

RCT Public Spaces Protection Order
Intoxicating Substances (Including Alcohol)
Consultation
2021

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This report presents the findings of the consultation regarding a possible 3 year extension of the existing RCT Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to control alcohol related anti-social behaviour in Rhondda Cynon Taf with the inclusion of 2 defined exclusion zones to control intoxicating substance use (including alcohol) in Pontypridd and Aberdare Town Centres.
- The intended consultation plan was hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic and as such the planned public engagement element of the consultation had to be altered to take this into account. The process of engagement was therefore undertaken via electronic means of communication rather than the more preferable face to face basis.
- The public consultation ran from 2nd October 2020 until 30th October 2020.
- A webpage was set up to provide information on the proposals and consultation events, frequently asked questions, maps of the current exclusion zones and links to the online questionnaire.
- Other methods involved an officer from the Community Safety Team attending the online OPAG group to speak to those involved in the local 50+ forums to ask their views and experiences.
- Key Stakeholders and local businesses were contacted directly by email to provide them with the opportunity to comment on the proposed 3 year PSPO extension.
- The consultation was promoted via RCT's Social Media accounts and press releases.
- Respondents were able to conduct an online questionnaire, email the Consultation inbox and/or write to the freepost address.
- Overall, 134 **people** engaged directly in the consultation process and 8 agencies engaged.
- Of the 134 questionnaire respondents, 86% of respondents said that they saw alcohol related anti-social behaviour as a problem in their area.
- 88% of respondents said that they saw alcohol related anti social behaviour as a problem in the Pontypridd area, 82% said they saw it as a problem in the Aberdare area.
- 69% of respondents said that they were aware that there is a PSPO in place within RCT, in Pontypridd and Aberdare Town Centres.

- 63% of respondents said that they had not seen a decrease in the levels of alcohol related anti social behaviour in Pontypridd and Aberdare Town Centres.
- 28% of respondents said that they have seen a decrease in the levels of alcohol related anti social behaviour in Aberdare Town Centre with 64% saying that they had not seen a decrease within the area.
- 21% of respondents said that they have seen a decrease in the levels of alcohol related anti social behaviour in Pontypridd Town Centre with 64% of respondents saying that they have not seen a decrease within the area.
- 54% of respondents agreed that the PSPO has or is likely to have a positive impact on the quality of life in RCT. 34% thought that the PSPO is unlikely to have a positive impact.
- In Aberdare 57% of respondents thought that the PSPO has or is likely to have a positive impact on the quality of life in the area with 27% disagreeing.
- In Pontypridd 51% of respondents thought that the PSPO has or is likely to have a positive impact on the quality of life in the area with 40% disagreeing.

Response breakdown

- 134 questionnaire responses (online and hardcopy) were received.
- 8 emails from stakeholders (including SWP Cynon Sector Local Policing Inspector, SWP Taff Sector Local Policing Inspector, SWP Superintendent for Communities and Partnerships, Vikki Howells MS representing the Cynon Valley, Pontypridd Town Council, Cllr Heledd Fychan MS representing Pontypridd Town Centre Ward, Hirwaun & Penderyn Community Council, Caerphilly County Borough Council)
- 5 people attended the OPAG meeting and took part in a discussion with an Officer from the Community Safety Partnership.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the findings of the consultation regarding the existing Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to control alcohol related anti-social behaviour in Rhondda Cynon Taf with the inclusion of 2 defined exclusion zones to control intoxicating substance use (including alcohol) in Pontypridd and Aberdare Town Centres.
- 1.2 Section 2 outlines some brief background.
- 1.3 Section 3 details the methodology.
- 1.4 Section 4 presents the results from the questionnaire.
- 1.5 Section 5 provides responses from stakeholders.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The proposals are;

1. To commit to a 3 year extension of the existing Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) with the whole County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf being a Controlled Drinking Zone. This does not ban or make it illegal to carry alcohol or to drink alcohol in a public place as long as drinking is done responsibly.
2. To keep the existing Intoxicating Substance Exclusion Zones in the defined areas within **Pontypridd Town Centre** and **Aberdare Town Centre** (refer to the enclosed Maps) for a further 3 year period. This prohibits persons in these areas from ingesting, inhaling, injecting, smoking or otherwise using intoxicating substances in public places.
3. To allow consumption of alcohol in the exclusion zones only where the activity is undertaken at a premises or within the boundaries of the premises which is authorised for the supply of alcohol.
4. That the fixed fine is set at **£100** (the maximum allowed).

2.2 What are Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs)?

Public Spaces Protection Orders are intended to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a particular area that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life, by imposing conditions on the use of that area which apply to everyone. The order could also be used to deal with likely future problems. The Antisocial Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 allows councils to introduce these orders, after consultation with communities and other interested parties. The orders must be reviewed every three years to ensure they are still necessary.

2.3 What does the Borough wide PSPO mean?

The aim of the PSPO is to provide Local Authorities with the necessary powers to introduce restrictions upon activity and behaviours deemed to be anti-social and occurring in "public spaces". A PSPO is designed to restrict and prohibit certain behaviours. It is intended that the consumption of alcohol in public spaces will be restricted with a condition that enables a police officer or other enforcement officer to request that a person who is causing anti-social behaviour whilst in possession of alcohol, to stop drinking alcohol. It will also give the police/enforcement officer the right to seize the alcohol. If someone refuses to comply with the request of the police/enforcement officer to stop drinking and to hand over any containers believed to contain alcohol he/she commits a criminal offence. Once introduced a PSPO can be enforced by both the Local Authority (authorised personnel) and

the police and any breach of the order is a criminal offence which can be discharged via fixed penalty notice (£100) or up to £1000 fine upon prosecution.

2.4 Is the borough wide PSPO a ban on drinking alcohol?

No. A drinker's behaviour is the consideration in any action taken by those who enforce the order. It is not intended that those who are sensibly drinking will be subjected to these order's requirements. Home Office guidance reinforces this. However, the drinking of alcohol in the Exclusion Zones will be prohibited, other than in relation to an activity, premises or curtilage authorised to be used for the supply of alcohol by licence or club premises certificate or permission granted under section 115E of the Highways Act 1980.

2.5 What do we mean by Intoxicating Substances?

Intoxicating Substances will be defined as substances with the capacity to stimulate or depress the central nervous system. (this includes alcohol and what are commonly referred to as "legal highs"): Exemptions shall apply where the substances are used for a valid and demonstrable medical use, given to an animal as a medicinal remedy, are cigarettes (tobacco) or vaporisers or are food stuffs regulated by Food, Safety or Health legislation.

2.6 What are the benefits of this PSPO?

The main benefits are to reduce street drinking that is having a negative impact on communities and the environment, whilst reducing harmful consumption of alcohol and protecting vulnerable people.

2.7 Where are the exclusion zones?

The Intoxicating Substance (Including Alcohol) Exclusion Zones are in Pontypridd Town Centre and Aberdare Town Centre. See maps below.

