

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

19TH APRIL 2018

**PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER
(INTOXICATING SUBSTANCES INCLUDING ALCOHOL)**

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES, IN DISCUSSION WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER, COUNCILLOR R LEWIS

Author: Louise Davies, Head of Environmental Health, Trading Standards and Community Safety

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform Members of the outcomes of the public consultation exercise and seek authority to retain the Public Space Protection Order to control alcohol related anti social behaviour in Rhondda Cynon Taf and extend the Order to include two defined exclusion zones to control intoxicating substance use in Pontypridd and Aberdare Town Centres, subject to any amendments Members may wish to consider in response to the consultation.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet:

2.1 Notes the significant public support for the retention and extension of a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to include prohibitions and requirements to control alcohol (and intoxicating substance) related anti social behaviour.

2.2 Considers the responses to the public consultation and determines whether any amendments are required to the retained PSPO and the boundaries of the exclusion zones proposed for Aberdare and Pontypridd Town Centres as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report.

2.3 Subject to 2.2 above, makes an order to retain a PSPO for the whole County Borough to control alcohol (and intoxicating substance) related anti social behaviour and extends the Order to include two defined exclusion zones to control intoxicating substance use in public places in Aberdare and Pontypridd Town Centres as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report with a commencement date of 1st September 2018; and

2.4 Subject to 2.3 above, gives delegated authority to the Director, Public Health, Protection and Community Services to produce the final Public Spaces

Protection Order relating to Intoxicating Substances including Alcohol and ensure its publication on the Council's website.

- 2.5 Agree to set the fine for fixed penalties issued for contraventions of the PSPO at £100.
- 2.6 Agree to fund implementation of the PSPO in 2018/19 through existing available resources.
- 2.7 Undertake a high profile awareness and marketing campaign prior to the commencement of the PSPO on 1st September 2018.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 In 2014, new powers to create PSPOs came into force as part of the Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. Under the Act, existing Designated Public Place Orders (DPPOs) remained in force until 19th October 2017 or until they were discharged by the council, whichever was earliest. Any DPPOs still in force at 20th October 2017 are automatically treated as if they were provisions of a PSPO from that date however there is an expectation that a Local Authority satisfy itself that the retained PSPO meets the required legal tests.
- 3.2 Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC approved a County wide DPPO which came into force in RCT on the 8th March 2012. The County wide DPPO set out to achieve a reduction in alcohol related anti social behaviour in all public places within the County Borough. An evaluation of the DPPO identified a need to retain the alcohol controls afforded by the DPPO and therefore that there are reasonable grounds to retain the PSPO which came into force on the 20th October 2017. There are also reasonable grounds to extend the PSPO to include two specific Exclusion Zones to prohibit people in public places from taking intoxicating substances in order to reduce the incidence and public perception of related anti social behaviour and crime in Pontypridd and Aberdare Town Centres only.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In October 2014 the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act was enacted, introducing new powers including the use of PSPO. The new orders are more flexible and can be applied to a much broader range of issues, with local authorities having the ability to design and implement their own prohibitions or requirements where certain conditions are met. The Home Office's statutory guidance however states that PSPOs should be used responsibly and proportionately, only in response to issues that cause ASB, and only where necessary to protect the public.
- 4.2 Of the 22 local authorities in Wales, Rhondda Cynon Taf ranks second highest for the rate of alcohol use. In relation to drug use, Rhondda Cynon

Taf ranked 11th (slightly below the Wales average). Alcohol accounts for 62% of referrals to substance use treatment services in Cwm Taf, with other drugs making up the remaining 38% of referrals.

- 4.3 Cwm Taf has the highest rate of alcohol related deaths in Wales. According to Public Health Wales (2015), Cwm Taf had the highest incidence of alcohol related deaths in both males and females and the second highest rate of hospital admissions in Wales due to alcoholic liver disease.
- 4.4 Public perception remains that alcohol consumption in public is a problem, particularly in the two principal town centres of Aberdare and Pontypridd, and misuse of other substances is also reported. The evidence supports the need for Pontypridd and Aberdare Town Centres to be subject to more stringent controls than the rest of the County Borough. Having regard to the prerequisites for a PSPO, there is very limited evidence to support such additional, restrictive controls in other areas of RCT. The retention of the County-wide controls over alcohol use in public places will continue to provide reassurance to residents and powers to the Police and authorised officers to deal with any ASB displaced from the Exclusion Zones. The proposed prohibitions of the varied PSPO will not apply to premises which are licensed for the supply of alcohol so would not impede these legitimate business functions.
- 4.5 The Cabinet, at its meeting of the 19th December 2017, resolved to undertake an 8-week public consultation on a proposal to retain the PSPO to control alcohol related ASB across all of RCT and to extend the Order to include two Exclusion Zones prohibiting the ingestion of intoxicating substances in public places in Aberdare and Pontypridd Town Centres.
- 4.6 This report presents the results of the public consultation and seeks Cabinet approval to retain and extend the PSPO to control intoxicating substances including alcohol, subject to any amendments the Cabinet may consider necessary in response to the consultation.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The full consultation report is at Appendix 1. The consultation took place between the 15th January and the 12th March 2018. The methodology adopted included an online questionnaire, a webpage outlining the proposals and a “what you need to know” fact sheet. Promotion was via social media and the press and a number of engagement events held across the County Borough.
- 5.2 In addition to the online consultation and engagement events, other stakeholders were notified of the intention to make a PSPO and invited to respond to the consultation. These included:

- All Community & Town Councils in Rhondda Cynon Taf
- Chief Constable of SW Police
- Police & Crime Commissioner for SW Police
- All neighbouring local authorities
- Natural Resources Wales
- Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
- All schools in Rhondda Cynon Taf
- The Assembly Members and Members of Parliament for Rhondda Cynon Taf
- Unison, Unite & GMB
- All County Borough Councillors for Rhondda Cynon Taf
- Youth Council
- Older Persons Advisory Group
- Cwm Taf Community Safety Partnership Board

5.3 Responses were received from the following organisations:

- South Wales Police
- Pontypridd Town Council
- Cwm Taf UHB Director of Public Health
- Older Peoples Advisory Group
- Youth Council

5.4 There was also engagement with key stakeholders and the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee (Crime and Disorder) and the Ynysangharad War Memorial Committee. Overall, more than 207 people were engaged in the consultation process.

5.5 The key findings arising from the 110 questionnaire responses to the consultation can be summarised as follows:

- Over 60% of respondents said they had been affected by alcohol related anti social behaviour.
- 80% of respondents agreed that the Council should retain the PSPO designating the whole County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf as a Controlled Drinking Zone.
- 80% of respondents said that they thought the Council should include an Intoxicating Substance Exclusion Zone in Pontypridd, compared to 67% in Aberdare.
- 85% of respondents agreed that the Council should allow the consumption of alcohol in the exclusion zones (within the premises or boundary of premises authorised for the supply of alcohol).
- 61% said that the Council shouldn't allow the consumption of alcohol in any other activities in the town centres.
- 82% of respondents agreed with the fixed fine of £100.

- 42% of respondents said that they had been affected by anti-social behaviour in Pontypridd, 17% said they were affected in Aberdare and 9% said they had been affected in both areas.
- 54% of respondents said that they had witnessed people consuming alcohol or intoxicating substances in public places in Pontypridd, 18% said they had witnessed this in Aberdare and 17% said they had witnessed this in both areas.
- When asked if they agreed with the boundaries on the maps, 69% said yes, 23% said no and 7% said don't know. For those that didn't agree with the boundaries, they were asked what they would include / exclude. Some respondents wanted all of RCT and all residential areas covered by an exclusion zone, while other comments referred to sports parks, civic areas and specific localities such as Church Village. From the consultation, the main themes to vary the boundaries of the PSPO can be identified as:
 - Pontypridd: Berw Road, Lan Park Road, Tyfica Road, Catherine Street Car Park, Lanwood House, Pontypridd Train Station Approach .
 - Aberdare: By the Police Station, Gadlys (Car Park), Aberdare Library.

5.6 The Aberdare and Pontypridd public engagement events and OPAG Forum responses are broadly consistent with the responses received to the questionnaire.

5.7 The Youth Forum views were different to the general public views and can be summarised as follows:

- 48% said they disagreed that the existing PSPO should stay the same.
- 79% of young people disagreed with a complete alcohol ban in Pontypridd town centre.
- 69% of young people disagreed with a ban of alcohol in Aberdare town centre.
- 69% said the fixed penalty notice should be £25.

5.8 Overall, all stakeholders were in agreement with the proposals. South Wales Police confirmed agreement with the proposals as did the Cwm Taf University Health Board. The Pontypridd Town Council also agreed with the PSPO however had some concerns that this could result in the identified problem being moved on to another area.

5.9 The local Member for the Pontypridd Town ward, although in agreement with the PSPO, expressed concerns over the growing problem facing residential areas, extending to nearby residential areas in particular on Tyfica Road, Lanpark Road, Llwynmadoc Street, Pencerring Street, Lanwood, as well as the bus station and the underpass leading up to Lanpark Road.

5.10 There is clearly significant public support for the retention of the PSPO controlling alcohol related anti social behaviour in public places across RCT. There is also majority support for the extension of the PSPO to include two

exclusion zones in defined boundaries of Aberdare and Pontypridd Town Centres although the support for the Pontypridd exclusion zone is higher.

5.11 Other observations arising from the consultation process can be summarised as follows:

- There was concern that the exclusion zones will push the problem into residential areas.
- There was concern about the police and enforcement officer resource available to regulate the PSPO.
- There was support for drinking in the boundaries (including authorised external areas) of licensed premises or licensed events only with no suggestions for variations for other activities.
- The Council needs to acknowledge that there are residents with substance and drug addiction problems. There was some concern that the threat of a fixed penalty fine would not deter those with a substance misuse issue or in poverty and unable to pay.
- There were observations that the proposals would promote the Town Centres and help regeneration.

5.12 The profile of respondents is included in the full consultation report. This shows that the majority of respondents were between the ages of 35 and 44 and that the majority of responses were received from residents (83%), visitors (8%) and businesses (4%).

5.13 Given the evidence and public support for the proposed prohibitions and restrictions and the supportive responses from SW Police and the majority of other stakeholders, the Council can confidently proceed with the necessary arrangements to retain and extend the PSPO, subject to any amendments that Members may wish to consider following the consultation.

5.14 Should the Council extend the PSPO, it will be necessary to install signage informing the public of the new exclusion zones at entrances to Aberdare and Pontypridd Town Centres. It will also be necessary to provide training to existing staff to ensure they have the necessary skills to enforce the PSPO.

5.15 Members may also wish to consider undertaking a high profile awareness campaign in advance of implementation of the PSPO to ensure that the requirements and prohibitions of the PSPO are publicised and fully understood by residents and businesses. To allow time for the proper implementation of the extended PSPO Members are requested to consider a proposed commencement date of 1st September 2018.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The Council must be able to demonstrate that a PSPO is a necessary and proportionate response to the problems caused by persons under the influence of intoxicating substances including alcohol in public places in the

authority's area and that those activities have had or are likely to have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality.

