

## BBQ PSPO Security Services season review

### 1. Introduction

Further to consultation on the prohibition of BBQ's and open fires on Fylde's coastline, a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) was adopted by the Council and came into force 1st July 2019 for a period of 3 years. The aim of the order was to ultimately protect Fylde's designated open spaces, and accompanying visitors and wildlife, from unnecessary disturbance or harm.

It was agreed that the PSPO would be enforced by way of external contractor security patrol and enforcement. A security service specification was developed and an appropriate external contractor was engaged to undertake a pilot exercise from 12<sup>th</sup> July – 29<sup>th</sup> September 2019

### 2. Delivered Service

CSP Security Services were engaged to roll out a programme of PSPO and ASB patrols/ enforcement in line with the agreed specification – as shown below:

Required service	Delivery Mechanism
Prevention	Undertook highly visible, uniformed foot and mobile patrols of all specified Fylde Coast Areas to prevent BBQ's incidents and general antisocial behaviour.
	Undertook park and beach patrols specifically on foot, checking communal areas and buildings on a regular basis to prevent BBQ's, fire and general antisocial behaviour.
	Ensured polite and professional liaison with site users and customers regarding security concerns.
	Ensured polite and professional education/ warnings to site users and customers regarding antisocial behaviour.
Enforcement	Delegated powers to issue verbal warnings/ letters and report incidents of antisocial behaviour to the council and emergencies services.
	Attended incident call outs, providing back-up support to council staff.
Communications	Communicated directly with police, fire brigade and ambulance service where incidents posed threat to staff, public or council property.
	Communicated directly with Fylde Council's contract manager where incidents posed threat to staff, public or council property.
Data Collection	Completed a detailed, weekly patrol and observations log and submitted to Fylde Council's contract manager.
Customer and Witness Support	Supported customers and site users in a polite and professional way, providing information where appropriate.
	Provided witness support and information when appropriate.

### 3. Security Service Appraisal

It was agreed that 2 x CSP security officers would be on shift and patrolling together for the agreed hours of work. The staff wore CSP company uniform and carried identification at all times. The agreed hours shown in the below table were specifically chosen to ensure presence during the anticipated busiest periods and when antisocial behaviour was expected to occur.

Month	Core Hours: Monday – Friday (Includes Bank Holidays)	Core Hours: Saturday & Sunday
July	4.00pm – 9.00pm	12.00am – 10.00pm
August	4.00pm – 9.00pm	12.00am – 10.00pm
September	4.00pm – 8.00pm	12.00am – 8.00pm

Shift patterns worked well and provided effective - but not excessive - cover when required. There was sufficient overlap between the shifts of Council staff and the security staff to ensure sharing of intelligence and joint working.

A mix of both mobile (branded vehicle) and foot patrols were undertaken on an agreed list of sites which spanned from Lytham Quays to the dunes near Squires Gate Lane, Blackpool. Depending of the level of access on each site, this worked well for the majority of the time. Consideration needs to be given to the contractor utilising 4x4/ all-terrain vehicles in 2020 which will enable more comprehensive vehicular patrolling of the beach - where a significant number of incidents occurred.

Security officers were provided a behavioural code of conduct asked to focus on educating site users and visitors on the new PSPO and to prioritise prevention of incidents through the cessation of BBQ and ASB activity. Officers were effective in achieving this and found that a good humoured, polite and professional requests to cease inappropriate activity was usually sufficient to prevent further incident or argument in the majority of cases. During the pilot period, no FPN's were issued although a number of offenders were issued with a warning letter.

Security officers were effective in their communications with both visitors, Council staff and the emergency services. They provided support upon request and emailed a weekly patrol diary/ incident log to show details of what incidents had occurred and location. The security patrols proved useful in dealing with incidents not originally anticipated including Splash security and closures, injured wildlife and trespass.

#### 4. Service statistics/performance

A total of 66 recorded incidents of BBQ's and open fires were recorded. The majority of fires were instructed to be removed/ dismantled before being lit or were immediately put out following education and verbal instruction. A total of 8 warning letters relating to incidents of BBQ's and open fires were issued. No warning letters were issued for any other issue.

Numbers reported by the Private Security Service for:

- Vandalism, graffiti or fly posting? 2
- Alcohol drinking? 3
- Fly Tipping and Car abandonment? 0
- Begging and Vagrancy? 2
- Fireworks misuse? 0
- Inconsiderate or inappropriate use of vehicles? 3

There were a further 7 incidents of antisocial behaviour which includes verbal abuse, domestic violence and trespass.

There were a further 2 incidents of lost, vulnerable children.

The cost of employing CSP Security was £14,045 for the pilot exercise period from 12th July – 29th September 2019

## 5. Debrief and Requirements for 2020

The pilot period went smoothly and occurred for a sufficient length of time to provide valuable insight on what elements were successful or not. Both Fylde Council and CSP Security met at the end of the season to debrief on the process and to collaborate feedback for corporate circulation – as shown below:

- No complaints were received by the Parks & Coastal Services team about the new BBQ PSPO since its introduction.
- No complaints were received by the Parks & Coastal Services team about BBQ or fire incidents since the introduction of the PSPO and security service patrols.
- 1 x written compliment was received in regards to the security service since their introduction.
- Feedback from the security officers indicated that visitors were very supportive of their presence and approach.
- The BBQ PSPO signage provided was felt to be insufficient. CSP advise that permanent signs are put into place by April 2020 so that the PSPO is taken more seriously. They also advise that the spread and placement of signs needs to be sufficient enough to aid enforcement, and the issuing of FPN's.
- Some members of the public believed that the BBQ ban is short term, that it only applies to Fairhaven Lake and that it only applies to disposable BBQ's. Therefore, a clearer, more persistent media campaign needs to be put into place in the run up to April 2020 to make clear that the ban covers all council parks, open spaces and beaches along the Fylde coast, applies to all forms of BBQ's, and that it will be in place for at least 3 years.
- Some large groups who attend Fairhaven are under the impression that they can continue having BBQ's at Fairhaven once the coastal defence works are finished and are happy to ignore the new rules – therefore enforcement in 2020 will need to be targeted at such groups.
- Staff have been advised to pay attention to cultural celebration days which attract high volumes of visitors to the area and result in BBQ parties on beaches and at Fairhaven.
- The security provider needs access to a 4x4/ all-terrain vehicle to effectively patrol beach/ dune areas.
- The majority of offenders accepted the new PSPO and immediately removed/ extinguished their BBQ/ fire. Only a small minority challenged being asked to remove/extinguish.
- The security provider provided an important role in supporting Splash staff with some incidents involving alcohol and drugs as well as evacuating the facility at closing times.
- CSP have advised that the best approach is to first gauge attitude of the offender, then decide whether education is sufficient or an warning letter/ FPN is more appropriate. They have also said that a harder line FPN approach would be inappropriate, inflame the situation and cause issues for staff.
- CSP have advised that it will be challenging obtaining personal information from offenders to enable the issue of a FPN. They advise that 'hot spot target days' are undertaken alongside the police to issue FPN's – this will raise the profile of new PSPO and heighten the risk perception for persistent offenders.
- CPS have advised that a large amount of BBQ activity occurred in association with the Lytham Festival. A more joint up approach with the festival organisers will aid the reduction of incidents.
- An assessment of the level of BBQ's and antisocial behaviour encountered, demonstrates that security patrols are valuable as a deterrent and for providing a sense of personal safety to visitors.