

PES CIA/Licensing Policy Consultation response 2020

The area of Millfield and New England has been an area prone to suffer from the effects of alcohol-related anti social behaviour for many years, with Designated Public Places Orders (DPPO) implemented initially in 2007 and then replaced by a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for the Millfield, New England, Eastfield and Embankment area in June 2017.

The PSPO for Millfield, New England, Eastfield and Embankment was imposed on the designated area for 3 years and comprised conditions to tackle quality of life issues such as alcohol-related and other forms of anti-social behaviour, littering, spitting and urination and defecation. The order expired in August 2020 as due to the Covid-19 pandemic it wasn't possible to review, carry out a fair consultation and re-implement the existing order prior to the expiration date. However based on the levels of enforcement carried out whilst the PSPO was in force, combined with the continued reports of alcohol-related crimes and ASB within the Millfield and New England area, the Prevention & Enforcement is proposing to re-implement a PSPO by the end of 2020 for the Millfield, New England, Eastfield and Embankment area for a further 3 years.

According to Police data, during the period June 2019 to May 2020 there were 1,054 incidents relating to ASB made to the Police within the overall Millfield, New England, Eastfield and Embankment PSPO area and ASB was the second highest crime type totalling 22% of all crimes/incidents. Alcohol related anti-social behaviour can include (but is not limited to):

- Causing harassment, alarm and distress
- Urination and defecation
- Littering
- Noise
- Excessive consumption of alcohol can also be contributing factors to criminal damage, begging and public order offences.

Another search of Police records for May 2019 to May 2020 looking specifically at alcohol-related incidents for the Millfield and New England area identified that there had been 115 recorded incidents for the period. These incidents range from:

- Groups drinking in public areas,
- Rowdy/aggressive drunken behaviour,
- Assaults, threats of violence and drunks fighting,
- Concern for intoxicated persons,
- Urination,
- Trespass and obstruction,
- General nuisance and disturbance from noise – shouting, smashing bottles, etc

Areas within Millfield and New England which are considered hot spot locations include (all figures quoted are from the period June 2019 to May 2020):

- **Triangle, Lincoln Road** there were a total of 64 crimes and incidents reported for this small section of Lincoln Road during June 2019 to May 2020, 18 (28%) of which related to ASB.

- **Century Square and Alma Road area** had 52 incidents of ASB reported to the Police out of a total of 139 crimes and incidents for the 12 month period. ASB was the highest crime type and represented 37% of total crimes.
- **Gladstone Park area** had 49 reported crimes and incidents, 10 of which related to ASB. It is believed that the true figure may be higher and issues are under-reported for this area due to anecdotal reports from councillors and residents.
- **Fulbridge Road Recreation Area** had 105 crimes and incidents reported from June 2019 to May 2020, 20 of which related to ASB.

Whilst it is acknowledged that **Stanley Recreation Ground and Brook Street car park** fall just outside of the CIA, this area had 55 ASB incidents reported to the Police from June 2019 to May 2020. ASB was the second highest crime type for this defined area and represented 22% of all incidents reported to the Police within the 12 month period. However it is believed that the true number of incidents is much higher, with many instances going unreported to the Police or Peterborough City Council. There were 56 recorded incidents of street drinking within the recreation ground captured by CCTV officers during March 2020 to August 2020, 46 of these incidents amounted to 175 people. Additionally, Environmental Enforcement Officers have identified 24 incidents of street drinkers in Stanley Recreation Ground during July 2020 and up to 14th August 2020 with groups of up to 20 individuals, some of whom were drinking in the children’s play area. However, this is not a full representation of the level of anti-social drinking which occurs in Stanley Recreation Ground and only includes those incidents observed by officers whilst out on patrol/monitoring. Anecdotal evidence received from cleansing operatives, local businesses and City College is that groups drinking, anti-social behaviour and alcohol-related littering occurs within Stanley Recreation Ground on a daily basis. A resident living opposite Stanley Recreation Ground contacted the council to request that one of the benches was removed due to drugs drinking and anti-social behaviour which were having a significant detrimental impact on their quality of life.