2.8 Aberdare Exclusion Zone for Intoxicating Substances



Figure 1

2.9 Pontypridd Exclusion Zone for Intoxicating Substances

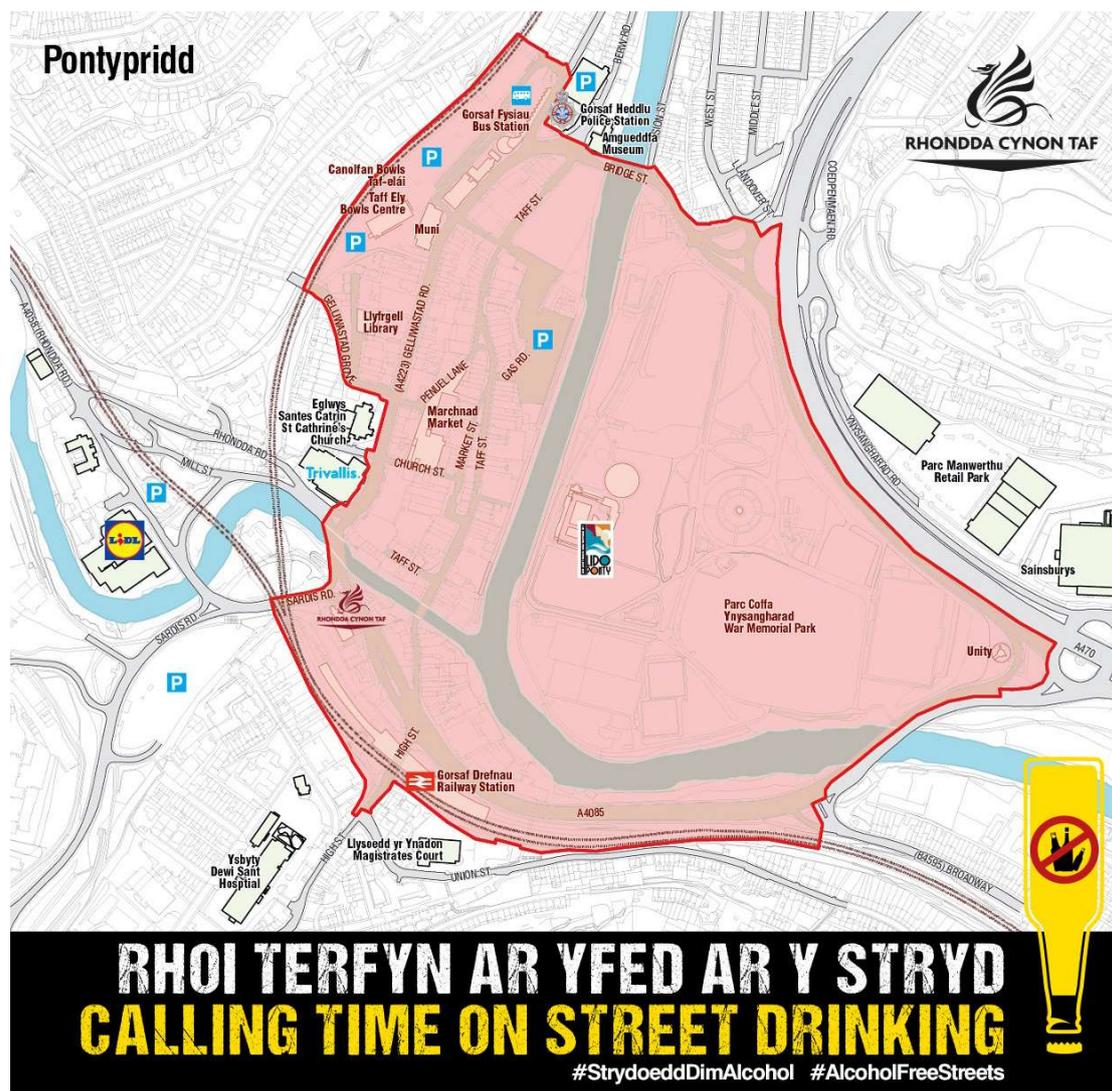


Figure 2

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The public consultation ran for 4 weeks, from the 2nd October 2020 to 30th October 2020.
- 3.2 The aim of the consultation was to gather the views of residents, traders and key stakeholders in the Aberdare and Pontypridd areas specifically as they would be directly affected by the proposals. The consultation was open to all members of the public.
- 3.3 The following methods were used to consult with stakeholders;
- A questionnaire
 - Meetings with the Older Person’s Advisory Group
 - An email to traders in Pontypridd and Aberdare Town Centres via the respective Business Improvement District Organisations (BID) inviting open responses
 - An email to key stakeholders inviting open responses
 - A dedicated email address (consultation@rctcbc.gov.uk) and freepost address if needed.
- 3.4 The following responses were received;
- 134 questionnaire responses (online and hardcopy)
 - 8 emails from stakeholders (including SWP Cynon Sector Local Policing Inspector, SWP Taff Sector Local Policing Inspector, SWP Superintendent for Communities and Partnerships, Vikki Howells MS representing the Cynon Valley, Pontypridd Town Council, Cllr Heledd Fychan MS representing Pontypridd Town Centre Ward, Cllr Jayne Brencher representing Graig Ward, Hirwaun & Penderyn Community Council, Caerphilly County Borough Council)
 - 5 people attended the OPAG meeting and took part in the discussion

4 Questionnaire Results

- 4.1 134 responses were received to the questionnaire.
- 4.2 There were 77 responses relating to Pontypridd and 56 responses relating to Aberdare.

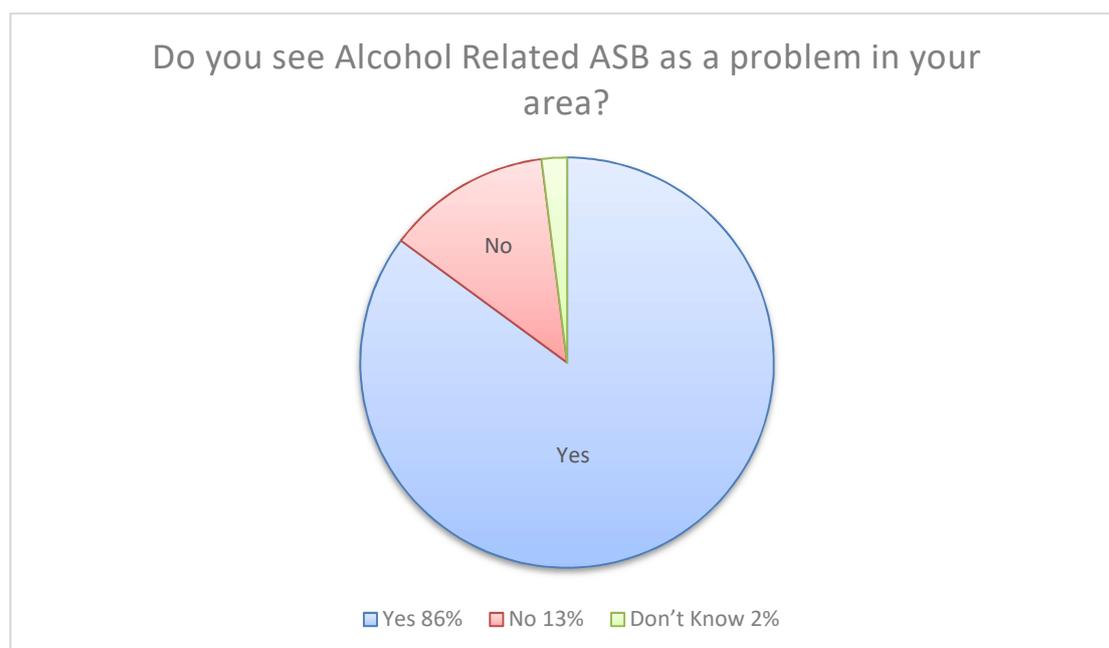


Figure 3

- 4.3 86% of all respondents said that they saw alcohol related anti social behaviour as a problem in their area (88% in Pontypridd 82% in Aberdare).

