

Designated Public Spaces Order and Street Drinking

In response to your questions - the whole of the borough is covered by a Designated Public Spaces Order (DPPO) for anti-social street drinking.

The DPPO is not a ban on drinking alcohol outdoors. Drinking alcohol outdoors only becomes an offence if you are behaving in an anti-social manner and are asked by an accredited enforcement officer to stop doing so and you refuse. The DPPO is not applied to people who drink sensibly in a public place.

How is it enforced?

- If you are acting in an anti-social manner whilst consuming alcohol, or look as though you are likely to, you may be asked to stop drinking by a PSCO, police or other accredited officer.
- If you refuse to stop drinking the officer has the right to confiscate and dispose of the alcohol.
- If you surrender the alcohol and behave, no further action will be taken.
- If you refuse to give up the alcohol you may be arrested and have a fine of up to £500 or be issued with a fixed penalty notice of £50.
- If you surrender the alcohol yet continue to behave in an anti-social manner you may be arrested and convicted of a Public Order Offence.

(NB. With effect from 20/10/2014 the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 commenced. From that date the existing DPPO transferred to a Public Spaces Protection Order, still keeping the same powers as listed above.)

The designated 'Wet' area for street drinkers in Alley Yard was removed 8 years ago. It is important to note that the main reason for the 'Wet' area was to provide a single area where street drinkers could go and also provide an opportunity for them to engage with relevant support services.

Therefore, when the decision was made to remove it, there were a number of reasons:

- The poor behaviour of the people using the shelter (fighting, urinating in the street, verbally abusing passers-by)
- It had also become a gathering place for drinkers from outside of the town
- Lack of engagement of the street drinkers with support agencies
- Negative impact it was having on the neighbouring businesses
- The same street drinkers were also meeting in other areas of the town centre

Hope this information helps. If you require any further detail please let me know.