

Date: 05 October 2023

Title: Report Item 15 – Public Space Protection Order

By: S Adeniji (Parish Clerk)

Purpose: To note Wealden’s District Council’s response to the request for PSPO.

Recommendations: a) To note Wealden’s District Council’s response to a request for a Public Safety Protection Order along Gilbert’s Road to Birling Gap.
a) To note Sussex’s Police’s response on this matter
b) To decide on any course of appropriate action

1. The two local MPs, Caroline Ansell and Maria Caulfield joined forces with Eastbourne BC and East Sussex County Council to implement a PSPO around the Beachy Head Road. They were successful and there is a PSPO in place from the Eastbourne / East Dean boundary of the A259 that goes anti-clockwise right round past Beachy Head to the boundary with Wealden BC near Birling Gap.
2. This means that the length of the road from the A259 coast road in East Dean, Gilbert's Drive down to Birling Gap and beyond, all within Wealden District Council's jurisdiction, is not subject to a PSPO. The aim is to create a similar PSPO on the A259 coast road through Gilbert's Drive to Birling Gap.
3. The Parish Council took the issue up with Wealden District Council (WDC). WDC's response can be found in Appendix One of this report. According to WDC:

“In Eastbourne's case (PSPO Anti-Social Driving), a person or persons found to be in breach of the proscribed activities is liable to a fine issued by an enforcement officer (in this case a police officer. The PSPO is not backed by the CPS and any appeals are made to the Borough Council. The PSPO would be predominately targeting driving offences, many of which are already deemed illegal. Owing to the nature of the offences and the lack of civil enforcement officers, the success of any PSPO would likely depend on Sussex Police's ability to enforce it. In this case, it may be worth canvassing Sussex Police and asking whether these additional powers in Eastbourne have improved their ability to police the affected road(s).

Initiating a PSPO is certainly an option. However, based on the example in Eastbourne, it would take time to do this, and would necessitate political support from members. Moreover, it is not immediately clear if the PSPO would add any additional

value since it would be covering activities which are already deemed illegal and the prohibition of which is already enforced by police.”

4. The Local Government Association (LGA) Guide on PSPO can be found at https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/10.21%20PSPO%20guidance_06_1.pdf
5. The issue will be discussed with the local MP Maria Caulfield at the meeting scheduled for Friday 29th September 2023.