

Safer Communities CIA/Licensing Policy Consultation response 2023

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 and implemented again in October 2021.

The PSPO for Millfield, New England, Eastfield and Embankment comprises conditions to tackle quality of life issues such as alcohol-related and other forms of anti-social behaviour, littering, spitting and urination and defecation. Further details about the order can be found here: [Public Spaces Protection Orders - Peterborough City Council](#)

According to Police data, during the three year period of September 2020 to August 2023, there were 660 crimes and 1176 incidents with alcohol as a marker within the CIA area. These offences included but are not limited to:

- Assaults against public, officers and sexual assaults
- Criminal damage
- Robberies
- Public Order
- Causing public fear, alarm and distress and racially or religiously aggravated alarm or distress

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.

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 were 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, Occupation Park and Victoria Gardens and the footpaths, open spaces and underpasses adjacent to Bourges Boulevard are being misused by drinkers and drug users.
4. Businesses within Blenheim Court reported groups of people drinking, leaving bottles and broken glass in the car park as well as urinate, making staff members and customers feel concerned for their safety.

5. Reports of street drinking on Lincoln Road, Windmill Street, Green Lane.
6. 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 had a detrimental impact on the safety of staff and volunteers as well as their ability to support their elderly and vulnerable visitors.
7. Residents and ward councillors have reported street drinking, drugs and anti-social behaviour in and around Connect Park and Gladstone Street.
8. 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 affecting residents, businesses and their customers.
9. 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.
10. Implemented a Public Spaces Protection Order for gating an alleyway connecting Kings Gardens and Park Rd/Garton End Rd as a result of significant levels of incidents related to street drinking, drug use, urination and defecation and criminal damage.
11. Investigated requests for ally gating Public Spaces Protection Orders in Gladstone Street and Craig Street due to street drinking, drug taking and associated anti-social behaviour.
12. Since May 2023, local residents and mosque leaders have reported street drinking, drug dealing, drug taking and associated anti-social behaviour in Craig Street to the Police and the council's Safer Communities service.
13. The impact of street drinking, drugs and prostitution is experienced by residents and businesses in the Burghley Rd and Park Road area – many residents and several ward councillors voiced their concerns concerning a Premises Licence application in June 2023 for a new premises in Burghley Rd, which was subsequently refused, with one resident stating: *'I have witnessed and felt threatened at times by the sheer magnitude of the problems - sex workers soliciting clients outside the front doors continually. Alcoholics and drug users lying in the street, vomiting, urinating and defecating in the street and porches. Terrible screaming at night, people arguing and shouting abuse.'*

Other factors to consider:

1. According to the Public Health service for Peterborough, Central Ward (one of the wards which forms the CIA) is the third highest area in the city for deprivation and is the highest in the city in terms of alcohol related hospital admissions.
2. In addition to the area being subject of a Public Spaces Protection Order, the CIA is also subject to a multi-agency Police-lead operation – Clear, Hold, Build. We are developing partnership working and community engagement in a bid to tackle serious organised crime and the effects in the community in this area.
3. Parts of the CIA have been included in the Safer Streets 4 area which saw the Safer Peterborough Partnership receive funding from the Home Office to invest in measures to

improve community safety, which has resulted in temporary CCTV cameras and designing out crime measures installed in parts of the CIA area.

4. 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) and anti-social behaviour such as urination and defecation which pose safety risks to the public and staff and degrade the areas.
5. 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 anti-social behaviour in the area.
6. There has been premises selling alcohol and committing criminal offences in the CIA area. The Safer Communities service supported the Police's request for review of a Licensed Premises on Lincoln Road, LARA (International Drinks) which was found to be in possession of illicit tobacco products. The Police requested the review to prevent crime and disorder and to protect public safety. As a responsible authority the Safer Communities service supported the review and the Licensing Committee revoked the Premises Licence for alcohol sales.
7. 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.

It is the recommendation of the Safer Communities Service that the existing CIA continues in the Millfield and New England area.

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