

Summary of St Edmundsbury Borough Council consultation on Public Space Protection Orders

APPENDIX 1

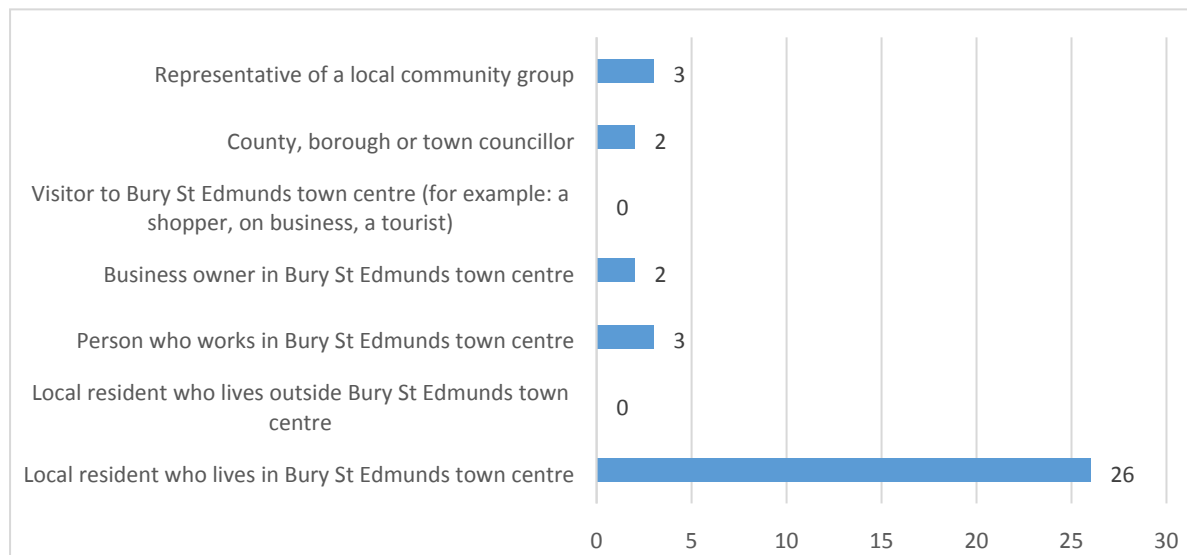
Summary

The survey received 33 responses in total. Out of the 33, two respondents were against the proposal to introduce the new conditions set out in question eight. One of the respondents felt that the proposals were unnecessary, as they argue that more serious issues, such as lack of sufficient resident parking, should take precedence. The other described the order as “well intentioned” but “poorly drafted”. The remaining 31 respondents were supportive of the conditions.

About the respondents

15 of the respondents were male and 16 female. Two respondents did not answer this question.

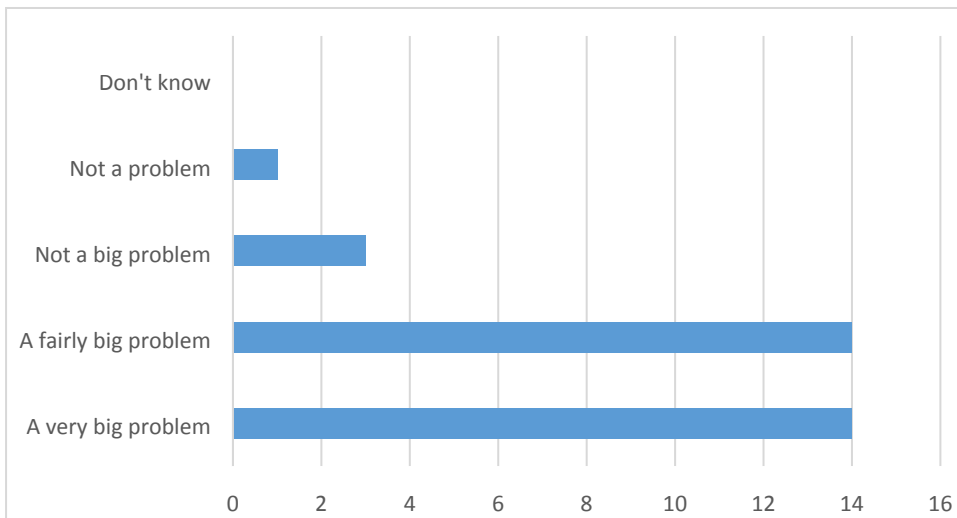
Most of the respondents (26) are local residents who live in Bury St Edmunds town centre.



None of the respondents selected 'other'.

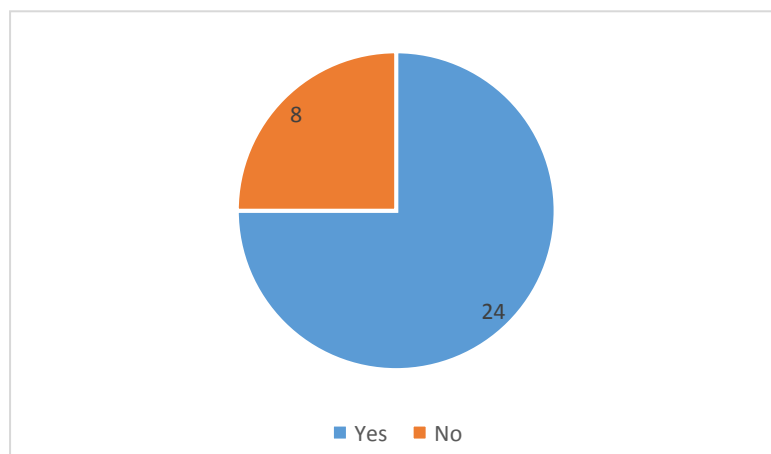
Q4. How much of a problem do you think there is with anti-social behaviour caused by the congregation of vehicles in Bury St Edmunds town centre?