6.2 In developing these proposals, an Equality Impact Assessment screening has been undertaken to ensure that:

- The Council meets the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duties, and
- Due regard has been taken of the likely impact of the decision in terms of equality and discrimination.

Based on 38 online respondents, 71% felt the proposals would affect them specifically because of their gender with comments referring to the vulnerability of young and lone females in town centres. 50% said they would be affected because of their age with comments referring to the vulnerability of older people. The Youth Forum majority view was opposed to the PSPO exclusion zones, indicating a concern among young people about the impact on them. Comments from the consultation indicate that respondents felt that people in poverty were most likely to be disadvantaged by the proposal as they would be unable to pay any fines issued.

6.3 The Council is required to balance the interests of the population which is adversely affected by the anti social behaviour of people under the influence of substances in our communities with the reasonable expectation of those who wish to take intoxicating substances or enjoy alcohol responsibly without undue controls. As a population level intervention, the equality impact assessment does not indicate that any group of individuals will be disproportionately affected due to a protected characteristic. With regard to the concerns of young people, the age limit to purchase alcohol is 18 and it is already an offence for a person aged 18 or over to purchase alcohol on behalf of an underage person. To that end, the PSPO does not place any further adverse impact on the rights of young people.

6.4 The Council is required to balance the interests of those who chose to ingest intoxicating substances and the interests of the wider population and business proprietors in Aberdare and Pontypridd Town Centre who are adversely affected by crime and disorder that may arise. Respondents to the consultation indicated concern for the potential impact of the PSPO on people who have substance misuse issues who may also experience poverty and be unable to pay any fines issued. The approach of the wider Cwm Taf Substance Misuse Strategy is for all agencies to encourage people with substance misuse issues to engage with services where appropriate. Appropriate substance misuse training for authorised officers would therefore be undertaken as part of the lead in period for commencement of the Order. This would accompany specific enforcement guidance to ensure that an appropriate range of actions and interventions, not merely the issue of fixed penalty fines, are available to officers who identify people with substance misuse issues.

6.5 The consultation responses support the legal test that the proposed PSPO is a proportionate and necessary action. However, in order to balance the wider needs of the population, the provisions of the proposed Order would not apply to a person in a public place who:

- (i) Ingests a substance capable of stimulating or depressing the central nervous system for a valid and demonstrable medical purpose e.g. prescribed medication;
- (ii) Ingests tobacco products (e.g. cigarettes) or vaporisers;
- (iii) Ingests alcohol within the curtilage of a premises licensed for the sale or supply of alcohol.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

7.1 The Council must consider how it will enforce the prohibitions and requirements introduced under the PSPO, as the failure to enforce the Order will undermine its effect. This is particularly the case for the Town Centres subject to Intoxicating Substance Exclusion Zone controls.

7.2 In order to enforce the prohibitions of the Exclusion Zones, the Council will need to provide signage to the main entry points to the boundary of the area where the prohibitions apply. This is estimated will cost less than £5000. To ensure the Order is monitored effectively there will be a need to ensure existing enforcement officers are duly authorised to monitor and enforce compliance alongside Police Constables. It is not anticipated that additional Council staff will be required to enforce the proposed PSPO.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

8.1 Under section 59 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (the 'Act'), a local authority may make a PSPO if satisfied on reasonable grounds that two conditions are met.

8.2 The first condition is that:

- a) Activities carried on in a public place within the authority's area have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, or
- b) It is likely that activities will be carried on in a public place within that area and that they will have such an effect.

8.3 The second condition is that the effect, or likely effect of the activities:

- a) Is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature,
- b) Is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable, and
- c) Justifies the restrictions imposed by the notice.

- 8.4 A PSPO is an order that identifies the public place referred to in the restricted area and:
- a) Prohibits specified things being done in the restricted area,
 - b) Requires specified things to be done by persons carrying on specified activities in that area, or
 - c) Does both of those things.
- 8.5 The only prohibitions or requirements that may be imposed are ones that are reasonable to impose in order:
- a) To prevent the detrimental effect referred to in 8.2 above from continuing, occurring or recurring, or
 - b) To reduce the detrimental effect or to reduce the risk of its continuance, occurrence or recurrence.
- 8.6 A PSPO order must identify the activities referred to in 8.2 above, detail the offence of non-compliance with it, and specify the period for which it has effect. It may not have effect for a period of more than 3 years.
- 8.7 The Act requires that before it can make a PSPO the Council must carry out the *necessary consultation*, the *necessary publicity* and the *necessary notification*. The consultation process described in this report and detailed at Appendix 1 has discharged these duties in respect of consultation, publicity and notification. This included the publication of the text of the proposed PSPO, reproduced at Appendix 3. In addition the Council has consulted with SW Police and other stakeholders and notified the Community Councils across Rhondda Cynon Taf. The Council, having fulfilled these obligations under the Act is therefore able to proceed to making the PSPO should it wish to do so.
- 8.8 In response to the consultation feedback, and to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Act it is recommended that prior to publication any final PSPO should clearly define the relevant exclusion zone boundaries for the Aberdare and Pontypridd Town Centres.

9. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN AND FUTURE GENERATIONS – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- 9.1 The proposals in this report are consistent with the priorities of the Council's Corporate Plan, in particular "*Place – creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work*":
- *Rhondda Cynon Taf will be amongst the safest places in Wales, with high levels of community cohesion, and residents feeling safe.*
- 9.2 These proposals are also consistent with the Well-being Goals under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:

- *A healthier Wales – a society in which people’s physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.*
- *A Wales of cohesive communities – attractive, viable, safe and well connected communities.*

10. CONCLUSION

- 10.1 There remains a problem in RCT with alcohol related anti social behaviour and crime and disorder and the reported perception of the public is that this is a significant issue that warrants specific controls. Having regard to the legal tests, there are reasonable grounds for the Council to retain the controls that transitioned from the previous DPPO into a PSPO and to vary that PSPO to include additional prohibitions on intoxicating substance use, including alcohol, in public places in the Town Centres of Pontypridd and Aberdare only.
- 10.2 Cabinet is now asked to consider the responses to the public consultation and make a decision in relation to retaining the County Wide PSPO and extending the PSPO to include two Exclusion Zones as detailed in Appendix 2 (accounting for any amendments required following consideration of the consultation response).
- 10.3 Subject to 10.2 above, it is further recommended Cabinet gives delegated authority to the Director, Public Health, Protection and Community Services to produce the final PSPO relating to Intoxicating Substances including Alcohol and ensure its publication on the Council's website.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee (Crime and Disorder)
Health and Well-being Scrutiny Committee

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

19th APRIL 2018

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES IN DISCUSSION WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER, COUNCILLOR RHYS LEWIS

**PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER
(INTOXICATING SUBSTANCES INCLUDING ALCOHOL)**

Background Papers

- a) Public Spaces Protection Orders (Intoxicating Substances including Alcohol) – Report of Director of Public Health, Protection and Community Services in discussion with the relevant Portfolio Holder, Councillor Rhys Lewis: 19th December 2017
- b) Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 – Chapter 12
- c) Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014: Reform of anti-social behaviour powers: statutory guidance for frontline professionals. Home Office: July 2014
- d) Public Spaces Protection Orders- Guidance for Councils (Local Government Association, May 2017)

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Appendix 1



PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER
INTOXICATING SUBSTANCES
INCLUDING ALCOHOL

Consultation

March 2018

RHONDDA CYNON TAF
County Borough Council



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This report presents the findings of the consultation on proposals to retain the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to control alcohol related anti-social behaviour in Rhondda Cynon Taf and to extend the Order to include 2 defined exclusion zones to control intoxicating substance use in Pontypridd and Aberdare Town Centres.
- The consultation ran from the 15th January to the 12th March 2018. A webpage was set up to provide information on the proposals and consultation events, frequently asked questions, maps of the proposed exclusion zones and links to the online questionnaire.
- Officers delivered the information leaflets to those living or trading in the areas directly affected by the proposed exclusion zones in Aberdare and Pontypridd and spent time explaining what the PSPO would mean for them.
- The other methods involved officers attending the OPAG group in Pontypridd to speak to those involved in the local 50+ forums to ask their views and experiences. Paper copies of the questionnaires were printed for groups / forums in Aberdare and Pontypridd areas and distributed accordingly.
- Officers attended the County Youth Forum to speak to representatives from schools and youth groups in RCT about the effects of the proposals and what they thought of them. A Young person friendly consultation exercise was carried out in the Council Chambers in Clydach Vale, where an officer from the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Team delivered a presentation around the PSPO and asked young people to respond to questions via a voting system by pressing buttons on the handsets given to them.
- Officers from the CSP and the Consultation Team attended Town Centre events in Pontypridd and Aberdare where members of the public could drop by, chat about the proposals, have any questions answered and take part in the consultation exercise or questionnaire.
- Proposals were promoted via RCT's Twitter account and press releases.
- Respondents were able to email the Consultation inbox and/or write to the freepost address.
- Overall, 207 **people** engaged directly in the consultation process. Of the 110 questionnaire respondents, 60% of respondents said that they had been affected by alcohol related anti-social behaviour.

- 80% of respondents agreed that the Council should retain the PSPO designating the whole County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf as a Controlled Drinking Zone.
- 80% of respondents said that they thought the Council should include an Intoxicating Substance Exclusion Zone in Pontypridd, compared to 67% in Aberdare.
- 85% of respondents agreed that the Council should allow the consumption of alcohol in the exclusion zones (within the premises or boundary of premises authorised for the supply of alcohol).
- 61% said that the Council shouldn't allow the consumption of alcohol in any other activities in the town centres.
- 82% respondents agreed with the fixed fine of £100.
- 42% of respondents said that they had been affected by anti-social behaviour in Pontypridd, 17% said they were affected in Aberdare and 9% said they had been affected in both areas.
- 54% of respondents said that they had witnessed people consuming alcohol or intoxicating substances in public places in Pontypridd, 18% said they had witnessed this in Aberdare and 17% said they had witnessed this in both areas.
- When asked if they agreed with the boundaries on the maps, 69% said yes, 23% said no and 7% said don't know. For those that didn't agree with the boundaries, they were asked what they would include / exclude.

