



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Public Spaces Protection Orders Consultation September 2023



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Purpose

1. Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) are powers given to local councils and were introduced as part of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2014. Designed to target a particular nuisance in a defined area, PSPOs work by prohibiting certain things or requiring that specific things should be done, by law.
2. The purpose of this consultation was to:
 - Inform the decision(s) that are due to be taken by SKDC in respect of existing Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO's) and whether to extend them or not
 - Inform a decision by SKDC as to whether to implement a proposed amendment to the existing Public Spaces Protection Order (Dog Exclusion) currently in situ at the Recreation Ground in Stamford, to include additional areas at that location
 - Inform a decision by SKDC as to whether to implement an additional PSPO for vehicle related nuisance and anti-social behaviour covering specific areas in Stamford including the Station Road Car Park (also known as Cattle market), The Meadows and Bath Row Car Park
 - Provide respondents with the opportunity to identify areas where dog fouling, dog control and other types of anti-social behaviour is a persistent problem. The information supplied by respondents to be used to inform patrols by the Neighbourhoods Team.
3. The purpose of this report is to update the Cabinet Member for People and Communities and the Cabinet on the results of the Public Spaces Protection Orders consultation.

Scope

4. The scope of this consultation included opportunities for feedback to be collated about extending or amending existing PSPOs, as well as the approval of any additional ones. It has also provided respondents with the opportunity to identify locations where dog fouling, control of dogs or another type of anti-social behaviour is a persistent problem.
5. Those who might be affected by any restrictions as a result of a proposal to extend, amend or introduce a PSPO, have also had their chance to comment.

Objectives

6. The objectives of the consultation were identified as follows. To:

- Demonstrate that SKDC met the requirements as set out in s72 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime, Policing Act 2014 and undertook the necessary consultation, publicity, and notification before making, varying, or extending a PSPO
- Inform the decision that will be taken by SKDC in respect of the existing PSPO's
- Inform a decision that will be taken by the Council in respect of the proposal to amend the existing Public Spaces Protection Order (Dog Exclusion) currently in situ at the Recreation Ground in Stamford to include additional areas not currently included in the order
- Inform a decision that will be taken by SKDC in respect of the proposal to implement an additional PSPO for vehicle related nuisance and anti-social behaviour covering specific areas in Stamford including the Station Road Car Park (also known as the Cattle Market Car Park), The Meadows and Bath Row Car Park
- Measure the degree of support or otherwise for the proposal(s)
- Understand and be aware of the impact taking this decision may have on specific stakeholders
- Assess any potential impact of all PSPOs on the community

Timescales

7. Preparatory work was undertaken during July 2023. The consultation was launched on 9 August 2023 for a period of four weeks. Analysis of results took place once the consultation closed on 6 September. The decision to renew, issue and amend various PSPOs will be discussed at Cabinet on 10 October.

Stakeholders

8. The stakeholders were identified as follows:
 - Any individual or body from those who live in, work in or visit the restricted areas who wishes to make representation
 - The Police; including the Chief Officer of Lincolnshire Police and the local policing body. This included the Neighbourhood Policing Team for the district
 - Lincolnshire Police and Crime Commissioner
 - Parish, town, district and county councillors across the district
 - Those representing local community groups and organisations

Methodology

9. The table overleaf identifies the method(s) that were used to contact each of the stakeholder types:

Stakeholders	Method(s)	Details
Members of the public - general	<p>Members of the public made aware of the consultation through the following channels:</p> <p>Press release to the local press</p> <p>SKDC Social Media Channels</p> <p>SKDC web site</p> <p>Posters displayed at the locations</p>	<p>Potential respondents referred to survey monkey to participate in the consultation.</p> <p>Press Release prepared promoting the consultation. Release included the link to the survey, as well as a link to the webpage which contained the orders and maps for each of the PSPOs.</p> <p>Consultation promoted on social media channels. Promoted three times on both Facebook and Twitter. Posts included a link to the survey.</p> <p>Webpages contained the information needed as part of the consultation including maps detailing the areas covered by each of the orders. Links to the appropriate pages of website included in the survey.</p> <p>Posters promoting the consultation were displayed at specific locations throughout the district. These included enclosed play areas, the cemetery at Market Deeping and The Meadows, Bath Row Car Park etc in Stamford.</p>
Members of the public – specific. Those who access the Recreation Ground, Stamford.	<p>Posters displayed around the perimeter of the Recreation Ground, Stamford. Promoted the opportunity to take part in the consultation.</p> <p>Posters also displayed in specific areas which it is proposed may be added to the order</p>	<p>Poster included link to survey, QR code and also how to take part if no access to the internet.</p> <p>Posters put up by the Neighbourhoods Team.</p>
Members of the public – specific. Those who access the Station Road car park (also known as Cattle market), The Meadows and Bath Row car park	<p>Posters displayed at the Station Road car park (also known as the Cattle Market Car Park), The Meadows and Bath Row Car Park</p>	<p>Poster included link to survey, QR code and also how to take part if no access to the internet.</p> <p>Posters put up by the Neighbourhoods Team.</p>
The Police – Chief Officer of Lincs Police and	<p>Chief Officer for Lincolnshire Police and the Police and</p>	<p>Neighbourhoods Team contacted the Chief Officer for Lincolnshire Police and also the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire</p>

