



Report of the Director of Environments & Neighbourhoods

Inner North West Area Committee

Date: 25th September 2008

Subject: Hyde Park & Woodhouse Designated Public Places Orders

Electoral Wards Affected:
Hyde Park & Woodhouse

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call In

Not Eligible for Call In

(Details contained in the report)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The meeting of The Council on 2nd July 2008 received a deputation regarding the Council's proposals to create two Designated Public Places Orders (DPPO's) covering the Little London and Little Woodhouse areas of the city (please see map attached) from the DPPO Consultative Committee (DPPOCC).

A representative of the DPPOCC addressed the Council and requested that Members stop the process to create the above DPPO's on the grounds that they would adversely affect Woodhouse Moor due to displacement of street-drinkers from the areas in question to the Moor. The DPPOCC requested that Woodhouse Moor also be covered by a DPPO to prevent such displacement as well as to tackle perceived alcohol related disorder on the Moor. Concerns were also expressed about the consultation that had taken place as part of the application process to designate the two areas.

At the last Area Committee on 3rd July it was agreed that applications for DPPO's should be pursued for the two above areas and that a further DPPO for the Moor should only be consulted should street-drinker displacement monitoring evidence suggest the need for one. Since the deputation and the last Area Committee meeting new information has come to light regarding the proposed temporary relocation of St George's Crypt's Overnight Service to the former St Michael's site of Mount St Mary's School on St John's Road (please see map attached) whilst extensive refurbishment takes place at the main St George's Crypt site at Great George Street. This development changes previous views held by the police, and officers that a DPPO was not required for Woodhouse Moor. This report sets out an approach for progressing the two DPPOs in Little London and Woodhouse immediately and for consultation to start in September for a separate DPPO covering Woodhouse Moor and neighbouring residential areas and greenspaces.

A report will be presented to the 8th October Executive Board to address the deputation and set out an approach for progressing DPPO's in the area in light of the new information regarding St Georges Crypt.

1. Purpose of this Report

This report seeks to:

- 1.1 Set out an approach to progress DPPO's in the Little London and Little Woodhouse immediately and for consultation to start on a separate DPPO for the Woodhouse Moor area of the city in light of the new information regarding the relocation of St George's Crypt services to St John's Road and the associated potential risks of street-drinker displacement this development poses to the Moor. Recommendations are made to progress the applications for the two DPPO's shown to the November Licensing Committee and for consultation on a separate DPPO to cover Woodhouse Moor to start in late September/October.

2. Background Information

- 2.1 A DPPO is a piece of legislation that gives the police additional powers to those they already have, to tackle issues arising from drinking in public places. Where an order exists the police have the right to confiscate alcohol that is being consumed, or that is thought likely to be consumed, i.e. unopened bottles/ cans.
- 2.2 There have been ongoing concerns from both the Police and local residents in Little London and around Hanover and Woodhouse Squares about street-drinkers using public spaces, particularly the squares in these residential areas. The presence of the street-drinkers has had a negative impact in both neighbourhoods, especially in terms of personal safety and the use of children and young people's play facilities.
- 2.3 The issue of creating DPPOs covering Little London and Hanover & Woodhouse Squares has been ongoing for sometime. Officers first started to look at ways in which the street-drinking problems could be tackled in response to resident and ward member concerns in Autumn 2006. A multi agency group to tackle the issue of street-drinking was developed, membership included agencies such as the Police, Anti-Social Behaviour Unit, Primary Care Trust, St George's Crypt, No Fixed Abode Team and Leeds Outreach Team. The group attempted to engage the street-drinkers and make referrals into treatment, in addition to these actions the group also recommended DPPO's as an effective tool to tackle the problem of street-drinking in the squares and Little London. Due to concerns about possible displacement effects arising from the proposed DPPO's onto Woodhouse Moor the matter has not been progressed as quickly as it needed to be.
- 2.4 In September 2007, in accordance with the procedure agreed with Licensing Committee, the Area Committee was asked to agree on the consultation boundaries for the proposed DPPOs covering Little London and Little Woodhouse. The Area Committee was also made aware of concerns being expressed by a residents groups (Friends of Woodhouse Moor and the DPPOCC) about the displacement effects of these DPPO's – they proposed that the Moor should also be included in the DPPO boundaries to negate the effect of any potential displacement. The Police were originally opposed to this proposal on the grounds that they do not feel that a DPPO was either appropriate for the Moor or needed. However, in light of the new information about St George's Crypt this view has now changed. It is felt by all agencies that a considerable amount of the street-drinking and associated ASB being experienced in the Little London and Little Woodhouse areas is related to the proximity of these residential areas to St George's Crypt where street-drinkers are currently accessing services. Therefore, given the close proximity of the proposed temporary accommodation to Woodhouse Moor the police are now fully supportive of a DPPO to cover the Moor and nearby areas.

