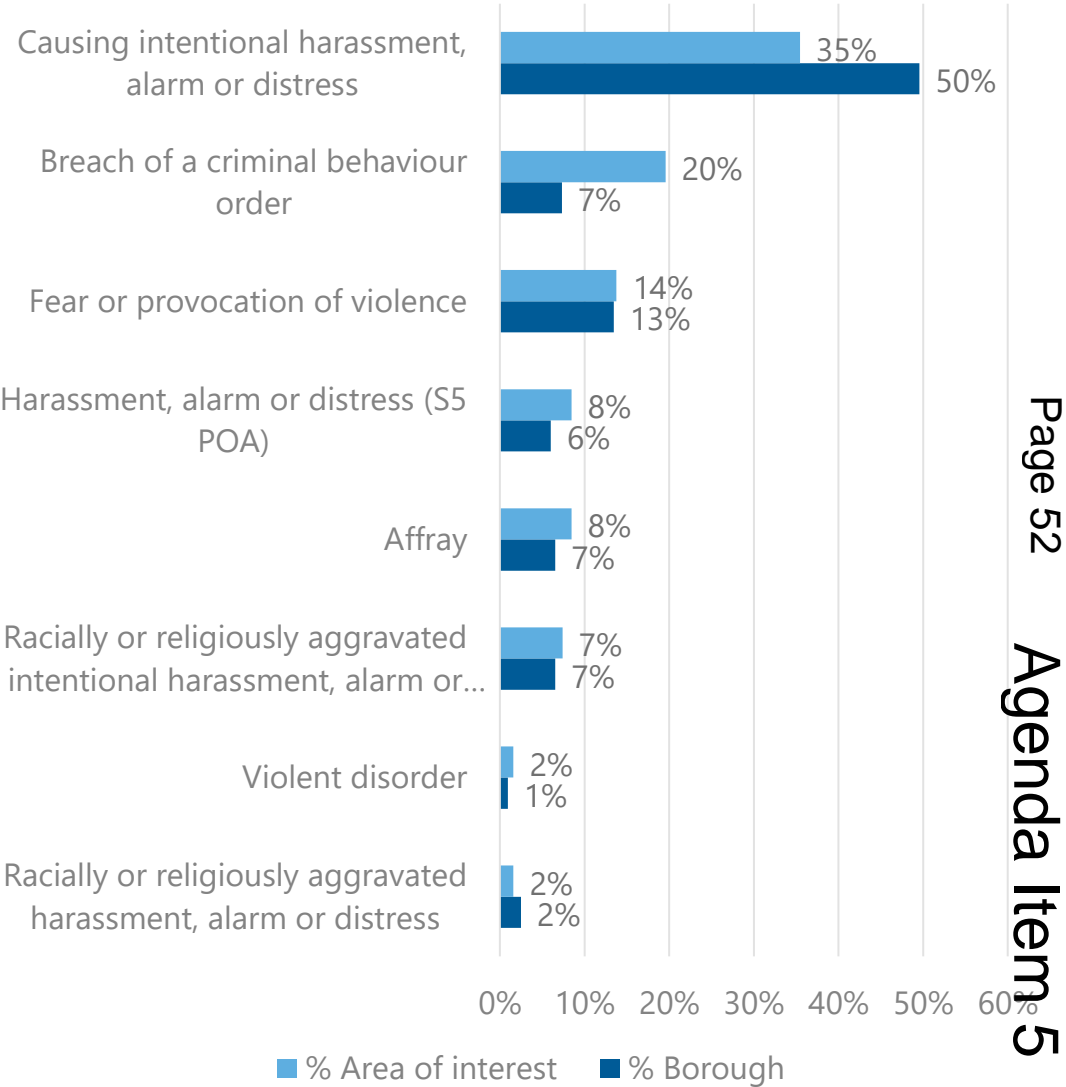
Comparison of the proportion of offence types across the Borough with the focus area identified differences in the nature of offending in the area:

- **Breach of criminal behaviour order** - 20% of public order offences in the focus area were breach of a criminal behaviour order compared to a 7% Borough-wide proportion. This indicates that a number of prior offenders operate within the focus area and as offending in the Town Centre is often the subject of Criminal Behaviour Orders, this increased proportion of offences within the focus area is understandable.
- **Harassment, alarm or distress** – 8% compared to 6% across the Borough
- **Affray** – 8% compared to 7% across the Borough

Public order offence types in the area of focus over the past 12 months

Public order offence types	Volume of offences	% of total
Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress	67	35%
Breach of a criminal behaviour order	37	20%
Fear or provocation of violence	26	14%
Affray	16	8%
Harassment, alarm or distress (S5 POA)	16	8%
Racially or religiously aggravated intentional harassment, alarm or distress	14	7%
Racially or religiously aggravated harassment, alarm or distress	3	2%
Violent disorder	3	2%
Committing or conspiring to commit, an act outraging public decency	2	1%
Failure to comply with (Sexual Offence) Notification Order	2	1%
Breach of non-molestation order	1	1%
Public Nuisance	1	1%
Racially or religiously aggravated fear or provocation of violence	1	1%
Total	189	100%

Comparison of proportions of key offence types for public order  
Redditch Borough vs area of focus over last 12 months



# Trends in Public Order Offences

Breaches of criminal behaviour orders, affray and violent disorder offences are the highest contributors of harm in the focus area.

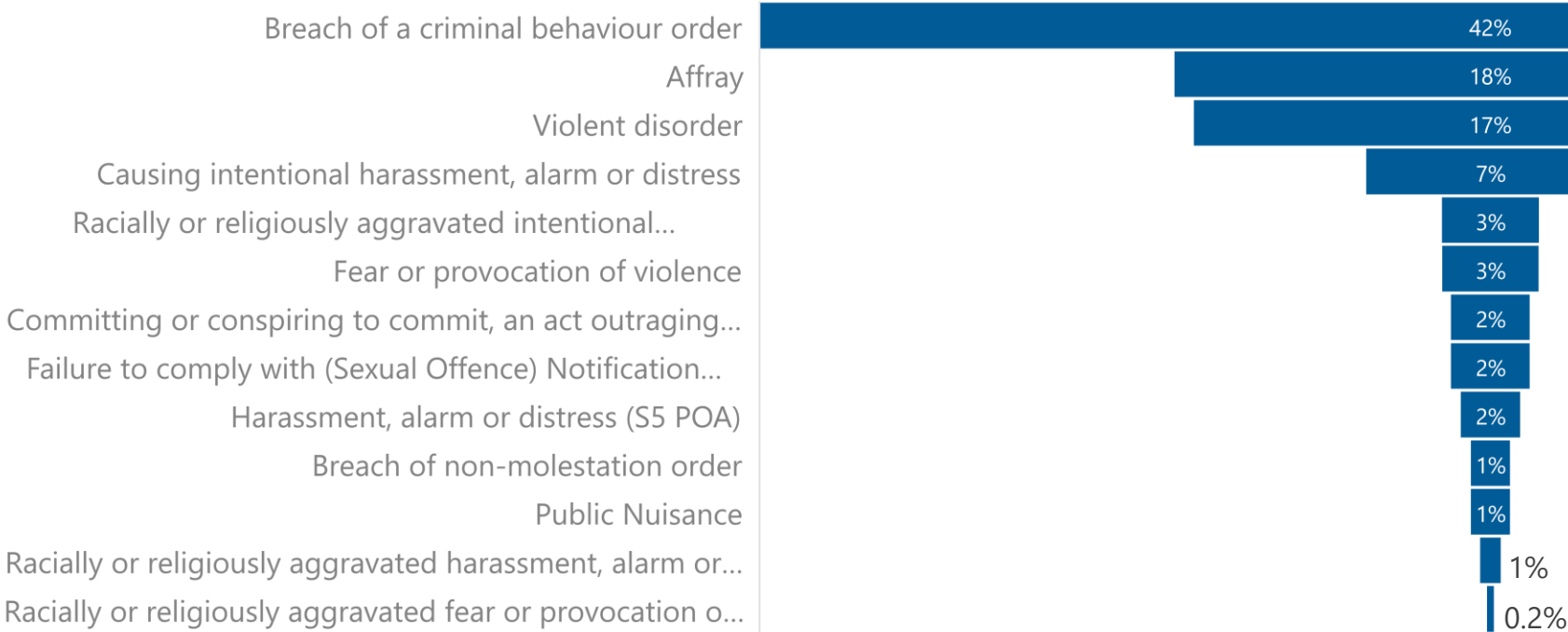
- Breach of criminal behaviour recorded 37 offences and accounts for 42% of the total severity score
- Affray offences account for 18% of the total severity score in 16 offences.
- Three offences of violent disorder accounts for 17% of the total severity score, this was the highest scoring individual offence type. Broad detail of the nature of these offences:
  - Fight between door staff and a male at a licensed premise in the town
  - Several groups unknown to each other engaged in violent conduct on the streets in the town centre
  - Fight amongst a group in town centre

Public order in focus area

**Greatest proportion of harm:**  
Breach of criminal behaviour order (42%, n=37)

**Highest harm scoring offence type:**  
Violent disorder (17%, n=3)

Proportion of total severity for public order offence types in the focus area over the past 12 months





# Trends in Public Order Offences

Cells in the table are colour coded according to comparative volume for each hour of each day. As offences logged without a time are recorded at 00:00 by default, offences occurring at this time are excluded from comparative analysis but are included in the table for context.