the Lincolnshire Police and Crime Commissioner	Crime Commissioner contacted	Chief Constable Chris Haward mailto:lincolnshire-pcc@lincs.pnn.police.uk
County/district and parish councillors	Parish Clerks contacted. Postal contact details for parishes to be supplied by Democratic Services. District Councillors informed of the consultation via the members email County councillors informed of the consultation via email.	Parish Representatives are: All parishes- in respect of fouling of land and dogs on leads Around a third of parishes in respect of dog exclusion zones District Representatives were: South Kesteven District Council - Your Councillors Members email prepared by CP County representatives were: Your Councillors (moderngov.co.uk) – those for the South Kesteven district area
Lincolnshire County Council		Neighbourhoods Team contacted LCC
Those representing community groups/ other organisations	Community groups and organisations contacted and provided with a link to the survey	The following community groups contacted by KC: Street Pastors stamford@streetpastors.org.uk grantham@streetpastors.org.uk Park Forums Wyndham Park Ian Simmons – Chairman iansimmons@icloud.com Elizabeth Bowskill – Secretary elizabeth_ab@btopenworld.com Friends of Queen Elizabeth Park Tim Metcalfe-Kemp – Chairman t1mvalmet@gmail.com Elizabeth Bowskill – Secretary elizabeth_ab@btopenworld.com Dysart Park Action Group: Lydia Gallaher lydia.dpag@gmail.com Bourne United Charities info@bourneunitedcharities.co.uk

Details

10. A number of actions were identified. These included:

- The preparation and approval of content for the survey
- The preparation and approval of content for the press release
- Setting up the survey
- Determining the content for webpage. This included all orders and maps identifying specific areas
- Preparation and approval of content for social media posts
- Drafting an email to stakeholders
- Poster designed, printed and put up

11. The survey included the following sections:

- An introduction to the consultation, why SKDC needs their help and how their feedback will be used to inform the decision(s) that will be taken in respect of extending the existing PSPO's that are in place, varying the PSPO for the presence of dogs within additional areas in the Recreation Ground, Stamford and introducing an additional one for vehicle nuisance and ASB in Stamford
- Details of the proposals in respect of each including the draft Orders and associated map of restricted areas
- A question to identify the type of user (individual, community group or town/parish council)
- A question to ascertain the degree of support for the proposal to extend the duration of the PSPO for 3 years in respect of dog fouling
- A question to ascertain the degree of support for the proposal to extend the duration of the PSPO for 3 years in respect of dogs on leads – including the need to keep a dog on a lead at all times in the Spinney, Market Deeping Cemetery
- A question to ascertain the degree of support for the proposal to vary the PSPO in respect of dog exclusion zones to include additional areas of the Recreation Ground, Stamford
- A question to ascertain the degree of support for the proposal to extend the duration of the PSPO for 3 years in respect of drinking in public open spaces within the restricted areas
- A question to establish the degree of support for the proposal to introduce the PSPO in respect of vehicle nuisance and ASB to include the Station Road car park (also known as Cattle market), The Meadows and Bath Row car park in Stamford
- A space for them to suggest any amendments to the existing PSPO's
- A space for them to detail any negative impacts approving the proposals may have
- An option for them to ask questions or make further observations about the proposal(s)
- An opportunity for them to supply their details so that they can be contacted in relation to their query
- A statement on how any personal data they supply will be treated
- A question to identify their gender, age, and postcode- down to sector level.
- A thank you and closing date

12. The consultation was promoted in the local media and on the Council’s social media channels and website during the consultation period. Articles promoting the consultation were included on local media websites of the Stamford Mercury¹ and Grantham Journal² on 10 August. The Facebook posts on SKDC’s account reached 1,263 people and 9 clicked on the link. The tweets were viewed 677 times on Twitter and there were 14 clicks on the link.