Response breakdown

- 110 questionnaire responses (online and hardcopy)
- 3 emails from stakeholders (including Public Health Wales, Cllr. Heledd Fychan & Pontypridd Town Council)
- 1 letter response from South Wales Police in support of the proposal.
- Over 40 people attended the 2 drop in sessions held in Pontypridd and Aberdare
- 12 people attended OPAG and took part in the discussion
- 31 Young people attended the Youth Forum
- Consultation with the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee (11 members)
- Consultation with the Cabinet: Ynysangharad War memorial Committee

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the findings of the consultation on proposals to retain the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to control alcohol related anti-social behaviour in Rhondda Cynon Taf and to extend the Order to include 2 defined exclusion zones to control intoxicating substance use in Pontypridd and Aberdare Town Centres.
- 1.2 Section 2 outlines some brief background.
- 1.3 Section 3 details the methodology.
- 1.4 Section 4 presents the results from the questionnaire.
- 1.5 Section 5 presents the views that were received at the engagement events, County Youth Forum and the Oder Person’s Advisory Group.
- 1.6 Section 6 provides responses from stakeholders.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The proposals are;

1. To keep an existing Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) with the whole County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf being a Controlled Drinking Zone. This does not ban or make it illegal to carry alcohol or to drink alcohol in a public place as long as drinking is done responsibly.
2. To change the PSPO to include Intoxicating Substance Exclusion Zones in **Pontypridd Town Centre** and **Aberdare Town Centre**. These would be defined areas of Pontypridd and Aberdare Town Centre (refer to the enclosed Maps). This prohibits persons in these areas from ingesting, inhaling, injecting, smoking or otherwise using intoxicating substances in public places.
3. To allow consumption of alcohol in the exclusion zones only where the activity is undertaken at a premises or within the boundaries of the premises which is authorised for the supply of alcohol.
4. That the fixed fine is set at **£100** (the maximum allowed).

2.2 What are Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs)?

Public spaces protection orders are intended to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a particular area that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life, by imposing conditions on the use of that area which apply to everyone. The order could also be used to deal with likely future problems. The Antisocial Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 allows councils to introduce these orders, after consultation with communities and other interested parties. The orders must be reviewed every three years to ensure they are still necessary.

2.3 What will the Borough wide PSPO mean?

The aim of the PSPO is to provide local authorities with the necessary powers to introduce restrictions upon activity and behaviours deemed to be anti-social and occurring in "public spaces". A PSPO is designed to restrict and prohibit certain behaviours. It is intended that the consumption of alcohol in public spaces will be restricted with a condition that enables a police officer or other enforcement officer to request that a person who is causing anti-social behaviour whilst in possession of alcohol, to stop drinking alcohol. It will also give the police/enforcement officer the right to seize the alcohol. If someone refuses to comply with the request of the police/enforcement officer to stop drinking and to hand over any containers believed to contain

alcohol he/she commits a criminal offence. Once introduced a PSPO can be enforced by both the local authority (authorised personnel) and the police and any breach of the order is a criminal offence which can be discharged via fixed penalty notice (£100) or up to £1000 fine upon prosecution.

2.4 Is the borough wide PSPO a ban on drinking alcohol?

No. A drinker's behaviour is the consideration in any action taken by those who enforce the order. It is not intended that those who are sensibly drinking will be subjected to these order's requirements. Home Office guidance reinforces this. However, the drinking of alcohol in the Exclusion Zones will be prohibited, other than in relation to an activity, premises or curtilage authorised to be used for the supply of alcohol by licence or club premises certificate or permission granted under section 115E of the Highways Act 1980.

2.5 What do we mean by Intoxicating Substances?

Intoxicating Substances will be defined as substances with the capacity to stimulate or depress the central nervous system. (this includes alcohol and what are commonly referred to as "legal highs"): Exemptions shall apply where the substances are used for a valid and demonstrable medical use, given to an animal as a medicinal remedy, are cigarettes (tobacco) or vaporisers or are food stuffs regulated by Food, Safety or Health legislation.

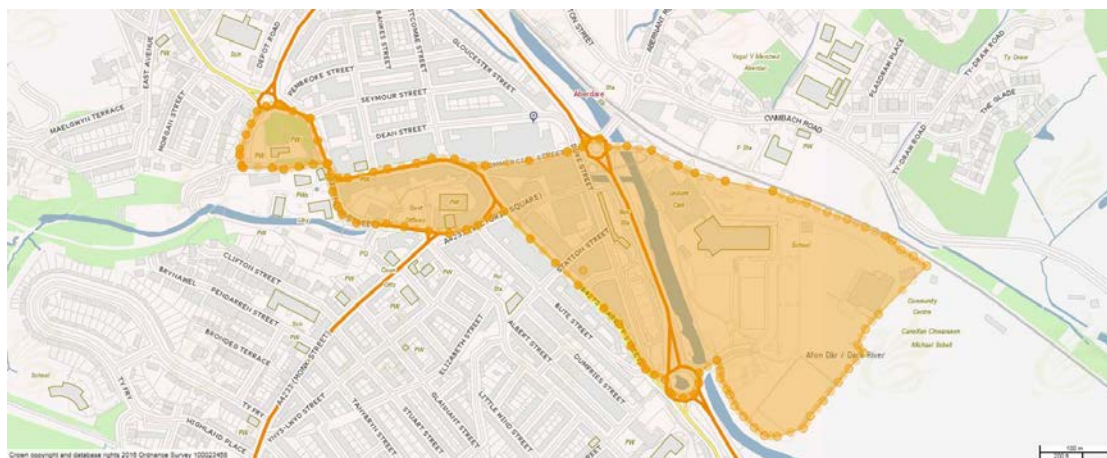
2.6 What are the benefits of this PSPO?

The main benefits are to reduce street drinking that is having a negative impact on communities and the environment, whilst reducing harmful consumption of alcohol and protecting vulnerable people.

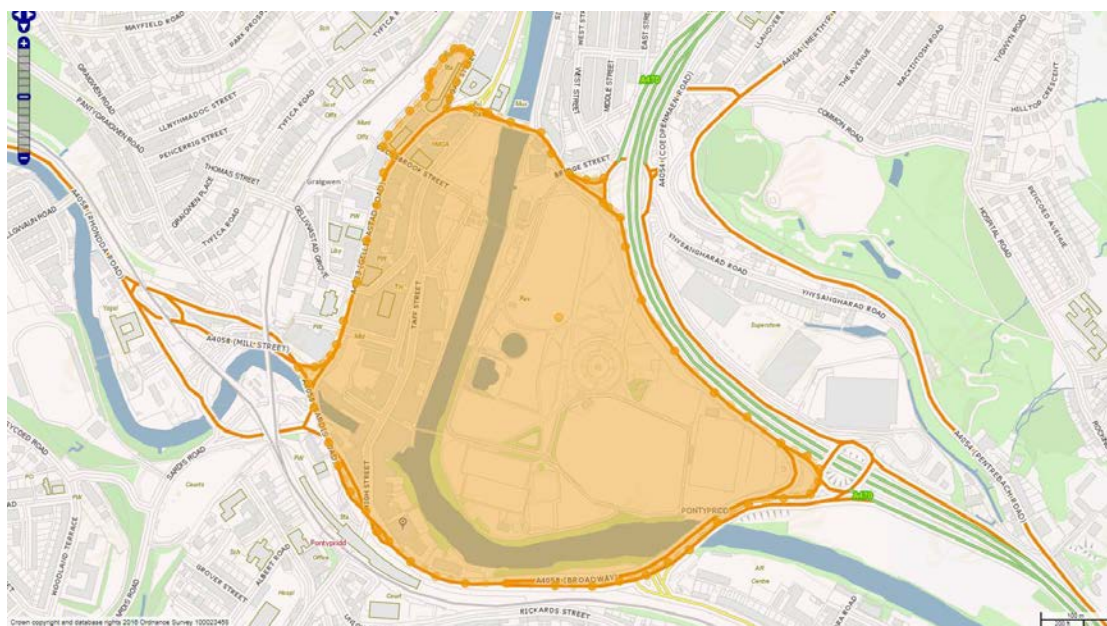
2.7 Where will the exclusion zones be?

The new Intoxicating Substance Exclusion Zones are proposed to be in Pontypridd Town Centre and Aberdare Town Centre. See maps overleaf. The existing Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) covers the whole County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf being a Controlled Drinking Zone.

2.8 Aberdare Proposed Exclusion Zone for Intoxicating Substances
Figure 1



2.9 Pontypridd Proposed Exclusion Zone for Intoxicating Substances
Figure 2



3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The consultation ran for 8 weeks, from the 15th January to the 12th March 2018.
- 3.2 The aim of the consultation was to gather the views of residents and traders in the Aberdare and Pontypridd areas specifically as they would be directly affected by the proposals. The consultation was open to all members of the public.
- 3.3 The following methods were used to consult with stakeholders;
- A questionnaire
 - 2 Drop in Engagement events in Pontypridd and Aberdare
 - Meetings with the Older Person's Advisory Group and the Youth Forum
 - A dedicated email address (consultation@rctcbc.gov.uk) and freepost address if needed.
- 3.4 The following responses were received;
- 110 questionnaire responses (online and hardcopy)
 - 3 emails from stakeholders (including Public Health Wales, Cllr. Heledd Fychan & Pontypridd Town Council)
 - 1 letter response from South Wales Police in support of the proposal.
 - Over 40 people attended the 2 drop in sessions held in Pontypridd and Aberdare
 - 12 people attended OPAG and took part in the discussion
 - 31 Young people attended the Youth Forum
 - Consultation with the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee (11 members)
 - Consultation with the Cabinet: Ynysangharad War memorial Committee

4 Questionnaire Results

- 4.1 110 responses were received to the questionnaire. Paper copies were handed out at the drop in events and were distributed to the OPAG. These were inputted to the online link.

Have you been affected by alcohol related anti-social behaviour in your local area?

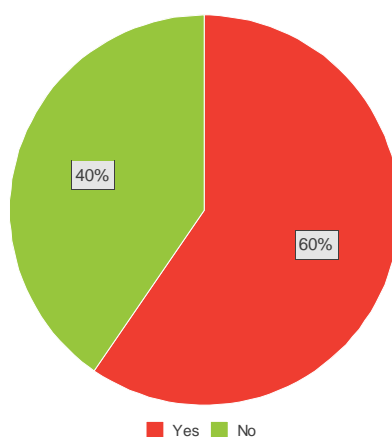


Figure 3

- 4.2 60% of respondents said that they had been affected by alcohol related anti-social behaviour.

When asked where and what was the impact, 57 comments were received.

Location within consultation areas

Aberdare town centre
Pontypridd town centre
Aberdare bus station
Bus stations / near bus stations
ATM's / banks
Aberdare park
Ynysangharad park
Pontypridd Indoor market
Lanpark road, Pontypridd
Glamorgan Mission to the Deaf
The footpath leading from Lan Park Rd. to the White Rock estate at Graigwen, Pontypridd.
Taff St, Pontypridd
Fish Lane, Pontypridd
Under the bridge in Ponty and green area near Lanpark Road
Aberdare post office
Aberdare underpass near Wetherspoons

Mill street, Pontypridd
On public transport
Sardis Road
Glamorgan Mission to the Deaf
The footpath leading from Lan Park Rd. to the White Rock estate at Graigwen, Pontypridd.
Taff St, Pontypridd
Under the bridge in Ponty and green area near Lanpark Road

Impact

Unpleasant / potential violent behaviour by those drinking
Rowdy loutish behaviour
People feeling threatened, and frightened
Intimidating behaviour
Effects to children / elderly / disabled
Fighting / arguing
Damage to property
Increase of litter / bottles outside properties
Feeling fearful and unsafe / upsetting
People attempting to steal
People asking for spare change and money
People avoiding visiting areas
People avoid using their bus stops
Taking drugs
Underage drinking
Congregating in area
Sexual advances towards people
Music and loud noise levels / swearing and shouting
Urinating
Staggering around

Other problem areas

Can Fardre, Church Village
Tonypandy bus station
Porth Town Centre
Dunraven St Tonypandy.
Broadway Treforest
Maerdy
Hawthorn
Taffeta Street
Sardis Road
Glamorgan Mission to the Deaf
The footpath leading from Lan Park Rd. to the White Rock estate at Graigwen, Pontypridd.
Taff St, Pontypridd
Trealaw
Penygraig
Treorchy Park

Under the bridge in Ponty and green area near Lanpark Road
Glynhafod
Ton Pentre

Comments included:

“In Ynysangharad park at 8-10am on a Saturday morning whilst doing a training run in the park, I ran past 3 men who were drinking cans of strong cider, they started heckling me and being sexually explicit about me, as I ran past one of them sprinted to the side of me and said he was going to take me down the river, this was really unnerving for me and I have not gone to run in the park that early since.”

