

## **Report to Portfolio Holder for Public Protection**

**Subject:** Approval to go to public consultation to introduce a Public Space Protection Order in parts of Netherfield/ Colwick and Gedling Access Road

**Date:** 2 March 2023

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### **Wards Affected**

Gedling, Porchester, Netherfield, Colwick and Trent Valley

### **Purpose**

To seek approval for public consultation starting on 3 March 2023

### **Key Decision**

No

### **Recommendation(s)**

#### **THAT:**

- 1. To approve a 3 week consultation period to ask local residents, businesses and agencies their opinions on a Public Spaces Protection Order.**

## **1 Background**

- 1.1** The affected wards have suffered significant nuisance from vehicles and people engaged in car cruising activities within the last 10 years, predominantly on the Victoria Retail Park in Netherfield, Mile End Road and the surrounding area. Since the area has been developed with the New Gedling Access Road and improvement to the Colwick Loop Road the Council have seen a further increase of incidents of car cruising and related problems to the council. Historically, there has been a County Council injunction which expired in 2018 which was replaced by a Public Space protection Order (PSPO) between 2018 and 2021 however this PSPO was not extended at that

time as there had been no issues and there was no evidence to support continued implementation of the PSPO. Since the completion of the new Gedling Access Road the area around the Trent Valley and Gedling Country Park has seen significant development including the Gedling Access Road. The activities included speeding and dangerous driving on the highway, drifting around the roundabouts and doing “donuts” on retail premises’ car parks. This is also often accompanied by the playing of loud music from the vehicles as spectators gather to watch the activities as well as the depositing of litter. The attendance and activities described resulted in large numbers of complaints from business premises trying to go about their trade, from residents affected by the noise of car exhausts, tyres screeching and loud music. There were also safety issues as people were very close to speeding vehicles being driven in a dangerous manner.

1.2 A variety of tactics were used by the Police, Gedling Borough Council and Nottinghamshire County Council to try and stop the nuisance. A lot of this is staff intensive. The police have a dedicated Police operation for this (OP Triplefin). Gedling Borough Council have applied to install CCTV’s cameras on the Colwick Loop Road at the newly created junction near Sainsbury’s and Vale Road in Colwick. There is also scheduled to be four ANPR cameras installed on the Loop Road. This is being funded by the Safer Streets bid to tackle various issues including the issue of car cruising. Prior to the previous PSPO the County council installed speed humps on Pintail Close.

1.3 Following the introduction of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. Section 59 of this Act allows a Local Authority to make a Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) to address anti-social behaviour in a public place. A PSPO can be made by a local authority if they are satisfied on reasonable grounds that the anti-social behaviour is having or is likely to have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality. It has already been demonstrated that where there are areas with no protection measures in place, the car cruising will be displaced to that area. Given the historical pattern of these meets and the increase in reports to agencies it is felt that without some form of protection car cruising and the associated problems will continue to the Netherfield, Colwick area. The Council are also including the new Gedling Access Road in this new proposal as it has been reported by several residents that this too is being used as a ‘race track’

Historically, these car meets took place in the areas shown on Appendix 2 on a weekly basis and as such the behaviour was persistent, and given the impact it had on the quality of life of those in the locality, it is felt that without a PSPO the behaviour will begin again and will have a significant impact on local residents and businesses.

1.4 A PSPO imposes conditions on the use of an area which apply to everyone.

They are designed to ensure the law-abiding majority can use and enjoy public spaces safe from anti-social behaviour. A PSPO can be applied on any land which members of the public have access to and includes car parks, shopping centres and parks. The PSPO can last for a maximum of 3 years but can be shorter. The council can extend the order by a further 3 years if necessary but consultation will have to take place. The conditions on a PSPO must be justified to address the anti-social behaviour concerned. A draft PSPO including proposed conditions is shown at Appendix 1 to this report. The conditions included are necessary to prevent anti-social behaviour caused by car-cruising and associated activities.

- 1.5 Before a PSPO can be granted a process of consultation is required and we are requesting to go to consultation. This includes consulting with the local community, residents and businesses, local Councillors, the Chief Constable and Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Following the consultation any representations will be considered and presented to Cabinet to determine whether the authority should make the PSPO.

## **2 Proposal**

- 2.1 It is proposed that Portfolio holder approves a three week consultation with the local community, businesses and agencies in relation to the proposed PSPO.

## **3 Alternative Options**

- 3.1 Portfolio holder could not approve the consultation however consultation is required to be able to impose a PSPO, there have been numerous complaints and police involvement. It is felt that the PSPO is the best way to prevent further issues with car cruising. Portfolio holder could approve a consultation for a different period of time however it is felt that the issue is ongoing and a three week consultation is adequate for the local community to comment on the proposed PSPO and allow the Council to act promptly in addressing the behaviour.

## **4 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 The cost of the consultation will be met through existing budgets and is expected to be minimal in terms of pounds (£).

## **5 Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Draft Public Space Protection Order  
Appendix 2 – Map of the location covered by the PSPO  
Appendix 3 – Consultation letter  
Appendix 4 – Consultation notice

## **6 Background Papers**

- 6.1 Flow chart for the granting of a Public Spaces Protection Order. Part 2.6 relating to Public Space Protection orders of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014: Reform of anti-social behaviour powers - Statutory guidance for front line professions

## **7 Recommendation**

- 7.1 To approve consultation to allow Gedling Borough Council to progress with the PSPO process to prevent further crime and disruption to the local community

## **8 Reasons for Recommendations**

- 8.1 To prevent anti-social behaviour caused by car cruising and associated activities in the areas shown at Appendix 2 which has a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality.
- 8.2 To ensure the level of FPN is appropriate to the offending involved and to keep the time for payment of FPNs under this legislation in line with the council's current processes and procedures for the payment of FPNs.

### **Statutory Officer approval**

**Approved by:**

**Date:**

**On behalf of the Chief Financial Officer**

**Approved by:**

**Date:**

**On behalf of the Monitoring Officer**