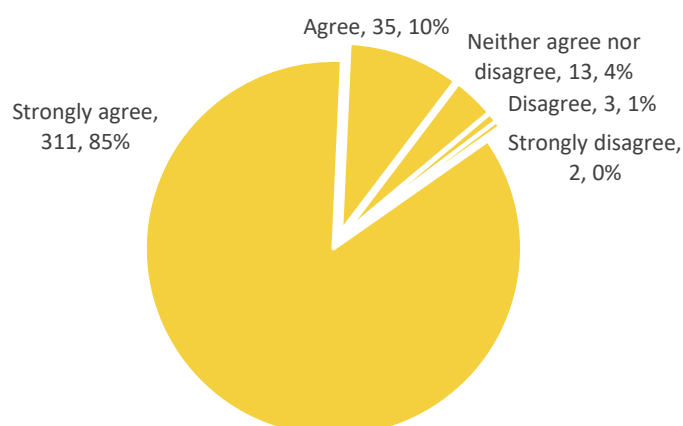
13. The consultation closed on 6 September 2023. 366 responses were received.

The results

14. The first section of the survey asked respondents to comment on existing public spaces protection orders. Respondents were told that SKDC is proposing to renew the existing Public Spaces Protection Order which requires dog owners to pick up their dog’s waste. This order applies to all land across the district which is outside, and the public are entitled or permitted to have access to.

15. There was very strong support for extending the order requiring dog owners to pick up their dog’s waste. 346 or 95% of respondents agreed with this proposal, as illustrated below:

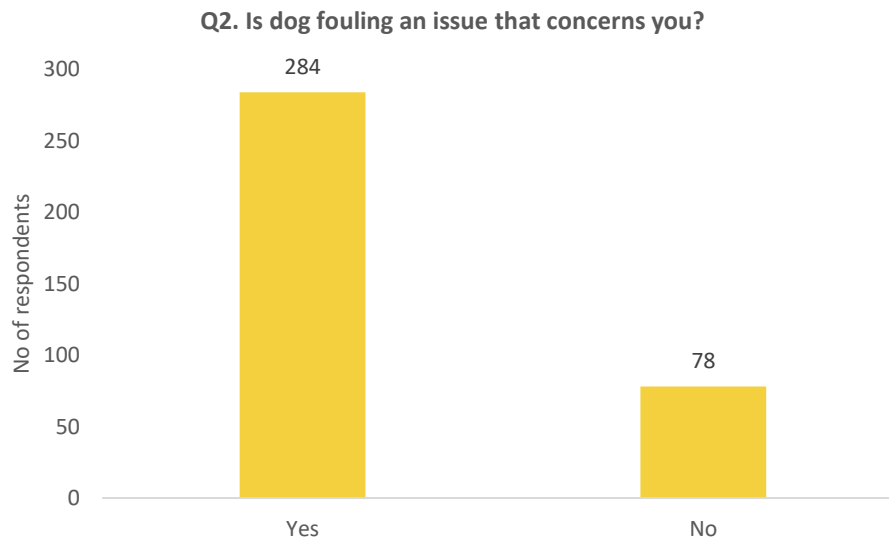
Q1 To what extent do you agree or disagree with this proposal?



16. When asked if dog fouling was an issue that concerned them, over three quarters (284 or 78.5%) of respondents said that it was, as shown in the chart overleaf:

¹ [Consultation on Public Spaces Protection Orders in South Kesteven \(stamfordmercury.co.uk\)](https://www.stamfordmercury.co.uk)

² [South Kesteven District Council seeks public opinion on orders preventing anti-social behaviour \(granthamjournal.co.uk\)](https://www.granthamjournal.co.uk)



17. When asked if there was a particular area where dog fouling is a problem, specific areas highlighted by those responding to the consultation included but were not limited to:

- The Meadows, Melancholy Walk and the Recreation Ground, Stamford
- Thurlby and South Witham

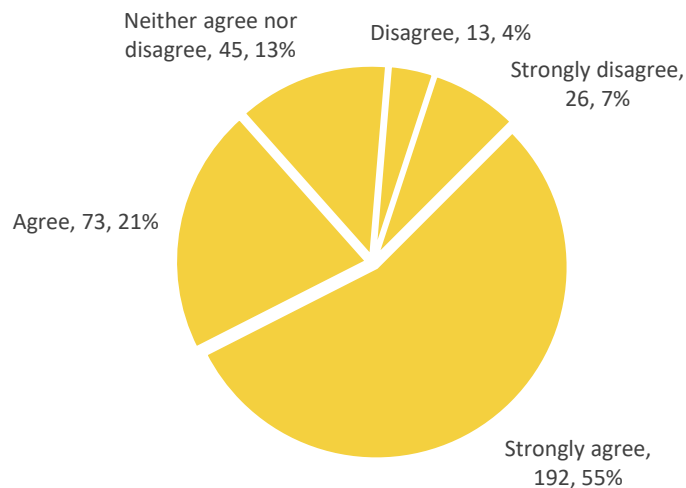
18. An opportunity to comment on whether the order should be amended in any way, or no longer apply, was not acted upon. Respondents spoke about the importance of implementing the order and issuing fines as illustrated in the quotes below:

“Needs enforcing!”

