

# **CORPORATE INFORMATION TEAM**

## **PROPOSED PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER FOR CHICHESTER CITY**

### **PUBLIC CONSULTATION ANALYSIS REPORT**

**JUNE 2016**

**Introduction**

Corporate Information Team  
June 2016

Chichester District Council and Sussex Police are working together to tackle problem behaviour in Chichester City Centre. Further measures are now being considered to tackle individuals or groups who commit anti-social behaviour in a public space where the behaviour is having, or is likely to have:

- a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality;
- be persistent or continuing in nature and
- be unreasonable.

One measure that could be introduced is a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO). A PSPO would give additional powers to the Council and Police to issue notices to individuals breaching the order by carrying out specific types of nuisance.

The view of Chichester District Council, after discussion with other partner agencies is that Chichester City centre could benefit from a new Public Spaces Protection Order covering drinking in public areas and illegal street trading. A short survey was carried out to find out public views on whether or not a PSPO would be supported.

### **Executive Summary**

- 118 responses were received to the online survey between 13<sup>th</sup> April and 24<sup>th</sup> May.
- More than three quarters of responses came from people who said they were local residents, with a further 30% from people who said they regularly visited the City Centre (including for work). Respondents could select more than one answer for this question.
- 82 respondents provided their postcode as part of the survey. The majority (**47**) came from people living in Chichester City and of these, **16** responses were from people living inside the boundary of the proposed PSPO. In addition, **15** responses were received from people living elsewhere in Chichester District and **14** from people living outside the area. A full breakdown of locations is included in the Respondent Profile below.

### **Street Drinking**

- Less than half of respondents (44.1%) said they had seen street drinking happening in Chichester over the last 12 months. However, this figure was higher among residents living inside the proposed PSPO boundary (57.9%) and higher again (67.9%) among those living in Chichester City but outside the proposed boundary.
- Almost half of respondents (45.8%) said that street drinking in Chichester City was about the same as 12 months ago and just over a quarter (27.9%) felt it had become less of a problem. However residents of Chichester City and City Centre retailers were more likely to say it had become more of a problem. Those who did think street drinking had become more of a problem most often mentioned intimidation, anti-social behaviour and noise.
- Only 11.9% said they had been personally affected by street drinking in the last 12 months. However, this rose to around a quarter of respondents who live in Chichester City saying they had been personally affected. Those who had been affected mentioned being made to feel uncomfortable or intimidated while walking in Chichester.

- Almost half of respondents (47.5%) said that street drinking in Chichester City Centre needed to be tackled. Around a quarter (26.3%) disagreed. Respondents living inside the

proposed PSPO boundary, while mostly tending to agree that street drinking should be tackled, included a significant proportion who disagreed. Agreement was far higher among those living in Chichester City but outside the proposed PSPO.

### **Illegal Street Trading**

- Only one third of respondents said they had seen illegal street trading happening in Chichester over the last 12 months. This figure was slightly higher among residents of Chichester City (38.5%) and slightly higher again (44.4%) inside the boundary of the proposed PSPO.
- Just over a third (37.4%) said that illegal street trading had become less of a problem in the last 12 months and most of these said it had become **much** less of a problem. Those who did think illegal street trading had become more of a problem (18 respondents) most often mentioned the blocking of access, smells and noise.
- Only 6.9% said they had been personally affected by illegal street trading in the last 12 months.
- More than half of respondents (52.1%) disagreed that illegal street trading in Chichester City should be tackled, including 30% who disagreed strongly. Opinion on this issue was most divided inside Chichester City, with those living inside the proposed PSPO tending to disagree that illegal street trading should be tackled and those living outside it tending to agree. The strongest opinions were shown by those living elsewhere in Chichester District or outside the area; they were far more likely to disagree that illegal street trading should be tackled.

### **Public Spaces Protection Order Proposal**

- Just over a third (34.7%) agreed that a PSPO should be introduced. Certain groups were far more likely to support it. These included City Centre retailers (60% agreement), those living inside the proposed PSPO (47.4% agreement) and those living in Chichester City but outside the proposed PSPO (53.6% agreement). However, the overall results show that more than half (51.7%) of respondents disagreed that a PSPO should be introduced at all.
- When respondents were asked about other issues that a PSPO could cover, the most popular suggestions were busking, motoring issues (parking/speeding/dangerous driving) and littering. However, there were far more comments giving various arguments about the suggested issues to be tackled by the proposed PSPO (street drinking and illegal street trading). There were comments about the 2 behaviours not being dealt with together, there being little need for a PSPO and that people acting legally should not be penalised by it.
- Around a quarter of respondents (24.8%) agreed with the proposed boundary and another quarter (23.1%) were neutral towards it. Slightly less than half (42.7%) disagreed with it. Disagreement with the proposed boundary was much lower (26%) among those who live inside it.
- Opinion was very divided about how the boundary of the proposed PSPO should be changed. Respondents who commented on this issue were divided into 3 main groups of roughly equal size; those who disagreed with the PSPO in principle and therefore with any

proposed boundary; those who thought the area covered should be smaller and those who thought the area covered should be larger. Respondents who thought the area should be smaller tended to think it should be limited to the town centre (or parts of it) only. Respondents who thought the area should be larger most often suggested it should be extended to the North with specific locations mentioned multiple times including the University of Chichester, Oaklands Park, Northgate (car park and subway), the playing field on Orchard Way (behind the Record Office) and Chichester College.

## **Methodology**

An electronic survey was made available on the Current Consultations web page between 13<sup>th</sup> April and 24<sup>th</sup> May 2016. A press release was issued on 13<sup>th</sup> April and the survey was promoted on Chichester District Council's social media accounts. A timeline of survey promotion is available separately. In total, 118 responses were received.

Licensing Officers from Chichester District Council also engaged with key stakeholders (mainly by email) to get their views. They were encouraged to complete the survey online, so their responses form part of the analysis below. Some also submitted further comments by email or transcribed interview. These have been collated and selections are shown in Appendix 2.

The questions in the survey prompted respondents to consider how much of a problem street drinking and illegal street trading are currently and whether or not they should be tackled. Views were sought on whether a PSPO was appropriate and what the boundaries of it should be.

Throughout this report, where relevant, results have been analysed by respondent age, gender and location and by whether they identified themselves as a local resident, regular visitor, City centre retailer or market trader/stall holder. Responses have been grouped by postcode into 4 types for analysis; those inside the proposed PSPO, those inside Chichester City but not in the proposed PSPO area, those from elsewhere in Chichester District and those from outside Chichester District. These categories will be used for analysis in this report. Some analysis is based on quite small sample sizes and this is mentioned in the report where it is relevant. For questions where respondents could free-type their responses, comments have been analysed and grouped into categories, with the most common responses reported below. In some cases, selected quotes have been given to illustrate a point made by respondents. A full, verbatim list is available on request.

## **Respondent Profile**

Respondents were asked in what capacity they were completing the survey; they could select more than one response if more than one applied to them. More than three quarters (77.5% - 86 respondents) said they were local residents. 30.6% (34 respondents) said they were regular visitors to the City Centre; this included people who work there. A few responses were received from people who said they were City centre retailers (4.5% - 5 respondents) or tourists (3.6% - 4 respondents). No responses were received from people who said they were market traders or stall holders.