The greatest volume of offences were recorded on Saturdays (n=37) and Tuesdays (n=35). The hours with the greatest volume were 15:00-15:59 (n=18), 16:00-16:59 (n=13) and 17:00-17:59 (n=14).

- Periods of greatest activity were identified as:
- **Tuesday afternoons** between 15:00 and 17:59 (n=16).
  - **Friday evenings/Saturday mornings** between 04:00-04:59 (n=5), although activity was increased from 01:00 on Saturday mornings through to 04:59.
  - **Friday mornings** between 10:00-10:59 (n=5). Further investigation identified one incident generated three offences during this time-period, which removes it as key time period.

Public order offences in the area of focus by hour and day over a 12-month period

Day	00:00 default	00:01 - 00:59	01:00 - 01:59	02:00 - 02:59	03:00 - 03:59	04:00 - 04:59	05:00 - 05:59	06:00 - 06:59	07:00 - 07:59	08:00 - 08:59	09:00 - 09:59	10:00 - 10:59	11:00 - 11:59	12:00 - 12:59	13:00 - 13:59	14:00 - 14:59	15:00 - 15:59	16:00 - 16:59	17:00 - 17:59	18:00 - 18:59	19:00 - 19:59	20:00 - 20:59	21:00 - 21:59	22:00 - 22:59	23:00 - 23:59	Total
Monday	9												2	1	1	2	1			1	1	1				16
Tuesday	4	1		1							2		1	1	3		6	4	6	2		1	1	1	1	35
Wednesday	7								1	1		1	1	1	1		2	4	1	1		1		1	1	24
Thursday	8		1										1		1	3	2	1	3		1					21
Friday	11											5	2	1	1		2	1		2	1					26
Saturday	11	1	2	2		5				1	1	1			3	1	3	1	1		1	3				37
Sunday	5	2	1				1			1		1		1		3	2	2	3	1		3		1		27
Total	55	4	4	3	0	5	1	0	1	3	3	8	7	5	10	9	18	13	14	7	3	7	4	3	2	189

Public order in focus area

Periods with greatest volume of public order offences:  
Friday evenings/Saturday mornings 01:00 – 04:59

Links to the night-time economy.

Periods with greatest volume of public order offences:  
Tuesday afternoons 15:00 – 17:59

- Six of these offences were breach of criminal behaviour orders, four of which were in the Kingfisher Shopping Centre.
- Three offences generated from an arranged access visit between parent and child.
- Remaining offences linked to misconduct in local shops, stealing items or aggressive/unwelcome behaviour.

# Trends in Public Order Offences

Periods with greatest volume in public order offences

**Friday evenings/Saturday mornings:**  
**01:00 – 04:59**  
**(n=9)**  
**Specific hour:**  
**04:00-04:59 (n=5)**

**Tuesday afternoon:**  
**15:00 – 17:59**  
**(n=16)**  
**Specific hours:**  
**15:00-15:59 (n=6) and 17:00-17:59**  
**(n=6)**

In the focus area, on afternoons, the most common public order offence types are breach of a criminal behaviour order (n=16) and causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (n=11).

Both of these offence types occur at a disproportionate rate on Tuesdays. The reason for this is not understood and as this is a small sample size, it would require more in-depth analysis on a wider scale.

**Locations:**

- Unicorn Hill (n=2), Ipsley Street (n=1), Market Place (n=2), Alcester Street (n=1) and Church Green East (n=1).
- Two offences inside the Royal Enfield Pub

**Offence categories**

- Racially or religiously aggravated intentional harassment, alarm or distress (n=3)
- Fear or provocation of violence (n=2)
- Affray (n=3)
- Violent disorder (n=1)

**Nature of offences:**

- Violence from a door security staff member towards a customer
- Fighting in the street between individuals and groups
- Racist behaviour
- Throwing bottles
- Threats

**Locations:**

- Fifteen offences involving shops or the Kingfisher shopping centre, one on the street on Prospect Hill

**Offence categories**

- Breach of a criminal behaviour order (n=6)
- Fear or provocation of violence (n=3)
- Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (n=6)
- Racially or religiously aggravated intentional harassment, alarm or distress (n=1)

**Nature of offences:**

- Entering shopping centre whilst on CBO
- Theft from a store and aggressive behaviour when challenged

**Public order offences on afternoons 15:00 – 17:59 by day over the past 12 months**

Offence Type	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun	Total
Affray				1	1			2
Breach of a criminal behaviour order	1	6	2	1		1	5	16
Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress		6	3		1	1		11
Committing or conspiring to commit, an act outraging public decency						1		1
Fear or provocation of violence		3	1	1	1	1	1	8
Harassment, alarm or distress (S5 POA)				1		1	1	3
Racially or religiously aggravated harassment, alarm or distress				1				1
Racially or religiously aggravated intentional harassment, alarm or distress		1	1	1				3
Total	1	16	7	6	3	5	7	45

# Trends in Public Order Offences

Nominal data for public order offences by age and role – past 12 months

Age	% of Nominals		% of Offences	
	Suspects	Victims	Suspects	Victims
0-9 Years	0%	0%	0%	0%
10-19 Years	19%	17%	29%	16%
20-29 Years	31%	33%	28%	33%
30-39 Years	27%	32%	20%	32%
40-49 Years	13%	7%	13%	9%
50-59 Years	7%	6%	6%	7%
60-69 Years	2%	3%	3%	3%
70+ Years	1%	1%	1%	1%

**Suspects**

31% of suspects were aged 20-29 years (n=38)

76% (n=91) of suspects were male and 24% (n=29) were female.

23 suspects were 10-19 years old, which represents 19% of all suspects and committed 29% of all public order offences.

One 17 year-old female had 26 public order offences, mainly related to a three-year criminal behaviour order to not enter the Kingfisher Shopping Centre. There were also offences where she had caused problems in the Rising Sun Pub on more than one occasion.

A 48 year-old female was a suspect for four offences, also for breach of a criminal behaviour order.

Two other females and 17 males were suspects twice or more in the last twelve months for public order offences.

Public order in focus area

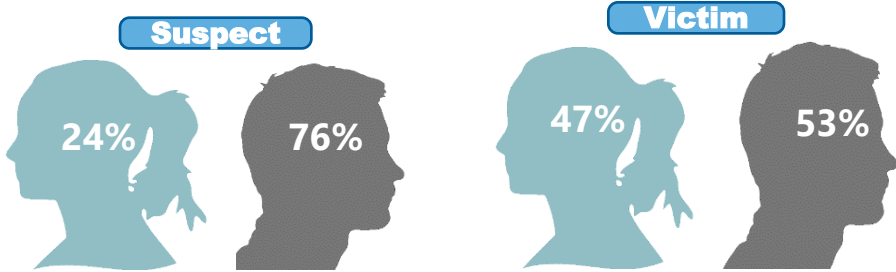
**Age and gender trends for suspects and victims:**

76% (n=91) of suspects were male

53% (n=57) of victims were male

The greatest proportion of victims and suspects were aged between 20-29

Nominal data for public order offences by gender and role – past 12 months



**Victims**

33% of victims were aged 20-29 years (n=38) and 32% were aged 30-39 years (n=37).

53% (n=57) of victims were male and 47% (n=50) were female.

Female victims were more likely to be repeat victims. Five females and one male were victims of a public order offence twice or more in the past twelve months.

One 47 year-old female was a victim of intentional harassment, alarm or distress offences four times in the past 12 months. These offences relate to people making threats or being verbally abusive towards her. Two of these offences occurred outside of the library.



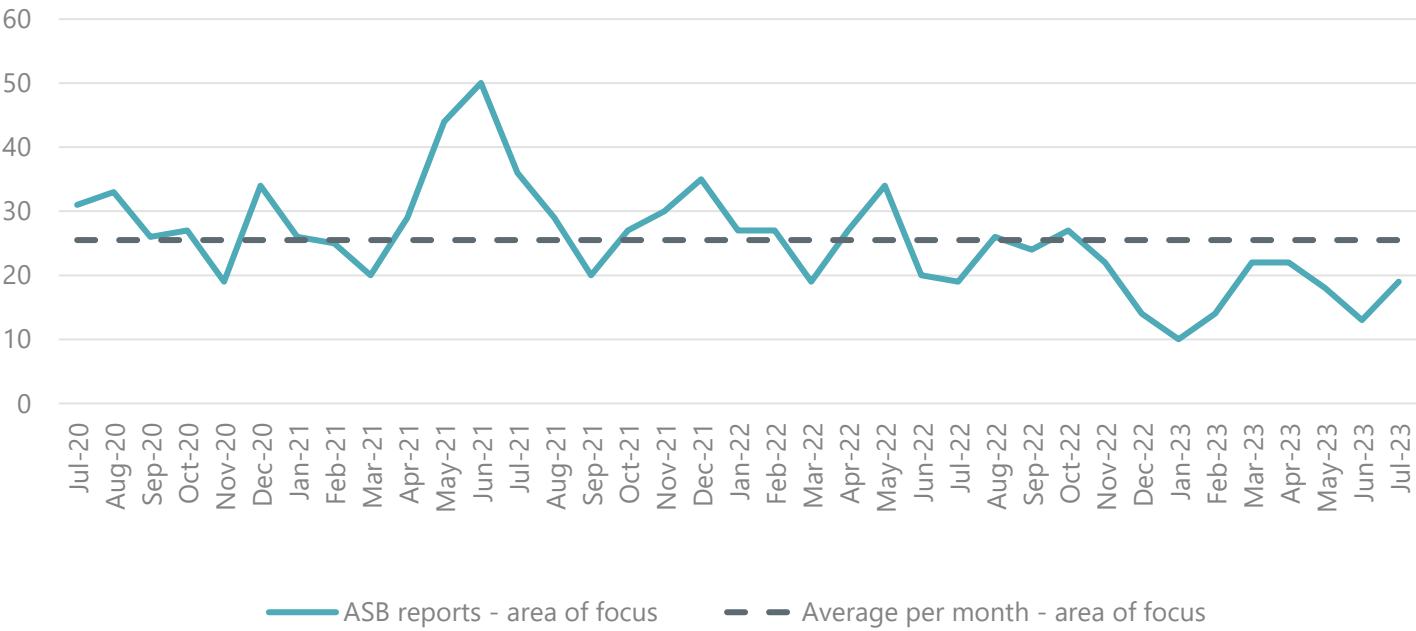
# Trends in Antisocial Behaviour Reports