“We would like it implemented please since our very long-standing signs are being ignored.”

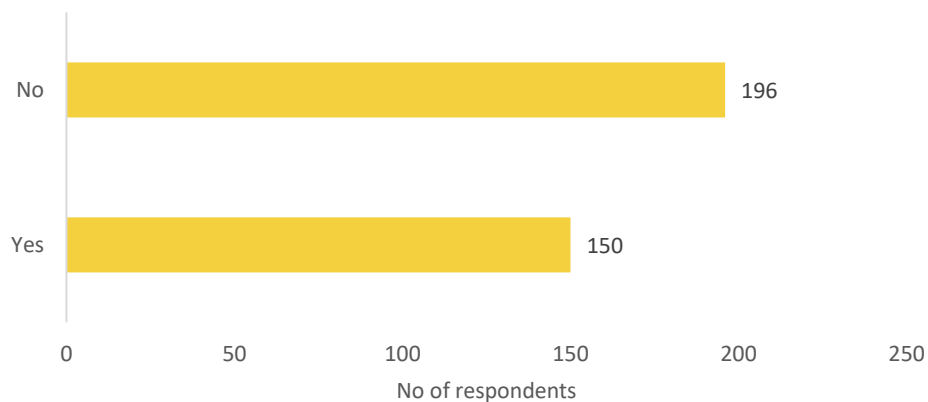
19. Respondents were then asked about another current Public Spaces Protection Order. This requires a person in charge of a dog to put (and keep) the dog on a lead of no more than 1 metre in length when requested to do so by an authorised officer, if such restraint is considered necessary. Three quarters of respondents (265 or 75.9%) agreed with this PSPO as shown overleaf:

Q5. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this proposal?



20. The preference to extend the current PSPO may not necessarily be based purely on direct experience or concern. When asked if they had experienced or were concerned about nuisance behaviour from dogs not being kept under control by their owners whilst being walked in a public space, four out of ten respondents (150 or 43.4%) said that they were. This is illustrated in the graph below:

Q6. Have you experienced or are concerned about nuisance behaviour from dogs not being kept under control by their owners whilst being walked in a public space?

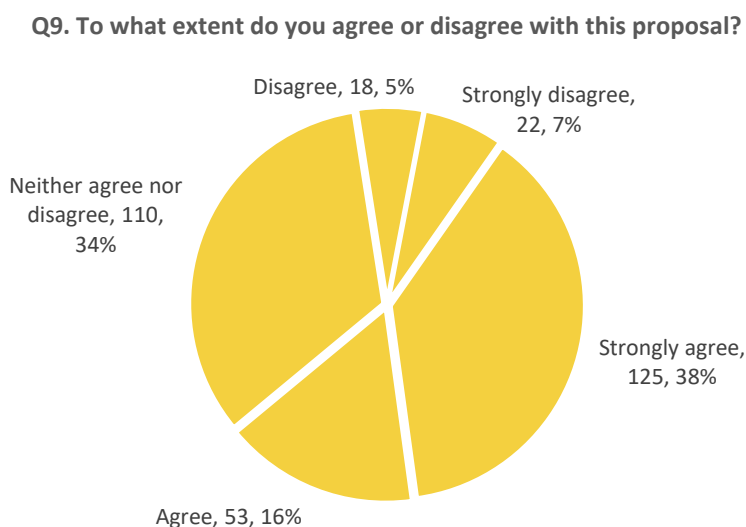


21. Areas of public space where dog control is perceived to be a problem included but were not limited to, Abbey Lawns and the Elsea Park estate in Bourne, and the Meadows in Stamford.
22. When asked if they would like to see the order amended in any way, or no longer apply, responses were received from across the spectrum. Some thought there shouldn't be a problem if the dog is trained adequately. Others thought that dogs should be on the lead at all times in any areas of public open space. This is illustrated in the quotes below:

“Dogs should be on lead at all times when out in public”

“Leads shouldn’t always be necessary if the owner understands their responsibility to control the dog through training.

23. When respondents were asked if they agreed with a very specific proposal to renew the existing Public Spaces Protection Order which requires a person in charge of a dog to put (and keep) the dog on a lead of no more than 1 metre in length when walking in The Spinney, Market Deeping Cemetery, around a third of those participating (110 or 33.5%) were undecided – stating that they neither agreed nor disagreed. This is perhaps not surprising. They may not live near this area and might feel, for this reason, that they are unable to comment. Just over half agreed, as illustrated here:



