

Designated Public Places Order

DPPOs are made under the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001. Under the Act, the Council can by order designate public places within which it is an offence to consume alcohol after being requested by a police officer not to do so. An officer can also ask any person to surrender alcohol if the officer reasonably believes the person is, has been or intends to consume alcohol in that place.

There is a fixed penalty for the offence of £50. If the fine is disputed and a conviction subsequently secured, the penalty on conviction is a fine of up to £500.

The order does not prohibit the consumption of alcohol in authorised street cafes and at authorised public entertainment in public areas. Nor does it apply to any premises or areas covered by a license allowing the consumption of alcohol.

The legislation is designed to reduce anti social street drinking, either during the day time (typically street users of alcohol and other substances) or in respect of night time issues, such as people drinking in the street on their way to and from licensed areas and premises.

Current Issues

Street drinkers are an increasing problem across the Inner North West Area. The hotspots are Hanover Square and Woodhouse Square in Little Woodhouse, and the play area next to the Housing Office in Little London. The street drinkers are currently deterring residents from using these public facilities. Numerous complaints have been made to the Police and neighbourhood wardens about these issues. Research undertaken by the Police shows that these street drinkers come from all areas of Leeds. The number of street drinkers is probably due to the existing city centre DPPO. The other easily accessible areas close to the city centre do not provide a suitable environment to the drinkers, i.e. lack of shops and grassed areas.

Drinking alcohol in the street is currently a legitimate activity, Police can only act if the persons become disorderly and commit offences. A new DPPO will provide the Police with a tool with which they can intervene before offences are committed. Policing of the DPPO would be done on a day to day basis by existing patrols.

Careful consideration is needed in relation to the boundary for a new DPPO. Recently there has been a displacement of street drinkers from Woodhouse Square and Hanover Square to "Millennium Green" and Rosebank Gardens. This is probably due to persistent Police attention in the former areas. In light of this, it is essential that the DPPO area is sufficiently large enough to deter displacement to other parts of the Inner North West area, such as; Queens Road playground, Alexandra Park or Burley Rec. It is suggested that the new DPPO covers the gap between the City Centre DPPO and the Headingley DPPO.

This issue has recently been discussed at the Inner North West Multi Agency Tasking Group, who agreed that a DPPO would greatly assist in tackling this issue.

Woodhouse Moor is currently a licensed premise and, therefore, the DPPO will not apply to this area. The Moor is well used in the summer by people who BBQ / picnic and consume alcohol. Once the proposed DPPO is in place, the Moor may well attract street drinkers who have been displaced, the view of the Neighborhood Policing Team is that the Moor is large enough for street drinkers to not cause a nuisance and regular patrols to the area would keep an eye on the situation.

Process

By seeking a DPPO for both Little London and Little Woodhouse at the same time financial savings can be made. The cost for both locations is;

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| Legal notices | £1,700 |
| Signage | £2,300 |
| Total | £4,000 |

If funding can be secured, evidence to support a DPPO will have to be gathered, an advert placed in the Yorkshire Evening Post and a report taken to LCC Licensing Committee seeking the order to be granted.

The Police have stated that this DPPO would be enforced within existing resources and the overtime funded through Neighbourhood Management.