- ASB reporting across the Borough has decreased, which was reflected in the focus area, to a lesser extent.
- Part of the decrease across the Borough is attributed to changes in recording which took place in February 2022, reclassifying some ASB as public order offences,.
- The three-year average was 26 reports per month, which reduces to 19 per month for the past 12 months.
- Given additional changes to the Home Office notification policy around public order as of May 2023, it is difficult to predict future trends.

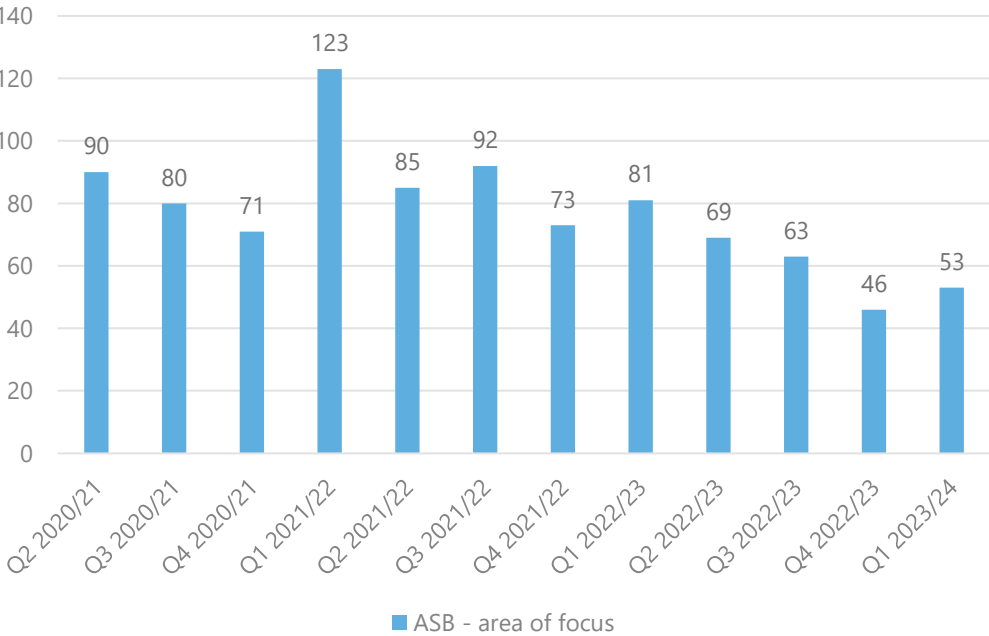
ASB in focus area

<b>12-month total:</b> 231	<b>3-year average:</b> 26 <b>12-month: average:</b> 19
<b>Trend:</b> Decreasing	<b>Most recent quarter:</b> Q1 2022/24 53

ASB reports by month over a three-year period



ASB reports by quarter over a three-year period



# Trends in Antisocial Behaviour

Cells in the table are colour coded according to comparative volume for each hour of each day.

More reports were made on Saturdays (n=41) and Sundays (n=45) than other days.  
Hours of greatest volume were 23:00-23:59 (n=24), 16:00-16:59 (n=21), and 17:00-17:59 (n=22).

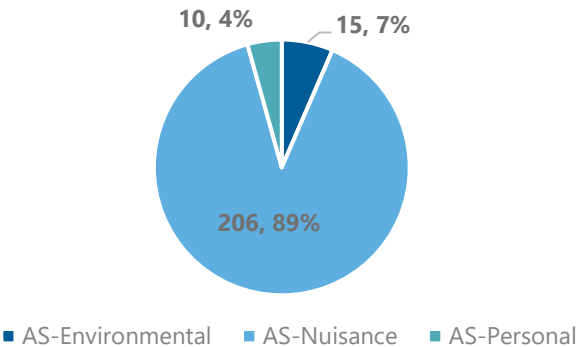
- Periods of greatest activity were identified as:
- **Tuesday afternoons** between 17:00 and 17:59 (n=7), although activity was increased from 15:00 onwards.
  - **Friday nights/Saturday mornings** between 23:00-23:59 (n=9) which continued into the early hours of Saturday morning, with activity finishing around 05:00.
  - **Saturday nights/Sunday mornings**, building from 23:00-23:59 (n=6) and peaking again between 04:00-04:59 (n=9).

ASB in focus area

Periods with greatest volume of public order offences:

- Friday evenings/Saturday mornings 21:00 – 05:59
- Saturday nights/Sunday mornings 21:00-05:59
- Tuesday afternoons 15:00 – 15:00-17:59

ASB reports by type over a 12-month period



ASB reports in the area of interest by hour and day over a 12-month period

Day	00:00 - 00:59	01:00 - 01:59	02:00 - 02:59	03:00 - 03:59	04:00 - 04:59	05:00 - 05:59	06:00 - 06:59	07:00 - 07:59	08:00 - 08:59	09:00 - 09:59	10:00 - 10:59	11:00 - 11:59	12:00 - 12:59	13:00 - 13:59	14:00 - 14:59	15:00 - 15:59	16:00 - 16:59	17:00 - 17:59	18:00 - 18:59	19:00 - 19:59	20:00 - 20:59	21:00 - 21:59	22:00 - 22:59	23:00 - 23:59
Monday			1		1						1	1	2	1	1	1	5	1	1	1	4	1	2	1
Tuesday		1		1						1	2			1		4	3	7		3		1		1
Wednesday	2									2	2			2	2	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	3	4
Thursday	2	1						2	1	2	3	1		1	2	3	3	3	1	1	2	1	3	
Friday			1	1						1	1	1		2	3	2	3	2	2	4	1		1	9
Saturday	7	4		2	4	1	1			1		1	2	1		1	2	3	2				3	6
Sunday	2	2	1	4	9	2					1	2			3	2	3	2	2		3	3	1	3
Total	13	8	3	8	14	3	1	2	1	7	10	6	4	8	11	14	21	22	9	10	12	7	13	24

# Trends in Antisocial Behaviour Reports

Periods with greatest volume in antisocial behaviour reports

<p><b>Friday nights:</b> 21:00 – 05:59 (n=27) <b>Specific hour:</b> 23:00-23:59 (n=9)</p>	<p><b>Saturday nights:</b> 21:00 – 05:59 (n=27) <b>Specific hour:</b> 04:00-04:59 (n=9)</p>	<p><b>Tuesday afternoon:</b> 15:00 – 17:59 (n=14) <b>Specific hour:</b> 17:00-17:59 (n=7)</p>
<p><b>Locations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Market place (n=7)</li><li>• Alcester Street (n=6)</li><li>• Unicorn Hill (n=9)</li></ul> <p><b>Qualifiers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alcohol (n=12)</li><li>• Licensing (n=14)</li></ul> <p><b>Details from log text:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Intoxicated people being aggressive to staff at licensed premises, refusing to leave when asked to, causing fights with door staff</li><li>• Fighting on streets</li><li>• Threatening behaviour</li><li>• Setting off fireworks</li><li>• Cars gathering and racing</li></ul>	<p><b>Locations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Market place (n=9)</li><li>• Alcester Street (n=3)</li><li>• Unicorn Hill (n=12)</li></ul> <p><b>Qualifiers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alcohol (n=4)</li><li>• Licensing (n=8)</li><li>• Drugs (n=1)</li><li>• Repeat victim (n=1)</li></ul> <p><b>Details from log text:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Intoxicated people being aggressive to staff at licensed premises, refusing to leave when asked to, causing fights with door staff</li><li>• Fighting on streets</li></ul>	<p><b>Locations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Easemore Road (n=2)</li><li>• Kingfisher Shopping Centre (n=2)</li><li>• Unicorn Hill (n=4)</li></ul> <p><b>Qualifiers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Youth related (n=2)</li><li>• Repeat victim (n=1)</li><li>• Drugs (n=1)</li></ul> <p><b>Details from log text:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Youths knocking on doors</li><li>• Drug use</li><li>• Tampering with cars, leaving cones and litter on them, drawing in dirt on them</li><li>• Neighbour disputes</li><li>• Nuisance behaviour in shopping centre</li><li>• Fighting and aggressive behaviour</li><li>• Intoxicated female refusing to leave premise</li></ul>

# Data Sources

**Location**

Redditch Borough

**Period**

1 May 2020 to 30 April 2023 for public order and 1 August 2020 to 31 July 2023 for ASB

**Data Sources**

- All crime data was extracted from Athena using BI4.2 – date range 1 May 2020 to 30 April 2023
- Incident data was extracted from Saab SAFE using BI4.2 – date range 1 August 2020 to 31 July 2023

**Caveats**

- The findings of this report are based on public order offences committed between 1 May 2020 and 30 April 2023 as the most current period available due to technical issues with data extraction. Offences committed within this period but recorded later are not included in the analysis. The date range is set due to technical issues with data extraction at the time of reporting.
- The ASB data is based on incidents reported between 1 August 2020 and 31 July 2023, as the most current three-year period available at the time of reporting.
- Geographic locations of ASB reports are based on the centralised to the postcode of the report details. This is the most precise mapping available using the current systems.
- Crime and incident data is reliant on public reporting of offences, and it is likely that some offence groups are under-reported which will affect the volume of crimes.
- Markers applied to data vary in their usage and are reliant on the quality of recording of offences and incidents.
- When a committed time is not entered upon recording an offence, the field reverts to an automatic time of 00:00. As to not skew results, offences recorded as 00:00 were excluded from temporal analysis.