69 comments were received, including the following themes:

Locations

Pontypridd

Pontypridd Train Station
Around Player's Bar at the top of Taff Street
Lanpark Road
Mill Street
Ynysangharad Park
Taff Street
Outside Lloyds Bank in Taff Street
Graig
Lidl
Benches near Nat West Bank
Seat near Llys Cadwyn

Benches by Shepards Pharmacy
Behind St David's Uniting Church

Aberdare

Aberdare Bus Station
Ynys Park
Outside B&M
Library Square
Tesco Car Park
Outside Lloyds Bank
Burtons
Gadlys Pit Car Park
Aberdare Skatepark
Robertstown Bridge

Other Locations

Treforest – Near Otley Arms and Vets
Barry Sidings
Footpath between Tesco Upper Boat and Maesyfelin

Impact

Feeling unsettled waking past people who are drinking and on drugs
Feeling intimidated
Damage
Feeling uncomfortable
Feeling unsafe
Unsettling for the elderly and people with young children

A selection of comments can be found below. For the list of full comments, please see Appendix 1.

Comments included:

“All the time. It is a disgrace that so many groups of young teenagers hang around Pontypridd Bus Station, near Tesco express and other parts in gangs. Clearly drunk at times and some clearly on drugs (hard to notice notice cannabis). So many time idiots on bikes ride in the bus station with no regard for people waiting. I suspect the intimidating factor of these gangs deters people from visiting the town centre.”

“As someone who is resident and enjoys an evening at a pub myself, it's not the consumption of alcohol but the location. The public area is not the place to do it and I think it's intimidating and causes unnecessary poor feeling with in our community”

“Can be quite intimidating for residents when drunks are sat on benches around the town.”

“Due to the current Public Houses 2200 hours restriction this is getting worse. have noticed youths gathering around different supermarkets from where they have purchased the alcohol previously.”

“Even more alarming is the obvious rise in people wandering around town under the influence of drugs and even openly taking and dealing in drugs on the streets. I have reported several incidences I have seen to pc sos and 101.”

“Quite alot of under age drinking in our local parks. Bottles and cans left everywhere sometimes the bottles are broken.”

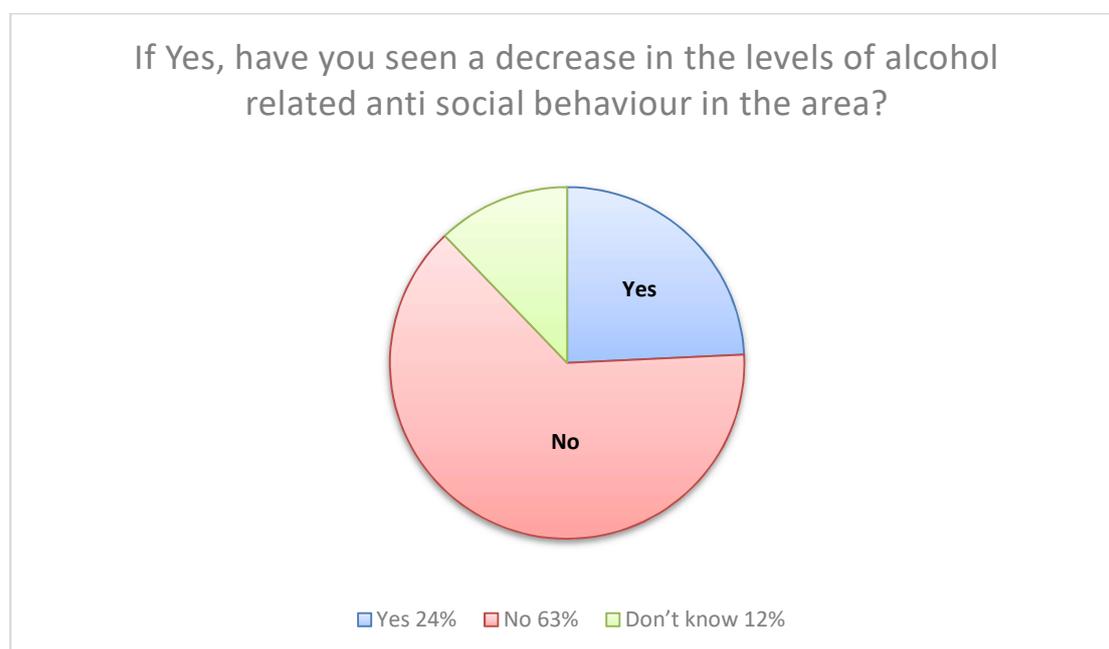
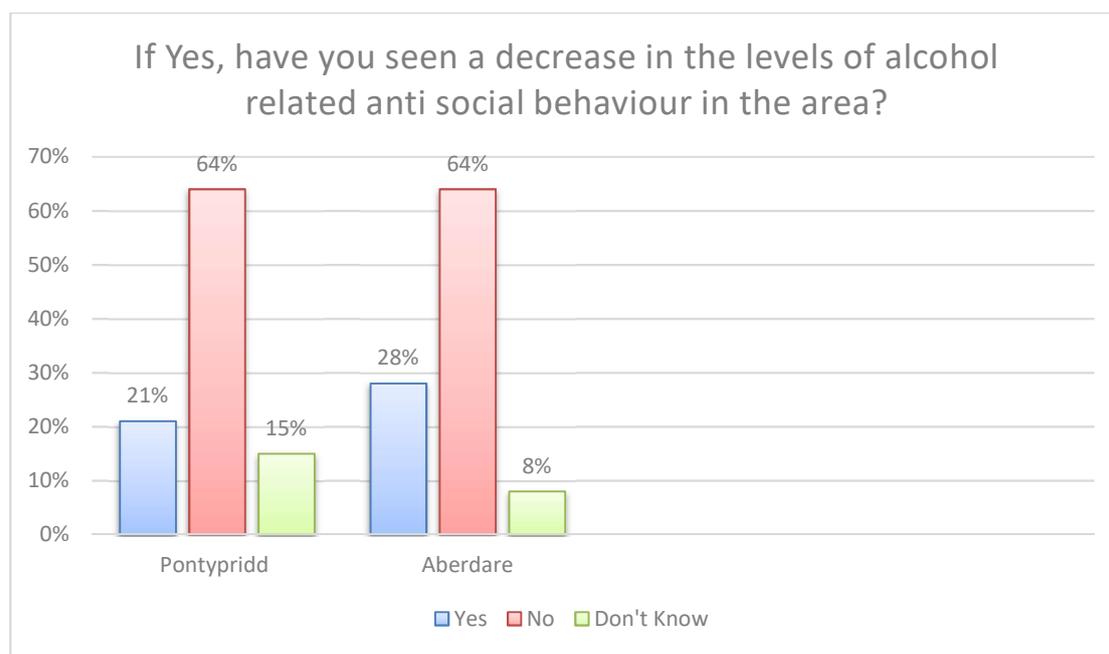


Figure 4

- 4.3 Of the respondents who said that they saw ASB in their area, 63% of respondents said that they had not seen a decrease in Anti Social Behaviour, with 24% saying that they had.