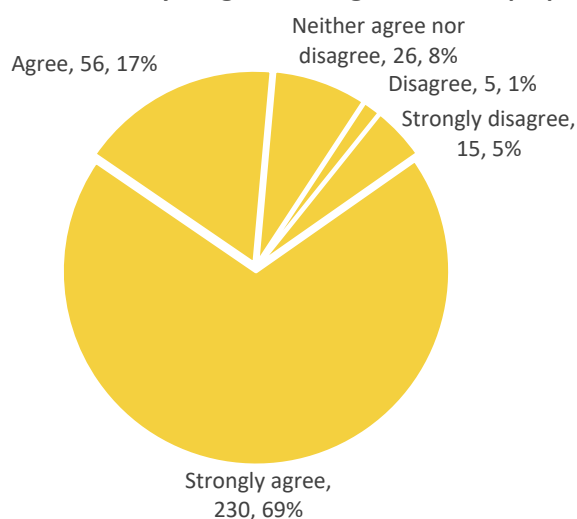
24. When asked if they would like to see this order amended in any way, or no longer apply, responses received varied from those who thought it should depend on if their dog is trained and has good recall, to those who support it and ask that it be extended to include various other areas including the cemetery in Deeping St James.

“Well controlled dogs should not be required by law to be on a lead at all times.”

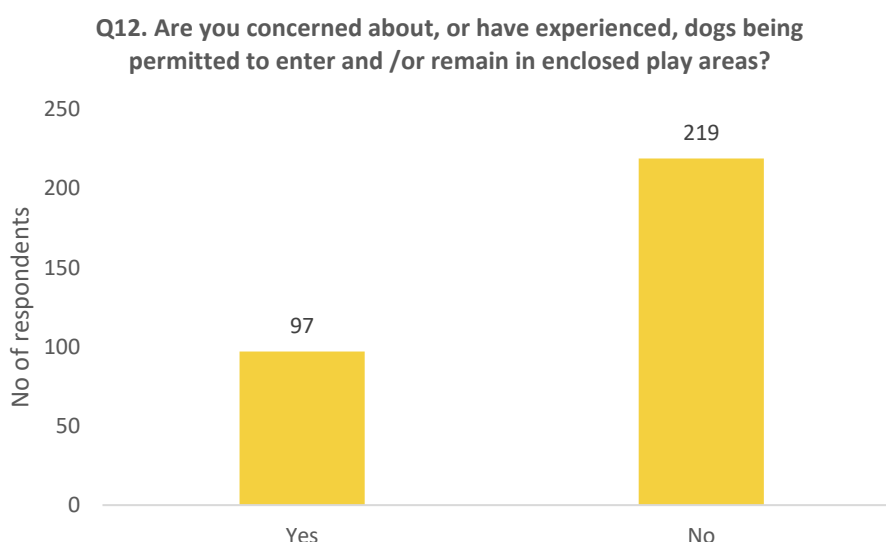
“I would like the order amended so that the same regulation applied in Deeping St James Cemetery”

25. Respondents were then informed that the Council is proposing to renew the existing Public Spaces Protection Order which requires a person in charge of a dog not to enter or permit the dog to enter or remain in an area that has been designated as an enclosed play area. This order applies to specific areas across the district. The survey included a web link to the maps illustrating where the enclosed play areas were. Most respondents (286 or 86.1%) agreed with this proposal as illustrated overleaf:

Q11. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this proposal?



26. When asked if they were concerned about, or had experienced, dogs being permitted to enter and/or remain in enclosed play areas, the preference to extend the current PSPO may not necessarily be based on direct experience or concern. Around three in ten respondents (97 or 30.7%) stated that they had concerns. Seven out of ten respondents (219 or 69.3%) didn't. This is shown in the graph below:



27. Asked for details on particulars location where dogs are being allowed by their owners to enter and/or remain in an enclosed play area, comments were received about many areas across the district- including the tennis courts at Stamford Recreation Ground, the playing fields at South Witham, Abbey Lawns, Bourne and Jubilee Park, Deeping St James. It is the intention of the Neighbourhoods Team to act on this feedback, using it to organise patrols.

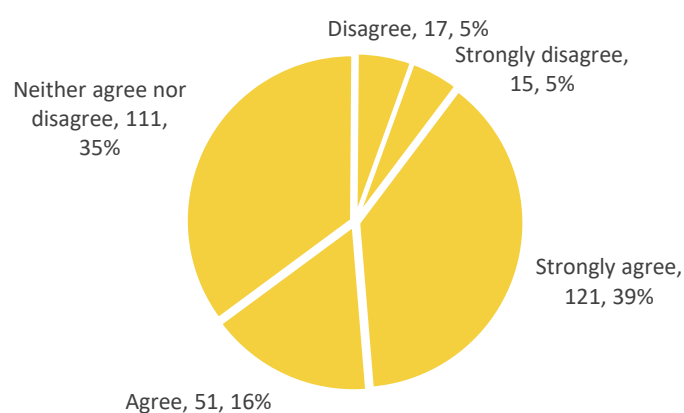
28. Question 14 asked respondents if they like to see the PSPO currently in situ in respect of dogs in enclosed play areas amended in any way, or no longer apply. Most respondents used it to re-iterate the reasons why they support it (or not). The importance of enforcement was mentioned. A couple of respondents suggested that specific areas should be provided for dogs to exercise safely.