**82** respondents provided their postcodes, although **9** were incomplete (providing the first part only). Where possible, these have still been included in analysis. **14** responses were received from areas outside of Chichester District. There were **5** responses from Bognor Regis and one each from Axminster, Cambridge, Emsworth, Epsom, Exeter, Havant, Hindhead, Leeds and London (Shepherds Bush).

Of the remaining postcodes, the vast majority (**47**) were received from Chichester City. These responses have been mapped and the map is shown at Appendix 1. The map shows a good

spread of responses across the City, although slightly fewer were received from North Chichester. Of the **47** responses received from Chichester City, **16** were inside the boundary of the proposed PSPO.

The table below shows other locations in Chichester District responses came from, along with the number of responses.

| Location   | Number of Responses Received |
|------------|------------------------------|
| Donnington | 2                            |
| Selsey     | 2                            |
| Tangmere   | 2                            |
| Bosham     | 1                            |
| Chidham    | 1                            |
| Fishbourne | 1                            |

| Location     | Number of Responses Received |
|--------------|------------------------------|
| Funtington   | 1                            |
| Lavant       | 1                            |
| Lurgashall   | 1                            |
| Rogate       | 1                            |
| Sidlesham    | 1                            |
| Westhampnett | 1                            |

Just under half of responses came from males (48.3% - 56 respondents) and a similar number from females (47.4% - 55 respondents). 4.3% (5 respondents) preferred not to give us their gender.

The table below shows the breakdown of responses by age group. More than half (54.4%) of respondents were aged between 25 and 44, although there was some representation from older and younger groups. The mainly online methodology for the survey and promotion of it could explain this; or it is possible that the subject of this survey is more important to working-age people.

| Age Group      | % Respondents (Number) |
|----------------|------------------------|
| Under 16       | 0.9% (1)               |
| 16 – 24        | 6% (7)                 |
| <b>25 - 34</b> | <b>32.8% (38)</b>      |
| 35 - 44        | 21.6% (25)             |

| Age Group         | % Respondents (Number) |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| 45 – 54           | 15.5% (18)             |
| 55 – 64           | 12.1% (14)             |
| 65+               | 4.3% (5)               |
| Prefer not to say | 6.9% (8)               |

89.6% (103 respondents) said they did not have any long-term illness, health problem or disability that limits their daily activities. 3 respondents (2.6%) said they did and 9 respondents (7.8%) preferred not to say. This is in line with responses seen in other public surveys.

## **Survey Findings**

The report below will examine each survey question in turn, giving results and analysis of any trends that appear. For some questions, responses concerning street drinking have been reported separately from those concerning illegal street trading, as figures suggested respondents felt differently about the different behaviours.

### **Q1a. Have you seen street drinking happening in Chichester City Centre in the last 12 months?**

More than half (55.9% - 66 respondents) said they had not seen street drinking happening in Chichester City Centre over the last 12 months. 44.1% (52 respondents) said they had.

Respondents living in Chichester City were far more likely to have seen street drinking – 57.9% of those living inside the proposed PSPO and 67.9% of those living outside it said they had. Correspondingly, responses from those who said they were local residents were also slightly more likely to say they had seen street drinking (50%).

Male respondents were slightly more likely than female ones to have seen street drinking and the respondent age profile for this question showed an interesting spike. Respondents aged between

35 and 44 were more likely to have seen street drinking (64% said they had), but those age groups either side of this (25 – 34 and 45 – 54) were far more likely not to have seen it (68.4% and 55.6% respectively said they had not).

### Q1b. Have you seen illegal street trading happening in Chichester City Centre in the last 12 months?

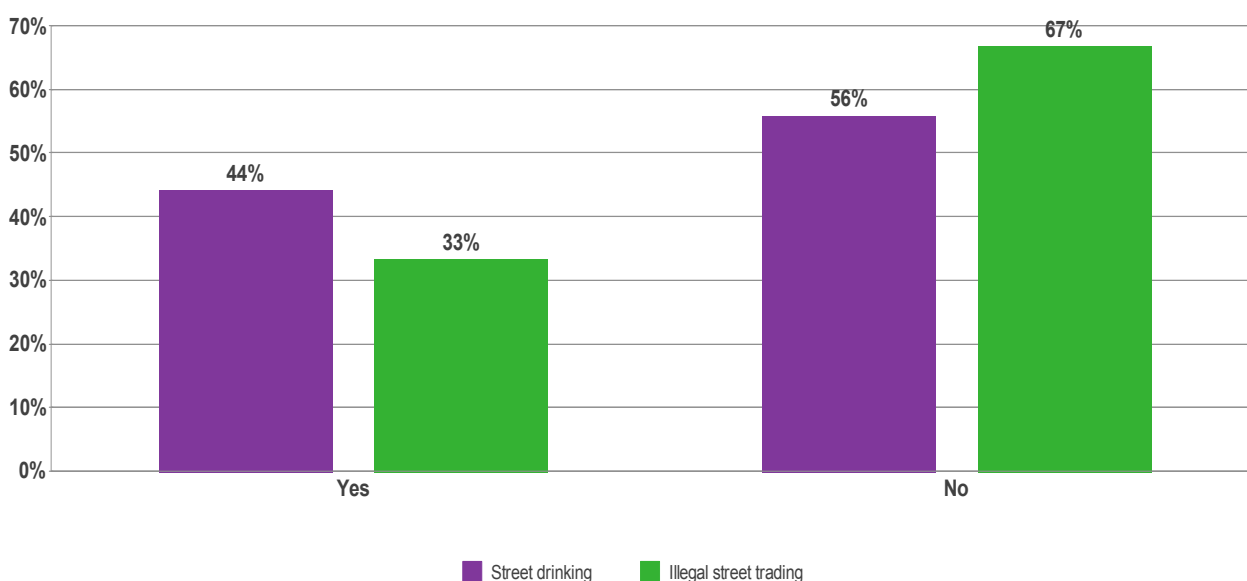
Around two thirds (66.7% - 76 respondents) said they had not seen any illegal street trading happening in Chichester City Centre in the last 12 months. 33.3% (38 respondents) said they had.

This figure was slightly higher inside the proposed PSPO, where 44.4% of respondents said they had seen illegal street trading. In Chichester City but outside the proposed PSPO the figure was 38.5% who had seen it. Correspondingly, responses from those who said they were local residents were also slightly more likely to say they had seen illegal street trading (36.6%).

The respondent age profile for this question showed a similar trend to that seen for street drinking, although this time there were no significant difference in the opinions of male and female respondents. Respondents aged between 35 and 44 were far more likely to have seen illegal street trading (72% said they had), but those age groups either side of this (25 – 34 and 45 – 54) were far more likely not to have seen it (92.1% and 70.6% respectively said they had not).

The graph below shows responses to both parts of Q1, concerning both street drinking and illegal street trading. It illustrates that, according to the results of this survey, street drinking is more likely to have been seen by respondents in Chichester City Centre over the last 12 months. However, for both behaviours, fewer than half of respondents said they had seen it.

Street drinking and Illegal street trading seen in Chichester City in the last 12 months



### Q2a. Do you believe street drinking has become more or less of a problem in Chichester City Centre in the last 12 months?

