

Milly Southworth

From: Steve Rowell <Steve.Rowell@cornwall.gov.uk>
Sent: 17 December 2025 15:12
Subject: Consultation PSPO Renewal (Alcohol Consumption in Public Places) 2026
Attachments: PSPO 2026 TPC Councils.docx; PSPO-Alcohol-26.10.23 (1) full order.pdf; Frequently Asked Questions PSPO Alcohol.docx

Information Classification: CONTROLLED

Dear Clerk to the Council.

Please find attached some information regarding the consultation period to consider the proposed renewal with any suggested amendments for the County Wide Public Space Protection Order (Alcohol Consumption in Public Places 2026).

Suggestions for inclusion of newly identified local problematic public spaces or the removal of previous problematic public spaces from the existing order can be recorded by completing the online consultation questionnaire

- <https://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/pspo2026>

The consultation period expires on 27th February 2026.

Attached to this email is the existing order which defines all the current public places where this PSPO applies and some Frequently asked questions.

Both the FAQ and the full order are also available via the above consultation feedback link.

Should any Clerk wish to discuss anything specific on behalf of Council regarding this order, please email me direct.

Kind regards

Steve

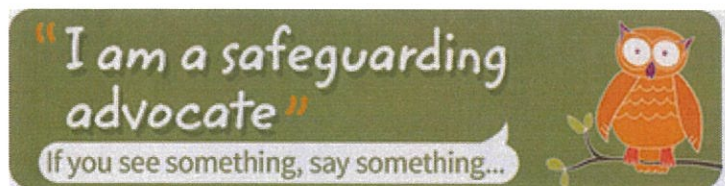
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City, Town and Parish Councils
Cornwall

Your ref:

My ref: PSPO/2026 CC/SR

Date: 15th December 2025

Dear City/Town/Parish Council,

Cornwall Council Public Spaces Protection Order (Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Spaces): Renewal of the current order for June 2026.

Cornwall Council would like your views on the proposed renewal of the county-wide Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) prohibiting street drinking associated with Anti-Social behaviour.

Whilst the current PSPO expires on 1st October 2026, we are seeking to renew it for 3 years from June 2026, ahead of the summer period. The PSPO gives the police and authorised Officers of the Council powers to confiscate alcohol from a minority of drinkers whose excessive drinking causes problems for others in public spaces.

The county-wide Designated Public Place Order (DPPO) was first introduced in 2010. The purpose of the DPPO was to ensure that the consumption of alcohol in a public place did not cause disorder, nuisance or annoyance to members of the Public.

The 2014 Act automatically transitioned the existing DPPO into a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) on 20th October 2017, and this is required to be reviewed every three years.

Background

The PSPO is designed to ensure the law-abiding majority can use and enjoy public spaces without experiencing Anti-Social behaviour. These powers are not intended to disrupt peaceful activities and are used explicitly for addressing nuisance or annoyance associated with the consumption of alcohol in a public place. It is not a criminal offence to consume alcohol within a designated area. An offence is only committed if the individual refuses to comply with an authorised officer's request to stop drinking.

A PSPO cannot be used to restrict the consumption of alcohol where premises are licensed for the supply of alcohol as licensing law already includes safeguards against premises becoming associated with nuisance and Anti-Social behaviour.

The current Order is effective across all locations to which the public have access across the county as per the attached (Annexe 1).

Alcohol related Anti-Social behaviour can quickly escalate and have a significant and lasting impact upon communities. Whilst most residents, visitors or people living and working in the county drink socially and behave responsibly, their right to enjoyment of our public spaces can be threatened by those who behave in Anti-Social manner. The PSPO will allow Police and authorised officers to ask individuals to stop drinking and have their alcoholic drinks confiscated, if they are deemed to be acting antisocially.

It is an offence to fail to comply with a request to stop drinking or surrender alcohol including any opened or sealed containers in the area covered by the PSPO.

What about street parties and events in parks?

Events within a public place authorised by a premises license or a Temporary Event Notice (TEN) will be excluded from the Police and authorised council officers PSPO powers.

We are writing to you to seek your views regarding the current Public Spaces Protection Order (Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Spaces) as we know that local Councils know the issues that affect their localities the most and are well placed to identify how best to respond to local needs.

Cornwall Council would like you to consider the attached order and share any comments that you may have with regard to the existing coverage of PSPO, any removal of identified locations or the addition of new locations based on community intelligence linked with Ant-Social behaviour.

Your views are important to us and can be recorded by completing the online consultation questionnaire - <https://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/pspo2026>

The closing date for responses is **27th February 2026**.

Cornwall Council are proposing to ***“Renew the PSPO under the existing terms”***

Proposals are still at a formative stage (a final decision has not yet been made). Cornwall Council believes the proposals provide enough information for informed consideration and that there is sufficient time for consultation and review. All responses will be carefully considered before any decision is made. If you need more information or wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Steve Rowell
Preventing Extremism & Terrorism Lead Cornwall & Isles of Scilly

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Frequently Asked Questions (PSPO – Alcohol Consumption in Public Spaces)

Why is a PSPO to tackle antisocial behaviour related to street drinking required?

