

Public Spaces Protection Order Variation Consultation - Banbury 2026

<https://cherwell.citizenspace.com/communications-strategy-and-insight/9fa4bd53>

Created: Monday 23 February 2026 at 14:16

The activity ran from 30/01/2026 to 20/02/2026

Responses to this survey: **16**

This activity was completed at the time of this report. Data, for the purpose of this summary, was divided into each of the questions, and will accurately reflect the correct distribution of responses vs analysis in this summary report.

Taking that the number of responses to this survey was: **16** (according to our survey system), also valid responses, please, see them explained below. The following analysis is based on the data received and the aspect of the question vs value or potential value, and alignment or not, if the case, with compliance of consultation principles, laws and regulations.

Please, take time to consider comments and suggestions integrated into this report, for better understanding.

1: Please tell us where you live

Please select one option

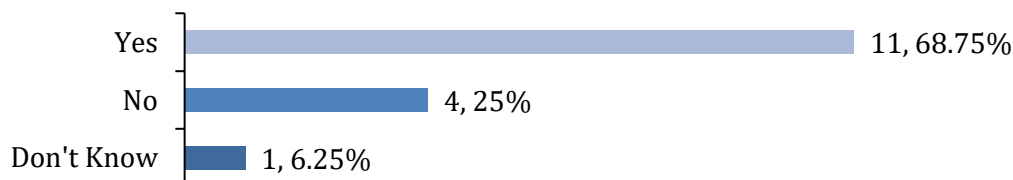


2: Cherwell District Council and Thames Valley Police are looking to add a variation to the current PSPO to reduce anti-social behaviour caused by groups. This includes them behaving in a way that causes or is likely to cause, alarm or distress or concern for safety to another person in a public place.

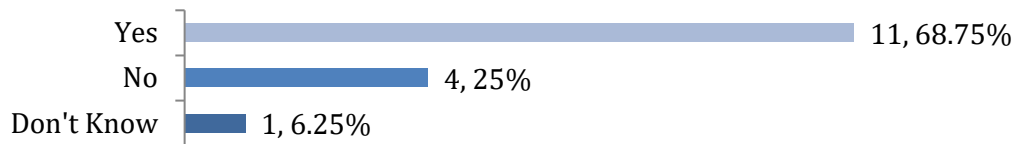
Please select one response for each question - In this area have you seen people behaving in a way that caused alarm or distress or concern for safety in the last 12 months?



Please select one response for each question - Have you been negatively affected by the issue in the last 12 months?



Please select one response for each question - Should CDC seek to add a variation to the current PSPO to deter ASB caused by groups including removing them from the area for 24 hours?



3: Do you have any further comments regarding the possible variation to the current Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO)?

Please be brief and to the point

Seeing begging/people getting drunk in groups becomes intimidating for anyone walking around in the town
Adding speculative variations to a PSPO could be regarded a misguided and confusing to the public.
There are already laws in place whereby if groups are causing alarm or distress to another person the police have such powers in which to act and these should be used under the law and by decriminalising them under a PSPO puts others at risk and could potentially just push the problem elsewhere.
It's clear that CDC have motive to move the problem out of Castle Quay rather than look to fund and provide a safe space for young people where they can come together and have funded activities which would prevent many of these issues and allow the authorities to build better relationships with young people, it's know intervention is a successful method to reducing crime and antisocial behaviour.
I am a mature female often walking home from work in the dark alone and I am intimidated by any group of three or more children or teenagers I come across as they often shout out insults or try and bump into me (at least I hope that is all they are trying to do). I will often take a longer route just to avoid walking near them.
Use a wider area of Banbury to include some Residential housing Estates
Seems like something to put in place when a situation occurs rather than preventing the situation from happening in the first place
N/a
The southern limit should be extended to St Johns Road to account for groups who gather on and around the bench outside St Johns Church
It seems like the focus is on the symptoms of a larger issue, and we should avoid criminalising youth as much as possible. We all have a social responsibility to our shared spaces and of course this includes the youth, but what we are witnessing is the result of continued cuts in funding of youth policies.
There is no point in having a public spaces protection order if there are not the police on the street to enforce it.
Police need to patrol round the town on foot. They need to respond to things they see not driving past. They need to integrate with people.
Its not nice to walk through town at anytime of the day anymore as there are quite often groups / gangs around who make you feel wary, especially when on your own.
It's shocking and is only going to get worse if not handled with.
More things inplace to make streets safer
I work in the town and groups of the same people are still hanging about. They can be intimidating and I've seen alcohol drinking and drug taking and dealing.