“In the town centre itself - outside the train station, near the taxi rank and Tesco, mill street and underpass, bus station, underpass going from bus station to lower Graigwen, Llwynmadoc Street, Pencerring Street, Tyfica Road, Lanpark Road, in Ynysangharad park. Impact was feeling threatened, and frightened both in Town Centre itself and more residential areas.”

“At the bottom of Lanpark Road, the steps on the hill to the bus station and also in the bus station, whilst walking in ynysangharad park on several occasions. On each occasion I felt fearful and unsafe.”

“Consumption of alcohol and blatant use of illicit substances in and around the subway leading from Morgan St. to Lan Park Rd. Pontypridd. Similar behaviour in and around the Glamorgan Mission to the Deaf and the footpath leading from Lan Park Rd. to the White Rock estate at Graigwen, Pontypridd. Such behaviour is threatening and intimidating to children, residents and people using the routes as thoroughfares. See Police reports for more information.”

“In Aberdare going to the post office. They were staring and asking people for spare change and then shouting abuse at them if they didn't have any spare change”

“Tyfica road. Residents from the Grange were harassing a young man. They were using foul language and would not stop. I've also seen quite a few people in Ponty swearing freely in front of children and more than a few intoxicated people. There seems to be absolutely no police presence.”

Retain the PSPO designating the whole County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf as a Controlled Drinking Zone?

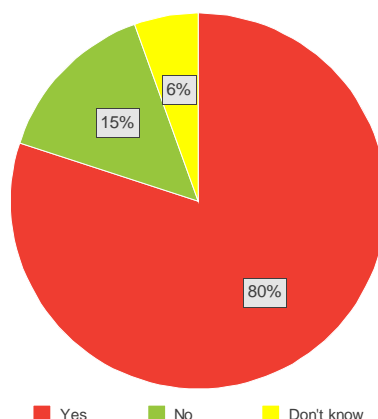


Figure 4

- 4.3 80% of respondents said that they thought the Council should retain the PSPO designating the whole County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf as a Controlled Drinking Zone.

Main themes:

Apply PSPO to other areas
More police presence
Tougher sentences / Increase the fine
Make exceptions for festivals
Alcohol on the streets should be completely prohibited
Prioritise problem areas
More signage

Comments included:

“Apart from festivals in the parks I see no reason for alcohol to be consumed as there are enough licensed premises in the county borough”

“How would it be ensured that sufficient resources could be deployed across the borough? Would it not be more sensible to target the areas with the largest problems and focus the resources there?”

“The idea is great but does it just push the problem out to residential areas that are already being affected by crime? Also how do you plan in enforcing this when we don't have enough police to deal with the raising crime rate? The police don't even come out to deal with cars being broken into or when you ring and explain that your neighbour has threatened you for parking outside their home?! Your time would be better spent getting money to increase our police force and increase our safety!”

“There are enough pubs and clubs for people to drink in; it does not need to be in the streets and parks”

“I'd like to know how you intend to support those who drink on the streets of the town on a daily basis (I walk past the same old faces day after day), if a ban is the best way to prevent excessive drinking, illness and deaths - especially considering that Cwm Taf has the highest statistics in terms of deaths relating to excessive drinking.”

Vary the PSPO to include an Intoxicating Substance Exclusion Zone in Pontypridd and Aberdare Town Centres?

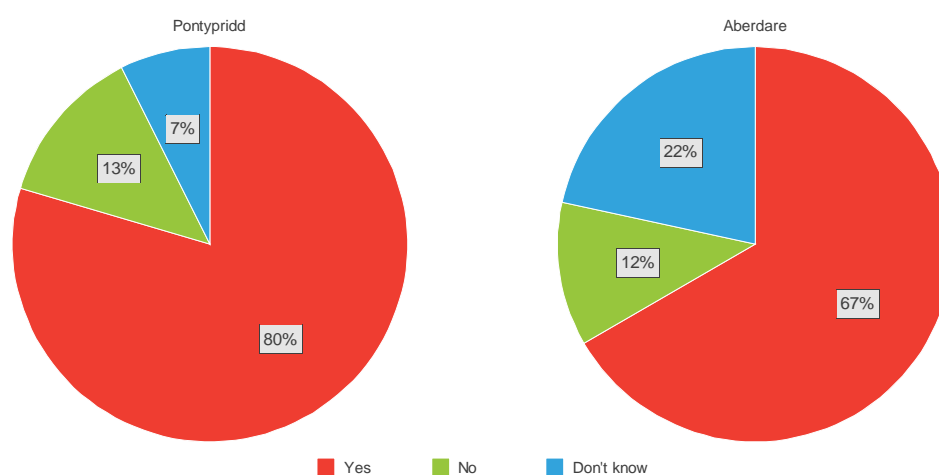


Figure 5

- 4.4 When asked if they agreed if the Council should vary the PSPO to include an Intoxicating Substance Exclusion Zone (ISEZ) in the town centres, there seemed to be slightly more people in agreement with this proposal in Pontypridd Town Centre over Aberdare Town Centre.

80% of respondents said that they thought the Council should include the ISEZ in Pontypridd, compared to 67% in Aberdare.

Comments for Pontypridd included:

“Allow alcohol to be consumed in dedicated areas outside some licensed premises.”

“This is a positive idea in some aspects. However, I am greatly concerned that the proposed area does not include the lower part of Graigwen. The map includes the subway, by the bus stop (which now has a CCTV camera), but not the path that runs above the railway or Lan Park Rd and neighbouring streets. All of these areas experience problems relating to intoxicating substances and there is a great danger that the current plans will increase the problems in these areas, as they are easily accessible from the town centre. Lower Graigwen is home to Mission to the Deaf, a primary school and two HMOs which house groups of vulnerable people. As a result, causing an increase in

the anti-social use of intoxicating substances in Graigwen, rather than protecting the area, is a fundamental error, and would increase the risk to a great deal of vulnerable people. The current plan needs to be reconsidered as there is a danger it could make the situation worse in residential areas that are within easy reach of the town centre/bus station. Streets such as Lan Park Rd and Tyfica Rd need to be considered as an extension of the town centre, due to the fact that they are so close to the bus station where a great number of people congregate. Additionally, the open areas on these streets, such as the green on Lan Park Rd, the numerous benches and hidden areas such as the high end of the subway offer people a variety of places where they can abuse intoxicating substances.”

“But add more police patrols to stop them going into residential areas instead.”

“Extend it further nobody should be effected by drunk behaviour,”

“I am strongly against this, and concerned that residents of Pontypridd town centre that fall outside of the exclusion zone haven’t been consulted with. This could have a very negative impact on nearby residents, worsening anti social behaviour in nearby areas listed above which are already experiencing problems. This is not the right approach to tackle the problems Pontypridd is facing.”

“There is a significant drink AND drugs problem in Pontypridd Town Centre along with an increase in homelessness.”

Comments for Aberdare included:

“Allow alcohol to be consumed in dedicated areas outside some licensed premises.”

“But add more police patrols to stop them going into residential areas instead.”

“I have had a few bad experiences in Aberdare town centre where I witnessed small groups openly taking drugs in the street in the day time; this has discouraged me from visiting the town centre.”

“I’m sick of seeing drunken adults in Aberdare town. It’s so humiliating and I’m always on edge when walking past them.”

“Try having set times where people can’t go out with alcohol-like when families or children may be around.”

Allow consumption (of alcohol) in the exclusion zones only where the activity is undertaken at a premises or within the boundary of the premises which is authorised for the supply of alcohol?

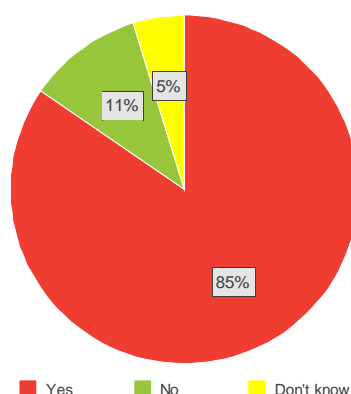


Figure 6

- 4.5 When asked if the Council should allow the consumption of alcohol in the exclusion zones (within the premises or boundary of premises authorised for the supply of alcohol), 85% of respondents said yes.

Comments included:

"I agree with this statement, alcohol consumed in these premises are under better controls as they have designated security staff to assist with any issues as well strict legal policies in place for under age consumption of alcohol."

"No problem with the consumption of alcohol in authorised premises."

"Ok as long as the licensed area is clearly designated and policed by the licensee."

"There's nothing wrong with having a beer or a wine at a picnic, so some common sense in enforcement?"

In addition to Licensed Premises and Licensed activities, do you think there should be any other activities in the Town Centres when alcohol consumption should be allowed?

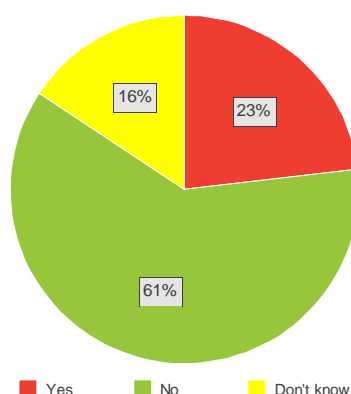


Figure 7

- 4.6 When asked if the Council should allow the consumption of alcohol in any other activities in the town centres, 61% said no, 23% said yes and 16% said they didn't know.

Comments included:

"All activities where alcohol consumption is expected should be approved by the L/A as part of its licensing powers to ensure that all appropriate public bodies e.g. police are aware."

"Any organised events"

"As previously stated alcohol consumption should be allowed only at venues such as the big bite"

"Events need consideration such as concerts in the park, or other events similar to when the FA Cup was shown in large screen in Ponty Park"

"In the park on SOME days where there are bands etc on. Adults only, wouldn't be suitable for a family event."

"No should be restricted to private premises and or licensed premises not public areas"

"Stop trying to control every aspect of our lives. Drinking is a social tradition in the Valleys. It's how people connect, build bridges and strengthen communities. This is the shortcut to closing towns completely. Pubs are struggling enough as it is."

"While some may feel that national festivals, like a royal wedding, should be exceptions, all such events involve children and other vulnerable individuals who need protection from drunken behaviour?"