Almost half (45.8% - 54 respondents) said that street drinking in Chichester City was about the same as 12 months ago. Just over a quarter (27.9% - 33 respondents) felt it had become less of a problem and just 16.1% (19 respondents) said it had become more of a problem.

Those living inside the city (and particularly outside the proposed PSPO) were more likely to say street drinking had become more of a problem. This is in line with responses to the previous question. Those living elsewhere in Chichester District (who may still consider themselves local

residents) and those living out of area were the most confident that street drinking had stayed the same. City Centre retailers were more likely to say it had become more of a problem, but this was a small sample size.

Male respondents were slightly more inclined to think street drinking had become less of a problem while females were slightly more likely to believe it had remained the same. Older respondents (over 55) were slightly more likely to think street drinking had become more of a problem and those aged between 16 and 24 were most likely to think it had become less of a problem. However, both these groups were quite small sample sizes.

**Q3** asked those respondents who felt street drinking had become more of a problem (**19** respondents) to explain why. There were **15** responses, although some respondents mentioned more than one issue.

**6** respondents linked street drinking with other problems including begging, rough sleeping, anti-social behaviour and littering:

*"I'm constantly seeing drunk homeless in town and begging everyone for cash."*

*"My main concern centres upon the amount of discarded drink bottles/cans that are left in parks, car parks and country roads. "*

*"Drunken groups shouting, swearing and generally anti-social in their behaviour is never pleasant nor welcome."*

**4** respondents named locations and times where they had seen street drinking happening. Specific locations mentioned were Woolstaplers car park, the path by Prebendal School and South Street.

*"Most drinking contained to bars and pubs, majority issue is parks, gardens and canal basin with vagrants and students."*

*"I have no idea why, but there appear to be more drunk people hanging around the cross and the cathedral lately. Also, since Thursdays closed, fewer people are leaving the city centre around kicking out time... South Street on a Saturday night is worse than ever, and people appear to be leaving establishments at kicking out time WITH drinks they have not finished."*

**3** respondents mentioned a lack of enforcement and deterrent:

*"No visible police or community support officers."*

**2** respondents said they were concerned about the impact of street drinking on vulnerable groups including the elderly and young people:

*"Street drinking sets a bad example to youngsters and reflects the city in a bad nature."*

**2** respondents also mentioned issues about illegal street trading. These comments have been included in the analysis of the next question.

### **Q2b. Do you believe illegal street trading has become more or less of a problem in Chichester City Centre in the last 12 months?**

A third (33% - 38 respondents) said that illegal street trading in Chichester City was about the same as 12 months ago. A larger group (37.4% - 43 respondents) said that it had become less of a problem and most of these said it was **much** less of a problem. Just 15.6% (18 respondents) said it had become more of a problem.

Respondents living in Chichester City, both inside and outside the proposed PSPO were far more confident that illegal street trading was about the same as 12 months ago (50% and 46.4% respectively). Those living elsewhere in Chichester District and outside the area (who may still be regular visitors to Chichester) were more likely to say that illegal street trading had become less of a problem.

Male respondents were, again more likely to say illegal street trading had become much less of a problem (33.9% said this). Females were less confident, being more inclined to say it had remained the same (38.5%) or become more of a problem (17.3%). The youngest respondents (34 and under) were far more likely to say illegal street trading had become less of a problem, those of working age (35 – 64) were most confident it had remained the same and older respondents (65+) tended to think it had become more of a problem.

**Q3** asked those respondents who felt illegal street trading had become more of a problem (**18** respondents) to explain why. There were **16** responses, although some respondents mentioned more than one issue.

**9** respondents commented on the atmosphere generated by the street traders including the noise and smells:

*“One of my clients said she saw all of the street traders at the cross one afternoon having a huge row and shouting foul language.”*

*“The area around the cross is blighted by unsightly traders selling burgers, doughnuts and tacky toys and souvenirs.”*

*“I cannot open my windows without having to smell onions and meat cooking from the food carts.”*

**7** respondents mentioned an increase in the numbers of street traders:

*“There seem to be a lot of ad hoc stalls popping up in the city centre which detract from the image of Chichester - perhaps they should be part of the planned markets rather than selling low-quality wares whenever they feel like it.”*

*“There certainly seems to be more pedlars in East and North Streets which must be a frustration to the shops paying rents and rates.”*

**3** respondents commented on a lack of enforcement:

*“Street traders, follow examples by other towns and if there is no visible officer talking to them on the day in question, trading on the street is seen as a free for all.”*

**2** respondents said they were not sure if traders were operating illegally or not and **2** respondents commented on practical issues with street traders including health and safety and access:

*“They block access pathways, leave rubbish behind and are not traceable for trading dispute purposes.”*

**1** respondent detailed problems with buskers:

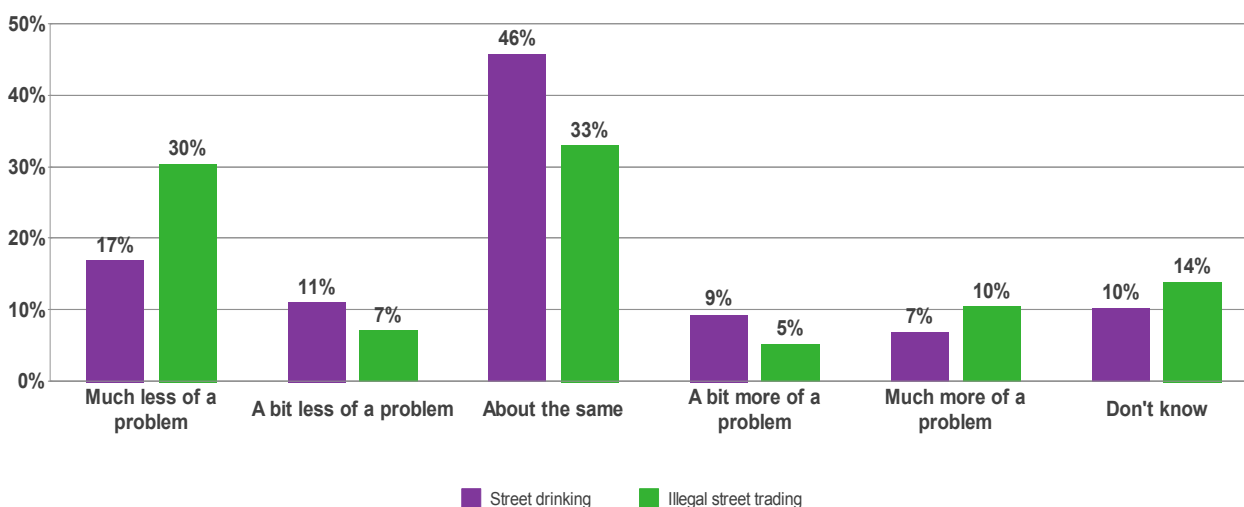
*“I get people standing outside my business which is also my home, the volume is too loud most of the time, occasionally the quality is terrible and they can be there for up to 5 hours at a time. All buskers (should) require a yearly license and this needs to be more closely monitored.”*

The graph below shows responses to both parts of **Q2**, concerning both street drinking and illegal street trading. It illustrates that, according to the results of this survey, street drinking and illegal street trading are generally thought to have remained the same over the last 12 months. However,



there is a significant level of support for illegal street trading having become much less of a problem.