# Methodology

Where possible, the report references financial quarters, as the date ranges for public order and ASB differ, these are defined as follows:

Quarters	ASB Reports	Quarters	Public Order Offences
Most recent quarter	Q1 2023/24	Most recent quarter	Q4 2022/23
Previous quarter	Q4 2022/23	Previous quarter	Q3 2022/23
Same quarter last year	Q1 2022/23	Same quarter last year	Q4 2021/22

A custom geographical focus area was created to most accurately encapsulate the hotspot area of public order offences and ASB incidents in Redditch town centre. Offences and incidents were mapped and extracted for further analysis based on their location within these boundaries.

## Probability Yardstick

Throughout this product, the ‘probability yardstick’, as defined by the Professional Head of Intelligence Assessment or PHIA, has been used to ensure consistency across the different threats and themes when assessing probability. The following defines the probability ranges considered when such language is used.

Qualitative Statement	Remote Chance	Highly Unlikely	Unlikely	Realistic Possibility	Likely or Probable	Highly Likely	Almost Certain
Probability Range	0-5%	10-20%	25-35%	40-50%	55-75%	80-90%	95-100%

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## PSPO Consultation Report

### Survey results for the proposal to Introduce a Public Space Protection Order in Redditch Town Centre

- Two responses were received from statutory consultees – Office of the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner and a Chief Officer of Police for the area. These responses are included at the end of the report.
  - A total of 124 responses to the online survey were received during the consultation period 28/09/23 to 29/10/23
  - The results for each question are shown in the report. A separate table is shown for responses from residents who live within the boundary of the proposed restricted area.
  - Full responses from the 10 residents who stated that they ‘Live in Boundary’ area are also shown separately at the end of the report.
  - A full list of consultees is shown at the end of the report. The consultation survey was also promoted in the press, on the council’s website, via council and partner social media accounts, at the Town Hall reception area and in the Library.
-

Question 1. Which of the following applies to you? Please tick all that apply			
Answer		Response %	Response Total
1	I live in Redditch Town Centre, as shown on the map within the red boundary line.	8.1%	10
2	I live In Redditch but outside of the Town Centre	76.4%	94
3	I am a Business Owner / Employee in the Town Centre	20.3%	25
4	I am a Representative / Employee in the Alcohol Licensing Trade	0.0%	0
5	I am a Redditch Ward Councillor	5.7%	7
6	I am a Redditch County Councillor	3.3%	4
7	I represent a Charity, Voluntary Organisation or Community Group *	4.9%	6
8	I represent a Religious Establishment *	0.8%	1
9	I represent a different organisation or group *	0.8%	1
10	Other (please specify):	5.7%	7
* Please provide the name of your group/organisation/establishment			26
			<b>answered</b>
			<b>124</b>
			<b>skipped</b>
			<b>0</b>

<b>Other (please specify)</b>
Bentley Close Neighbourhood Watch Scheme
I live 50m from the line.
Work in Redditch
Rail station user
Resident
Restaurant Owner



<b>* Please provide the name of your group/organisation/establishment</b>
Worcestershire County Council
Emmanuel Church The Ecumenical Centre Redditch
The Dow Surgery
Redditch BID
Friends of Isaac's Food Bank
Bentley Close Community Association
Bentley Close Community Assoc
Kingfisher Centre
HSBC
HSBC
HSBC
HSBC
HSBC
Threadneedle House
Jumbo Chinese Restaurant

<b>Question 2. Please let us know where in Redditch Borough you live?</b>		
<b>Answer</b>		<b>Response Total</b>
Abbeydale		1
Astwood Bank		2
Batchley		8
Brockhill		4

Callow Hill	1
Church Hill North	6
Church Hill South	4
Crabbs Cross	5
Enfield	1
Feckenham	0
Greenlands	5
Headless Cross	8
Hunt End	1
Ipsley	1
Lakeside	2
Lodge Park	3
Matchborough East	1
Matchborough West	4
Oakenshaw	1
Oakenshaw South	1
Riverside	4
Smallwood	1
Southcrest	9
St. Georges	0
Town Centre	7
Walkwood	7
Webheath	4
Winyates East	2
Winyates Green	2

Winyates West	0
Wirehill	2
Woodrow North	5
Woodrow South	2
<b>answered</b>	<b>104</b>
<b>skipped</b>	<b>20</b>

Question 3. Have you witnessed Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in public areas in Redditch Town Centre in the last 12 months?			
Answer		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes	71.5%	88
2	No	29.3%	36
			<b>answered 124</b>
			<b>skipped 0</b>

Living Within Boundary Only		
Yes 80.0%	8	
No 20.0%	2	
<b>Answered</b>	<b>10</b>	

Question 4. Did you report the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) you witnessed in Redditch Town Centre?			
Answer		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes	31.8%	28
2	No	69.3%	61
			<b>answered 89</b>
			<b>skipped 35</b>

Living Within Boundary Only		
Yes 50.0%		4
No 50.0%		4
<b>Answered</b>		<b>8</b>

Question 5. Who did you report the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) you witnessed to?			
Answer		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Police	89.3%	25
2	Redditch Borough Council	3.6%	1
3	Other (please specify):	7.1%	2
<b>Comments:</b>			11
			<b>answered 28</b>
			<b>skipped 95</b>

**Other (please specify):**

Crime stoppers

Kingfisher security and police

**Comments:**

Police and Community support Officer

Was with friends / friend called police when a fight was breaking out

Shop lifting from my business in the Kingfisher reported to centre who brought in the police

Reported to BOTH the Police AND Redditch Borough Council.

THIS question No. 5 does not allow me and others to select more than one response! Why is this?

I didn't, I just wanted to get away

To officers on foot in town

Member of staff assaulted

We have had 5 years of non-stop hard drug abuse on the premises of Threadneedle house (small walkway at the rear of the building directly outside our window), we have reported this countless times to the police. In the last 2 years there has been a definite increase in homeless people in Redditch town centre and with that an increase in alcohol and drug abuse.

There are groups of teenagers constantly in the town centre harassing people and there's nothing that can be done towards them but just walk quicker.

Overall our safety feels greatly compromised in Redditch town centre currently so we would fully stand behind something being done about that

We have numerous records or reports to the police noting drug misuse outside of our bedroom window, urination outside of the front of our home and antisocial behaviour from people on the public footpath outside our home

Police and Redditch Borough Council

I reported it to both Police and Redditch Borough Council.

A CCTV camera when it was there, it did deter A.S. Behaviour and criminal activity

Living Within Boundary Only		
Police	75.0%	3
Crimestoppers	25.0%	1
<b>Answered</b>		<b>4</b>

Question 6. Please tell us why you did not report the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) you witnessed?		
Answer	Response Percent	Response Total
1	100.0%	54
<b>answered</b>		<b>54</b>
<b>skipped</b>		<b>70</b>

<b>Comments</b>
I tend to mind my own business. I consider that behaviour should be monitored by the authorities.
I was alone and as a female felt intimidated
Unlikely that police would be able to attend
I have seen groups of people drinking around the war memorial adjacent to St. Stephens Church on many occasions, but there doesn't ever seem to be any PCSO's around to report this too.
Had no confidence that police would attend in good time to stop the fight
It was already reported
There are never any police around and the response is slow anyway
What's the point, nothings ever done. The police are massively understaffed and don't have the powers/freedom to do a proper job.
Because I did not think my complaint would be taken seriously.
It was adult drinking in the area near the church - they appear to be homeless and are often there, so were not actually causing a

disturbance as such
To many and they can get aggressive
I didn't know who to report it to.
Police will not attend low level ASB and the council do not have officers available to enforce ASB.
nothing ever gets done about it. Its a regular occurrence in certain areas of the town centre. Police are aware but are either not bothered or don't have the man power to sort it out.
I'm in town every Tuesday night waiting for my daughter to finish a group she goes to it's awful and unsafe in the town pointless to report
don't know who to report it to and it is happening daily on the band stand next to the church
The offenders are around the church pretty much all day long. The police are aware of this and visit quite often but don't appear to do anything, therefore I see no point in wasting their time or mine.
I did not want to get involved.
Work in a office. They are all alcoholics and hang around the bandstand by the Church and are very loud, swearing and arguing amongst themselves. It is very noisy during the summer.
No action will be taken. Numerous alcoholics drunk, shouting & disrupting the local area.
The company i work for has reported this on multiple instances with no action taken
The company that I work for has reported it numerous times with no action taken.
Seemed pointless
I was harassed for money by a drug addict in Gloucester Close, but it would have been pointless reporting it as nothing would be done about it.
That would be a waste of my time:
* If I were to report using the 101 service, I would be waiting an excessive length of time for the call to be answered. I have given up twice after waiting more than 15 minutes. That is not a service.
* If I were to report it online then I have to give a lot of my personal details. I call that unnecessary data harvesting. The service wants to know more about the person reporting the incident than the incident itself.
Fear of repercussions
I felt that no one was in danger and the people involved were walking through the town centre
No point- police don't care
I see anti-social behaviour on a daily basis and do not have time to report everything I see every day
As we are busy with customer every day and this antisocial behaviour happens every day
Because a friend I was with did report it.