In January 2017 a public consultation was launched to implement the PSPO for the Millfield, New England, Eastfield and Embankment area to tackle a wider range of quality of life issues including alcohol-related ASB. There were a total of 51 respondents, 96% were in favour of a PSPO to be used

to deter people urinating and defecating in a public place and 92% were in favour of the proposal to allow officers to disperse groups causing harassment, alarm or distress. 90% of respondents were supportive of the proposed condition to tackle littering and spitting. 88% were in favour of the use of a PSPO to control anti-social behaviour from people who have been consuming alcohol. Following consultation the PSPO for Millfield, New England, Eastfield and Embankment was implemented in June 2017. A public consultation on proposals to re-implement a PSPO for the Millfield, New England, Eastfield and Embankment area is planned to commence in October and will include proposals to

Since the implementation of the CIA in 2013, our service has responded to the following alcohol related ASB issues:

1. The historical Clock Tower near the Triangle was boarded up following complaints to ward councillors, Police and the Council concerning people congregating and drinking, urinating, defecating within the recesses of the clock tower.
2. Complaints have been received by the Salvation Army charity shop on Lincoln Road in relation to staff and customers being accosted by drunks congregating in the bus shelter outside the store, as well as entering the store being abusive and inappropriate in their behaviour towards female staff.
3. Residents and ward councillors regularly report that Gladstone Park is being misused by drinkers and drug users.
4. The impact of street drinking, drugs and prostitution is experienced by residents and businesses in the Burghley Rd and Park Road area.
5. Businesses within Blenheim Court have reported groups of people drinking, leaving bottles and broken glass in the car park as well as urinate. It is making staff members and customers feel concerned for their safety.
6. Reports of street drinking on Lincoln Road, Windmill Street, Green Lane.
7. A community organisation in the Lincoln Road area has been negatively affected by individual's street drinking, urinating, defecating and associated anti-social behaviour on and around their premises. This is having a detrimental impact on the safety of staff and volunteers as well as their ability to support their elderly and vulnerable visitors.
8. Residents and ward councillors have reported street drinking, drugs and anti-social behaviour in and around Connect Park and Gladstone Street. This area is regularly patrolled by the local policing team as a result of the reports.
9. In August 2020 businesses and residents along Lincoln Road in Millfield signed a petition calling upon the council and Police to take action against littering, loitering and anti-social behaviour and request an increase in officer presence in the area. The behaviours being experienced are affecting residents, businesses and their customers.
10. In September 2020 a business owner on Lincoln Road contacted the Prevention & Enforcement Service to report issues that his business and staff have been experiencing with people entering their premises in the daytime intoxicated with alcohol. They also report that groups of drinkers on Lincoln Road and some of the surrounding streets will regularly gather which leads to staff and customers feeling concerned for their safety, particular in the evening. The associated alcohol litter being left outside their business and elsewhere in the streets also creating a poor image for the businesses and the area in general.

Other factors to consider:

1. From anecdotal information we are aware that issues concerning alcohol-related ASB continue to regularly occur within the Millfield and New England area, but the figures

quoted within this response are likely to be lower than the true figure due to significant under reporting to agencies.

2. The frequency of cleansing for streets and open spaces in the CIA area continues to be significantly higher in comparison to other areas of the city. This is partly attributable to the amount of alcohol related litter (bottles, cans) which pose a safety risk and degrade the area.
3. From August 2017 to 16th December 2019 there were 2,344 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) issued for breaches of the Millfield, New England, Eastfield and Embankment order for littering, spitting, urination and defecation and failing to disperse for alcohol and general ASB.
4. There continues to be an interest with new businesses applying to operate licensable activities within the CIA area. Our service has responded to licensing applications opposing off-sales of alcohol within the Millfield and New England area due to the continued problems with alcohol related crime and disorder in the area.
5. There is the concern that if the CIA is not continued in this area, there will not be sufficient Police or Council resources to tackle any increase in anti-social behaviour or crime in this area.
6. A public consultation on plans to re-implement a PSPO for the Millfield, New England, Eastfield and Embankment area is due to commence during October and November. The consultation will include proposed conditions which will increase Police and authorised Council officer's ability to address street drinking and associated anti-social behaviour.

It is the recommendation of the Prevention & Enforcement Services that the existing CIA continues in the Millfield and New England area.

Also, 12.14 of the Policy document states *"Powers of local authorities to designate parts of the local authority area as Public Spaces Protection Orders. Confiscation of alcohol from adults and children in designated areas."* This should be amended to *"Officers can request the surrender or disposal of alcohol or disperse an individual from an area."* It should be noted that it is only an offence for people aged 18 years or over to breach the conditions of a PSPO. However Police officers will have alternative powers to deal with children consuming alcohol.