Street drinking and Illegal street trading - Have they become more or less of a problem in Chichester City in the last 12 months?



#### Q4a. Have you personally been affected by street drinking in the last 12 months?

Only 11.9% (14 respondents) said they had been personally affected by street drinking in the last 12 months. The vast majority (88.1% - 104 respondents) said they had not.

Local residents and city centre retailers were slightly more likely to say they had been affected by street drinking (16.3% and 20% respectively said they had). Proportions of respondents who said they had been affected were much higher in Chichester City, particularly outside of the proposed PSPO. Within the proposed PSPO area 26.3% of respondents said they had been personally affected by street drinking and within Chichester City but outside the boundary of the proposed PSPO the figure was 28.6%. This is in line with responses to previous questions about the visibility of street drinking.

Male respondents were very slightly more likely to have been affected by street drinking and those aged over 55 were far more likely to have been affected. However, in almost all groups, around three quarters of respondents said they had not been personally affected by street drinking in the last 12 months.

Q5 asked those who said they had been affected by street drinking (14 respondents) to explain how. There were 12 responses to this, although some respondents mentioned more than one issue.

6 respondents said they had been affected by being made to feel uncomfortable or intimidated while walking around Chichester:

*"I don't feel comfortable walking from the college into town along that path anymore."*

*"Intimidating drunks making excessive noise outside home."*

4 respondents said they had been affected by the litter left by street drinkers:

*"...We have cleared up discarded bottles and cans and swept up broken glass from the city streets on many occasions."*

There were 4 further respondents who gave details about their individual experiences with street drinking. These are quoted in full below.

*“A couple of weeks ago I walked past Wetherspoons at about 2AM. They had obviously just kicked out, and there were several people enjoying their drinks and a couple of joints out on West Street. As I walked past, one person asked me if I wanted to buy weed, then seconds later another asked if I had any to sell. Where the bouncers and police were, Christ knows.”*

*“Live on St Pancras Rd..., regular every night drunk behaviour, criminal damage to cars and buildings, fights in the street, loud singing which can be heard for a mile away.. no sleep. I have had to put up CCTV to protect car and house from this.”*

*“The private parking for Theatre Place is accessed through a "tunnel" with a security gate at one end. This creates an area hidden from South Pallant. I have seen men drinking here at night. It is a potentially dangerous situation for residents arriving back late at night.”*

*“When I have been using the path alongside the Prebendal school playing fields I have seen groups of people drinking on the seat at the east end; and also groups drinking on the south side of the Bishops Gardens Roman Wall again in the Prebendal school playing fields area.”*

**Q4b. Have you personally been affected by illegal street trading in the last 12 months?**

Only 6.9% (8 respondents) said they had been personally affected by illegal street trading in the last 12 months. The vast majority (93.1% - 108 respondents) said they had not.

City Centre retailers were the group most likely to say they had been personally affected by illegal street trading, although this was a very small sample size. Respondents living in Chichester City but outside the proposed PSPO were slightly more likely to say they had been personally affected, but, apart from this, responses from all geographical groups were mainly in line with the overall figures.

Male respondents and those of working age (35 – 54) were slightly more likely to have been personally affected by illegal street trading, but even in these groups, more than 80% said they had not.

**Q5** asked those who said they had been affected by illegal street trading (8 respondents) to explain how. There were 3 valid responses to this.

2 respondents commented on how illegal street traders block the pedestrian areas of the City:

*“I find it increasingly irritating when I find my way blocked by trading carts in the middle of the crowded area near the cross as I walk through the city. Why must I be subjected to these obstructions and smells? Are there no laws against this already? Do hygiene and safety standards not apply to these people already?”*

1 respondent mentioned that they had had a bad experience with a street trader at their home.

**Q6a. How far do you agree or disagree that street drinking in Chichester City Centre needs to be tackled?**

The table below shows results for this question:

|                      | Strongly agree         | Agree | Neutral | Disagree               | Strongly disagree |
|----------------------|------------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Number respondents   | 21                     | 35    | 27      | 13                     | 18                |
| % respondents        | 17.8%                  | 29.7% | 22.9%   | 11%                    | 15.3%             |
| Total agree/disagree | 47.5% (56 respondents) |       |         | 26.3% (31 respondents) |                   |

'Agree' was the most popular response and overall, almost half of respondents said that street drinking in Chichester City Centre needed to be tackled.

Local residents were slightly more likely to agree strongly and regular visitors were most likely to remain neutral about this issue. Neutrality was also generally higher among those living in Chichester District but not in the City and those living outside the area.

The table below shows overall agreement and disagreement figures by postcode category. Figures for 'agree/disagree' and 'strongly agree/disagree' have been combined.

|   | <b>Overall Agree</b> | <b>Neutral</b> | <b>Overall Disagree</b> |
|---|----------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| Inside proposed PSPO boundary                         | 47.4%                | 15.8%          | 36.9%                   |
| Outside proposed PSPO boundary but in Chichester City | 57.1%                | 14.3%          | 25%                     |
| Elsewhere in Chichester District                      | 44.4%                | 38.9%          | 11.2%                   |
| Out of area   | 42.8%                | 28.6%          | 28.5%                   |

The table shows that those living inside the proposed PSPO boundary, while mostly tending to agree that street drinking should be tackled, included a significant proportion who disagreed. Agreement was far higher among those living in Chichester City but outside the proposed PSPO. As might be expected, neutrality about this issue was far higher outside of Chichester City, although 'agree' was still the most popular response.

Male respondents were slightly more likely to disagree that street drinking should be tackled and older respondents (aged 55 or over) were far more likely to agree that it should.

#### **Q6b. How far do you agree or disagree that illegal street trading in Chichester City Centre needs to be tackled?**

The table below shows results for this question:

|                      | <b>Strongly agree</b>  | <b>Agree</b> | <b>Neutral</b> | <b>Disagree</b>        | <b>Strongly disagree</b> |
|----------------------|------------------------|--------------|----------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Number respondents   | 15                     | 20           | 15             | 21                     | 40                       |
| % respondents        | 12.8%                  | 17.1%        | 12.8%          | 17.9%                  | 34.2%                    |
| Total agree/disagree | 29.9% (35 respondents) |              |                | 52.1% (61 respondents) |                          |

More than a third of respondents strongly disagreed that illegal street trading in Chichester City centre should be tackled. When combined with those who disagreed, the figure was more than half (52.1%). Just under 30% agreed that it should be tackled. The level of neutrality on this issue was less than that seen for street drinking.

Local residents were slightly more likely to agree that illegal street trading should be tackled and regular visitors were more likely to be neutral. Although it was a small sample size, everyone who said they were a tourist disagreed that illegal street trading should be tackled.

The table below shows overall agreement and disagreement figures by postcode category. Figures for 'agree/disagree' and 'strongly agree/disagree' have been combined.

