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14th June 2021

Dear Laura,

Thank you for your recent email regarding the Intoxicating Substances PSPO review.

The Town Council met recently to discuss this matter and a wide ranging and constructive discussion took place. As you would expect several views were expressed and Town Councillors have instructed me to respond to the specific questions in the consultation as follows:

Name

Pontypridd Town Council

Are we aware of the PSPO and that RCT is a 'controlled drinking zone' and specific areas (including Pontypridd Town) are 'Intoxicating Substances Exclusion Zones'?

Yes, Town Councillors (some of whom are also County Councillors) were aware of these zones.

Does the Town Council support the extension of the borough wide 'controlled drinking zone' for a further 3 years?

Yes, the Town Council supports a borough wide zone extension subject to the comments below.

Does the Town Council support the extension of the ‘Exclusion Zone’ in Pontypridd for a further 3 years?

Yes, the Town Council does support the extensions in the above questions but with reservations and comments set out below.

In your opinion what elements of the current PSPO work?

The Town Council welcomes the extension of the PSPO but have concerns that it is not adequately enforced. This in turn leads to frustrations amongst members of the public, local councillors, local businesses and indeed the police themselves.

Having the PSPO in place sets an expectation as to the type of safe and welcoming community that we wish to cultivate in Pontypridd Town Centre. This is to be welcomed. However, if there is limited enforcement then this means the PSPO is a meaningless exercise and those expectations are not met.

Are there any improvements the Town Council would suggest for consideration if the PSPO is extended for a further 3 years?

The Town Council would make the following points in the strongest terms:

1. There must be an improvement to enforcement if the PSPO is continued.
2. The Town Council would like the area covered by the PSPO in Pontypridd to be extended to cover areas owned/maintained by the Town Council to be included (i.e. Coedpenmaen Common is a problem area; Berw Road Fields and Taff Meadow in Treforest).
3. There should be a renewed information campaign to raise awareness that these areas are alcohol free; members of the public should be reminded and empowered to report any breaches.
4. There should be a review of all agencies working in/around Pontypridd Town Centre as it is felt one of the primary reasons for these breaches is individuals visiting these premises and being allowed to drink/smoke etc.
5. There should be regular meetings with local representatives, Town Councillors, Police and RCT Cabinet Members to review the effectiveness of the PSPO. There is little point in the Order if no enforcement takes place or local members are not informed and consulted on a regular basis.

Include any figures/anecdotal evidence that the Town Council has obtained in relation to the PSPO

There is concern that enforcement of the PSPO will focus on the wrong individuals (e.g. families enjoying a glass of wine in the park rather than those carrying cans and drinking on Taff/Mill St).

Several Town Councillors have seen individuals openly carrying cans in the town centre despite the PSPO. This is unacceptable but these individuals clearly feel immune from being challenged for breaching the Order. If there is no enforcement, why should they worry?

A Town Councillor has been informed that there is no anti-social behaviour in the town. The number of recent incidents clearly disproves that assertion. A Town Councillor has been present in meetings

with local police in which the evidence of offences and ASB in the Town Centre has been listed and discussed.

Kind Regards

A J Graham

Tony Graham

Chief Executive/Town Clerk