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Wednesday, 9th April 2021

Dear Laura,

I am writing concerning the extension of the PSPO in Aberdare Town Centre.

Prior to the PSPO in the town centre there was a significant and longstanding problem with a group of individuals drinking throughout the day on benches outside Shepherd's Pharmacy, and on the steps at Crown Buildings car park.

Since being elected as Member of the Senedd (formally Assembly Member) for Cynon Valley in May 2016, constituents regularly raised their concerns with me and this was also a problem which was visible to myself and my staff team on a daily basis. The PSPO has been very successful both as a deterrent and in giving the police the powers they need to tackle such drinking if it occurs.

Recent anecdotal evidence shows an increase in ASB particularly amongst youth in Aberdare Town Centre, and Aberdare Bus Station. Older people tell me that they have an increased feeling of vulnerability in these areas. Despite this, drinking in the town centre has not been a problem since the introduction of the PSPO and therefore it is vital that the PSPO is extended in order to prevent a return to those previous problems and allow the police to focus on other forms of ASB.

My recommendations with regards to improvements would be that the number Anti-Social Behaviour Orders are made public. This, in turn would ensure transparency and offer residents some form of confidence that PSPO's are working and achieving the desired outcome.

I therefore, give my full support to the PSPO being extended in Aberdare Town Centre.

Kind regards,



Vikki Howells MS
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