



Please ask for: Maggie Quinn

Direct Dial: (01902) 696000

Email: communitysafety@sstaffs.gov.uk

19 August 2022

Dear Resident,

Re: Public Spaces Protection Order

South Staffordshire Council is proposing to put in place a Public Spaces Protection Order along Old Hampton Lane, Westcroft and is writing to you as part of the consultation process within the legislation to ask for your feedback on the proposal outlined below.

Public Spaces Protection Orders are one of the tools available under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and can be used to restrict a broad range of activities. Under section 59 of the 2014 Act, South Staffordshire Council must be satisfied on reasonable grounds that the activity subject to an Order:

- has a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality (or it is likely that activities will take place and have such an effect)
- is (or is likely to be) persistent or continuing in nature
- is (or is likely to be) unreasonable
- justifies the restrictions being imposed.

Why is a Public Spaces Protection Order required on Old Hampton Lane?

Fly tipping has been causing inconvenience for residents and visitors to the bottom end of Old Hampton Lane for some time now and is unsightly as it includes bottles, food packaging, drug paraphernalia and used condoms. Often cars will park outside residents' homes for drug use and for sexual activity and when these car drivers are challenged become verbally abusive to those who question them. Drivers have also been witnessed consuming alcohol when parked in this location too.

The Proposal for the Public Spaces Protection Order:

People who wish to 'fly-tip' have targeted the bottom end of Old Hampton Lane due to the rural nature of the location. The fly tipping has had a detrimental cost both in terms of the environment and the Council due to the costs of removal. The cars who park with the intention of their occupants behaving in an anti-social manner (drug taking, drinking alcohol, sexual activity) are causing alarm and distress to residents which in turn has a detrimental impact on their quality of life. A Gating Order sits within the PSPO and will mean if all residents who are consulted agree, then the bottom end of the lane will be closed permanently for three years, however people who need access can hold keys e.g., residents and landowners. The Public Spaces Protection Order will incorporate the whole length of

Old Hampton Lane, but the Gating Order will only apply to the bottom end of the lane. Within the PSPO the type of anti-social behaviour that is not acceptable will be identified. If police or South Staffordshire Council employees witness this unacceptable behaviour a Fixed Penalty Notice can be issued.

The prohibitions to be contained within the Public Spaces Protection Order will state that it is an offence to:

- Fly tip material of any kind or drop litter of any kind along Old Hampton Lane
- Take part in sexual activities inside or outside a vehicle
- Act in an anti-social manner including being rowdy and inconsiderate causing alarm, harassment and distress to residents and other people
- Use intoxicating substances (which include alcohol and what are commonly referred to as illegal highs and emerging drugs) inside or outside a vehicle

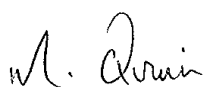
The penalty for breaching these prohibitions will be a £100 Fixed Penalty Notice or the possibility of prosecution and a fine of up to £1,000.

South Staffordshire is asking for your feedback on the following questions:

- Do you have any objections to the Public Spaces Protection Order, which will include the Gating Order at the bottom end of Old Hampton Lane?
- If you need access to Old Hampton Lane, are you happy to hold a key and act as a responsible gate key holder?
- Do you have any further comments?

Please respond by email to communitysafety@sstaffs.gov.uk or by post to Maggie Quinn, Welfare Services, South Staffordshire Council, Wolverhampton Road, Codsall. WV8 1PX with your responses to the above questions by 5.00pm on 16 September 2022.

Yours sincerely



Maggie Quinn
Community Wellbeing & Partnership Officer

(Enc is a map of Old Hampton Lane, the red border indicates the area to be incorporated into the Public Spaces Protection Order)