**Figure 5**Categories:

Levels are the same

Levels are getting worse

Offenders have moved on to other areas

A selection of comments can be found below. For the list of full comments, please see Appendix 1.

Comments Included:

“All it has done is to push the anti social behaviour away from the town and into the surrounding streets and alleyways. Particularly St catherines church”

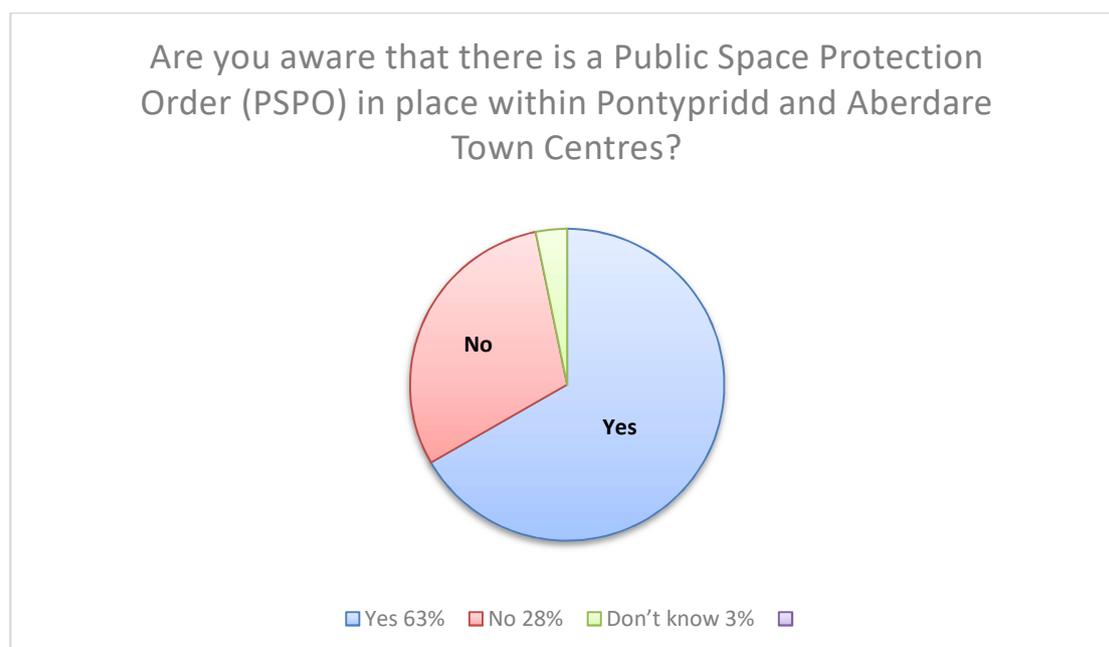
“Exactly the same”

“I’m unsure whether the use of alcohol has reduced but the use of drugs in public places is definitely increasing”

“I have not witnessed much of a reduction in these areas with nobody enforcing the PSPO.”

“Seeing an increase in my end of town”

“Nothing changes drunks and drugged ruin the towns.”

**Figure 6**

- 4.4 When asked if they were aware that there was a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in place in Pontypridd/Aberdare 69% said that they were aware.

26 comments were received which including the following themes:

Themes:

Lack of enforcement
PSPO is ignored / doesn't make a difference
Unaware of PSPO until taking part in consultation
Aware but concerned about enforcement

A selection of comments can be found below. For the list of full comments, please see Appendix 1.

Comments included:

"However it doesn't seem to be enforced strictly."

"I recall this was in place but honestly thought the time had lapsed and not renewed, you would never think this order was still in place if you walked through the town day or night."

"I wasn't aware of PSPO until I came across this survey on RCT website."

"It doesn't work. There isn't enough police presence to enforce it."

"It's not being challenged or enforced."

“Yes, but do not see this enforced at the areas stated above. The PSPO is a great idea, but pointless if its not enforced.”

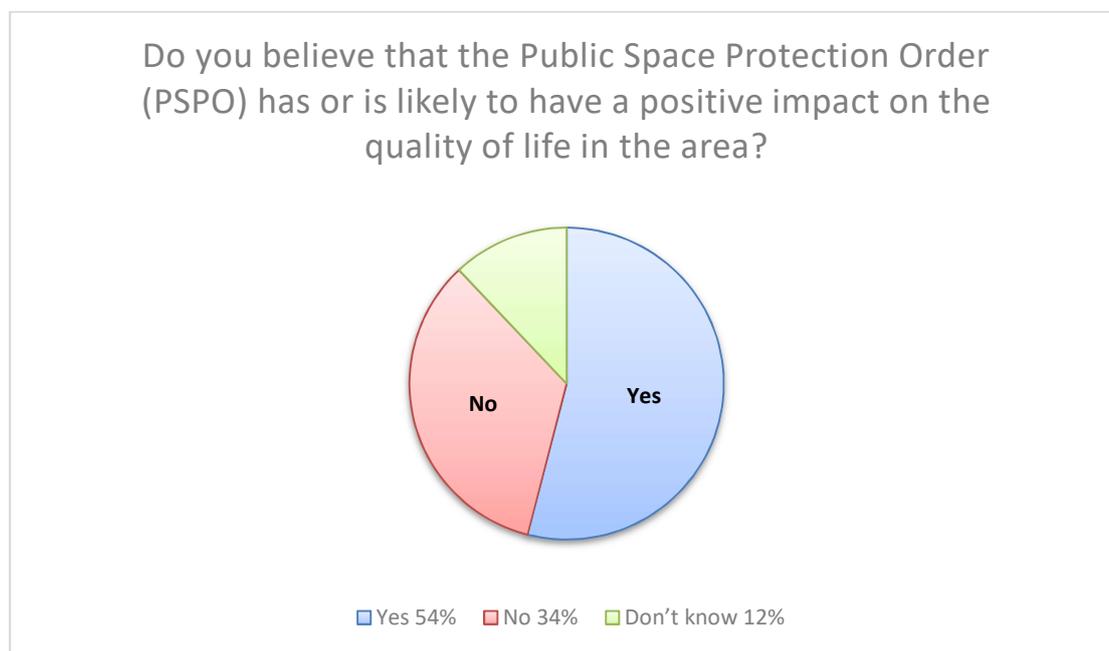


Figure 7

4.5 When asked whether they believe that the PSPO has or is likely to have a positive impact on the quality of life in this area, 54% of respondents said Yes with 34% saying No.