Who would I report it to. No police station open. No police presence in Redditch town centre. Today Saturday 14 October at Church Green Redditch. At least 8 people drinking by the bus stop. Even a grill on a portable table had been set up. They were actually cooking food and drinking alcohol. Very intimidating. Police nowhere to be seen.
It had already been reported
Did not think anything would be done .
Didn't know where and how
Because I see community officers around town centre, police cars driving past and people are in the Church Green area drinking or smoking drugs, also police have other more urgent priorities so feel this is time wasting. If someone was being hurt then I would report this.
Time consuming and quite a few instances
Because there were already police dealing with the problem as another person reported it.
Because someone else should be monitoring this.
Not sure who to report to
Someone else reported them
Because it happens a lot and a waste of time reporting anything
It was already attended by police.
Nothing would get done
Drunks in the bandstand. They're always there and never moved on. What's the point of reporting?
Who do I report it to?
What about all the homeless people?
Was being dealt with
Police already there
With the lack of police resources I did not want to report it. It was relating to people drinking alcohol excessively during the day and drug users
Not sure how to report it.
No one obvious to report to, and probably will have moved on by the time investigated by authorities. Didn't want to waste emergency services time phoning it in.
Reported by others also there
The security guards from the Kingfisher Centre were dealing with it.



**Question 7. Do you support the introduction of a Town Centre PSPO to deal with the problems below:**

**Alcohol related anti-social behaviour**

**Misuse of Psychoactive Substances (e.g. Nitrous Oxide)**

**Public Urination, Defecation and other Offensive, Indecent or Threatening Behaviour**

**Abusive, Obscene and Threatening Language**

Answer		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes	88.6%	108
2	No	12.2%	15
<b>Comments:</b>			52
			<b>answered</b>
			<b>124</b>
			<b>skipped</b>
			<b>0</b>

**Comments:**

I believe many residents don't feel safe in the TC and therefore do not use it. If these issues were sorted perhaps more businesses would come to Redditch and more people would go out.

As an older person, I will not willingly visit the Town Centre in the evening due to the threatening atmosphere caused by the above problems. This precludes me from attending performances at the Palace Theatre, for example

The businesses in the town centre which I have spoken to are getting more and more frustrated with the ASB in the town centre. When I speak to residents it acts as a deterrent. If we want to increase patronage to our town centre we must make it safer and more inviting.

Yes, definitely to ensure the safety for everyone and the right to live a clean peaceful life

Town centre sometimes feels unsafe

I have not witnessed it in the last 12 months because I no longer go into the Town Centre in the evenings - too violent!

In a lot of cases it's the same offences being committed by the same perpetrators in the same place. Police are aware but it doesn't seem to make much difference

Redditch wants to attract people to visit its night time economy and stopping yobs and those who feel its ok to behave like idiots can only help
I appreciate the issues above but a PSPO is not dealing with issues and problems all it is doing is pushing it away from the town centre. The police need to deal with the crimes that are happening at that time. The police need to be more proactive. The council and police need to provide the right support and guidance and safe places for people to go.
Not all alcohol drinkers are being anti social but it's important that residents feel safe in town.
Not only in the Town Center but other centers around Redditch in particular Arrow Valley Lake
This is absolutely essential. We spend a lot of time fundraising in the town centre and the levels of antisocial behaviour put us off doing further fundraising there
Residents and visitors to the town centre should be able to go about their business without feeling threatened or at risk from others who choose to act in an anti social and disruptive manner. Everyone has a right to feel safe
People smoking weed in public areas should be addressed too.
As a town centre business owner we are fiercely aware of how antisocial behaviour negatively impacts business, customers and staff often feeling at risk approaching the centre. Being approached for money, shouted and swore at.
We just need more police officers, the law is there already.
It needs something to stop this sort of behaviour
Incidents which have been reported don't get dealt with. Residents who actually did (in the past) take the trouble of reporting incidents now sadly do not bother. The view which many residents have is that RBC's 'Safer Redditch' Team is hopeless and ineffective.
Too much of above problems going on inside and just outside of boundary
For one seems pretty arbitrary to cut it off just before Clive Road if you were to include the other half of the housing block. For another how rigorously would this be enforced? Would this extend to people coming out of the nightclub who are already engaging in arguably 'Alcohol-related anti-social behaviour'?
I would like to see our Town Centre return to the standards of 1985 when we decided to move here and raise our family.
I have to listen to, and watch them drinking and shouting every day while I am working during the summer months it is very loud with the windows open
There's nothing worse than feeling uneasy walking to & from the office, in fear of encountering someone who is either drunk or high on illegal substances. I'm not convinced a Town Centre PSPO will work but it's certainly worth trying.
I do not feel this is required. I have been living in Redditch for may years and feel that not much has change. you will always get one or two people making a fool of themselves.
Not needed.
I support the PSPO, however I doubt it will have any effect on the constant stink of weed that blights the whole town centre.

Why aren't the police dealing with these issues anyway? We shouldn't need another acronym to sort this out.
Most definitely support the pspo
Need a visible deterrent at all times
As long as it is sensibly and calmly enforced. However all of these items are already covered by varying existing laws which can be and hopefully are enforced.
If you are looking to be able to ban people from the town centre completely then I understand this.
this is about education as well. the wearing of hoodies also need to be addressed, these allow offenders to mask their appearance. Clamp down on the wearing of them and people will soon realise that they can't hide.
We have customers who now refuse to visit Redditch and will travel further to different towns because of the anti social behaviour in church green west, many customers have commented that they feel intimidated and no longer safe to visit Redditch
They are disturbing customers as they gather outside our premises.
As a senior citizen I do not wish to go anywhere where it is likely that I am required to witness offensive behaviour by word or action. In conversation with other seniors it appears that if they have to go to the town centre evening or night they go do what is necessary and leave. I believe the threat is not as serious as others perceive but avoiding the Town centre is unlikely to assist the local economy.
And only for these problems. I do hope there is going to be some accountability or review to make sure that these powers are not being exceeded. Steps also need to be taken to make sure vulnerable people are protected, for example the homeless and people with mental health conditions.
Police support we feel will be used for alternative use & it's time to question what the council are actually doing they are not listening to the residents of Redditch & constantly pushing agenda's which no one voted for.
I hate going into the town now, especially on a Saturday. Where are the police. It's a joke.
I work in the town centre and often see people opening drinking and drunk, those who frequent the band stand and Church Green openly cross the road and use the bushes at the top of Easemore /Prospect Road to urinate, we can see that from our office. I have seen all sort of people including young people with college badges smoking weed which seems to carry far and wide, sometimes the smell of drugs carries across the road and to the pedestrian area - each to their own but smoke it at home!
Before the bushes were removed from corner of Church Green it was a regular drop off and exchange spot. I have been approached and asked for money so now walk into town using the pavement now the nicer way across by the Church. In the summer I would like to sit and enjoy the Church Green seating and do see others enjoying the area but avoid because of those drinking/high, often I have seen parents/children sat on the grass or next to fountain in the summer which shows if this area was safer and in the banned area lots of people would and could enjoy this. The area down the the Palace Theatre and underpass is something I now avoid - I used to park over near retail park. It would be lovely to feel safe, not to have to smell weed and enjoy what is a lovely town centre and spoilt by a few people.
I have concerns that the problem will just move out of the town to local centre areas.

Absolutely. Redditch town centre is very intimidating day or night.
As in my previous statement Redditch town centre does not feel safe because of the things outlined above but above all the amount of hard drug usage
I do agree however, I wonder what the response would be. We have previously been told that our reports were not an emergency and had no follow up to our concerns.
I don't think it's as black or white as yes or no this will criminalise some of the most vulnerable individuals
We do need some public toilets ,for use when Kingfisher closed
There is also smoking of weeds found at many places in Redditch Town Centre
Because if you let a pro-Palestinian march to go ahead , but stop decent Redditch citizens from enjoying themselves .....then NO !
People who (repeatedly) exhibit the behaviours you mention need help, not punishment or exclusion. What measures are being put in place by the Council or other agencies to help people experiencing homelessness or addiction? There are adequate laws in place allowing Police to deal with Night Time Economy problems without additional Civil Liberties rules.
I support it if it is used correctly with compassion. I do not support it being used to move on the homeless unless there is a positive outcome for them. With how little nightlife there is in the town now I am surprised this is happening now and not when it was really busy with bars. If bringing this in helps attract business and a nightlife back to Redditch that's great but please don't use it to kill off the little economy already there.
Providing we have the police manpower to cover and enforce it. They are stretched as it is.
As long as it is actually enforced
Always see people hanging around the church
I have witnessed ASB in other cities and towns. It is a useful tool to have in place to maintain peaceful law and order.