“It would be really cool if there were some enclosed spaces available that dogs could be in and off lead”

“I would like to see it enforced.”

29. Respondents were then asked to comment on a specific proposal to add additional areas to the dog exclusion zone currently in situ at the Recreation Ground, Stamford. When asked “To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal that the existing PSPO be amended to include the additional areas located at the Recreation Ground, Stamford?”, over half of respondents (172 or 54.6%) agreed with the proposal. Around a third didn’t have an opinion either way. These findings are illustrated in the graph below:

Q15. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal that the existing PSPO be amended to include the additional areas located at the Recreation Ground, Stamford?



30. This is perhaps not surprising. Those choosing to answer “neither agree nor disagree” may not live in or near this area and might feel, for this reason, that they are unable to comment. It would perhaps be worth cross tabulating the responses from this question against those who live in the Stamford area (PE9) to ascertain the degree of support for this proposal at a local level.

31. When asked to qualify why they had chosen to answer in that way, the strength of feeling from those in the Stamford area became apparent.

“Local people should feel it’s a safe recreational space.”

“Because the enclosed areas are specifically used for human recreation. There's plenty of room on the main part of the Rec for dogs to be exercised.”

The reasons for some choosing to answer neither agree nor disagree also became clear.

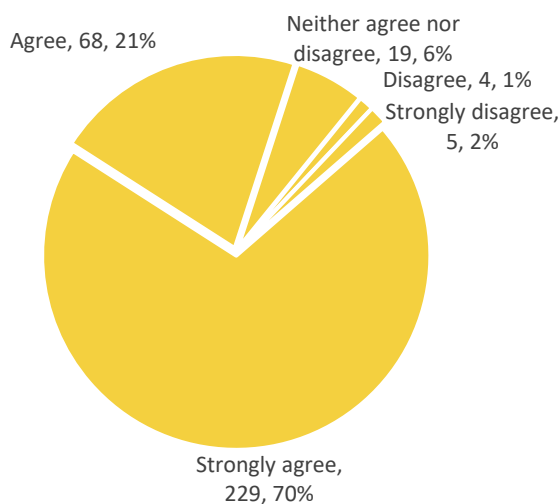
“I don't really know enough about Stamford and the areas mentioned to have a view”

“Not being a resident of Stamford, I feel it’s inappropriate for me to comment further”

32. Respondents were then informed that SKDC is proposing to renew the existing Public Spaces Protection Order which requires a person or persons to stop drinking alcohol in a specified area if asked to do so by an authorised officer or police officer. Those taking part in the survey were informed that the PSPO does not prohibit responsible drinking in public spaces, only problematic drinking which is causing a nuisance to others. A web link containing maps of the areas the PSPO covers was included.

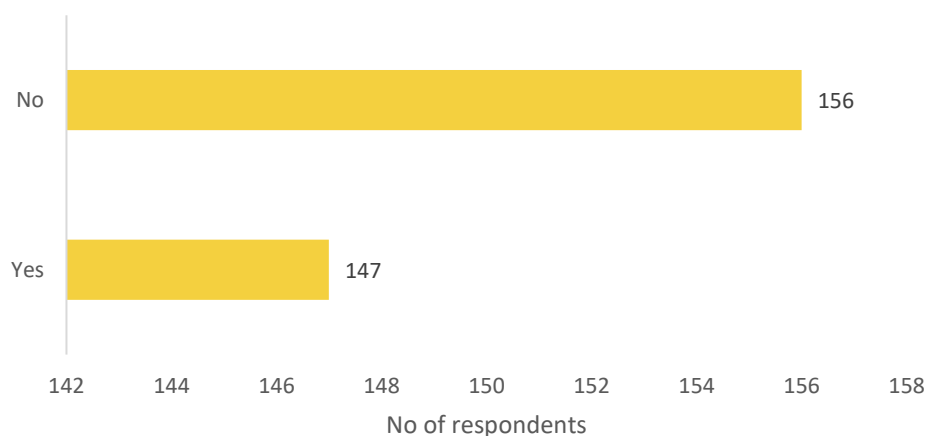
33. There was strong support for this proposal. Nine out of ten respondents (297 or 91.4%) agreed as illustrated below:

Q17. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this proposal?



34. The eighteenth question on the survey asked respondents if they were concerned about or had experienced problematic behaviour associated with drinking in public spaces. Around half of those responding said that they had (147 or 48.5%) as illustrated overleaf:

Q18. Are you concerned about or have experienced problematic behaviour associated with drinking in public spaces?