That the fixed fine is set at £100 (the max allowed)?

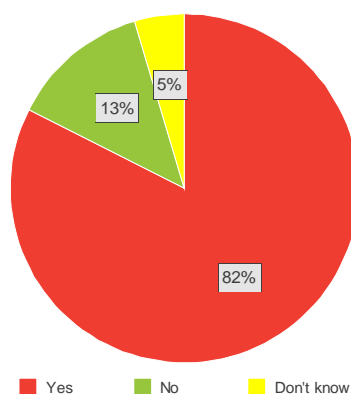


Figure 8

- 4.7 Respondents were asked if they agreed with the fixed fine of £100. 82% agreed. Although a high majority agreed with a fine, there are mixed comments / concerns regarding the actual amount and whether people will be able to pay the fine.

Comments included:

“£50 - £75 sufficient”

“The fine should be more than £100 to act as a greater deterrent.”

“But I doubt most of them who are unemployed just won't pay the fine anyway.”

“But people who are alcoholics or substance mis-users often can't afford to pay the fines anyways.”

“Having alcohol in public shouldn't be more than dog fouling!”

“Is this really enforceable? A lot of the people I see who take drink and drugs are from mill street hostel and from the grange. Are they really going to pay £100? Also a lot of youths in the bus stop drinking and taking drugs, what is going to be done about that?? Does it go on their record?”

“Not for first offence and where serious disruption to others is being caused. If behaviour is disruptive or unruly it might be better treated using existing laws and through the courts. Also there needs to be consideration for those individuals who needs society's help rather than pointless castigation.”

“The average working person might be able to afford the £100 but the type of person who drinks and takes drugs are unemployed and quite often have outstanding fines and would be unable or unwilling to pay further fines. Therefore, confiscation and banning from these areas would be more suitable. If this is not acceptable to them then stronger action should be available.”

Have you been affected by anti-social behaviour in Pontypridd or Aberdare Town Centres caused by people you believe were consuming and/ or under the influence of alcohol or intoxicating substances?

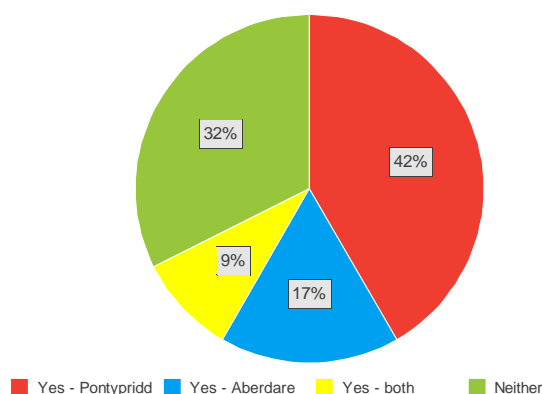


Figure 9

- 4.8 42% of respondents said that they had been affected by anti-social behaviour in Pontypridd, 17% said they were affected in Aberdare and 9% said they had been affected in both areas.

When asked for detail, 40 comments were received.

Comments for Pontypridd included:

“As explained earlier. Upsetting for young children to see. I also have a young teen that I don't like going to Pontypridd alone in the day to shop with friends as people like this are around.”

“Folk sat on benches through town. Staggering across Gelliwasted road narrowly avoiding being hit then swearing and threatening drivers. Being sworn at. Smell of drugs in various places both in and outside the proposed area. Fights, arguments.”

“In Pontypridd town centre a group of people were openly drinking alcohol, they were asking me for the time then asking who I was as they thought I had previously had been fighting a girl they know. I felt intimidated as they were shouting and were following me through the town. I have witnessed many violent incidents whilst my son was with me which was upsetting for him, it is unfair that we have to constantly see and hear these things every time we attend the shops and park.”

“In Ynysangharad park, and outside the park gates where two intoxicated men beating each other senseless over a pack of cigarettes.”

“Persons obviously under the influence of alcohol and/or illicit substances are frequently seen in the Town Centre of Pontypridd. Their behaviour and language is intimidating, abusive and found threatening by some of the law-abiding shoppers, visitors and workers of the town.”

“Whilst taking my daughter to the park, there were two men drinking cans of alcohol and they sat down on the bench by the bridge and one took a needle out of his pocket and started to inject. I reported that incident to the local pcso which was in the park during the evening as I worked with her (yeps) whilst in the football clubhouse. I have also reported numerous times youths at the end Tyfica road (meeting onto Lanpark road) where they are smoking cannabis. I have also reported youths under or near the bridge consuming alcohol and taking drugs, using intimidating language and being in big groups swearing and being very rude to residents.”

Comments for Aberdare included:

“Drugs and alcohol related abuse in Aberdare. Users are just downright rude.”

“Drunken people shouting slur at each other and making people nearby feel really uncomfortable to the point where people were trying to avoid sitting on nearby benches opposite B&M. This happened when children were on their way to school as well.”

“I have been in Aberdare many times where there have been outbreaks between people I believe to have been under the influence. This is particularly stressful when you are there with children. Particularly on a Saturday afternoon I would avoid town rather than witness or allow my children to see people drinking on benches, arguing, falling over etc.”

Other comments:

“Feel intimidated by these people. I moved here a year ago, I actually feel ashamed to invite my family and friends to the town because of the drinking issue.”

“Drunk fighting, drugged up people shouting, arguing and just being a general nuisance”

Have you witnessed people consuming alcohol or intoxicating substances in public places in Pontypridd or Aberdare Town Centres?

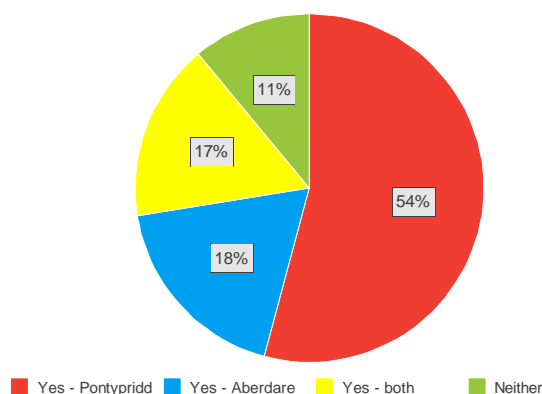


Figure 10

- 4.9 54% of respondents said that they had witnessed people consuming alcohol or intoxicating substances in public places in Pontypridd, 18% said they had witnessed this in Aberdare and 17% said they had witnessed this in both areas.

When asked for detail, 49 comments were received.

The main themes were:

Aberdare town centre
 Pontypridd town centre
 Aberdare bus station
 Pontypridd fountain
 Aberdare park
 Pontypridd park
 Aberdare library
 Train stations
 Public transport

Comments included:

“By Burtons in Aberdare. Also on the benches by Iceland. I’ve also seen drug dealing going on by the bus station.”

“Drinking cans of strongbow on the wall before you go to the market”

“Every single day I work in Pontypridd it can be intimidating walking around town with so many people drinking and taking drugs especially upsetting in the park where I like to spend my lunch times and there are groups of men taking drugs on the river bank”

“It also happens on the trains and buses so maybe these should be patrolled also as I don't think it's fair that children should witness this as not all children are brought up like it”

“Openly in the day time outside shops, in the park, and in Mill street in Pontypridd outside the hostel all times of the day it is very intimidating to walk under the subway past the hostel when there is groups of people consuming alcohol and laying all of the floor.”

“People are always drinking on the streets in Aberdare.”

- 4.10 Respondents were asked what impact the proposals would have on the town centres. Comments were mainly positive.

Comments included:

Positive

“A brilliant impact. It isn't nice when people from other locations come to the business and on their way see people on the street who are either under the influence of alcohol or drugs. It gives Aberdare a bad reputation”

“A positive impact”

“Hopefully give the town a cleaner look and make the elderly, young people and visitors feel it,s a safer,more pleasant place to be.”

“Hopefully remove any danger or intimidation from those who are drinking in the town centres”

“The town centres would become more attractive to shoppers, many of whom feel threatened by anti-social behaviour. Pontypridd has lost trade of late and every support is needed to encourage as many shoppers as possible.”

“You can safely take your children to town and the park without fear of seeing and being approached by undesirables”

Negative/Concerns

“I don't think they would solve the fundamental problems we have in the town. It is the wrong solution. It will push the problem, if you are able to enforce, to nearby residential areas. Many residents are already concerned about anti social behaviour and want a solution for the whole of Pontypridd town. This tries to solve the problem in one part, and will worse in other parts.”

“I am not sure if a ban will help the situation on its own, you need to work with local pubs in order to avoid excessive drinking, and work with

the housing sector and health and leisure services in order to deal with the problem in a more holistic manner. It isn't just a health problem, so the appropriate steps need to be taken. For example, has RCT used the five methods of working in order to reach the 7 Wellbeing Aims of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act?"

"It will force regular offenders to nearby residential areas which have no cctv and are not regular patrols"

"None. There are already sufficient laws to deal with this. It will pass the responsibility for policing to the wrong people, and will create confrontation with people who won't be able to properly deal with it"

Do you agree with the boundaries on the maps?

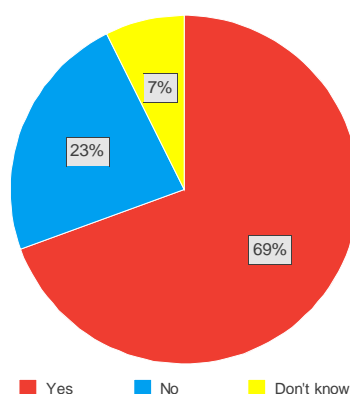


Figure 11

4.11 When asked if they agreed with the boundaries on the maps, 69% said yes, 23% said no and 7% said don't know. For those that didn't agree with the boundaries, they were asked what they would include / exclude.

Main themes:

- Include all of RCT
- An area of up to half a mile outside the zones
- The whole of the town
- Berw Road, Pontypridd
- Lanpark Road
- Tyfica Road
- Church Village
- Catherine Street carpark
- By the police station in Aberdare
- Residential areas
- Sports parks
- Gadlys

- Lanwood house
- Civic areas

4.12 All further comments included:

“All public places should be alcohol free.”

“I agree with the proposals and hope they have a positive impact”

“I suggest we need to tackle the problems the people who are taking drugs/ alcohol are facing and provide support to them. Less centralised services in the town centre would help e.g. methadone clinic and probation all in town. Also Mill Street and the Grange. If we had more police in the town centre at all times, and more support for people, this would not be an issue.”

“If there is statutory legislation - people (any age) are breaking the law if they are drinking alcohol or drug taking and should be fined accordingly”

“If you want to regenerate the town centre of Pontypridd this is essential. Maximising the asset we have in a Listed Park will be key to this success. You can't do this with the current drug and alcohol problems . We need to re balance our town far too many drug and alcohol users at the moment . Let's do this RCT CBC!”

