

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

From: Head of Communities	Report Number: M106
To: Council	Date of meeting: 30 October 2012

DESIGNATED PUBLIC PLACE ORDER – HADLEIGH

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To set out the case for making a Designated Public Place Order for an area covering Hadleigh; detailing the rationale and consultation that has been undertaken.
- 1.2 To seek Council's agreement to implement the DPPO.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Council agree to make the area detailed a Designated Public Place, under the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001.

The Committee is able to resolve this matter.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no specific financial implications for the Council as the costs of implementation will be covered by Community Safety Partnership funding and funding provided by Hadleigh Town Council.

4. Risk Management

- 4.1 This report is most closely linked with the Council's Corporate / Significant Business Risk No. 5 – Partnerships. Key risks are set out below:

Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Measures
If the Council fail to support a measure supported by the statutory Community Safety Partnership and thereby misses an opportunity to play a full part in delivering actions, there is risk to Babergh's reputation, which has been very highly valued and a risk that ongoing improvements in tackling crime and disorder may be hindered.	Significant	Critical	To adopt other initiatives that show Babergh's commitment to partnership work in this area.

5. Consultations

5.1 There has been extensive consultation, some of which being required by statute, both in deciding upon Hadleigh as an area where a DPPO may have a value and on the specific proposals for Hadleigh itself. Consultation ahead of the development of full proposals for Hadleigh focused on organisational consultation through the Community Safety Partnership to identify which areas in the District may benefit from a DPPO, followed by consultation with local councils (Parish and Town) in the areas identified; these being Long Melford, Sudbury, Hadleigh and Glemsford. Of those areas Long Melford and Hadleigh supported the measure. Further analysis of crime and ASB information showed that alcohol related incidents in Long Melford had fallen considerably, by over 50% (following a range of other focused work) and therefore, the evidence base supporting the usefulness of a DPPO for Long Melford had fallen away. Hadleigh then became the focus for detailed consultation.

5.2 There is a legal duty for the Council to formally consult with a range of key groups on whether or not an order should be put in place. The proposal to consider the use of a DPPO has been adopted through the Community Safety Partnership – this involved consultation with the local Police and other partners. As well as detailed consultation with Hadleigh Town Council, other specified groups include:

- Licensed premises
- The Chief Constable for the Police Force
- Neighbouring Parishes/Local Authorities

The views of the people in the affected area are, of course, of great importance and full public consultation through placing of public notice and media releases in the local press has been undertaken.

5.3 The consultation with licensed premises included organisation that had previously applied for a temporary events notice. For this group 2 responses were gained (of 56 people/organisations written to), both of which were supportive of both the measure in general and the area specified. The formal response from the Suffolk Constabulary was also one of support. All neighbouring Parishes were written to, via Parish clerks. Two responses were received of the 8 Parishes contacted, both were in support.

5.4 The full public consultation took the form of an on-line and paper survey of people in the affected area. There were a total of 35 responses and the survey asked 4 questions. A summary of the results is set out in the table below:

Question	Yes	No
Have you ever experienced or seen people acting in a rowdy or disorderly manner in Hadleigh who appear to be under the influence of Alcohol?	91%	9%
If the answer to Question 1 is yes, could you say if you last experienced such behaviour (32 responses):		
In the last month	50%	
In the last 3 months	28%	
In the last 6 months	9%	
In the last 12 months	13%	
Do you think that additional Police powers would help reduce the number of alcohol related incidents of crime, disorder and Anti-Social Behaviour?	97%	3%
Are you in favour of the Council making the area of Hadleigh marked on the map below a designated public place	97%	3%

6. Equality Analysis

- 6.1 Consideration has been given on the impact of DPPO in equality terms. An enforcement protocol has been drafted that makes it clear that the power should only be exercised in circumstances that would prevent acts of crime, disorder or anti-social behaviour. Using those criteria will ensure that groups with ¹protected characteristics are not targeted or otherwise disadvantaged because of those characteristics. Given the nature of the issues that the DPPO is aimed at tackling it is possible that certain groups of people could be disproportionately affected, particularly groups of young people. The use of the power will be monitored with a view to ensuring that only those people engaged in criminal or anti-social acts or those where there is reasonable suspicion that they are likely to engage in such acts are affected. Should Council agree the implementation of a DPPO that protocol, already agreed in principle by the Police, will be formally adopted?

7. Shared Service / Partnership Implications

- 7.1 None specific

8. Key Information

- 8.1 A Designated Public Place Order and is an order put in place by local authorities. Its affect is to define an area within which the Police have some additional powers to stop people drinking in public places. **It is not a blanket ban on drinking in a public place.** The power would be exercised specifically to combat anti-social behaviour, crime and disorder. It is discretionary and used where there are actual incidents or where there is a strong likelihood of incidents or crime, disorder or anti-social behaviour linked to the consumption of Alcohol.
- 8.2 The Community Safety Partnership has consistently identified alcohol fuelled crime and anti-social behaviour as a key priority for its work. Much progress has been made; with improvements made to how the town centre CCTV system is used, joint work between Police and Council Licensing staff and the targeted use of Police patrols. The partnership has looked at a number of key areas where a DPPO could be a useful tool to drive down incidents further. Four areas were identified which included two villages, where more detailed investigation showed that either the measure was not supported by the Parish Council or that incidents had reduced so much that there was little evidence to justify putting a DPPO in place. Both towns in the District were also considered and in both cases there was evidence to justify applying a DPPO however only the town Council in Hadleigh supported the measure.

¹ As defined by the equalities Act 2010 - age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation.

- 8.3 **The Area Proposed** - Detailed discussions have been had with local Police officers and in particular the Police officer with designated responsibility for policing the town of Hadleigh. As a result of these discussions, with that wealth and range of local knowledge and intelligence included, a broad area has been suggested as the designated zone. A map has been made available in the member's room and will be available in the Council chamber during the meeting. The zone includes areas that are known to be associated with both the consumption of alcohol in a public place - disorder and anti-social behaviour; and those areas where sound local intelligence suggests such activity may be displaced to, should they fall outside the designated zone. The designated area has been drawn to take all of these factors into consideration. Attached to the map showing the designated zone is a key highlighting those areas and giving an explanation of the rationale for their inclusion. The decision about the areas covered has followed this detailed discussion and is supported by both the local Police and officers of the District Council.
- 8.4 Although Hadleigh is far from a disorderly town, this measure would enable the Council and the local Police to build on our very productive working relationship and make yet more progress in driving down alcohol fuelled disorder to even lower levels. The Community Safety Partnership has had considerable success locally in making progress against its objectives and this measure will enhance that progress.

9. Appendices

None.

10. Background Documents

A full package of evidence and information was been collated to inform the consultation process and the detail of the proposal itself. The full documentation is available at www.babergh.gov.uk/dppo-hadleigh.

Authorship:
Paul Little
Community Safety and Leisure Manager

01473 825718
Paul.little@babergh.gov.uk