

## **CABINET STATEMENT**

**TITLE: DESIGNATED PUBLIC PLACE ORDER**

**DATE: 21<sup>st</sup> March 2012**

**BY: Councillor Paul Cannon, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Safer Communities**

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I would like to inform Members that the County Borough wide Designated Public Place Order, which gives the police additional powers to tackle the problems associated with drinking in public places, took effect on the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2012. The power is now in place throughout the entire County Borough.

It is now an offence to fail to stop drinking alcohol or refuse to surrender alcohol when asked to do so by a police officer or a PCSO.

The Order is in place in every street, park and public space in Rhondda Cynon Taf and applies to all people at all times. The police have strongly welcomed the new power we, as a Council, have given them and only this week at the Community Safety Partnership described it as an extremely important tool for use against anti-social behaviour which they are committed to using.

We have introduced the DPPO in response to overwhelming public concern about problematic alcohol consumption in public, and the anti-social behaviour that often goes with it. Members will recall the efforts of the Opposition to stall and block this important measure, and I wish to thank Labour Councillors for their support and commitment in ensuring it has been successfully introduced. We know that residents see this as one of the biggest issues for them and it still surprises me that this was not shared across the Chamber. To oppose it was a spectacular 'own goal'.