The PSPO is designed to ensure the law-abiding majority can use and enjoy public spaces without experiencing anti-social behaviour. These powers are not intended to disrupt peaceful activities and are used explicitly for addressing nuisance or annoyance associated with the consumption of alcohol in a public place. It is not a criminal offence to consume alcohol within a designated area. An offence is only committed if the individual refuses to comply with an authorised officer's request to stop drinking.

A PSPO cannot be used to restrict the consumption of alcohol where premises are licensed for the supply of alcohol as licensing law already includes safeguards against premises becoming associated with nuisance and anti-social behaviour.

The current Order is effective across all land to which the public have access as identified within the current order.

Alcohol related anti-social behaviour can quickly escalate and have a significant and lasting impact upon communities. Whilst most residents, visitors or people living and working in the county drink socially and behave responsibly, their right to enjoyment of our public spaces can be threatened by those who behave in anti-social manner,

The PSPO allows Police and authorised Council officers to ask individuals to stop drinking and have their alcoholic drinks confiscated, if they are deemed to be acting antisocially. It is an offence to fail to comply with a request to stop drinking or surrender alcohol including any opened or sealed containers in the area covered by the PSPO.

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How long has the current PSPO been in place?

The County wide DPPO, now a PSPO, went live in 2012. The aim of this was to reduce the amount of anti-social street drinking occurring within Cornwall and therefore lowering the number of residents' complaints. Its aim was to ensure our public spaces are safe, improving the quality of life for residents and visitors.

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Can I be stopped or arrested for carrying alcohol in public spaces?

A PSPO does not make it illegal to carry alcohol or to drink alcohol in a public place; as long as drinking is done responsibly. A PSPO will only be used to tackle alcohol related anti-social behaviour or disorder. Under these circumstances police will have the power to stop people drinking alcohol and seize or confiscate alcohol within the controlled area.

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Would people still be able to drink or hold alcohol bottles outside pubs?

Yes. The PSPO does not make it illegal to drink alcohol in a public place. However, if a person was to drink beyond the legal boundary of licensed premises and they do not stop

drinking if asked to do so by an officer authorised by the local authority, police officer or police community support officer, then they could be at risk of regulation.

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What about street parties and events in parks?

Events within a public place authorised by a premises license or a Temporary Event Notice (TEN) will be excluded from the Police and Authorised Council Officers PSPO powers.

A PSPO does not make it illegal to carry alcohol or to drink alcohol in a public place; as long as drinking is done responsibly, a PSPO will only be used to tackle alcohol related anti-social behaviour or disorder. Under these circumstances police will have the power to stop people drinking alcohol and seize or confiscate alcohol within the controlled area.

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How will the PSPO be enforced?

- Breach of a PSPO is a criminal offence subject to a fine up to a level three on prosecution (up to £1,000)
- A Fixed Penalty Notice can be issued for £100 for failing to comply with an officer's request to stop drinking or hand over the alcohol
- Payment of the Fixed Penalty Notice discharges liability to conviction for the offence
- The Police will work in partnership with the council to ensure the effective enforcement of the PSPO.

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Does the PSPO ban drinking alcohol in public spaces?

It is NOT an offence to consume alcohol within the PSPO identified areas however; a Constable or Authorised Person can require a person to stop consuming what they believe to be alcohol and require that person to surrender any alcohol or container they believe contains alcohol. The Person must be informed that failure to comply with the Officers requirement is an offence. A Constable or Authorised Person may dispose of the contents in whatever way they think appropriate.

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Where can I report non-urgent crime?

- Use the non-urgent online crime reporting service on the [Devon and Cornwall Police website\(External link\)](#)
- Ring 101 or text/SMS 67101
- Minicom/Textphone 18001 101
- ASB incidents should be reported to Devon and Cornwall Police by calling 101 or using the online reporting form [Here\(External link\)](#)

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Where can I get support for drugs and alcohol?



“We are with you” support adults, children, young adults and older people to make positive behavioural changes. Whether that’s with alcohol, drugs, or mental health and wellbeing, we’re here to help people improve their lives in ways they never thought possible.

Call 0333 2000 325

Online www.wearewithyou.org.uk(External link)

YZUP (young people) www.wearewithyou.org.uk/services/cornwall-for-young-people/(External link)
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Where can I get help and support for domestic abuse or sexual violence?



Safer Futures provides support, safety planning, advice, therapy and recovery in domestic abuse and sexual violence. We can help if you have experienced sexual assault, abuse or rape and need support in your recovery. Services are provided to women, men, young people and children.

Call 0300 777 4777

Online www.saferfutures.org.uk(External link)

Email saferfutures@firstlight.org.uk(External link)
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What are the concerns and issues with street drinking/ drinking in public spaces?

Street drinking is sometimes associated with anti-social behaviour, causing high levels of noise, rowdy and nuisance behaviour, harassment and intimidation of passers-by, as well as the littering of cans and bottles and urination in public spaces.

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