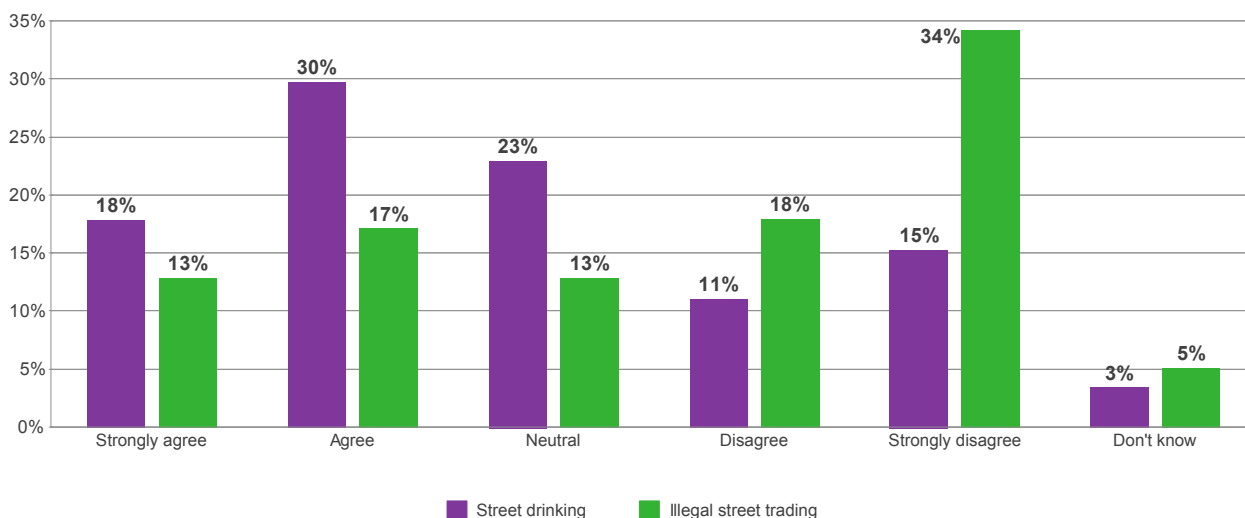
|   | <b>Overall Agree</b> | <b>Neutral</b> | <b>Overall Disagree</b> |
|---|----------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| Inside proposed PSPO boundary                         | 27.8%                | 22.2%          | 44.4%                   |
| Outside proposed PSPO boundary but in Chichester City | 42.8%                | 14.3%          | 32.1%                   |
| Elsewhere in Chichester District                      | 27.8%                | 16.7%          | 50%                     |
| Out of area   | 7.1%                 | 14.3%          | 78.6%                   |

The table shows that those living inside the proposed PSPO boundary tended to disagree that illegal street trading should be tackled, but a significant proportion of them also agreed or were neutral. Respondents from outside the proposed PSPO but in Chichester City showed a similar trend, but the opposite way round; they tended to agree that illegal street trading should be tackled, but significant proportions disagreed or were neutral. Those from elsewhere in Chichester District or from outside the area (who may still be regular visitors to Chichester) were far more likely to disagree that illegal street trading should be tackled.

Male respondents were far more likely to disagree that illegal street trading should be tackled. Younger respondents (34 and younger) were far more likely to strongly disagree that illegal street trading should be tackled, while those aged 55 and above were far more likely to strongly agree that it should. Agreement that it should be tackled was also higher among respondents with a long-term illness, health problem or disability, although this was a small sample size.

The graph below shows responses to both parts of Q6, concerning both street drinking and illegal street trading. It illustrates that, according to the results of this survey, there is general support for tackling street drinking in Chichester City Centre but opinions about illegal street trading being tackled are far more complex. Around a third of respondents felt strongly that illegal street trading should not be tackled.

Agreement and disagreement that street drinking and illegal street trading in Chichester City should be tackled



**Q7. Do you agree that a Public Spaces Protection Order should be introduced in Chichester City centre to tackle street drinking and illegal street trading?**

The majority of respondents (51.7%) disagreed that a PSPO as proposed should be introduced. Just over a third (34.7%) agreed that it should.

City Centre retailers were far more likely to be in favour of introducing a PSPO (60% agreement) but this was a small sample. Agreement was also much higher among residents of Chichester City; inside the proposed PSPO 47.4% agreed and outside it but still in Chichester City, 53.6% agreed.

Female respondents were slightly more likely to agree that a PSPO should be introduced and males were slightly more likely to disagree. Respondents aged 35 and over were more likely to agree, while younger respondents were more likely to disagree.

## **Q8. Are there any other issues you feel should be covered in any Public Spaces Protection Order?**

There were **48** valid responses to this question, although some respondents mentioned more than one issue. The comments have been categorised with a selection quoted below.

**8** respondents said that street traders with valid licenses shouldn't be targeted:

*"The Council needs to start supporting local, new businesses instead of trying to make our beautiful city ruined by chains. The people who have pedlars license are very friendly and it's lovely to have some unique things available."*

*"Theirs is a license they have to have. If they have one, they are not against the law. Chichester needs these stalls to keep the city interesting!! I love the stalls whilst on my lunch break."*

**6** respondents felt that neither behaviour caused a serious issue in Chichester, or that existing measures to tackle them were adequate:

*"I don't see the street traders as an issue; I enjoy the vibrancy of the city centre. I've never been bothered by street drinking either, it isn't exactly excessive in Chichester."*

*"I agree that Public Spaces Protection Orders are both useful and appropriate however in the case of Chichester I think the impact this would have on the city would be detrimental. I do not believe there is a problem to be solved and if there is, this is not the answer."*

**5** respondents felt that street drinking and street trading should not be dealt with together. Some of these said that they would support measures against street drinking only, or that street drinking was more of an issue than street trading.

*"This should not cover street trading, the two issues are completely irrelevant to each other."*

*"Peddling small stalls should in no way be included in the attempt to tackle street drinking in Chichester. The fact that local business people earning a living in this way are being likened to illegal street drinking is ridiculous."*

**5** respondents said that, although the issues should be tackled, there should be some qualification to this. Specific aspects of the PSPO were queried and suggestions made for how it could work.

*"I believe these issues need tackling, but legitimate businesses who trade on the street under license must not become collateral of such a Protection Order."*

*"Although it has not affected me, I believe that street drinking should be tackled but only if it is causing problems through abusive language, threatening behaviour or vandalism/antisocial behaviour."*

*"Presumably there would be an impartial or independent process for these orders to be issued."*

**4** respondents suggested other locations the PSPO should cover (although this is dealt with in more detail later in the survey). Suggested locations included;

- Parks generally (1 mention) and specifically the playing field between Parklands Road and Market Avenue (1 mention)
- The whole City from the A27 to the North edge of Oaklands Park and from the A27 to Centurion Way (1 mention)
- Car parks (including privately run) (2 mentions)
- Country roads (1 mention)

The table below shows other issues respondents felt should be tackled, along with the number of times they were mentioned:

| <b>Issue</b>   | <b>Number of Mentions</b> |
|--|---------------------------|
| Parking problems, speeding and/or dangerous driving            | 5                         |
| Litter   | 4                         |
| Rough sleeping   | 3                         |
| Dog control and dog mess                                       | 3                         |
| Cyclists using footpaths or cycling where they are not allowed | 3                         |
| General anti-social behaviour                                  | 2                         |
| Large groups of young people                                   | 1                         |
| Door to door sales   | 1                         |
| Smoking in public in the City                                  | 1                         |
| Religious preachers in the City                                | 1                         |
| People conducting surveys in the City                          | 1                         |
| Graffiti   | 1                         |
| Busking  | 1                         |
| Gun fire noise from a private sports club                      | 1                         |
| Problems with police   | 1                         |

2 further respondents mentioned specific problems with street traders.

