

31st January 2019

Public Spaces Protection Order – Consultation Letter

The Safer Monmouthshire Group has received reports of anti-social behaviour caused by groups of people congregating in and around vehicles in several of MCC car parks, in particular; Fairfield and Byefield Lane Car Parks, in Abergavenny and Welsh Street and Leisure Centre car parks in Chepstow. The complaints have been quite specific in nature and focused around the activities of these individuals who cause anti-social behaviour through noise from loud amplified music, loud exhausts, unnecessary sounding of the horn, screeching tyres and associated issues. These activities have given rise to concerns for those who use these areas on a daily basis and live in properties nearby. Despite continued efforts by partner agencies, the nuisance continues and shows no signs of stopping without legal intervention.

It is in this respect that I am writing to you today under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 which allows for the making of a Public Spaces Protection Order in cases where the Local Authority feels that such action is justified to stop anti-social behaviour.

A Public Spaces Protection Order will not stop or inhibit with the lawful use of a car park. People who wish to use the restricted area will be able to continue to do so under the current terms of use. The Order will allow us to consider prosecution for anyone who is in breach of the prohibitions contained within the Order.

The prohibitions are listed below for your consideration;

- **Prohibition of the playing of music emitting from any vehicle or by means of portable amplified device between the hours of 1800 and 0800 Monday to Sunday, inclusive, except with the express permission of the Council**
- **Prohibition of congregating and loitering in groups around (or in) one or more vehicles and engaging in behaviour which is likely to cause noise, harassment, alarm and distress between the hours of 1800 and 0800 Monday to Sunday, inclusive.**
- **No ‘doughnutting’, racing or other vehicle nuisance**
- **Mechanically propelled vehicles are not to be driven in an anti-social manner which may cause harassment, alarm or distress to other persons**
- **No person will engage in any activity which is offensive, anti-social, indecent or causes distress to any member of the public**
- **No person using the car park shall be in unlawful possession of controlled drugs or drugs paraphernalia, with the intent to supply or share.**

In proposing to make a Public Spaces Protection Order, Monmouthshire County Council and Gwent Police are satisfied that the behaviours exhibited by some individuals in the car parks are having, have had or are likely to have a detrimental effect to the quality of life of those in the locality, and it is persistent in nature and the behaviours reported by members of the public justifies the restrictions imposed.

A consultation period will be open for twenty one days from the date of this letter during which time I would ask you to contact me should you have any queries or concerns about the

restrictions of the Order or if you wish to confirm your support or object to the Order being made.

At the end of the consultation period a decision will be taken as to whether the making of the Order is in the public interest. Your views will be considered prior to a decision being made and will be balanced against the need to stop any unacceptable behaviour for the safety and security of those who use the car parks and surrounding areas.

Yours sincerely

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