35. When asked to detail locations where problematic behaviour associated with drinking in public spaces is happening, various sites were mentioned. These included but were not limited to Bath Row, The Meadows and the Bus Station in Stamford, and Wyndham Park, Dysart Park, and Queen Elizabeth Park in Grantham. Abbey Lawns and Elsea Park in Bourne were also highlighted, as well as the Jubilee Park in Deeping St James. It is the intention of the Neighbourhoods Team to act on this feedback, using it to organise patrols.

36. Respondents were then asked if they would like to see this order amended in any way, or no longer apply. Various comments were received. These included but were not limited to, suggestions to amend the order to include smoking drugs in public spaces, prohibiting any drinking outside in public spaces (apart from beer gardens), and requests for stronger deterrents.

“To cover smoking pot”

“Total ban of drinking alcohol unless on a licensed premises.”

“Stronger deterrents. So larger fines imposed In the current economic climate, this will act as a very successful deterrent in my opinion.”

One respondent did not agree with the proposal:

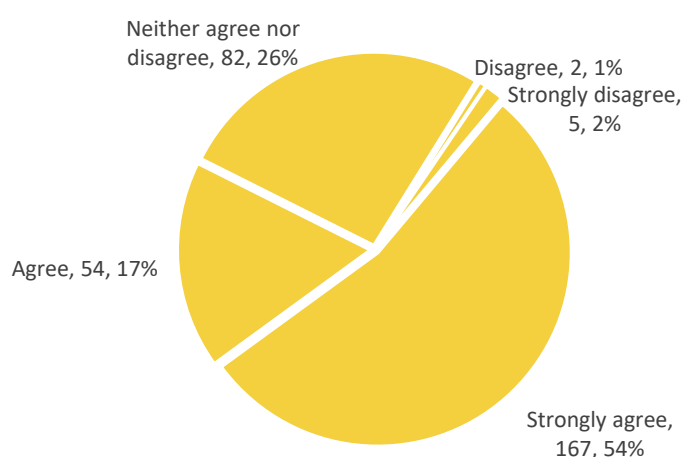
“These powers are too wide is scope and is open to be abused by an authorised person without recourse or appeal.”

37. The final question relating to existing Public Spaces Protection Orders asked respondents to provide details of any impacts of either extending or not renewing any of the existing orders. Most used the opportunity to state why they wanted SKDC to extend the existing PSPOs as illustrated in the comment below:

“Extending the order is beneficial to controlling abuse of alcohol and reducing it will have the opposite effect.”

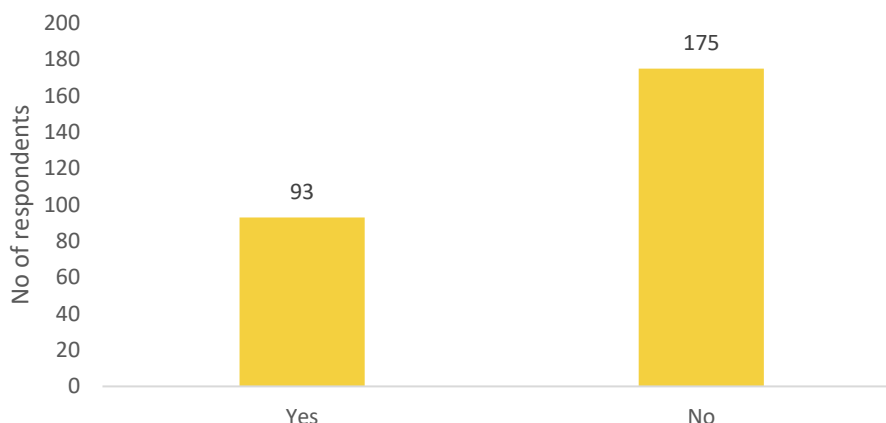
38. Respondents were then asked to comment on the potential implementation of a new Public Spaces Protection Order, the purpose of which will be to prohibit vehicles being used to cause a nuisance and anti-social behaviour in Station Road Car Park (also known as the Cattle Market Car Park), The Meadows and Bath Row Car Park, Stamford. Seven out of ten respondents (221 or 71.3%) agreed to this proposal being implemented, as illustrated here:

Q22. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this proposal?



39. When asked if they were concerned about or had experienced issues with vehicle related nuisance and/or anti-social behaviour in these locations, two thirds of respondents (175 or 65.3%) said that they hadn't. This suggests that the preference to extend the current PSPO may not necessarily be based on direct experience or concern. This is perhaps not surprising and may well be because some respondents don't live in Stamford. Around three in ten respondents (93 or 34.7%) stated that they had concerns or had experienced issues. This is shown in the graph overleaf:

Q23. Are you concerned about or have experienced issues with vehicle related nuisance and/or anti-social behaviour in these locations?