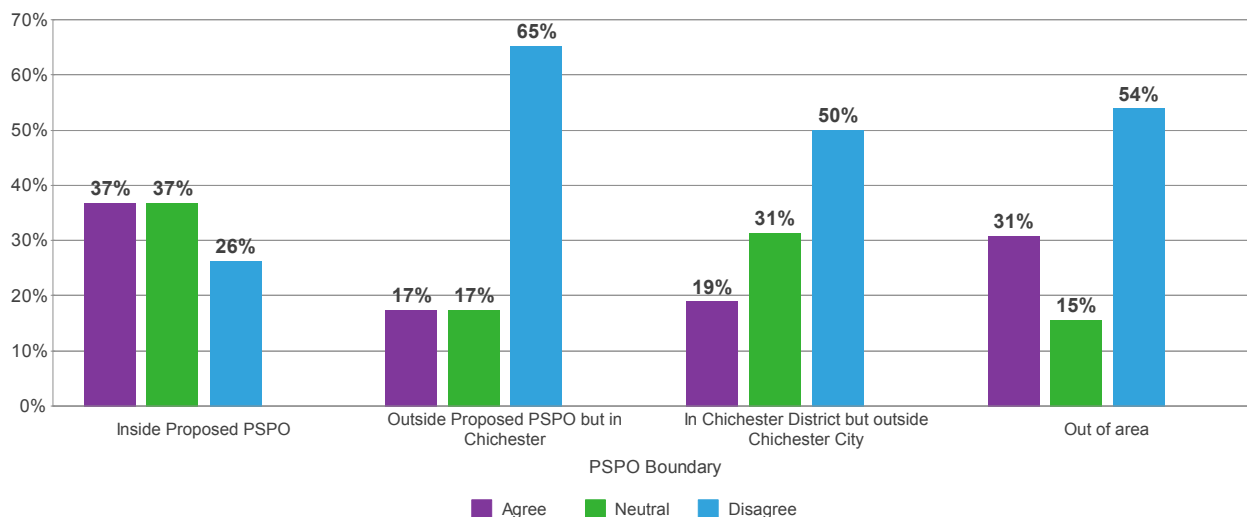
**Q9. Do you agree or disagree with the boundaries of the proposed PSPO, as shown on the map?**

The survey included a map of the City Centre with the boundary of the proposed PSPO shown in red. Around a quarter (24.8% - 29 respondents) agreed with the proposed boundary and another quarter (23.1% - 27 respondents) were neutral towards it. Slightly less than half (42.7% - 50 respondents) disagreed with it. 9.4% (11 respondents) did not know.

Agreement with the proposed boundary was slightly higher among male respondents, while females were more likely to disagree. Agreement was also higher among the over 35s, with younger respondents being far more likely to disagree.

Agreement with the proposed boundary was slightly higher among City centre retailers and regular visitors, when compared to agreement among local residents. The graph below shows how agreement changed when analysed by postcode area. Agreement was highest among those living inside the proposed PSPO boundary, although neutrality was also high here. Disagreement was far higher among those living in the City but outside the proposed PSPO and among those living outside the City.

Agreement or disagreement with proposed PSPO boundary by postcode area



**Q10. If you disagree, please tell us how you think the boundary should be different.**

This question was only asked of those respondents who said that they disagreed with the boundary in the previous question (50 respondents). There were **42** valid responses, which have been categorised below. Some respondents mentioned more than one issue.

**15** respondents felt the proposed PSPO should be bigger and include more. **4** of these were not specific about what else should be included. The additional locations suggested by others are shown in the table below, along with the number of times they were mentioned. Some respondents suggested more than one additional location. Further additional locations were mentioned by respondents in Q11 below and Q8 above.

| Location   | Number of mentions |
|--|--------------------|
| College (and surrounding field)  | 5                  |
| Playing field between Parklands Road and Market Avenue (Brewery Field)             | 3                  |
| University   | 2                  |
| Festival Theatre car park  | 2                  |
| Northgate subway   | 2                  |
| Between A285 and Adelaide Road (including St Pancras and the War Memorial Gardens) | 2                  |
| Parklands  | 2                  |
| Portfield recreation ground  | 1                  |
| Oaklands Park  | 1                  |
| Graylingwell estate  | 1                  |
| Schools  | 1                  |
| Centurion Way  | 1                  |

**10** respondents felt the proposed PSPO should be smaller and include less. Of these, **3** were not specific about what should be removed, **3** said the PSPO should include the immediate town centre only, and **2** suggested just a few specific locations within the City Centre that should be subject to a PSPO (public park areas, train station, West and South streets). **2** suggested locations that should be removed from the PSPO; these are listed below:

- Area around Priory Park
- Kingsham
- Whyke
- The Canal Basin

15 respondents said they disagreed with the PSPO in principle. These have been broken into 3 subgroups.

9 of these 15 said that they disagreed generally with the PSPO in principle and therefore disagreed with any potential boundary.

*“The boundary should be non-existent. The problem is minor and affects those in society who need help the most. Excluding them will not solve the issue.”*

*“I don't think the PSPO is necessary and therefore disagree with any potential boundary.”*

5 of the 15 respondents disagreed with the principle of the PSPO and specifically referenced street trading:

*“It covers the main part of the city which can harm people livelihoods which is incredibly cruel. Moreover most street trading isn't illegal. The majority of the time they have the permission of the police.”*

*“Street traders bring life and interest to the city. They are a credit to Chichester and many sell high quality products that attract business and tourists. It would be a huge shame if the council cracked down on traders with peddlers licenses who should be supported and encouraged not suppressed. I strongly disagree with these proposed measures.”*

3 of the 15 respondents disagreed with the principle of the PSPO and specifically referenced street drinking:

*“Sensible people will not be able to enjoy a beer etc. at the park. Anti-social behaviour is not just caused by drinking.”*

**Q11. Are there any other areas we should consider including in the PSPO, in addition to the area proposed on the map?**

Those who said that they agreed with the boundary of the proposed PSPO were asked if there were any additional areas they thought should be included. It was assumed that these respondents supported the PSPO in principle. Those who said they were neutral towards the PSPO or ‘didn't know’ what the proposed boundary should be were also given the chance to answer this question. There were 14 responses to this question, although some respondents mentioned more than one issue.

Where respondents mentioned specific locations they thought should be included in the PSPO, these are shown in the table below along with the number of times they were mentioned. Other responses have been categorised and quoted below. These responses should be read in conjunction with responses to the previous question where additional areas were suggested for the PSPO to cover. Further additional locations were mentioned by respondents in Q8 and Q10 above.

| Location   | Number of mentions |
|--|--------------------|
| College (and surrounding field)  | 3                  |
| University   | 3                  |
| Oaklands Park  | 3                  |
| Parklands  | 2                  |
| St Richards Hospital   | 2                  |
| Playing field between Parklands Road and Market Avenue (Brewery Field) | 1                  |
| Northgate subway   | 1                  |
| Centurion Way  | 1                  |



|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Florence Road park | 1 |
|--------------------|---|

3 respondents said that the proposed boundary of the PSPO was appropriate.