Addiction support and recovery should be prioritised over policing. Every pound not invested in getting people out of addiction later needs to be spent on support for their families.
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We should invest more into addition support and recovery than policing. Every pound not spent to get people out of addiction later has to go to support the families of those affected.

4: Further Comments

The open-ended feedback provided a range of views reflecting concerns about safety, enforcement, underlying causes of anti-social behaviour (ASB), and suggestions for wider community support. Key themes emerging from the comments include:

1. Concerns

- Many respondents described feeling intimidated by groups gathering in the town centre, particularly when alcohol or drug use was visible.
- Several noted increased worry when walking alone, especially at night, with some altering their routes to avoid groups.
- Concerns were raised that adding speculative variations to the PSPO may be confusing or could displace problems rather than resolve them.

2. Safety

- Multiple respondents highlighted that Banbury town centre “does not feel nice to walk through at any time of day,” citing behaviour from groups that causes fear or discomfort.
- Individuals expressed concern that the situation is “shocking” and is likely to worsen without intervention.
- Some suggested that the southern boundary of the PSPO should be extended to cover specific areas where groups frequently gather.

3. Issues Not Covered Elsewhere in the Survey

- Respondents raised the need for more visible policing, including officers patrolling on foot and actively engaging with residents.
- Comments emphasised that without adequate enforcement, the PSPO would have limited effect.
- Others mentioned specific local hotspots (e.g., St John’s Church) not explicitly referenced in the consultation questions.

4. Patterns and Trends

- A common sentiment was that the behaviours seen are symptoms of broader social issues, particularly lack of youth provision and cuts to community services.
- Repeated references were made to the presence of the same individuals or groups engaging in ASB over time, suggesting ongoing and unresolved issues.

5. What Works and What Doesn’t

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- Respondents questioned the effectiveness of relying solely on a PSPO without sufficient police presence to enforce it.
- They also noted that punitive approaches alone may not prevent ASB and risk criminalising young people unnecessarily.
- Some felt that existing laws already provide adequate powers if used appropriately.

6. Suggestions for Improvement

- Calls for greater investment in youth services, safe spaces, and structured activities to prevent ASB and support relationship-building with authorities.
- Recommendations to prioritise addiction support and recovery services over additional policing measures.
- Requests for a broader PSPO coverage area to include residential estates and specific known gathering points.
- Suggestions for improved community policing, including more foot patrols and proactive engagement.

Summary

The collected data shows that residents are concerned about anti-social behaviour in Banbury, particularly relating to groups whose behaviour causes fear, discomfort, or intimidation. Public sentiment reflects support for action but mixed views on whether varying the PSPO is the right approach, with some feeling existing laws are sufficient if properly enforced. Recurring concerns include a lack of visible policing, fear when walking alone, and issues such as alcohol and drug use in the town centre. Respondents also highlighted broader social factors—such as reduced youth services and limited addiction support—as underlying causes that need attention alongside enforcement.

Conclusion

Overall, the consultation feedback indicates that while residents recognise the need to address anti-social behaviour in Banbury, there is no clear consensus that varying the PSPO is the most effective solution. Respondents emphasised that any enforcement-based approach must be supported by improved police visibility and engagement, alongside investment in youth services and addiction support to tackle the underlying causes. A balanced strategy—combining proportionate enforcement with preventative community measures—would therefore be the most appropriate response to the issues raised.

Next Steps (in comparison with neighbouring councils)

To align with best practice seen across Oxfordshire, the next steps should include a structured review and decision-making process similar to those undertaken by Oxford City Council, West Oxfordshire District Council, and Cherwell's neighbouring PSPO consultations. Oxford regularly reviews PSPOs on a three-year cycle and conducts targeted consultations before renewing or varying an order, ensuring measures remain proportionate and rights-compliant. West Oxfordshire follows a similar model, undertaking public consultation, equality impact assessment, and detailed evidence reviews prior to introducing or extending a PSPO, with decisions taken at Executive level and clear community-focused justifications published publicly. Cherwell's own

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approach in Bicester—with high-volume public consultation, evidence-based assessment of ASB, and strong public support for continuation—also demonstrates the value of transparent consultation and clear communication of enforcement intentions. Based on this, the recommended next steps for Banbury are: review the consultation findings against statutory criteria, benchmark the variation proposal against the approaches of neighbouring councils, conduct any further targeted engagement (e.g., police, town centre businesses, youth services), and prepare a formal decision report with a clear enforcement and communications plan.

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