Living Within Boundary Only	
Yes 90.0%	9
No 10.0%	1
<b>Answered</b>	<b>10</b>

**Question 8. Please tell us anything else you think we should know about ASB in Redditch Town Centre:**

Answer Choice		Response Percent	Response Total
1		100.0%	62
		<b><i>answered</i></b>	<b>62</b>
		<b><i>skipped</i></b>	<b>62</b>

**Comment**

Hopefully, such an order would deter people from outside Redditch from travelling to the town centre, with intent to cause problem with ASB and drug dealing etc.

There is an issue with drug dealing, it is possible that they are coming in on the train.

We need more cameras and Police patrolling, drug dealing in the alleyway between Other Rd & Archer Rd still happens at all hours of the day & night

I feel intimidated by a lot of the smoking of cannabis within the town Centre and by the begging from the rough sleepers or apparent rough sleepers during the day

ASB takes many forms including use of foul language, drunken behaviour, confrontations and noise. I would like help to tackle ASB of my neighbour in Easemore Road.

It makes the town centre an unpleasant place to be

Would be better to see more foot patrols. The bandstand and church green is not a space i would frequent at certain times due to intimetating behaviour of some people.

People are getting stabbed when going shopping. That should tell you all you need to know about the viciousness experienced in our town these days. Security int he Town Centre are ineffective and the police are nowhere to be seen.

I'm seeing Antisocial behaviour on a daily basis from the same people who are alcohol and drug depent

Littering, graffiti and vandalism how ever minor by all ages should be included in ASB.

There should be a visible police presence in the town at all times, residents should never feel afraid to be out or for their children to be

out after a certain time
There's small gatherings of drunks/drug users in the town every single day and they are never moved on, they are clearly drunk but nothings ever done.
There is ASB all over Redditch and this is not being dealt with. Police need to take action and arrest and charge and for persistent offenders take long term action. It should not be the responsibility of the council to do the police's job. This is not addressing the ASB this action is trying to brush the issues that Redditch has under the carpet and move it to other areas. This will then impact on neighborhoods and their homes. Young people have to be able to go out and enjoy themselves and without the fear of a criminal record if they do something wrong.
I think a town centre police prescribe is important as there will be less ASB if police are visible and nearby.
No respect is shown to the church area and the surrounding area of it. Litter, smoking etc.
I want my family to feel safe when in the town centre and therefore this order should hopefully help to reduce anti-social behaviour and make the town a nicer place to use - as long as there are enough police officers to be available to enforce the order?
A group of drunk people are always by the church ,drunk at 8 in the morning calling ambulance to take them home. It's always the same ones , urinating in alley opposite church
The police need more powers to arrest and more visibility
My only concern is that this order will push ASB out of the town centre into other local communities who have smaller shopping centres. Who will deal with ASB in these areas and what are the council doing about it? Areas such as Salters Lane in Batchley where individuals who use alcohol and drugs are housed in close proximity.
Nothing, but this should cover the whole of the borough not just the town centre
its getting worse. there are areas I don't want to walk through as a single woman day or night. just don't feel safe.
The opening hours are too late. 2am is plenty
Groups of teens accessing the kingfisher after hours detract security from necessary work and are committing theft and vandalism on the open concessions stands.
Homeless around the centre intimidate customers
ASB behaviour can be currently handled under the law. There needs to be more police officers however.
I tend to sit on a bench sometimes on my own I'm a woman and the amount of times I've been approached by drunks and this is only 6 until 7 if you walk through the church there are bottles lay on the ground from methadone and groups hanging about every where
The area covered by this proposed PSPO needs to be extended. 1. It should include Ludlow Road and the footpath from Oakly Road which goes to Plymouth Road through Bentley Close. This footpath is called by some as 'Cannabis Alley' and/or 'Druggies' Exchange'. On this footpath, (adjacent to Sandpitts Allotment

site), has experienced incidents of anti-social behaviour.
2. AND the area to be enlarged should also include the Plymouth Road Cemetery and The Garden of Remembrance.
+=+=+=+ It is really hoped that these comments will be acted on, and that completing this 'Consultation Questionnaire' has not been an absolute waste of time!!
Boundary map should include pathway from Bentley Close to Oakley Rd ,as this is area of ASB which always gets ignored
No comment.
Urinating in Church Green.
In appropriate language causing offence to business customers and staff.
Fighting in church green.
Sexual activity by those under influence
as stated before I do not feel this is required. I have been living in Redditch for many years and feel that not much has change. you will always get one or two people making a fool of themselves.
Gathering in the bus station
Sick of getting verbal abuse from people sitting drinking in Church Green/ the Bandstand. Makes me not want to visit the town centre.
The stink of weed is rife, especially in Gloucester Close.
Smoking of cannabis is regularly noticed. Use of e-scooter and similar still goes on. Regular meetings of vehicles on the Enfield Industrial estate in hidden zones late evenings is a suspicious activity and usually ends with litter being left in the area.
There is sufficient provision for the police to take action against any issue
I think a Police presence (beat bobbies)in the town centre would do more to deter bad behaviour rather than make a PSP area which in itself leaves much to interpretation by any given authority. We need more community policing not more restrictions in order to improve the relationship we have with our brilliant town.
It's particularly bad in the evenings especially at weekends
Open drug dealing now moved outside Hsbc
The area around the church seems to attract people who are drinking or standing in groups which intimidating
Aggressive begging needs to stop
Make sure it's policed effectively. When we lived in Solihull near JLR they put parking restrictions but did not monitor them so the muppets that worked there just parked there anyway.
There is also asb carried out regularly in the hsbc car park which is private property, (we cannot lock the gate as it's a fire escape route for our neighbours) when asked politely to move on, they can then become very aggressive
As employee of hsbc I hear from customer complaining about ASB in front of our branch and saying that they avoid coming to this branch due to this behaviour

Nothing else to add.

We can live in hope the police will start to do the job they are supposed to do. I won't hold my breath.

I THINK THAT YOUR OVER REACTING IT NEVER USED TO BE A PROBLEM TRY TO USE A BIT OF GOOD OLD POILCE WORK LET THE BOBBY MAKE HIS OWN CHIOCE ON WHAT HE RECKONS WHEN HE OR SHE DEALS WITH A PROBLEM. YOUR NEVER GOING TO STOP IT SO A BIT OF COMMONSENCE YOUR JUST WASTING MONEY IVE BEEN THERE AND I KNOW THE POILCE USED TO SIT AND CHAT WITH US AND THEY EARNED SOME RESPECT EASY FOR MPS ITS NOT THERE MONEY . GO AND CHAT TO SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO DO DRINK AND ASK THEM IF THEY HAVE ANY IDEAS. THESE PEOPLE ARE HUMANS NOT RATS THE WAY YOU SPEAK ABOUT THEM. BUT FAIR PLAY FOR ASKING PEOPLE TO HAVE A SAY

If introduced it needs to be policed and action taken at all times of day.

Needs policing constantly

This is a good start so well done to those who have implemented

I do feel that we need to understand more about how the PSPO will be actioned by the police and what changes we can expect. Often when Police have followed up our concerns there has been a fair delay in them getting out to us which often leads to those causing issues no longer being present.

Will there be any increase in surveillance within the town centre to support with the implementation of the PSPO?

Will there be an increase in police presence within the town centre?

I agree that there a few individuals that cause a problem but most are vulnerable suffering with mental health or addictions who need help on fines they can't pay

perhaps should cover the whole town as the offenders will probably move out of the center

Does this include PROTESTS ? or is it just for alcohol ? ,

It's not just the town centre this needs to cover the districts as church hill south is overcome with ASB

Drug dealers use the alleyways in between buildings on Church Green. Specifically by Lloyd's Bank and down by Instabarber.

I definitely think the known dug users and alcohol users should be constantly moved away from the town centre.

I have more of a problem with charity representatives than I do with homeless/vulnerable. I believe that current Police action around the railway station and town centre should be maintained and increased to discourage drug dealing and people travelling to Redditch for this purpose. This can be dealt with under existing laws.

It's not as bad as other places. Resources being few is what is making it seem that way.

It should be conserved to widen the geographical area in to other suburbs where it is identified as an issue to local residents.

ASB destroys the sense of comfort, safety and security when considering visiting the town centre - therefore internet shopping is preferable.



Drug smoking. Drinking at memorials and churches. Groups loitering. Littering. Shouting and abusive language within groups in shopping centre/bus station.