14 respondents said it is a very big problem and 14 said it is a fairly big problem. Only one respondent said it was not a problem:



Q5. Have you been affected by anti-social behaviour caused by the congregation of vehicles in Bury St Edmunds town centre?

24 respondents said they had been affected and eight said they had not been affected.



Q6. If yes, please provide further details

All of the 26 respondents who answered 'yes' to question five provided further details.

The responses mainly focussed on the impact of noise associated with the vehicles and drivers (for example, loud music playing from cars, revving engines in low gears, tooting horns and drivers shouting) and how this disturbs their evenings and sleep:

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"Cars with loud exhausts, racing, revving and hooting late at night and into the early hours in the Arc car park. Loud enough to be heard indoors and disturb sleep."

"The noise is so loud that if watching TV it necessitates turning up the volume."

"The excessive noise caused by the "boy racers" is very intrusive and disturbing, whether we are inside or outside our house, especially later in the evening and at night."

"We are often awakened or kept awake by loud behaviour in the Cattlemarket car park and on Parkway late at night. Revving engines, honking horns, foul language and yelling, and vehicle racing are common occurrences especially during warmer months."

"I work full time and it is hard to get back to sleep especially when you hear threats being made to other people right outside your door and street."

Respondents also focussed on how the behaviour of drivers and their peers left some feeling unsafe and intimidated:

"...there is a duty of care on the part of the owners of the car park and the Council to ensure that the car park is free from a threatening feeling and safe to use."

"Myself and two daughters find this to be intimidating and annoying..."

Others were concerned that the behaviour of the drivers may result in a serious injury:

"...sooner or later this behaviour will result in death or serious injury, quite possibly to an innocent bystander."

"I have seen the boy (and girl) racers put people's lives at risk speeding up and down Parkway."

Seven respondents mentioned specific issues in the Arc car park, two mentioned Ram Meadow car park, one mentioned Friars Lane, one Parkway and two mentioned the Cattlemarket.

Q7. If no, please provide further details

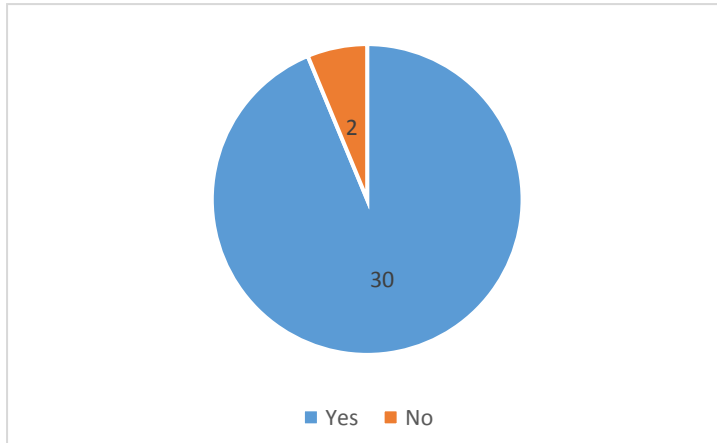
Of the eight that answered 'no' to question five, five respondents gave further details in question seven. Only one of the five respondents did not support introducing a PSPO:

"I have never experience (sic) the kind of behaviour referred to in the proposal. I doubt if there is space in the medieval grid to race cars. I do not think the powers should be widened as there is no need for them."

The remaining four said that although they had not been affected directly, they understand that it impacts others in the town and therefore support the proposal.

Q8. Do you think St Edmundsbury Borough Council should introduce a new condition as set out below...

Out of the 33 respondents, 30 supported the conditions and two did not. One respondent did not answer the question.



Q9. If yes, please provide further details

Of the 30 that said 'yes' to question eight, 28 provided further details.

The majority of responses did not provide further details but rather referred to points made in question six and reiterated their support.

Particular comments were made regarding the proposals giving Bury St Edmunds residents peace and a concern that if it is not in place then there may be increased risk of criminal activity.

Considerations from respondents:

- One respondent felt that there needed to be assurance that taxi drivers and stallholders will still be able to function properly "without hinder".
- One respondent felt that Moreton Hall area should be included in the proposals, as it may lead to "risk of displacement from the town centre to Moreton Hall."
- One respondent was concerned that the council would not have support from the local police when implementing action.

Q10. If no, please provide further details

Both of the respondents who said they did not support the proposal set out in question eight gave reasons for their answer:

- *"It is completely unnecessary and there are much more serious issues to be solved such as the lack of sufficient residents parking spaces."*
- *"See above. The order, if it is needed at all, needs to be broadened to include any vehicle - not just two or more."*

Q11. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the proposals? For example, please tell us if you think the proposals will have a disproportionate impact on any particular groups of people.

20 respondents provided additional comments.

Only one respondent felt the proposal would have a disproportionate impact on particular groups of people:

"This will be seen as an attack on young drivers, despite the fact that there are pensioners driving Ferraris and Benleys creating as much noise and nuisance - but not usually in a group of two or more cars."

Three respondents felt that not implementing the conditions will have a negative impact on those living in the town, particularly older residents and those with mental health issues, due to the intimidating nature of those participating in this activity.

Three respondents felt that local business and tourism would be negatively impacted if the proposals are not implemented.

Three respondents felt that the proposals will only be effective if they are enforced.

One respondent used the survey to raise the issue of illegal parking:

The blatant illegal parking on such a frequent and grand scale is never dealt with. We would like to see some action on this matter if we can believe the proposal will be implemented.

The remaining respondents did not provide further comments, but reiterated their support.

**Corporate Policy
February 2019**