*“The current DPPO covers the right amount of area and the right areas which is manageable currently to Police, extending the area could make it difficult to manage.”*

*“My experiences are all within the zone shown.”*

There were 2 further uncategorised comments, quoted in full below.

*“If it actually worked, it could do with being extended north a bit. But nobody takes any notice of it anyway because, apart from a couple of signs, there doesn't appear to be any enforcement.”*

*“Clearly there is a balance to be struck as the proposed boundary is perhaps larger than what I would view as the City Centre (and therefore what's relevant from a street trading perspective) but perhaps the street drinking issue is more prevalent in other residential areas of the city. Would a larger boundary help, or would this dilute the purpose?”*

### Conclusions (Key points in bold)

Overall, according to the results of this survey, neither street drinking nor illegal street trading is particularly prevalent in Chichester City. Generally survey respondents believed that **neither issue had got better or worse over the last 12 months, and the vast majority said they had not been personally affected by either issue** in the same period. Many of the negative comments about both behaviours were not of a personal nature and were more concerned with the effect the behaviours had on the atmosphere and image of the City.

Respondents living in Chichester City were far more likely to have seen street drinking happening, think it had got worse and/or have been personally affected by it. Interestingly, the **figures for this were higher among those living in Chichester City but outside of the proposed PSPO boundary, than among those living inside it**. This could indicate that the existing Drinking Control Zone is effective in discouraging street drinking in the City Centre, but could also indicate that street drinking is being pushed out of the City Centre into other areas. Comments from respondents specifically name locations to the North and West of the City Centre (and not in the proposed PSPO boundary) where street drinking has been happening. This may require further investigation by appropriate officers to determine the extent of the problem. **If a problem is confirmed in these areas, the boundary of the proposed PSPO should be reviewed.**

Links between street drinking and other behaviours were also of concern to respondents. Intimidation, rough sleeping, noise and general anti-social behaviour were all linked to street drinking by respondents. **Should a PSPO be introduced, the impact of it on these behaviours should also be monitored.**

Although overall, **the majority view did not support the introduction of a PSPO** in Chichester City (51.7% disagreed with it); the proposal was not completely without support. Certain groups were far more likely to support it, including those living in Chichester City (both inside and outside the boundary of the proposed PSPO) and City centre retailers. Although the latter was a small group of respondents, support for the proposed PSPO has been given by one of their representative organisations (see Appendix 2).

Those who did not support the PSPO in principle quite often said that it was **unnecessary as both problems were minor**. Some felt it was quite draconian and would unnecessarily negatively affect some groups; those who wanted to drink responsibly outside, but more often legitimate street traders. **There were also concerns about the enforcement of any PSPO**. These potential 'side effects' of the PSPO should be considered carefully.

Supporters of the PSPO were often in favour of it being larger and covering more, although their suggestions for additional areas to be covered were often areas where they felt street drinking specifically was becoming more of an issue (see above).

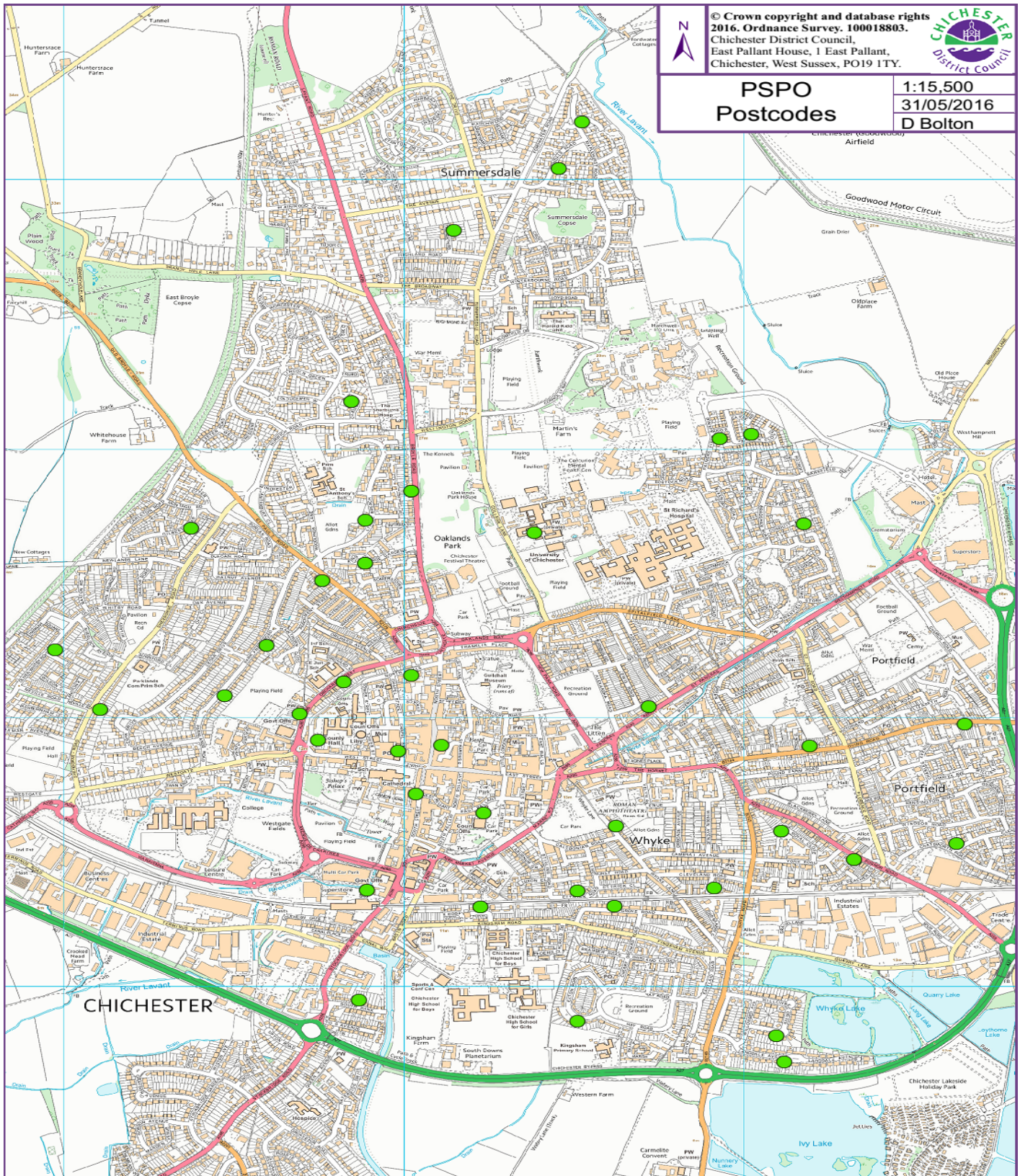
There was some **support for street drinking and illegal street trading being tackled separately**. There were those who said this explicitly but the figures also suggest that respondents had differing views about each issue. In general, illegal street trading was seen as less of an issue than street drinking; respondents were less likely to have seen it happening, less likely to have been affected by it and less likely to think it needed tackling. There was even a significant level of support for illegal street trading having become much less of a problem in the last 12 months.

