

INFORMATION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND HOUSING SERVICES	OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	15 JUNE 2022	9
PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS (PSPO) PROHIBITING BARBECUES AND OPEN FIRES IN PUBLIC SPACES			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

Fylde Council developed and hosted an online survey to understand people's views on the orders and whether to extend or amend any or all of them. There are eleven PSPOs covering different areas of the borough – the survey allowed respondents to give feedback on any or all of them.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

Ps research Consultation Report: May 2022

LINK TO INFORMATION

Appendix: ps research (Report by Adam Pearson and Emma Slater) – Public Space Protection Orders prohibiting barbecues and open fires in open spaces: Consultation Report: May 2022

WHY IS THIS INFORMATION BEING GIVEN TO THE COMMITTEE?

This information is being provided to the Operational Management Committee for consideration as enforcement arrangements fall within the remit of the Committee.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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Information Note

Public spaces protection orders are in place prohibiting barbecues and other outdoor temporary cooking facilities on council owned land across the borough under the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014.

The areas covered by the individual orders are:

- Promenade Gardens
- Beach and sand dunes
- Lytham St Annes local nature reserve
- Mini links golf
- Ashton Gardens

Car parks
Fairhaven
The Green
Peace & Happiness Garden
South Promenade
St Annes Square

The activities identified in the orders are using barbecues or bringing barbecues into the prohibited area with a view to lighting them or cooking on them. Failure to comply with a PSPO is an offence which can be dealt with by a fixed penalty notice of £50 or by prosecution (maximum fine of £1000).

The orders are due to lapse during July 2022. Orders can be extended if they remain necessary to prevent certain persistent activities that are having a detrimental effect on the quality of life in the locality; this requirement is applicable to each of the locations covered by the orders.

At the March Operational Management Committee, it was unanimously RESOLVED:- 1. That the committee were minded extend the public spaces protection orders described in the report for a further three years. 2. To delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in collaboration with the Chairman, to carry out the necessary consultation, publicity and notification and to extend the order, unless the outcome of the consultation required further consideration by the committee at a special meeting.

Fylde Council developed and hosted an online survey to understand people's views on the orders and whether to extend or amend any or all of them. There are eleven PSPOs covering different areas of the borough – the survey allowed respondents to give feedback on any or all of them.

Headline findings

- **Most of the c. 400 respondents feel that the orders banning barbecues and open fires should be renewed in all areas** – at least 8 in 10 people giving feedback on each area feel the current PSPOs should be renewed. Feedback reveals barbecues, particularly disposable ones, are generally considered a safety risk to children and animals/wildlife and contribute to litter and anti-social behaviour.
- **Respondents generally feel that barbecues in these areas have a detrimental impact on quality of life** – and at least 7 in 10 people giving feedback on each area feel ending the PSPOs would have a negative impact on their quality of life.
- **Even with the orders in place in these areas though, barbecues are still having a negative impact for some** – whilst there is evidence that this has dropped since the orders came into place in 2019, around two in five still feel barbecues in these areas are having a detrimental effect on their quality of life. Comments reveal that lack of enforcement and signage is leading to some people ignoring the current ban on barbecues.
- **There were some alternative suggestions for dealing with barbecues in the PSPO areas** – those feeling the orders should lapse were most likely to suggest that designated barbecue areas be adopted instead, giving examples from other regions and countries. They feel these could be purpose-built to minimise the risk of fires and would be easier to police.

Conclusion

The vast majority of respondents felt that the PSPOs should be renewed (greater than 80% at all locations) – as such the necessary arrangements will be made to extend the public spaces protection orders described in the report for a further three years.

Appendix

ps research (Report by Adam Pearson and Emma Slater) – Public Space Protection Orders prohibiting barbecues and open fires in open spaces

Consultation Report: May 2022