“Include RCT as a whole”

“If this plan is put in place, the map must be amended to cover streets which are easy for people to reach from the town centre. You must consider producing a more inclusive strategy on dealing with the use of drugs and alcohol in public before implementing this plan. A number of services for vulnerable people are based in Pontypridd; an effort needs to be made to bring all of these service providers and other key stakeholders, such as the police and the council, together to form a strategic and inclusive plan.”

“There needs to be feedback given to mill street hostel and the grange. Surely if they break curfews or gain fines they should not be allowed back into the premises and they lose their place. Harsh as it sounds I am sick to death of the anti social behaviour in Pontypridd. We have only lived here 2 years and it was one of the worst mistakes we have done due to the problems we face with the anti social behaviours which is very apparent!”

“Well Done”

Note: All comments from all questions will be provided to Cabinet Members and Officers to inform the decision making process.

Respondent Profile

4.13 The majority of respondents were residents (83 %), 8% were visitors, 4% were business owners, 4% preferred not to say.

4.14 The tables below show the gender and age profiles of respondents.

Counts Analysis % Respondents		Counts Analysis % Respondents	
Base	108 100.0%	Base	105 100.0%
Gender		Age	
Male	45 41.7%	Under 16	- -
Female	61 56.5%	16-24	3 2.9%
Prefer not to say	2 1.9%	25-34	11 10.5%
		35-44	37 35.2%
		45-54	19 18.1%
		55-64	16 15.2%
		65-74	13 12.4%
		75+	6 5.7%

Figure 12

4.15 Under the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duties, the Council has a legal duty to look at how its decisions impact on people because they may have particular characteristics. The following table is based on 38 respondents. The following table shows that 71% felt that the proposals would affect them specifically because of their gender. 50% said they would be affected because of their age.

Please tell us if you think these proposals will affect you specifically because of any of the following:	
Respondents	
Total	100%
You are male / female	71%
Your age	50%

Your ethnicity	5%
You are disabled	11%
Your sexuality	5%
Your religion or belief	16%
Your gender identity	3%
You are single / married / cohabiting / in a civil partnership / divorced	21%
You are pregnant	-
The language you prefer to communicate in	3%

Figure 13

4.16 The following are a selection of comments that were made to support the above;

Comments:

it would make me feel safer when walking around town

Drink in licensed premises or at home not in someone's face!!

Younger females tend to be more vulnerable if they are on their own

I feel intimidated by the conduct of intoxicated people

lot of pensioners and ill people on berw road at present .long term residents

I feel as a woman very uneasy when there are drunken men I have to walk past to go through town.

Older single female OAP

These will worsen problems residents face with an increase in anti social behaviour.

It affects everybody what the list above has to do with it is beurocratic nonsense.

I live on my own

They will increase the confidence of residents/visitors/workers that a problem has been recognised.

5 Engagement Events

Drop In events

- 5.1 24 people attended the drop in Engagement event in Pontypridd Town Centre on Wednesday 28th February 2018.

The following themes summarise the discussions that took place;

Proposals	Agree	Disagree	Comments
Keep the existing Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) - with the whole of Rhondda Cynon Taf being a Controlled Drinking Zone	22	2	About time - problems by bus station
			Alcohol should be banned everywhere in a public place especially the park
			It has to be enforced, more education to people who have the powers to enforce it
New Intoxicating Substance Exclusion Zones in Pontypridd and Aberdare Town Centres	23	1	People are banned from the town but they aren't listening.
			Chewing gum
			Children are in the park, there should be no drinking
Allow consumption in the exclusion zones only where the activity is undertaken at or within the boundaries of the premises	23	1	Put pictures of them in the shops, information on them up in town, name and shame.
			The park should be an area where you can drink responsibly.
That the fixed fine is set at £100 (the maximum allowed)	24		£100 a bit high
			Fine should be higher
			Ones drinking can't afford fine - should be more - £150

Figure 14 – Pontypridd Town Centre

- 5.2 Over 12 people attended the drop in Engagement event in Aberdare library on Tuesday 6th March 2018. 2 people took part in the exercise and 10 people handed in completed questionnaires. We handed out more questionnaires to people passing and any completed have been included in the questionnaire figure.

The following themes summarise the discussions that took place;

Proposals	Agree	Disagree	Comments
Keep the existing Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) - with the whole of Rhondda Cynon Taf being a Controlled Drinking Zone	1	1	It should be banned completely
New Intoxicating Substance Exclusion Zones in Pontypridd and Aberdare Town Centres	2		
Allow consumption in the exclusion zones only where the activity is undertaken at or within the boundaries of the premises	2		Allow alcohol consumption at beer festivals
That the fixed fine is set at £100 (the maximum allowed)	2		

Figure 15 – Aberdare Town Centre

Young People

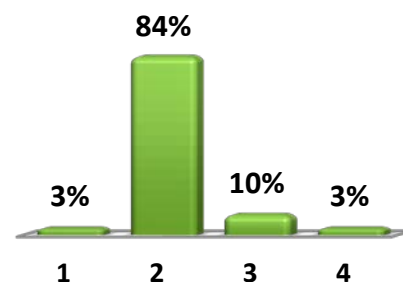
- 5.3 31 young people attended the County Youth Forum at the Council Chambers on Wednesday 7th March. The young people came from schools and youth groups in RCT and officers talked to them about the effects of the proposals and asked their views on them.
- 5.4 A Young person friendly consultation exercise was carried out following a presentation around the PSPO and the young people were asked to respond to questions via a voting system by pressing buttons on the handsets given to them.
- 5.5 Young people's views were different to the general public views and 48% said they disagreed that the existing PSPO should stay the same. 79% of young people disagreed with a complete alcohol ban in Pontypridd town centre.
- 5.6 69% of young people disagreed with a ban of alcohol in Aberdare town centre and 69% said the fixed penalty notice should be £25.

Question Report

3/7/2018 5:29 PM

What is Anti social behaviour ASB?

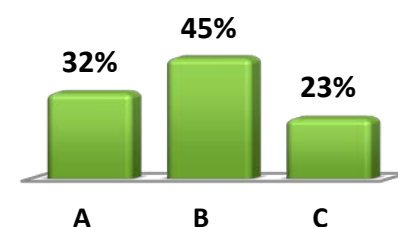
1	1) When someone doesn't want to talk to you	1	3%
2	2) When someone acts in a way that makes you feel uncomfortable	26	84%
3	3) When someone isn't sociable	3	10%
4	4) When someone turns down going out with you	1	3%
		31	100%



3/7/2018 5:31 PM

Have you been affected by anti-social behaviour caused by alcohol in your area?

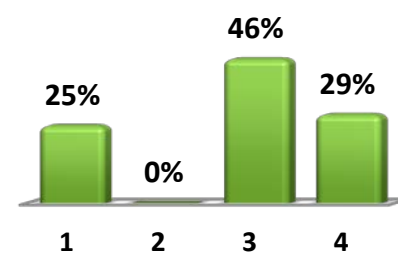
A	Yes	10	32%
B	No	14	45%
C	Maybe	7	23%
		31	100%



3/7/2018 5:32 PM

Who you gonna call?

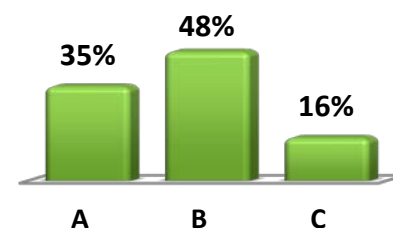
1	Ghostbusters	7	25%
2	your local council	0	0%
3	non-emergency number, 101	13	46%
4	999	8	29%
		28	100%



3/7/2018 5:35 PM

Do you think it should stay that way?

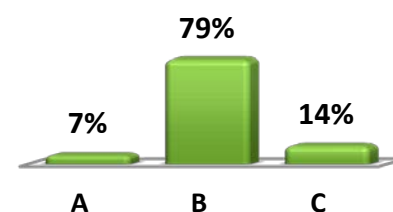
A	Yes	11	35%
B	No	15	48%
C	I don't know	5	16%
		31	100%



3/7/2018 5:43 PM

Do you think we should have a complete ban of drinking alcohol in Pontypridd Town Centre?

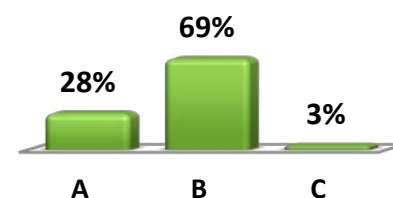
A	Yes	2	7%
B	No	22	79%
C	I don't know	4	14%
		28	100%



3/7/2018 5:45 PM

Do you think we should have a complete ban of drinking alcohol in Aberdare Town Centre?

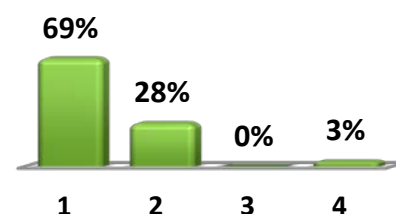
A	Yes	8	28%
B	No	20	69%
C	I don't know	1	3%
		29	100%



3/7/2018 5:46 PM

If we put the new PSPO in place and people break the rules, how much should we fine them?

1	£25	20	69%
2	£50	8	28%
3	£75	0	0%
4	£100	1	3%
		29	100%



OPAG

- 5.7 An officer from the Community Safety Partnership team and a Consultation Officer attended the Older Person’s Advisory Group meeting. The notes can be found below;

OPAG notes – PSPO – Intoxicating substances including alcohol

The Community Safety Partnership officer (CSP) explained what the PSPO meant and told the group that if police see people out and about in town centres about to commit anti-social behaviour, they can confiscate the alcohol. The proposals are looking to change PSPO’s in Aberdare and Pontypridd to exclude alcohol in these areas and the fines would be a maximum of £100.

Q – *“Persistent offenders – what happens to them?”*

CSP – People will receive a criminal order and will be banned from the town centre.

CSP officer proceeded to go through the consultation questions.

- 1) **Have you been affected by alcohol related anti-social behaviour in your local area?**

“Yes, got off a bus at 5:30pm by the underpass a week last Thursday, contacted police, town councillor etc but people are congregating and drinking, talking about bombs.”

“About 14 youngsters around the underpass / bus stop area hanging around in the night.”

“Friday morning in Ynysangharad park, they are drinking etc.”

CSP – Signs will go up following the consultation.

Q – *“Could we put up more signs? Does it include drugs?”*

CSP – It includes all intoxicating substances.

Q – *“Can you call 999 or 101 if people are intoxicated?”*

CSP – 999 is faster, 101 takes longer. It depends if it’s an emergency.
CSP – There’s an issue with people being out of sight past the steps by the underpass. They could move the camera.

Q – *“We went to Barry Sidings. What’s happened in the Rhondda?”*

CSP – Statistics have shown Ponty and Aberdare have the majority of issues with alcohol related and intoxicating substances. Ponty is a meeting point for treatments etc.

Q – *“Who has the authority?”*

CSP – Council enforcement officers and the police.

- 2) **Do you agree that the Council should retain the PSPO designating the whole County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf as a Controlled Drinking Zone?**

No comments were received from the group.

- 3) **Do you agree that the Council should vary the PSPO to include an Intoxicating Substance Exclusion Zone in Pontypridd Town Centre?**

Yes – everyone agreed.