Make the area bigger. Include the footpath which goes from Oakly Road to Bentley Close

It is very scary when I walk in the street and someone shouting bad language behind me. Once I walked at the traffic lights and a stranger came towards me asking to give him £20. I refused and he tried to hold my hand, I run away from him

## **Responses from people who 'Live in Boundary' only**

<b>Looking at just those who responded 'I live in Redditch Town Centre, as shown on the map within the red boundary line' to Question 1</b>	
<b>Total living within boundary</b>	10
NB. Question 2 related to which Ward people lived in, so hasn't been included here	
<b>Responses to Q3 - Q7</b>	
<b>Q3 - Have you witnessed Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in public areas in Redditch Town Centre in the last 12 months?</b>	
Yes	8
No	2
<b>Q4. Did you report the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) you witnessed in Redditch Town Centre?</b>	
Of the 8 who said they had witnessed ASB:	
Yes	4
No	4
<b>Q5. Who did you report the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) you witnessed to?</b>	
4 responded to this question:	
Police	3
Crimestoppers	1

<u>Comments:</u>	
Police and Community support Officer	
We have had 5 years of nonstop hard drug abuse on the premises of Threadneedle house (small walkway at the rear of the building directly outside our window), we have reported this countless times to the police. In the last 2 years there has been a definite increase in homeless people in Redditch town centre and with that an increase in alcohol and drug abuse.	
We have numerous records or reports to the police noting drug misuse outside of our bedroom window, urination outside of the front of our home and antisocial behaviour from people on the public footpath outside our home	
<b>Q6. Please tell us why you did not report the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) you witnessed?</b>	
4 people responded to this question:	
To many and they can get aggressive	
Fear of repercussions	
Someone else reported them	
It was already attended by police.	
<b>Question 7 : 'Do you support the introduction of a Town Centre PSPO to deal with ....'</b>	
Yes, I support ...	9
No, I don't support ...	1
<u>Comments:</u>	
For one seems pretty arbitrary to cut it off just before Clive Road if you were to include the other half of the housing block. For another how rigorously would this be enforced? Would this extend to people coming out of the nightclub who are already engaging in arguably 'Alcohol-related anti-social behaviour'?	
As in my previous statement Redditch town centre does not feel safe because of the things outlined above but above all the amount of hard drug usage	
I do agree however, I wonder what the response would be. We have previously been told that our reports were not an emergency and had no follow up to our concerns.	
There is also smoking of weeds found at many places in Redditch Town Centre	

<b>Q8. Please tell us anything else you think we should know about ASB in Redditch Town Centre:</b>
<u>Comments:</u>
We need more cameras and Police patrolling, drug dealing in the alleyway between Other Rd & Archer Rd still happens at all hours of the day & night
ASB takes many forms including use of foul language, drunken behaviour, confrontations and noise. I would like help to tackle ASB of my neighbour in Easemore Road.
A group of drunk people are always by the church ,drunk at 8 in the morning calling ambulance to take them home. It's always the same ones , urinating in alley opposite church
Gathering in the bus station
It's particularly bad in the evenings especially at weekends
I do feel that we need to understand more about how the PSPO will be actioned by the police and what changes we can expect. Often when Police have followed up our concerns there has been a fair delay in them getting out to us which often leads to those causing issues no longer being present.

## **Responses from Statutory Consultees**

From: Nicola Lowery on behalf of John Campion, West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner

I provide a formal response to the Redditch Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) Consultation from the West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) John Campion.

In summary, the PCC is **in support** of the PSPO application Redditch Borough Council is proposing for Redditch Town Centre. It is felt by the PCC that the PSPO will provide additional tools for the Police act early in certain situations before ASB escalates and will hopefully provide reassurance on police and partnership commitment to tackling localised issues.

Should Redditch Borough Council formally make the PSPO the PCC acknowledges the impact enforcement and administration of the PSPO has on local authority resources and is open to a discussion on collaboration to support the administration of the order.

The PCC is aware that local business owners, residents and councillors have raised concerns around ASB incidents at the Safer Redditch Meeting. It is felt by the PCC that the PSPO will provide a clear commitment to addressing localised problems including:

- Anti- Social Behaviour linked to alcohol, drugs, and Nitrous Oxide
- Drug misuse and supply.
- sexual activity in the Church yard
- Alcohol related public order / assaults.
- Seasonal summer increase in street robbery. OP Calix was our local operational response following a supported funding bid through Force Tasking.
- Increase in cross border offending in particular shop theft.

The PCC has sought reassurance from West Mercia Police on local issues and what work has taken place and understands that there has been proactive inter-agency work between Redditch Council, Redditch BID, Kingfisher Shopping Centre, drug and alcohol services, local businesses and the public.

In summary the PCC fully supports the PSPO proposed for Redditch Town Centre and welcomes further discussion on collaboration to the administration of the PSPO to ensure its effectiveness in reducing anti-social behaviour in Redditch.

**Nicola Lowery**  
**Policy Officer**



[www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk)

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From: Superintendent Edward Hancox – Chief Officer of Police, West Mercia Police

I have been asked to provide a formal response to the PSPO consultation from West Mercia Police. I have copied in Nicola Lowery from the Office of Police & Crime Commissioner for West Mercia, and I have liaised with local policing command for North Worcestershire. Inspector Richard Field informs me that there has been close consultation through Safer Redditch.

Redditch Town Centre has experienced a combination of localised problems including:

- Anti- Social Behaviour linked to alcohol, drugs, and Nitrous Oxide misuse
- Drug misuse and supply
- Public sexual activity in a localised area
- Seasonal summer increase in street robbery
- Increase in cross border offending in particular shop theft.

I am satisfied that there is evidence of activities that have taken place and had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality. The activities are likely to be persistent or continuing in nature, and by their very nature they are unreasonable and they do justify the consideration of a PSPO.

In terms of the partnership approach, the following has been undertaken:

- Increased use of Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 powers such as dispersal powers
- A Task and Finish group established under Safer Redditch
- Increased use of outreach support to people with addiction.
- Improved engagement through the Kingfisher Shopping Centre and Redditch BID.
- An EVA and consideration for further environmental works.
- Proposals for additional support through Safer Streets 5 funding

I am assured that has been significant positive inter-agency work between Redditch Borough Council, Redditch BID, Kingfisher Shopping Centre, drug and alcohol services, local businesses, and the public who either work, live or visit the area.

In principle, West Mercia Police is supportive of the application for a PSPO in Redditch town centre, in the area indicated in the consultation papers. The PSPO would enable appropriate early intervention and provide evidence towards preventing anti-social behaviour. Police are aware local business owners, residents and councillors have raised concerns around anti-social behaviour incidents at the Safer Redditch Meeting, through community consultation and reports to statutory agencies. A PSPO aims to tackle the issues encountered and has been presented so as not to impact legitimate community or business events.

We would strongly urge the use of preventative conditions being included within the PSPO, such as dispersal powers for those causing anti-social behaviour and the surrendering of alcohol, rather than being entirely punitive. This would give individuals the opportunity to change their behaviour through engagement and education, with the option to move to enforcement if required.

The Local Policing Commander believes that Redditch Borough Council are proposing that if the PSPO is granted, primary enforcement would be undertaken by Police as the council do not have resource authorised to do this. Whilst the Police will be 'authorised officers' and will act if the PSPO is granted, there is a benefit in a joint response which would be likely to assist in the effectiveness of the order. We would welcome a further discussion of this point and clear enforcement protocols being drawn up.

You will be aware that local authorities must have regard to the freedoms permitted under articles 10 and 11 of the Human Rights Act 1998 when drafting a PSPO. These cover freedom of expression, and freedom of assembly and association, respectively. Local Authorities must also consider existing legislation. I have not seen the proposed wording for the PSPO in Redditch but would welcome a collaborative approach in drafting prohibitions.

I have also signposted Redditch Borough Council to colleagues within Shropshire Council who are having significant issues with the enforcement and administration of their PSPO in Shrewsbury town centre. Whilst notices are being issued under the PSPO, very few are being prosecuted. In some cases this is appropriate; the individual is requested to leave the specified area and does so, in other cases, there have been individuals receiving several notices and no prosecution to follow due to poor evidence and/or the significant cost to local authorities. I feel that there is some learning to be had from Shropshire, to avoid any loss of confidence in Redditch Borough Council or West Mercia Police should the PSPO not be effective in reducing anti-social behaviour. We would be open to a conversation regarding administration of the PSPO.

Please do let me know if you require any further information,

Kind regards,

**Superintendent Edward Hancox**  
**Head of Prevention | West Mercia Police**



## Full List of Consultees

Type / Organisation	Role
Police and Crime Commissioner, West Mercia	Police and Crime Commissioner
West Mercia Police	Superintendent
	Chief Inspector for Redditch
	District Inspector for Redditch
Worcestershire County Council	Worcestershire County Council, Public Health Team
Worcestershire County Councillors for Redditch	All Worcestershire County Councillors

Type / Organisation	Role
Redditch Borough Councillors	All Redditch Borough Councillors
Feckenham Parish Council	Parish Clerk
Redditch Borough Council	Chief Executive Deputy Chief Executive Executive Director S151 Senior Management Team
Other organisations (such as community interest groups)	Members of North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership
	Redditch Business Improvement District Members
	Palace Theatre
	North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration
	Redditch New Deal Group
	North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership
	Safer Redditch CSP Group
	Members of Redditch Housing First/Homelessness Group
	All Licensed and Off-License Premises
	All Businesses with Proposed Restricted Area

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You are now in an area controlled by a  
**Public Space Protection Order**

**Authorised Officers can ask you to stop  
any of the activities below**

If you do not comply, you could receive a

**£100**

Fixed Penalty Fine or face prosecution



Commit, or be likely to commit, alcohol-related antisocial behaviour



Consume, inhale, inject or smoke any intoxicating or psychoactive substance



Urinating or defecating in public



Behaving in a violent, aggressive or indecent manner or using foul and abusive language likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress



To report any ASB issues contact 101 | [www.westmercia.police.uk](http://www.westmercia.police.uk)  
In an emergency always call 999

Further details of this Public Space Protection Order can be found on the  
Redditch Borough Council website: [www.redditchbc.gov.uk/TownCentrePSPO](http://www.redditchbc.gov.uk/TownCentrePSPO)

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West Midlands Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny  
Committee

19<sup>th</sup> October 2023

<https://governance.wmca.org.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=138&MId=867>

Mayors Question Time:

As we have seen online the new deeper devolution deal has given rights to the Mayor to consolidate the position of PCC into the Mayoral role as is the case in both London and Manchester already. Andy Street plans on seeking these powers. Effect for Redditch, potentially better collaboration on county lines drug dealing. Andy Street will undertake a big recruitment drive which will be beneficial for Redditch when crimes cross borders.

