

Supporting Data

1. Public consumption of alcohol and dog control measures

Summary

Evidence indicates ongoing issues with street drinking, intoxication, and breaches of existing dog control requirements, particularly within the town centre. Businesses consistently associate street drinking with anti-social behaviour, intimidation, rough sleeping, shoplifting, and reduced public confidence. Existing PSPO powers relating to alcohol consumption are perceived as being insufficiently enforced.

Examples

- Existing PSPO covers public consumption of alcohol and dog control measures, but businesses report limited enforcement.
- Rough sleepers and associated groups frequently engage in drinking around Clarence Fountain and Boots Corner, contributing to anti-social behaviour and disorder.
- Retailers reported doorway drinking, aggressive behaviour towards staff and customers, and public intoxication.
- One national retailer identified street drinking and drug use in the Clarence Fountain area as a significant contributor to anti-social behaviour and shoplifting.
- Town centre rough sleeper AG was recorded as breaching both dog control provisions and the public drinking PSPO, generating significant complaints and enforcement activity.
- TS was also linked to dog control breaches, public drinking PSPO breaches, environmental crime, and associated anti-social behaviour.
- RV and occupants of encampments outside Cavendish House were reported for public drinking contrary to the PSPO.

2. Public urination and defecation

Summary

Public urination and defecation are repeatedly linked to rough sleeping, street drinking, and encampments. Businesses report significant adverse effects on customer confidence, staff welfare, public hygiene, and the attractiveness of the town centre.

Examples

- The proposed PSPO specifically identifies public urination and defecation as behaviours requiring additional controls.
 - Businesses identified public urination and defecation as behaviours associated with rough sleeping and street drinking.
 - A major town centre encampment resulted in individuals urinating and defecating in the street, causing customers to avoid the area and businesses to lose trade.
 - A national retailer reported an alleyway near its premises being regularly used for urination, defecation, drug use and waste dumping.
 - Complaints relating to encampments included public nudity in Imperial Gardens, indicating broader public decency concerns.
 - Winston Churchill Gardens generated complaints about public defecation among other anti-social behaviours.
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3. Loitering and aggressive begging

Summary

Aggressive begging, loitering, intimidation and associated anti-social behaviour are consistently reported across the town centre. Businesses describe customers being harassed for money, staff experiencing abuse and threats, and groups congregating in public spaces creating fear and distress. Begging is also perceived as linked to rough sleeping, shoplifting and wider anti-social behaviour.

Examples

- Retailers report persistent beggars occupying entrances, smoking drugs, drinking, shouting at customers and causing intimidation.
- Customers have reportedly avoided shops and certain locations due to the presence of beggars and rough sleepers.
- Businesses reported aggressive behaviour, verbal abuse and threats when asking rough sleepers or beggars to move from shop entrances.
- A luxury retailer described long-running issues with beggars occupying prominent pitches outside stores, creating distress for shoppers and disrupting business activity.

- Businesses reported groups gathering around rough sleepers, resulting in confrontations, fights, loud shouting and intimidation.
 - Complaints relating to various encampments included noise nuisance, arguing, fighting, harassment and alarm to residents and visitors.
 - Encampments outside Cavendish House and other town centre locations generated complaints of congregation, noise, alarm, distress and harassment.
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4. Illegal encampments and tents

Summary

There is extensive evidence of recurring tent encampments across Cheltenham. Reported impacts include environmental crime, waste accumulation, drug use, public disorder, violence, safeguarding concerns, public fear, noise nuisance, harassment, and significant demands on council and partner agency resources. Several encampments involved individuals subject to criminal justice orders, including registered sex offenders, violent offenders and prolific anti-social behaviour offenders.

Key Locations and Issues

Honeybourne Line

- Repeated encampments involving rough sleepers.
- Reports included assault, breaches of injunctions/orders, drug use, environmental crime, discarded drug paraphernalia, noise, arguments and fighting.
- Locations included areas close to children's play areas and locations frequented by vulnerable users.

Imperial Gardens

- Multiple tents established.
- Complaints of noise, public nudity and environmental crime.

Montpellier Gardens

- Encampment moved from outside commercial premises into the gardens following complaints from residents and businesses.

Pittville Park

- Several long-term encampments involving individuals with serious offending histories, including registered sex offenders and violent offenders.

- Complaints included safeguarding concerns, assaults, public order issues, congregation, refusal to engage with services and lengthy occupation of public space.

Sandford Gardens

- Ongoing encampments in bushes adjacent to residential properties.
- Complaints included fear of crime, environmental crime, allegations of burglary, noise and disturbance during night-time hours.

Town Centre/Cavendish House

- Multiple tents occupied by up to six individuals.
- Complaints included noise, environmental crime, public drinking, assaults, fighting, alleged sexual activity in public, congregation and harassment.
- Significant officer and partner agency resources were required to resolve.

Hatherley Court Gardens

- Encampments established behind residential properties.
- Resident complaints centred on noise nuisance.

Winston Churchill Gardens

- Repeated encampments involving individuals subject to ASB interventions.
- Complaints included assaults, threats, noise, fires, environmental crime and public defecation.

Town Centre Business Evidence

- Businesses reported rough sleeping and encampments in shop doorways and around commercial premises.
- A notable town centre encampment took weeks to resolve and was associated with environmental damage, public urination and defecation, loss of trade, customer avoidance and staff welfare concerns.
- Businesses consistently reported that rough sleeping encampments attract associated anti-social behaviour, disorder and shoplifting.