- 4) **Do you agree that the Council should vary the PSPO to include an Intoxicating Substance Exclusion Zone in Aberdare Town Centre?**

Yes – everyone agreed

Q – *“In Aberdare bus station, there are notices up about feeding the birds and smoking, but they aren’t prominent. It’s stinking”*

Q – *“If you come across a dangerous situation, you can call the police?”*

CSP – Yes

- 5) **Do you agree that the Council should allow consumption of alcohol in the exclusion zones only where the activity is**

undertaken at a premises or within the boundary of the premises which is authorised for the supply of alcohol?

CSP – if anyone wants to check licences, they can.

6) In addition to Licensed Premises and Licensed activities, do you think there should be any other activities in the Town Centres when alcohol consumption should be allowed?

Christmas events were mentioned.

7) Do you agree that the fixed fine is set at £100 (the max allowed)?

Yes – everyone agreed.

Q – *“if they refuse to pay, do they get a conviction?”*

CSP – Yes, it’s a criminal record.

Q – *“What if you’re underage?”*

CSP – It goes to the parents and if they don’t pay then it goes back to the underage young person – it’s then a juvenile case.

CSP – The enforcement officers can wear body cameras to take photos and capture evidence in these situations.

Q8) In addition to pubs etc other activities you can think of where alcohol should be allowed?

Q – *“Music events and other occasions like that?”*

Q9) Have you been affected by anti-social behaviour in Pontypridd or Aberdare town centres?

Q – *“By the steps by Tesco & Churchills people urinate by the steps.”*

Q – *“Toilet provision people who are drunk are urinating on the streets.”*

CSP – That’s an offence in itself

Q – *“People are getting in trouble with the police for urinating but they have no-where else to go. This affects everyone even young mothers with children are affected by the toilet provision.”*

Q – *“I’m involved in Citizens’ Cymru and there’s a toilet provision project going on at the moment.”*

6 Stakeholder Responses

- 6.1 3 emails and 1 letter was received from stakeholders and a response from Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee was received, as well as from the Cabinet: Ynysangharad War Memorial Park Committee.
- 6.2 The Scrutiny Committee notes can be found in Appendix 1 and the response from Public Health Wales can be found in Appendix 2.
- 6.3 Other responses included a letter from South Wales Police, an email from Pontypridd Town Council and an email from Cllr. Heledd Fychan.
- 6.4 South Wales Police confirmed agreement with the proposals.
- 6.5 The Town Council agreed with the proposal, however had some concerns that this could result in the identified problem being moved on to another area. Members mentioned that they were keen to work closely with RCT in relation to the specific development of this scheme.
- 6.6 Cllr. Heledd Fychan of Pontypridd Town ward, although in agreement with the PSPO, expressed concerns over the growing problem facing residential areas, extending to nearby residential areas in particular on Tyvica Road, Lanpark Road, Llwynmadoc Street, Pencerring Street, Lanwood, as well as the bus station and the underpass leading up to Lanpark Road. It is also becoming an issue along Berw Road.
- 6.7 Cllr. Fychan also suggested that the PSPO be enforced if it goes ahead and that the Council needs to acknowledge that there are residents with substance and drug addiction problems.
- 6.8 Overall, the stakeholders were in agreement with the proposals, with concerns raised by some as outlined above.
-

Appendix 1**Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee
– Sitting in its role as the designated Crime & Disorder Committee
(Under sections 19 & 20 of the Police and Justice Act 2006)**

Following consideration of the report Scrutiny responded to the PSPO Consultation questions as follows:-

Alcohol Consultation

1. Have you been affected by alcohol related anti-social behaviour in your local area?

Yes

2. Do you agree with the following proposals:

Retain the PSPO designating the whole County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf as a Controlled Drinking Zone?

Yes

Vary the PSPO to include an Intoxicating Substance Exclusion Zone in Pontypridd Town Centre?

Yes

Vary the PSPO to include an Intoxicating Substance Exclusion Zone in Aberdare Town Centre

Yes

Allow consumption (of alcohol) in the exclusion zones only where the activity is undertaken at a premises or within the boundary of the premises which is authorised for the supply of alcohol?

Yes

In addition to Licensed Premises and Licensed activities, do you think there should be any other activities in the Town Centres when alcohol consumption should be allowed?

Yes

That the fixed penalty is set at £100 (the max allowed)?

Yes

Have you been affected by anti-social behaviour in Pontypridd or Aberdare Town Centres caused by people you believe were consuming and/ or under the influence of alcohol or intoxicating substances?

If yes where a.) Pontypridd b.) Aberdare

Yes (both)

Have you witnessed people consuming alcohol or intoxicating substances in public places in Pontypridd or Aberdare Town Centres?

If yes, where, a) Pontypridd b) Aberdare

Yes (both)

What impact would the proposals have on the town centres?

A Member raised concern that the proposals may restrict people to pubs or their own homes and become a social activity that they are unable to take responsibility for.

Another Member acknowledged the benefit the proposals will have upon our local businesses within our town centres.

Do you agree with the boundaries on the maps?

Yes

Appendix 2

The Cwm Taf University Health Board response to the Proposed Public Space Protection Order (intoxicating Substances including alcohol) in the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

1. Support for the Public Services Protection Order (PSPO) Proposal

The Cwm Taf University Health Board (CTUHB) supports the proposal by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council to create a Public Services Protection Order (PSPO) and introduce a Controlled Drinking Zone across the County Borough. This will include intoxicating Substance Exclusion Zones in Pontypridd Town Centre and Aberdare Town Centre. These will represent defined areas in Pontypridd and Aberdare Town Centre, where persons will be prohibited from ingesting, inhaling, injecting, smoking or otherwise using intoxicating substances in public places. The consumption of alcohol within an exclusion zone will only be allowed within the boundaries of premises that has been authorised for the supply of alcohol.

2. Reasons in support of the PSPO

2.1 Life expectancy

In Cwm Taf, life expectancy and healthy life expectancy are improving and the inequality gap between the most and least deprived is narrowing. Nevertheless, there is a recognised *social gradient*, with a higher prevalence of life-style related and social harms, illness and earlier death in economically disadvantaged communities.

- Cwm Taf UHB remains the health board with the lowest life expectancy (76.6 years men, 80.9 years women) and healthy life expectancy (61.2 years men, 62.6 years women) in Wales.
- Across Cwm Taf the inequality gap (difference between the most and least deprived) for life expectancy is 7.4 years for men and 3.7 years for women. This is not as big a gap as in some other parts of Wales, but instead reflects the extent of deprivation across the area.

- The gap for healthy life expectancy between the most and least deprived areas of Cwm Taf is 14.8 years for men and 15.0 years for women.

2.2 The harm caused by alcohol and illicit drug use

Alcohol is a major cause of death and illness in Wales with around 1,500 deaths attributable to alcohol each year.

Evidence provided within the latest Annual Profile for Substance Misuse 2016-17 '*Data Mining Wales*' produced by Public Health Wales, highlighted the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough as being within the top ten highest in Wales for alcohol related hospital admissions. Cwm Taf UHB as a whole had the highest proportion for alcohol attributable, and directly related, deaths in Wales. These figures tell us that in Cwm Taf alcohol is having a serious impact upon the health and future wellbeing of our families, our communities and our population.

The proportion of all patients admitted for alcohol specific conditions who lived in the 10 per cent of most deprived areas was 3.8 times higher than those from the least deprived areas. Amongst those admitted for conditions related to use of illicit drugs, the contrast was even more striking - admissions were 6.3 times higher amongst those from the most deprived areas compared to least deprived. Similar geographic patterns were also seen in regards to illicit drug use hospital admissions. CTUHB reported illicit drug related hospital admissions and deaths above the Wales average.

Although the inequality gap between the most and least deprived has narrowed, there remains a social gradient which impacts upon both life expectancy and healthy life expectancy. Significant **lifestyle factors which contribute to ill-health and earlier mortality are alcohol and substance misuse.**

3. Anti-social behaviour

Alcohol consumption is often seen as a problem that affects individual drinkers rather than other people. Research by Public Health Wales and Liverpool John Moore's University identified that almost 60% of adults in Wales had experienced at least '*one harm*' from someone else's drinking in the last 12 months when assessed against 19 '*categories of harm*'. The types of harms experienced varied with the most common harms including feeling anxious at a

social occasion; being kept awake due to noise or disruption; having a serious argument; being let down; feeling physically threatened, or experience of emotional neglect. Over two fifths (43.7%) of adults had experienced at least one more severe harm in the last 12 months (Quigg, Bellis, Grey, et al. 2016).

3.1 Adverse Childhood Experiences

An increasing body of research identifies the long term harms that can result from chronic stress on individuals during childhood. Such stress or Adverse Children Experiences (ACEs) arise from the abuse and neglect of children, but also from growing up in households where children are routinely exposed to issues such as domestic violence or individuals with alcohol or other substance misuse problems. Research has shown that children who are predisposed to four or more ACEs in childhood, have an increased incidence of health harming behaviours in adolescence, and an increased likelihood of future mental and physical ill-health.

The Health Board has a statutory responsibility for the health of its population. We already know that alcohol and substance misuse contribute to the burden of disease, ill-health and earlier mortality within our population, as well as placing an added strain on many parts of the health service and wider community.

In conclusion, the Cwm Taf UHB supports the proposal by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council to create a Public Services Protection Order (PSPO) and introduce a Controlled Drinking Zone across the County Borough in Pontypridd Town Centre and Aberdare Town Centre.