Andy Street has met with both Rabbis and Mosque leaders along with the Chief Superintendent regarding the Israeli/Gaza war. Andy Street commented on the dignity he witnessed on all sides and as leader he wants to see peace in the West Midlands and will do all he can to support both communities.

Andy told us that he is examining how to release funds to districts more expediently. This will help us on the occasions we are successful with funding from the WMCA.

Economy

We discussed the LEP's and Andy told us he felt the transition from the LEPs to WMCA had been smooth. The work to support business growth in the West Midlands will continue. Redditch will be a part of this.

There hasn't yet been an impact assessment carried out on the changes to the HS2 project. The replacement projects in the Midlands are relatively secure as Andy had personally sat down with Government to discuss which projects needed prioritising. Andy Street is disappointed in the decision but will still work towards greater connectivity between Birmingham and Manchester.

Skills

The MWCA's plan for growth is a plan for youth. The CA are focusing on specific training for the job vacancies in the market. There is an aim to lift the level of educational attainment for example more NVQ level 3's achieved than level 2.

Upskilling people is essential as the biggest number of vacancies are in jobs such as nursing and IT development.

Bootcamps are being offered for practical skills such as plumber, builder, electrician etc.

They have developed an Apprenticeship Levy Transfer Fund. This allows extra funding from businesses to go into a pool allowing SME's to take on apprentices who otherwise wouldn't have been able to.

This benefits Redditch as many students and apprentices go into Birmingham from Redditch for both education and employment opportunities using the trainline.

#### Environment

The MWCA is working with districts on plans to achieve net zero. The plan for the CA is still to achieve net zero by 2041.

#### Affordable Homes

The MWCA has more money to spend on social homes thanks to the greater devolution deal. There are a good number of social housing companies coming forward with plans. Local Authorities are welcome to bid for some of the £400m on offer.

#### Birmingham section 114 notice

The CA cannot solve Birmingham's finances, but the CA can pick up some of the projects Birmingham can no longer honour. For example, the loan proposal for the Hypodrome. Andy Street will also be advising Michael Gove and Birmingham Leaders on how to move forward. Andy is also talking to local businesses to reassure that their investment into Birmingham is safe. Important for Redditch as a neighbour.

Meeting on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023 – I was unable to attend due to a diary clash.

<https://governance.wmca.org.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=138&MId=868>

Councillor Emma Marshall

Redditch Borough Council's Representative on West Midlands Combined Authority  
Overview and Scrutiny Committee

## West Midlands Combined Authority Transport Delivery Overview and Scrutiny

30<sup>th</sup> October 2023

<https://governance.wmca.org.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=240&MId=948>

### Question and Answer session with Cllr Mike Bird Portfolio lead for Transport

Councillor Bird was open and honest that he is not a fan of EV's or electric scooters. The policy is to expand the EV charging infrastructure in the west midlands, but Cllr Bird said he foresees a shift. His aim instead is to increase public transport and active travel. He recognises that 40-50% of the bus routes in the WM are not viable without intervention. Cllr Bird mentioned that the CA needs to be better at advertising what they are doing in transport and need to educate people on the transport options available.

Cllr Bird spoke of his interest in hydrogen powered vehicles which he believes will be cheaper eventually. A hydrogen bus station is going to be built in Walsall. The plan is for 100 hydrogen and 12 electric buses. Hydrogen buses have a better range. The business case is still ongoing working with National Express.

The website Climate Emergency UK shows the WMCA as the best out of all of the combines authorities with a 65% score. Redditch currently has a 20% score and therefore Redditch should be looking to the WMCA and learning from what they have done.

Transport for West Midlands has spent £40 m on securing bus services. Another good news story is that 95% of trains are on time. Cllr Bird believes we need more bus providers to prevent a monopoly.

They also want to invest in better live data for buses, working with bus operators to be able to give users real time information on when a bus is delayed or broken down. The operators should also invest in this technology which makes bus travel more reliable.

Demand Responsive Transport was discussed and WMCA should liaise with WCC.

I asked that security on the trains is made a priority after the abhorrent murder of Ian Kerwell in Redditch in March 2022.

### TDOS Meeting after Cllr Bird left

The group wanted to know if the land where HS3 was to go is going to be protected in case the plans are re-opened in the future.

Currently I am the only non-constituent member attending these meetings. The group are hoping that the other non-constituent member will be sending a member for the next meeting.

Many Councillors are receiving complaints about Diamond Buses. I suggested a meeting with diamond could be helpful as we experience similar in Redditch.

Councillor Emma Marshall

Redditch Borough Council's Representative on the West Midlands Combined Authority  
Transport Delivery Overview and Scrutiny

## Worcestershire Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

### 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Link to papers: ([Public Pack](#))[Agenda Document for Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 13/11/2023 10:00 \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

#### Public Health and Protection:

The report is based around the Worcestershire Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2032 [https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-02/health\\_and\\_wellbeing\\_strategy\\_2022\\_to\\_2032.pdf](https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-02/health_and_wellbeing_strategy_2022_to_2032.pdf)

There have been successes in regard to active Kids and preventing vaping in children. Worcestershire are leading the way on this nationally. The Prevent programme to counter terrorism and extremism is the strongest in region. Getting into the heart of deprived areas helping them form local committees rather than the organisations coming in and doing it to the community.

It is important that every stakeholder understands that prevention is everyone's job, it can't be left to public health on their own. The system must invest in primary prevention to shift the balance. Healthwatch agree with this and want to help push health prevention right into the heart of communities. To achieve this the system needs to work with all sizes of VCS groups.

We discussed the increase of life saving de-fibs being installed across the county, many by County Councillors utilising their Divisional funding. It transpires that nobody is responsible for the defib circuit across the country. Public Health are starting to take responsibility and ensuring the de-fibs are where they are supposed to be and are being maintained. They are working with the ambulance service to maintain existing units, but they are also going to put in more defibs across the county.

The ABCD method has been showing success in communities. Redditch has 3 ABCD community builders, 1 in Woodrow, 1 in Abbeydale and a third community builder who is not place based and is focused on community building within minority groups. The ABCD method is now forming more and more of the approach for community enablement and development. Instead of doing to people ABCD encourages enabling communities to build what they want from within.

We discussed areas of deprivation. There is more data available on deprivation metrics all the way down to ward level. [Data and Intelligence \(worcestershire.gov.uk\)](#)

Preventing vaping with children, work is continuing to prevent the sales of vapes to under 18's and working with schools on prevention.

There is a national consultation on tobacco and vaping projects here: [Creating a smokefree generation and tackling youth vaping - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/creating-a-smokefree-generation-and-tackling-youth-vaping)

There are 9 family hubs across Worcestershire, each district has at least one hub, these join up services. Mapping each hub and connecting to the community and VCS offering in the area.

Best start in life partnership is focusing on prevention for early years, mental health, enabling parent to parent support, speech and language therapy and identifying issues early for SEND.

Access into sports such as walking rugby and junior park run are great to allow people to access into physical activity but also to bring community together. The team want to bring opportunities to rural communities and elderly communities as well.

Sexual health services are really good in Worcestershire, but older people don't know where they are or how to access them. There is work ongoing to increase signposting for people out of education. The signposting within education is felt to be very good.

Need to have other ways to signpost than online. Especially as the broadband 3g is being switched off and there isn't enough connectivity for those with mobile phone. GP's have been sent information by Public Health so that written advice is available. It was suggested that instead of putting leaflets in GP's surgeries they are put in community hubs as less people are now visiting GP surgeries with more and more phone and virtual appointments.

Suicide prevention – men are less likely go to the doctors and it transpires 73% of men who die by suicide where unknown to the mental health services The Orange Button Scheme is doing really well with it being impossible to know how many people it saves, but it is already known that the Orange Buttons are enabling conversations. There is now an aim to increase training through training others trained up to train others on how to be an Orange Button wearer. Worcestershire are leading the country on suicide prevention, especially in males. There is a role within ABCD to create opportunities to speak to someone with an orange button to speak about suicide. There is data showing finances can be a huge contributory effect with the most likely person to end their life by suicide being middle aged men. It is important we get suicide prevention training out to VCS groups and organisations where they can best help.

There are Your Health vans going out to more rural or deprived areas to bring more opportunities to people to access preventative medicine. The teams focus is to get more targeted health checks on people who would otherwise be unlikely to go to the GP for one by utilising the van. There are people who are not registered with a GP and therefore would not get a reminder letter. Men in deprived areas more likely to not have flu jab, health checks or vaccines. The van is hoping to reach these people. The Now Your Talking programme will have a specific element for Romany, Gypsy, Traveller communities. The van will go into these communities and asylum seeker communities to engage.



Worcestershire has seen success with smoking cessation: work with midwifery has seen the biggest drop in 10 years for smoking in pregnant women. There will be new cessation programmes to be released in the next months.

Councillor Emma Marshall

Redditch Borough Council's Representative on Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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