40. Responses to question 24 illustrated the degree of support for the proposal from those living near the areas as illustrated below:

“The noise of screeching brakes, revving engines and rubber burning is so loud that I can hear it from my house many hundreds of yards across the meadow from the car park and it regularly wakes me at night over the summer. It is frightening and incredibly anti-social....”

“We live on Bath Row. We are often disturbed at night by cars racing round and loud engine revving...”

“Bath Row and Cattle Market car park are hot spots for groups to gather in cars late at night creating a disturbance.”

41. When asked if there were any other options the Council should consider, various suggestions were received. These included but were not limited to the installation of bollards and/or speed bumps, clamping unauthorised vehicles, the use of ANPR, improving CCTV, more enforcement and increasing the number of police patrols.
42. The next question on the survey asked respondents if the introduction of a Public Spaces Protection Order for the area in Station Road Car Park (also known as the Cattle Market Car Park), The Meadows and Bath Row Car Park, Stamford would have a significant negative impact on them. The overwhelming majority of respondents said that it wouldn't. Just over 95% (249 or 95.8%) answered no to this question.
43. When prompted to describe any negative impact approving a PSPO for these areas might have on them, most used the opportunity to re-iterate why they wanted an order, not why they didn't. This is illustrated in the quote below:

“It is a residential area, a beautiful space, and a public amenity. Anti-social behaviour by a few spoil it for many.”

Demographics

44. To ensure responses had been received from various stakeholders, respondents were asked to identify if they had responded as an individual, and/or in another capacity e.g., representing an organisation or community group or as a parish, district or county councillor. Most responses were received from individuals (297 or 95.5%³). Twenty responses (6.4%) were received from parish, district or county councillors. Twenty- one responses (6.8%) were also received from those representing community groups and various statutory organisations. These included:

- Bourne Cricket Club
- Bourne United Charities
- Neighbourhood Watch
- The Rotary Club
- Stamford Street Pastors
- The Waterfront Residents Association
- Wyndham Park Forum and Friends of Queen Elizabeth Park
- Umbrella Counselling East Midlands
- Deeping St James Parish Council
- Fenton Parish Council
- Stamford Town Council
- Lincolnshire County Council
- The NHS
- Lincolnshire Police

45. As well as taking part in the consultation, Mark Hillson - Neighbourhood Policing Inspector for Lincolnshire Police - also submitted the following comment:

“Lincolnshire Police fully support the renewal of existing and the implementation of new PSPOs in South Kesteven. They are an important part of our joint agency tool kit to enable us to deal effectively with anti-social behaviour in our communities. We particularly welcome the additional PSPO for Vehicle Nuisance and ASB in Stamford, which we believe will benefit many of the residents in the town.”

46. In order to help assess if the responses received were representative of the district as a whole, respondents were asked to supply some demographic information. This included gender, age band, and

³ Please note percentage calculated on denominator of 311. Respondents could tick more than one option.

postcode sector. The sample appears to be representative of the district in respect of gender, as illustrated in the table below:

	Number - Survey	Percentage (%) - Survey	Percentage Popln projection	Ratio (should be between 0.8 and 1.2)
Male	142	45.1	48.0	0.94
Female	155	49.2	52.0	0.95
Prefer not to say	14	4.4		
Other, please specify	4	1.3		
Total	315	100.0		

47. Responses were received from consultees from all age bands, although there were only a handful from those aged 24 or under. Comparing the percentages of people responding to the survey to 2023 population projections published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) for the district, revealed those under the age of 24 were significantly under-represented, and those aged between 35 and 64 were over-represented. The sample was representative of those aged between 25 -34 and those aged 65 and over. This should be borne in mind when considering the results of this consultation. The age composition of the sample (and that of the 2023 district population) is set out in the table below:

	Number - Survey	Percentage (%) - Survey	Percentage % - District	Ratio (should be between 0.8 and 1.2)
24 or under	7	2.3	25.6	0.1
25 to 34	25	8.0	9.8	0.8
35 to 44	55	17.5	11.8	1.5
45 to 54	66	21.0	13.2	1.6
55 to 64	71	22.6	14.8	1.5
65 and over	76	24.2	24.8	0.98
Prefer not to say	14	4.5		
Total	314	100.0	100.0	

48. Respondents were asked to supply their postcode. Most responses, perhaps not surprisingly, were received from the urban areas of Grantham NG31 (64 or 20.7%), Stamford PE9 (99 or 32.0%), Bourne PE10 (59 or 19.1%), and the Deepings PE6 (46 or 14.9%).

Anything else

49. The penultimate question on the survey asked respondents if they had any questions, or would like to comment on anything. The word cloud overleaf shows the number of times key words or phrases were mentioned. Most respondents used it as an opportunity to mention a specific problem they had with a particular behaviour. The importance of enforcement and patrols was also apparent.