But opinions about illegal street trading were much divided. Street traders were described both as small business owners "*bringing life and interest to the city*", who require the Council's support and also as an "*unsightly*" "*blight*" on the City, causing noise, unpleasant smells and operating outside the usual safety regulations. **These polarised views could become more problematic if a PSPO proposal is progressed**. Some further work could be done with more of a focus on illegal street trading, engaging more fully with key stakeholders including city centre retailers, and the street trading community.

**For more information on this report or for full listings of comments, please contact the Corporate Information Team on 01243 53 (4623) of [corporateinfo@chichester.gov.uk](mailto:corporateinfo@chichester.gov.uk)**

## Appendix 1 – Map showing Respondents postcodes

Each green dot represents the postcode area of one respondent. Responses from Chichester City only have been mapped here. Please see Respondent Profile section of report for further analysis.





## **Appendix 2 - Further Comments received**

Outside of the survey, comments about the proposed PSPO were received from key stakeholders. There are quoted below and attributed to the organisation or individual they came from.

There are fears the Pedlar licenses will be taken away which will affect livelihood as this is how they earn their money. "We need our income" There is some anti-social behaviour amongst some of the pedlars and there are fears expressed that all pedlars will be treated the same. Would like to reinforce there are happy customers and positives and expressed the respect for the city centre. – **From transcription of an interview with a street trader**

We would be in favour if (a PSPO) is introduced to Chichester city centre. Chichester BID receives at least 1 phone complaint a week in respect of buskers because they are usually too noisy and they do not necessarily move on after their time has finished. We think buskers should be included in any PSPO. We have received 3 visits to the office for complaints in the last 5 months in respect specific street peddlers, (examples of complaints included) – **Email from Chichester BID**

I am not in favour of the street trading element of the proposal as it could seem to some that CDC are targeting certain individuals and not the actual practise, which could be challenged and I am not sure the level of evidence necessary will be forthcoming. I am in favour of continuing the DPPO through the implementation of a PSPO as it has been incredibly successful in reducing the number of street drinking incidents and improving the look and feel of the City centre. I would not want to see it extended in any way as it could become difficult to manage and Police. On the matter of Policing and enforcement of a PSPO I am aware that the response from Sussex Police has been that they see enforcement as laying squarely with CDC and will only support where there is an identifiable threat. This is of concern as I do not believe currently CDC has the capacity to enforce such an Order and therefore would render the Order completely ineffective. I would strongly resist Community Wardens being accredited with powers to enforce such an Order as they are currently a non-confrontational service largely dealing with community issues and encouraging community cohesion and development. – **Email from Chichester District Council, Community Safety Manager**

The consultation should take in rough sleeping and busking as well as street drinking and trading. I think anything that takes place in / on the streets should be included. – **Email from ChiBAC Manager**

We have a couple of issues with WSCC's new busking procedure and thought that if you are working on the proposed PSPO these issues may be relevant.

As we understand it the WSCC procedure is as follows:

- Person wanting to busk goes on website
- They apply for a licence using the online form and once received it is valid for 2 months. This is a small credit card style licence with an expiry date.
- To actually busk they must book a slot – not sure if they all realise this. To book, they phone up WSCC on a Monday and can book for that week – maximum of 2 slots of 4 hours each (which can both be on same day). When booking they say if they want East St, North St or The Cross. (They are meant to avoid outside East St Marks and Spencer due to proximity of businesses).

When busking they must follow the terms and conditions.

- Busking shall not be carried out within 100 metres of another busker. If another busker arrives for their booked slot, you will need to move to enable them to perform.

- Busking shall not be carried out for more than 30 minutes at a time at any one location after which you shall move on to another location not less than 20 metres from that location.
- If instructed by a police officer, traffic warden, officer of West Sussex County Council, or officer from the Environmental Health Department of the district council, you shall stop busking immediately a complaint is received
- You shall cause no obstruction either to members of the public or to private premises.
- You shall comply forthwith with any directions, or requests, by a police officer, traffic warden, officer of West Sussex County Council, or officer from the Environmental Health Department of the district council.
- Any amplification shall be kept to a reasonable level and the amplification will be immediately turned off if requested by a police officer, traffic warden, officer of West Sussex County Council or officer from the Environmental Health Department of the district council.
- No motor vehicles or structures of any size shall be permitted in the highway in connection with busking.
- No sales of pre-recorded music tapes or CDs will be permitted.

Difficulties we have with the terms and conditions:

1. They can book a 4 hour slot in say East St but they are meant to move every 30 mins which theoretically means they should move 20m down East St every 30mins, avoiding outside of Marks and Spencer. Not sure there are enough locations along the pedestrianised part of East St to make this possible and if they only move 20m, the same businesses tend to be disturbed anyway. (Measured the street and you can fit in 7 locations comfortably).
2. If they book The Cross they should theoretically only play for 30 mins – and then move on – not sure where to?
3. If they book 2 x 4hr sessions in one day they are basically going to be affecting the majority of East St or most of North St all day so causing a non-stop noise to some businesses.
4. WSCC do not actually set places along the roads where they are meant to go so it can be confusing if there is more than one busker.

Perhaps we could make some alterations to the busking element such as the following:

1. Buskers could book for either the morning or afternoon but not both on one day.
2. Buskers should move a greater distance than 20m.
3. Perhaps agreed locations should be allocated to avoid buskers being too close to each other?
4. Time limit for The Cross should be shorter?

### **Email from Chichester District Council, Environmental Health**

The point made by the Chief Inspector (Sussex Police – Arun and Chichester) about the 'PSPO imbalance' as the package of contents of one PSPO applied to another in adjacent authorities was a sound one.

In terms of a flourishing and not sterile City centre, it is necessary to apply a degree of pragmatism to some issues we had previously identified and deal with them at the right level and in the right context, noting the obvious - trading/activity in the streets in some shape or form has been part of the life of the City for centuries.

Peddlers - we all know the about the matter of being able to apply in Birmingham to peddle your wares in Chichester. Our prime concern about peddlers is that of 'seamless integration' into approved activities of traders in the Christmas, Farmers' and Garden Markets, plus presumably the forthcoming trial Wednesday market. When we have some City Council major activity going on such as a Freedom Parades, we have always found the peddlers to be co-operative in moving on and respect our activity and this is appreciated. There are issues about influencing their precise location at very high risk crowd safety events such as the Christmas Lights switch on.

As to Chuggers, in the main, we see young people working for charitable causes. However, other than having to dodge the occasional 'wolf packs' in the streets, we feel they need to be encouraged to tone down some of the gender or personal comments that, whilst part of the banter to attract attention might be rather off putting to some. Whilst some might welcome being called, for example a 'lovely lady' as part of that banter, some people do not; it is a question of gaining mutual respect (and customers) as part of the 'business activity'.

As to Buskers, this matter is well known to us all and could easily form a thesis. However, our key concerns which, in reality can be daily operational frustrations, relate to unlicensed buskers coupled with a lack of enforcement by the County Council and in the administration process, and a lack of consistent, or even sensible application of the rules.

**Email from Town Clerk, Chichester City Council**