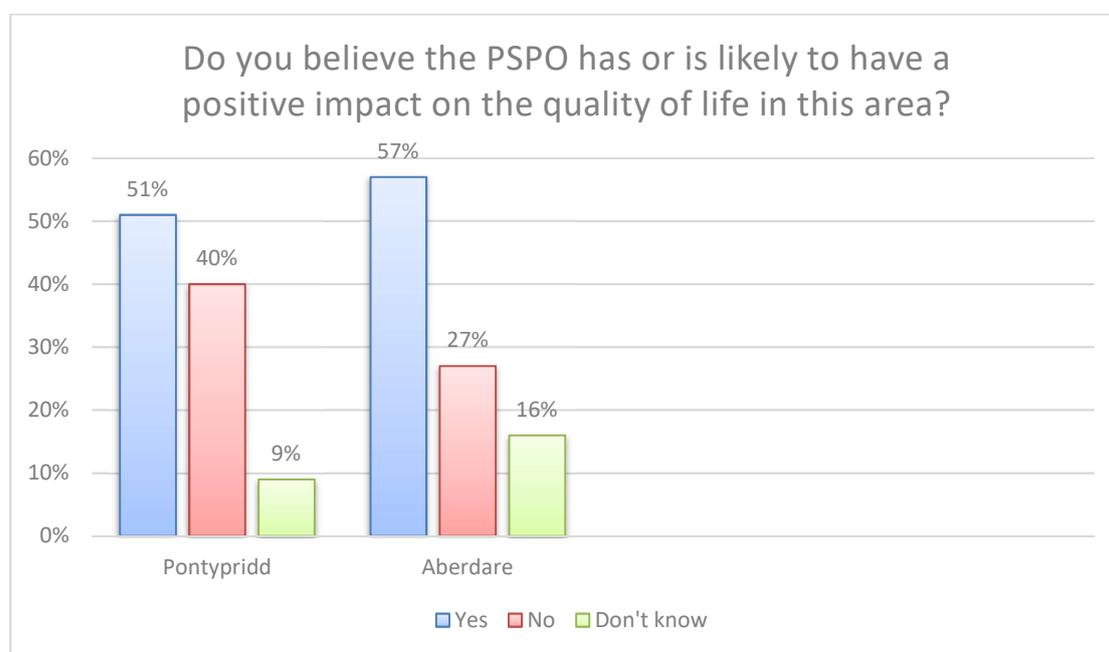


Figure 8

- 4.6 51% of respondents thought that it would have a positive impact in Pontypridd and 57% thought that it would have a positive impact in Aberdare.

78 responses were received, a selection of comments can be found below. For the list of full comments, please see Appendix 1.

Comments included:

“I fully agree with implementation of these orders”

“I have witnessed no changes in some individuals behaviour while I have worked in Pontypridd, I feel that some individuals believe they can carry on behaving this way in our town as there is no deterrent to stop them and they can continue to behave this way.”

“I see this pushing the issue of public drinking into more residential based areas where the impact / detriment could be higher. At least in a town centre there is a presence of policing there to prevent anti social behaviour. Does this order really target the root cause it’s intending to? Or just sweep the issue somewhere else.”

“I think the PSPO would have a positive impact on the quality of life in the areas concerned. It would be helpful to be able to access information regarding the impact since the PSPO was introduced eg. number of incidents when alcohol has been confiscated, number of fines issued. Feedback from police.”

“If patrolled properly and relevant fines given.”

“Needs to be brought In to other towns in rhondda cynon taff”

Note: All comments from all questions will be provided to Cabinet Members and Officers to inform the decision making process.

5 Engagement Events

OPAG

- 5.7 An Officer from the Community Safety Partnership team attended an online Older Person’s Advisory Group meeting via Microsoft Teams on 19th October 2021 where they spoke to the group about the PSPO consultation and provided members with information about how to undertake the PSPO survey.

Public Engagement

A series of Zoom Public Engagement Opportunities were arranged and advertised via Social Media, however, these events were subsequently cancelled due to a lack of interest from the public.

6 Key Stakeholder Responses

6.1 8 emails were received from key stakeholders including SWP Cynon Sector Local Policing Inspector, SWP Taff Sector Local Policing Inspector, SWP Superintendent for Communities and Partnerships, Vikki Howells MS representing the Cynon Valley, Pontypridd Town Council, Cllr Heledd Fychan MS representing Pontypridd Town Centre Ward, Hirwaun & Penderyn Community Council, Caerphilly County Borough Council)

6.4 3 responses were obtained from Officers of South Wales Police (SWP).

The SWP Superintendent for Communities and Partnerships stated that she lends her support to the extension of the current PSPO for a further 3 years and has suggested improvements that could be made to the enforcement opportunities currently available to the Police and Local Authority.

The SWP Taff Sector Local Policing Inspector fully supports the extension of the Exclusion Zones for a further 3 years.

The SWP Cynon Sector Local Policing Inspector has expressed firm support for the proposed 3 year extension of the Borough Wide Controlled Drinking Zone along with the classification of Aberdare Town Centre as an 'Intoxicating Substances Exclusion Zone'.

6.5 Vikki Howells MS representing the Cynon Valley agreed with the proposal and offered her full support to the extension of the PSPO in Aberdare Town Centre.

6.6 Pontypridd Town Council supports a Borough wide extension of the PSPO, however they had some reservations regarding the current enforcement processes and they have made suggestions for improvements that could be made if the PSPO is extended.

Members of Pontypridd Town Council also suggested an extension of the Intoxicating Substances (Including Alcohol) Zone to cover areas owned/maintained by the Town Council including Coedpenmaen Common, Berw Road Fields and Taff Meadow in Treforest.

6.6 Cllr. Heledd Fychan MS of Pontypridd Town ward, although in agreement with the extension of the PSPO expressed that she would like to see the Local Authority increasing their resourcing of the PSPO enforcement and an extension of the Intoxicating Substances (Including Alcohol) Zone into the neighbouring streets.

6.7 Cllr Brencher representing the Graig Ward fully supports the extension of the PSPO as a vital tool in the efforts to ensure that Pontypridd is a safe place for families. However, she has concerns about current reporting processes being challenging to use and has made a request to

widen the Pontypridd Exclusion Zone to include the Taff Vale Flats area in the prohibited area.

- 6.8 Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council have indicated that they agree to the extension of the PSPO in it's current form.
- 6.9 Caerphilly County Borough Council state that they have no objection to the extension of the PSPO for a further 3 years.
- 6.10 Overall, the stakeholders were in agreement with the proposals, with concerns raised by some as outlined above.

Note: Full Key Stakeholder responses will be provided to Cabinet Members and Officers to inform the decision making process.

Appendix 1**Q4 Do you see Alcohol Related ASB as a problem in your area?**

Alcohol related ASB
Aberdare Bus Station, Skatepark & under the bridge nearby, Robertstown bridge, Ynys fields,
Alcohol and substance misuse
All the time. It is a disgrace that so many groups of young teenagers hang around Pontypridd Bus Station, near Tesco express and other parts in gangs. Clearly drunk at times and some clearly on drugs (hard to notice notice cannabis). So many time idiots on bikes ride in the bus station with no regard for people waiting. I suspect the intimidating factor of these gangs deters people from visiting the town centre. I had an ex girlfriend who feel unsafe in Pontypridd and that is not right. Instead of a consultation just hurry up and sort the problem.
Always at 10am in morning
Always in ponty park and the train station
And also drugs.
And drug related Anti social behaviour!
Anti-social behaviour is an issue within the PSPO boundaries, in particular at The Ynys playing fields on weekends with teenagers drinking and damaging sporting facilities. There is also adults drinking throughout the day on the wall opposite Lloyds Bank throughout the week with no Police presence tackling this issue or enforcing the PSPO.
As someone who is resident and enjoys an evening at a pub myself, it's not the consumption of alcohol but the location. The public area is not the place to do it and I think it's intimidating and causes unnecessary poor feeling with in our community
Can be quite intimidating for residents when drunks are sat on benches around the town.
Congregating Mill Street behind Alfreds is not a good look for Pontypridd drinking alcohol or looking drug induced.
Constantly issues on lanpark road (where I live) and when shopping in the town centre. Particularly by mill street and the park.
Continually outside of Tesco express, on the benches opposite M&S, outside NatWest. Mostly all comes from that hostel down Mill St but there's loads of children too
Despite the PSPO in place there are still problem areas namely Mill Street, near Nat West Bank, back of St David's Uniting Church and also in the park
Drinking in the street, leaving pubs with bottles
Due to the current Public Houses 2200 hours restriction this is getting worse.have noticed youths gathering araound different supermarkets from where they have purchased the alcohol previously.