4. Recommendations

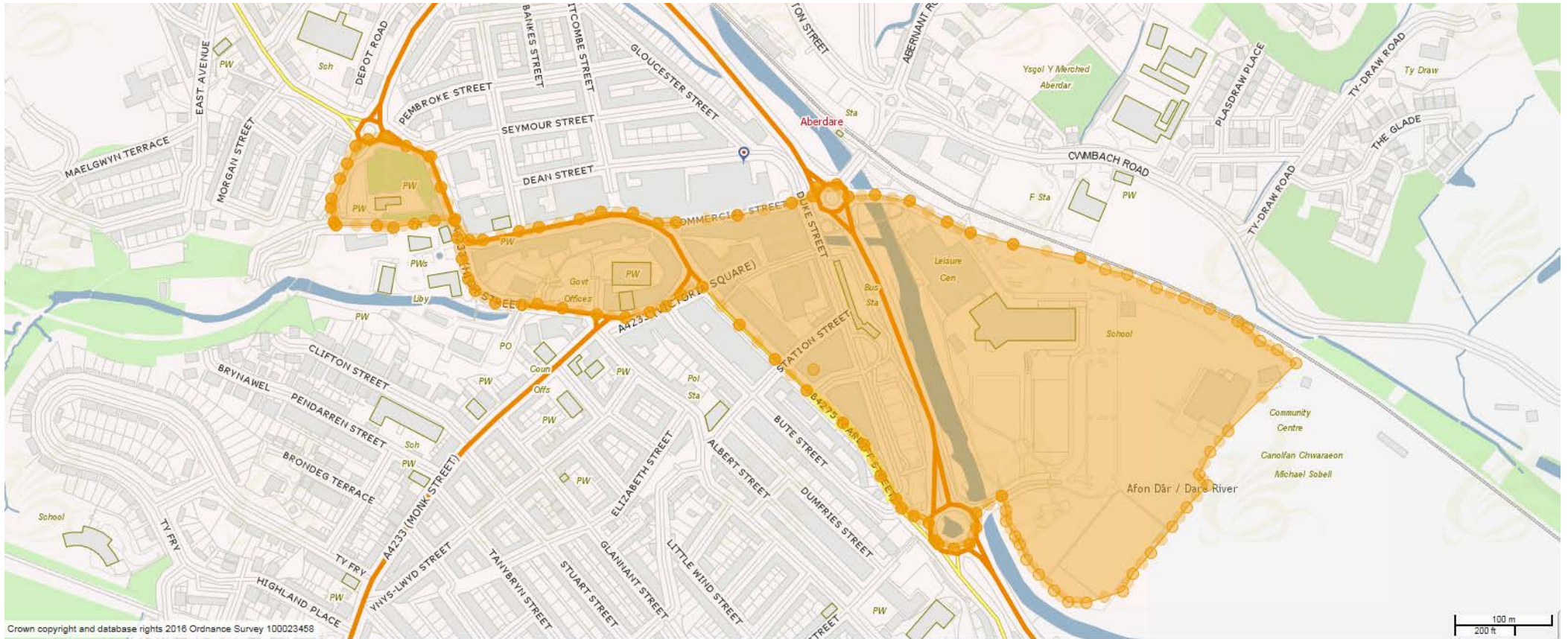
4.1 The CTUHB supports the introduction of the PSPO and Controlled Drinking Zones in Pontypridd and Aberdare Town Centres.

4.2 CTUHB would further recommend that measures are introduced to routinely offer information to any identified problematic drinker/drug user, and signpost them into the necessary substance misuse support services.

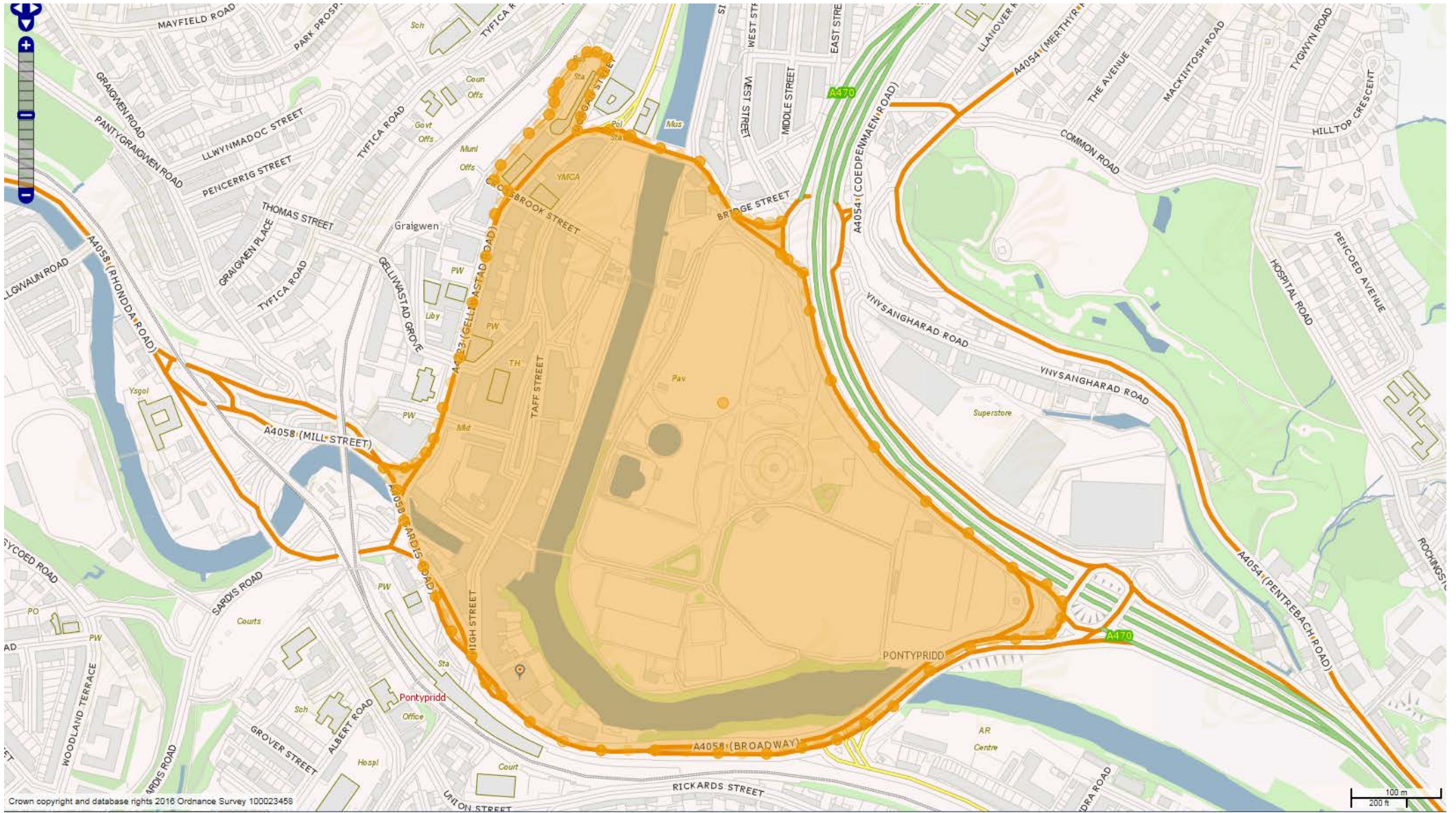
Consultation response prepared on behalf of Dr Kelechi Nnoaham and the CTUHB by Julie Powell-Jones, Senior Health Promotion Specialist

Date: 9th March 2018

Appendix 2a- Proposed Exclusion Zone for Intoxicating Substances – Aberdare Zone



Appendix 2b- Proposed Exclusion Zone for Intoxicating Substances – Pontypridd Zone



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL (CONTROLLED DRINKING ZONE
INCLUDING EXCLUSION ZONES FOR THE CONSUMPTION OF INTOXICATING SUBSTANCES
INCLUDING ALCOHOL) PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER 2018**

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (“the Council”) in exercise of its powers under Section 59 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 (“the Act”) hereby makes the following Public Spaces Protection Order:

1. This Order may be cited as the “Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (Controlled Drinking Zone including Exclusion Zones for the consumption of intoxicating substances including alcohol) Public Spaces Protection Order 2018” (the “Order”).
2. This Order comes into force on XX XXXXXXX 2018 and shall have effect and remain in force for a period of three years from that date.
3. This Order creates a controlled drinking zone within the whole of the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough (hereinafter referred to as the “Controlled Drinking Zone”) and areas known as “Intoxicating Substance Exclusion Zones” (comprising of Aberdare and Pontypridd town centres and as more particularly delineated edged red on the plan attached to Schedule 1 to this Order).
4. In making this Order the Council is satisfied that the following conditions, as outlined in the Act, have been met in that:-
 - a) Activities carried out within the Controlled Drinking Zone (which includes the Intoxicating Substance Exclusion Zones) through the use of intoxicating substances have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, and it is likely such activities will be carried out within that area and have such an effect; and
 - b) the effect or likely effect of these activities is or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature and that these activities are unreasonable and justifies the restrictions imposed by this Order.

OFFENCES

5. The effect of this Order is to impose the following condition within the Controlled Drinking Zone:
 - (i) A prohibition at any time on any person(s) in a public place consuming alcohol or having an alcohol container, who without reasonable excuse continues drinking, or

fails to surrender intoxicating alcohol when asked to stop by an Authorised Officer unless an exemption listed in 7. below to this Order applies.

6. The effect of this Order is to impose the following condition within the Intoxicating Substance Exclusion Zones:

- (i) A prohibition at any time on any person(s) to consume, ingest, inhale, inject, smoke or otherwise use Intoxicating Substances in a public place unless an exemption listed in 6(iii) or 7. to this Order applies.
- (ii) "Intoxicating Substances" means substances with the capacity to stimulate or depress the central nervous system (and includes alcohol and what are commonly referred to as 'legal highs').
- (iii) Exemptions apply in cases where the Intoxicating Substances are used for; a valid and demonstrable medicinal use; given to an animal as a medicinal remedy; are cigarettes (tobacco) or vaporisers or are food stuffs regulated by Food, Health and Safety legislation.
- (iv) Persons within the Intoxicating Substance Exclusion Zones who breach the prohibition at 6(i) of this Order shall surrender all Intoxicating Substances in his/her possession to an Authorised Officer.

7. Exemptions

- (i) The prohibitions in 5(i) and 6(i) (in relation to alcohol consumption) of this Order do not apply to such activities at:
 - (a) premises (other than Council-operated licensed premises) authorised by a premises licence to be used for the supply of alcohol;
 - (b) premises authorised by a club premises certificate to be used by the club for the supply of alcohol;
 - (c) a place within the curtilage of premises within paragraph 7(i)(a) or 7(i)(b);
 - (d) premises which by virtue of Part 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 (the "Licensing Act") may at the relevant time be used for the supply of alcohol or which, by virtue of that Part, could have been so used within the 30 minutes before that time;
 - (e) a place where facilities or activities relating to the sale or consumption of alcohol are at the relevant time permitted by virtue of a permission granted under section 115E of the Highways Act 1980 (highway-related uses); and
 - (f) Council-operated licensed premises when the premises are being used for the supply of alcohol, or

within 30 minutes after the end of a period during which the premises have been used for the supply of alcohol.

8. For the purposes of this Order:

“Authorised Officer” means a police constable, community support officer or a person authorised by the Council for the purposes of enforcing this Order;

“club premises certificate” has the meaning given by section 60 of the Licensing Act;

“premises licence” has the meaning given by section 11 of the Licensing Act;

“supply of alcohol” has the meaning given by section 14 of the Licensing Act; and

premises are “council-operated licensed premises” if they are authorised by a premises licence to be used for the supply of alcohol and —

(a) the licence is held by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council in whose area the premises (or part of the premises) are situated, or

(b) the licence is held by another person but the premises are occupied by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council or are managed by or on behalf of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.

9. It is an offence for a person to engage in activity which they are prohibited from doing by effect of this Order or fail to comply with a requirement to which a person is subject by effect of this Order.

PENALTIES

10. A person who is guilty of an offence under this Order is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 2 on the standard scale.

11. A Fixed Penalty Notice may be issued by an Authorised Officer to a person who breaches this Order, offering them the opportunity of discharging any liability to conviction for the offence by payment of a fixed penalty.

SCHEDULE 1

INTOXICATING SUBSTANCES EXCLUSION ZONES

[Maps showing Aberdare and Pontypridd Town Centres being the Intoxicating Substances Exclusion Zones edged in red.]