3. Main Issues

Current Position

- 3.1 In July 2008, further to the deputation to full Council, and in light of ongoing and serious complaints about street-drinkers in Little London and Hanover and Woodhouse Squares the Area Committee resolved to proceed with an application to Licensing supported by the Police for the two DPPO's as originally proposed, albeit to a later meeting of the Licensing Committee in order for Executive Board to consider the deputation. The Area Committee also agreed, with the support of the Police, in the event that existing Police powers were not sufficient to deal with any displacement of street-drinkers onto the Moor, consultation would need to start about a DPPO for the Moor.
- 3.2 Given the recent developments with St George's Crypt and in anticipation of an inevitable growth of street-drinkers both on Woodhouse Moor and in the surrounding areas a report will now be presented to the September meeting of the Inner North West Area Committee recommending consultation for a DPPO to cover Woodhouse Moor. Officers will also be working with agencies to co-ordinate and plan other joint actions and interventions in the area to tackle any ASB that may be experienced.
- 3.3 The original consultation period for the two DPPO's has been extended to 19th September 2008 to allow for further notices and posters to be displayed in the DPPO areas and for further views and comments to be made by local residents and members of the public. It is envisaged that an application to designate the two existing proposed areas will be made to the November 2008 Licensing Committee.

Consultation to date

- 3.4 All consultation on the proposed DPPO areas has been in compliance with published Home Office criteria and requirements. The public notice to commence the formal consultation was issued in the Yorkshire Evening Post on Tuesday 3rd June.
- 3.5 Two public drop in sessions were held to allow for the collation of comments which were to be reported to Licensing Committee. Consultation sessions were held in Little London on Wednesday 18th June, and in Kendal Carr (by Hanover Square) on Thursday 19th June. In addition to these public events, the West North West Anti Social Behaviour Panel was also consulted at their meeting on Wednesday 18th June. The panel was supportive of the proposal but gave a strong steer to include Rosebank Millennium Green within the boundary of the Hanover & Woodhouse Squares DPPO area. To date a total of 37 representations have been made by e-mail and in writing, of these 28 are objections based on the fact that Woodhouse Moor is not included in the proposals. Along with any further representations, these will be reported to Licensing Committee on 7th October 2008.
- 3.6 Consultation to for a further DPPO to cover Woodhouse Moor and its environs will be undertaken in an inclusive and open way in accordance with Home Office guidelines.

4. Conclusions

- 5.1 Whilst there is currently no evidence of street-drinking related anti-social behaviour on Woodhouse Moor, it is reasonable to assume that the proposed location and proximity of St George's Crypt's temporary accommodation will have an adverse effect in relation to street-drinking related ASB. For this reason the police and officers are now fully supportive of a DPPO to cover the Woodhouse Moor area and suggest that a programme of consultation is initiated in September.
- 5.2 There is significant evidence to suggest street-drinking related crime in the Little London and Little Woodhouse areas of the city which both the police and officers feel would benefit from DPPO's as part of a wider package of measures being deployed in these areas to tackle the negative effects of street-drinking. The creation of DPPO's for these areas should not be delayed any further and an application should be submitted to the November Licensing Committee subject to Executive Board approval. An application for the DPPO for Woodhouse Moor should be progressed separately.

6. Recommendation

- 6.1 The Area Committee is asked to support the approach of creating two DPPO's covering Little London and Little Woodhouse immediately with consultation for a further DPPO to cover Woodhouse Moor and nearby residential areas and greenspaces to be started in September/ October.

Background Papers:

1. Inner North West Area Committee Report – Hyde Park and Woodhouse DPPO, September 2007
2. Inner North West Area Committee Report - Area Managers Report, December 2007
3. Inner North West Area Committee Report - DPPO update, July 2008
4. Consultation Representations Summary - July 2008
5. Deputation to Full Council - Hyde Park and Woodhouse DPPO's - full text , July 2008