Embarrassing. Peeing,swearing,fighting. The list goes on ... x
Even more alarming is the obvious rise in people wandering around town under the influence of drugs and even openly taking and dealing in drugs on the streets. I have reported several incidences I have seen to pc sos and 101.
Even though the anti alcohol in the town centre was introduced many months ago I still see some people walking freely through Aberdare town centre drinking cans of alcohol. Under age drinking still continues within the bus station early evenings onwards and I never see any enforcement officers present to curb this behaviour
Every day.
Heavily drunk/drugged up individuals doing nothing but causing trouble.
I do not see alcohol related anti-social behaviour as a problem during the day time. However have witnessed on many occasion alcohol related anti social behaviour on weekend nights, particularly around the top of Pontypridd high street (near Weatherspoons, Skinny Dog etc).
I have lived in Pontypridd for 15 years, since January 2019 I have worked in one of the financial businesses in the area and I have seen this problem getting worse on a weekly basis, I have witnessed drug use, people passed out through either alcohol/ drugs and begging. I feel increasingly on edge when walking to and from work and have recently purchased an attack alarm as I have had individuals approach/ shout across to me, Many customers have spoke about how 'rough' they feel the town is getting and that while they are queuing with their monies to deposit in our branch that they do not feel safe! There are individuals constantly shouting/swearing as they are walking through the town as they are drunk /staggering, I do not believe fear is an experience that we should be having in our own town centre.
I have seen ASB previously but due to limiting my movements in the community due to Covid-19 I have not seen ASB recently.
I live in Ton Pentre and I visit Pontypridd town centre occasionally. I have not seen any alcohol related anti-social behaviour there.
I lived in the flats above pep and co and constantly experienced and witnessed people being drunk, fighting, screaming and arguing sloth of the time coming from the patriot or coming from the other side of Pontypridd. Your no alcohol zones are regularly being used as drinking spots especially the bus station. I have reported it in the past and nothing was done.
I often see people around Treforest drinking in the street. It looks terrible and causes antisocial behaviour like damage to property theres often vomit on the streets and groups of people congregate drunk outside shops...on Mill Street and near the Otley Arms and Vets in Treforest
I use pontypridd train station every day for work and most days theres people drinking on the station and is very unsettling i dread changing trains at pontypridd due to this and also people who are on drugs hang around the station which is also upsetting.

In the evening at the bus station, the Ynys car park and during the day in the town near BM store
It is a problem everywhere. People lose senses when drunk, alcoholic drinks are stronger these days
Just drugs
Library square and surrounding car parks are an issue, police ignore and drive past.
Lots of people hanging around the town centre and bus station late at night drinking and taking drugs. Not a nice thing to see for us or our children
No more than any other town. I personally dont understand why places like the Market Tavern in Market Street Aberdare, cant have an outside barriered drinking area after 6pm Mon to Saturday and after 4pm on a Sunday. It wouldn't attract anti social behaviour. Or even be allowed to use the Market st car park aftthe side of the market. This could be used all day then.
Now seeing an increase in drinking at Barry Sidings, on community footpath, is it overspill from town park not sure?
Often see groups of intoxicated people on the seats outside B&M and on the seating opposite Lloyds Bank.cThis is often very intimidating especially during the day. Do not go to town in the evenings don't feel safe.
Particularly in the area around Player's bar at the top of Taff St. The man who owns that has been running bars/pubs for years and each time, his establishments turn into a breeding ground for anti social behaviour and drugs. I fail to understand why the council continue to allow him to own establishments in Pontypridd.
People can be a bit loud after having a drink but I don't see it as a problem. There are people who will spoil it but don't punish the entire town for a small number of people making a fool of themselves. Just pick them up fine them and be done with it.
People drinking alcohol in benches by Shepard's pharmacy frequently
People drinking on the streets(and drugs)
People in the town centre drunk or on drugs makes an uncomfortable shopping experience
Please extend this restriction to Treforest
Pontypridd park and Mill street areas especially outside homeless shelter where have witnessed drug taking and dealing.
Quite alot of under age drinking in our local parks. Bottles and cans left everywhere sometimes the bottles are broken.
Regularly in the skate park. I have witnessed gangs of up to 100 there drinking, smoking blow and taking gas.
Repeatedly seen alcohol being drunk on the streets of Aberdare and in the area of the library.
Should ban it throughout RCT. I will not go through main st of mountain ash alone after dark.

<p>Still happening although there is a noticeable improvement in Pontypridd town centre. The culprits have moved outside of town, car park by Lidl's for example drink there then come back into town tanked up</p>
<p>Still individuals in the town centre are often visible drinking alcohol</p>
<p>Taff street Pontypridd at all hours anti social behaviour ,drink and drug related issues clean it up it's disgusting.</p>
<p>The issues with alcohol related anti social behaviour are minimal</p>
<p>The only problem is the congregation of drug takers and serious alcoholics near Burtons . There are always people using the seats in that area outside the chemist and they can be intimidating</p>
<p>There are still groups of young people hanging around aberdare and Pontypridd bus station in the evening. Often drinking and smoking. Intimidating passengers waiting for their bus. Also there has been a rise in day drinkers causing a nuisance in the bus station. This is generally the alcoholics.</p>
<p>There are still people drinking alcohol in areas of Aberdare. Now they can't sit in the town centre they are sitting by the river behind the library and on the wall on the pavement leading to the Gadlys Pit car park.</p>
<p>There are too many incidents of alcohol being consumed in and around Pontypridd Town Centre</p>
<p>There are usually a number of people sat on the benches near Burton's menswear drinking, I appreciate that the amount of people doing this has declined since the new rule was put in place but it still happens .</p>
<p>There is still people hanging around usually under 18s drinking in bus station or side streets</p>
<p>There is widespread drinking on the streets. Some of the pubs in town take no responsibility for drunken behaviour of customers. My sister is regularly intimidated by drinkers at the pub on her street.</p>
<p>There is a wider community problem with drinking spots. Drinkers congregate in the evening on the footpath between Tesco Upper Boat and Maesyfelin intimidating female shoppers for example.</p>
<p>There's so much alcohol related ASB in the Graig...any day of the week but particularly Friday Saturday and Sunday nights. It makes me not want to leave my house after dark, which in the winter limits me massively as I don't drive and walk everywhere</p>
<p>They seem to "afraid" to confront the ones actually causing problems. Pcso's and enforcement officers target people causing minor inconvenience (or even in my experience making accusations and threats where no crime has happened i.e. littering) rather than tackle the ones causing the problem. As they are more confrontational.</p>
<p>Two males drinking on the new seats on the new bridge in to the park. One of them stood up and urinated over the side of the bridge. Young people drinking in the bus station. Male urinating under the bridge by the bus station. Male under the influence sitting under the bridge by the bus station. All separate incidents in the last few weeks.</p>

Very bad. Drink and drugs is an ongoing issue. Embarrassing when I take the children.
We seem to have a growing problem regarding anti social behaviour in our town and park, whether by drink or drugs. It is very unsettling for elderly and mothers and grandparents with young children. The swearing and abuse between one and another is disgusting. Apart from sitting in a controlled environment I really don't think drink should be allowed in town or parks.
With covid restrictions in place there is no. But before covid the only time u did see it was from the local druggies and homeless people of the cynon valley in the day time. The evenings seemed to be quite unless some people went on a day session instead (which is going to be more specific to the times we are currently in). All the 2 town centers listed don't have the culture like cardiff bay where drinks in front of the pubs in seating areas push for a quite 1 or 2. Aberdare has the culture get pissed as fast as u can before stop tap
Yes on the cricket field in Treorchy
Young people around skate park on weekends from late afternoon. Alcohol and drug problem, is really awful. Lots of anti social and intimidating behaviour. Is a real shame.
Young people gathering in the town, Ynys and other areas
Youths congregate in the bus station, tesco car park and under the arch in the middle car park (opp Wetherspoons) on a regular basis. People are still seen drinking cans on weekends outside B&M and the library. Granted this has reduced since the social distancing measures have come in. People outside pubs smoking and urinating on public footpath, smoking areas should be at the rear of the premises.

Q5 Are you aware that there is a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in place within Pontypridd and Aberdare Town Centres?

Awareness of PSPO
And it's thanks to this order that street drinking and anti social behaviour has decreased.
Are the offenders aware though. Haven't seen signs stating this but doesn't seem to be enforced.
But no one is enforcing it
Doesn't stop them.
Drinks in bags and pockets if these people are not allowed to drink how are they in such states
Even with these orders in place they are just ignored and not policed
However it does not make a difference. It is all lip service from the council. If RCT took the matter serious they would be no gangs of underage drinking going on. As above sort the issue out rather than using consultation to delay doing your jobs.

However it doesn't seem to be enforced strictly.
I am aware but it is not getting enforced. I have been in regular contact with the police cllr forey and Vicki howells but nothing is happening. I have been promised a meeting with Jordan Kelly but they never take place
I believe it should be common sense but I was not aware it was a law
I didn't know until coming across this consultation, largely because I do not spend my time day drinking in Ponty park (or at all actually).
I don't think it is being properly monitored. I often see police cars outside the building at the end of Mill Street but the people living there still make a nuisance of themselves by drinking outside and in the doorway of the Celtic club.
I have witnessed people drinking while stood around our financial area, from orange juice cartons, large pop bottles, I have also seen people drinking from spirit bottles!
I recall this was in place but honestly thought the time had lapsed and not renewed, you would never think this order was still in place if you walked through the town day or night.
I think perhaps this a good thing because children are easily influenced by what they see.
I wasn't aware of PSPO until I came across this survey on RCT website.
I've lived here for 6 years and only now I'm aware of it and I think it's ridiculous.
If this is in place as the questionnaire states, this isn't really sign posted or displayed prominently.
Ignored by residents however
Im aware of the order but it isnt working i travel to and from cardiff and pomtypridd station is by far the worst for drinking and drugs i have ever seen.
In name only, basically as someone who works in Pontypridd I see it nearly every lunchtime and it appears that it's ignored by everyone, including authorities.
It doesn't work. There isn't enough police presence to enforce it.
It is non effective in its current form in Aberdare !
It really doesn't seem to make a difference to the level of street drinking witnesses in the town centre.
It's not being challenged or enforced.
No signs are on displayed , make it a offence to drink in public in the Pontypridd area not just the park ,bus stops ,train station
Nobody about to enforce the order.If you approach the offenders all you get is abuse.
Nobody to enforce it though.
Not aware of it being policed
Not being enforced strongly enough.
Not being policed
Not enforced. Absolute wast of time.
Not made much difference

Once again the councils knee jerk reaction is to blanketedly stop everyone from drinking in a public place because it is the easier option instead of targeting those responsible for any antisocial behaviour
The entire main shopping area.
There has been an improvement since lockdown because the benches are covered
Where's the signage? Where's the enforcement? Not seen any evidence of alcohol free zones in Ponty at all.
yes but they are not enforced
Yes but who enforces it!!
Yes I had read about it previously but this survey has reminded me of it.
Yes, but do not see this enforced at the areas stated above. The PSPO is a great idea, but pointless if its not enforced.
Yes, I have seen it breached almost daily. I have NEVER seen it enforced. Even after reporting it my self.

Q6 Have you seen a decrease in the levels of alcohol related anti social behaviour in the area?

Have you seen a decrease in the levels?
Alfreds car park still a regular meeting place for people drinking alcohol or look as if they've been taking drugs.
All it has done is to push the anti social behaviour away from the town and into the surrounding streets and alleyways. Particularly St catherines church
Although there are still some who drink in the town centre there are now fewer people who do, although I'm unsure if that is because of the order or due to the current covid restrictions.
Due to lockdown
Exactly the same
Getting worse
Getting worse
Haven't been into Pontypridd town centre since flooding.
I am hoping some more police patrols / enforcement can be in Pontypridd as my concern is that the anti social behaviour will increase even more.
I have but it may be due to Covid-19 regulations and restrictions.

I have not seen a change myself, however due to lockdown have spent much less time than usual in the areas where this would most probably be most pertinent. I would ordinarily spend time playing tennis using the courts at Ponty park during the summer months - I haven't this summer. However, there were many occasions last summer where groups of people were intoxicated and being a general nuisance. Even though they were drinking alcohol, they were taking drugs (I know this for fact because they kept shouting at each other about it) so the issue was heightened due to the mixture of the two. I expect drugs are a bigger part to play due to the unpredictable effects.

I have not witnessed much of a reduction in these areas with nobody enforcing the PSPO. I witness people drinking daily in Aberdare Town Centre going unchallenged. I also believe that the social housing programme within the Town Centre will not help this situation. The Boot Hotel, Natwest Bank, Black Lion Hotel, Palladium, Little Theatre, opposite Lynx hairdressers and the old Council Office in Griffith Street is bringing undesirable residents into the Town Centre. A rethink of this approach is required by the local Housing Associations and Council. We are slowly turning Aberdare Town Centre into a 'social housing estate' which was the failed strategy post World War 2 up to the 60/70s. These Estates struggled with high levels of poverty, anti social behaviour, low aspiration and neglect for decades and it has taken many years to slowly improve the reputations of such estates. The same mistake is being made within Aberdare Town Centre all over again.

I'm unsure whether the use of alcohol has reduced but the use of drugs in public places is definitely increasing

If anything I have seen an increase in antisocial behaviour as they actually get a sense of security and feel invincible

Increased due to non enforcement.

It hasn't worked as they just drink outside the prohibited area. Plus stopping drinking of alcohol in the streets doesn't make up for the lack of support needed for those who often are the ones drinking in public. It has been used more as a scapegoat to punish the less fortunate especially the homeless.

It is still happening at present, the council staff patrolling the streets see easier targets with people parking and would rather avoid confrontations with the people drinking

No one seems to care

Not prior to covid

Nothing changes drunks and drugged ruin the towns.

Only since the coronavirus social distancing and other restrictions.

Personally I think further measures are needed to restore the town back to a safe environment for the general public to use ,as a resident of Pontypridd for the last 45 years I have never seen it this bad ,homeless begging, drunks on benches, drug use in public places ,PSPO is all well and good ,but additional measures are needed to reclaim our town for our local people and the future of small business in our area to succeed going forward.

See comment above.
Seeing an increase in my end of town
Worse now than ever. See more women and couples behaving in a very vulgar manner.

Q7 Do you believe that the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) has or is likely to have a positive impact on the quality of life in the area?

Positive difference in quality of life
Are people taking notice of it? I think probably not, unless you have people patrolling constantly to make sure it is adhered to. I have seen no evidence of this.
As I said previously you are penalising the majority for the actions of the minority
As it isn't enforced
As long as areas are patrolled and enforcement used where it is not complied with
Drugs. Sort that out. Sick of walking past heroin needles not just the Stella cans and getting broken bottles stuck in my shoes.
especially on weekends there are plenty of officers on the street and numerous people already intoxicated are still drinking on the streets.
Hopefully as long as it is enforced
However they move to Treforest
I fully agree with implementation of these orders
I have seen or heard anything about it and the drunks are still causing issues. But covid has made a massive difference and improved the situation.
I have witnessed no changes in some individuals' behaviour while I have worked in Pontypridd, I feel that some individuals believe they can carry on behaving this way in our town as there is no deterrent to stop them and they can continue to behave this way.
I see this pushing the issue of public drinking into more residential based areas where the impact / detriment could be higher. At least in a town centre there is a presence of policing there to prevent anti-social behaviour. Does this order really target the root cause it's intending to? Or just sweep the issue somewhere else.
I think it's just going to enforce the beliefs of the residents that the council would rather waste time on silly things like this rather than face some of the bigger issues hitting the town.
I think public transport should be alcohol free as well
I think the PSPO would have a positive impact on the quality of life in the areas concerned. It would be helpful to be able to access information regarding the impact since the PSPO was introduced e.g. number of incidents when alcohol has been confiscated, number of fines issued. Feedback from police.

I Would hope so if there was no ban it would be even worse.
I would say no. I am unclear how this provides an additional deterrent to civil penalties available for antisocial behaviour. I would feel safer knowing that action would be taken against someone causing antisocial behaviour than possibly them just having alcohol removed from person. Additionally, particularly during lockdown I would like to think that families/friends could enjoy a socially distance picnic or the like with an alcoholic beverage or two (enjoyed sensibly!) without being prohibited from doing so or without being fearful of receiving a fine for simply enjoying a drink on a nice day. I do appreciate that these are not really the people the order has been introduced for but of course they would/could be impacted. Generally, it's often the same people/group causing the same sorts of issues and nuisances. The local police and/or patrolling pcsos will often know them quite well. More action should be taken to remedy the behaviour. For example, more readily apply penalties for antisocial behaviour itself. It's quite easy for these people to just pop to Tesco and buy some more alcohol.
If actually actioned/policed and those responsible punished
If applied consistently and enough enforcement officers are on the streets
If consistently enforced
If enforced I believe the PSPO is likely to have a positive impact, but that task is getting more difficult with the Housing Strategy within Aberdare Town Centre attracting people who are not working to live in the town centre, who are then more likely to drink and take drugs around the town in the day. With a limited Police presence within the Town Centre this will be a pointless strategy. I have lived in Aberdare for 40+ years and have worked in the Town Centre for the last 8 years and witness the issue every day. I have seen a decline in the Town Centre within the last 2/3 years. PSPO needs enforcing. Much broader thinking required though around the housing strategy within the Town.
If it is enforced yes
If patrolled properly and relevant fines given.
If policed properly
If there is an effort for it to be enforced
It doesn't seem to be enforced or the staff levels are not sufficient to enforce it.
It is ignored and not enough community officers present to enforce it. No security or community officers in the park.
It is never enforced-same as parking on pavements in Graigwen area - never enforced - they do what they want.
It might do if it was actually enforced and better publicised.
It should do if they were enforced
It should do, but needs to be better enforced
It should do, I certainly hope it will continue. It is not a good advert for our town for visitors to see people under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

<p>Much of the anti social behaviour is either people coming out of pubs, fighting and shouting or is drugs related, preventing people having picnics in the park with a glass of wine has not stopped it being full of drug addicts. I think rct need to reprioritise and tackle the people openly taking drugs in the area. I just don't think having alcohol free areas has any meaningful impact, people still leave the pubs and walk up the Graig from the pubs singing and kicking bins and doors and fighting at closing time etc. It's still unpleasant in the town centre at the weekend with drunk people falling out of pubs, a rethink is needed</p>
<p>Needs to be brought In to other towns in rhondda cynon taff</p>
<p>Needs to be enforced, homeless shelter on mill street attracts people who are using drugs and alcohol freely in public outside the shelter and in the adjacent subway, intimidating behaviour and it's never enforced.</p>
<p>No because the council and local authorities do little to combat the problem and turn a blind eye to gangs in the town centre.</p>
<p>Nobody to enforce the order.</p>
<p>Not unless the police enforce it.</p>
<p>Only if enforced</p>
<p>Only if enforced by CEOs or PCSOs.</p>
<p>People feel much safer around the down centre.</p>
<p>People would be happier to shop locally which will benefit the local economy.</p>
<p>Should cover all public spaces not just the town centre. I see so much drinking on street corners and local playing fields taking place where people ACTUALLY live, and not just in the town centre. The law should cover all outside spaces, unless it's private property, ie gardens etc</p>
<p>Situation needs to be addressed regarding this anti social behaviour.</p>
<p>So difficult to police and in Britain, poor behaviour due to alcohol is imbedded in certain types of people. And also needles and gas canisters being thrown on the streets and not just in the area mentioned.</p>
<p>Still too many drug addicts and alcoholics.</p>
<p>The target group do not care. It doesn't stop drinking in the town centre particularly bus station</p>
<p>The use of effects of alcohol needs to be better understood by the people who consume it. Via a educational talk or videos to the public and show how they are while under the influence of alcohol. This may give the culture shock required to get people to change</p>
<p>There are people who enjoy going to the park with a picnic and enjoy an alcoholic drink with it and this causes no problem. The issue is the druggies and people coming into Pontypridd from other areas spoiling it for the minority...therefore having a negative impact. Maybe you should just ban the problem people from town</p>
<p>Think I've said my bit ,action is needed</p>

This would work if people were aware and it was monitored/enforced. I don't think the police have the resources to monitor or enforce this in the towns, it would need LA enforcement. The police are already stretched in more serious crimes.

Though it may have moved the sight of people drinking in public away from the centre it hasn't addressed the underlying issues that have caused a rise in antisocial behaviour in the town centre

Yes but the area needs to be widened

Yes definitely if the order worked and policed but its not as i see it every day.

Yes if it is enforced

Yes if it's policed and should apply to all public parks in county

Yes, but only if it is regularly enforced.