

## **Report to Council/Committee**

**Subject:** Approval to extend the Public Space Protection Order in parts of Netherfield/Colwick and Colliery Way.

**Date:** 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026

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### **Purpose**

To seek approval to extend, for a further three years, the existing Public Space Protection Order (Colliery Way) 2023 relating to car cruising in the Netherfield and Colwick areas, which is due to expire on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2026.

### **Recommendation(s)**

#### **THAT:**

- 1) Approves the extension of the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO), as shown at Appendix 1, for a further three years, in accordance with Section 72 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.
- 2) Approves that the fixed penalty level for breach of the PSPO remains set at £100, payable within 14 days.

## **1 Background**

- 1.1 The affected wards have suffered persistent nuisance from car cruising activities for several years, predominantly around Victoria Retail Park, Mile End Road, the Colwick Loop Road, and surrounding areas. With the opening of the Colliery Way and enhancements to the Loop Road, incidents have increased.
- 1.2 In March 2012, Nottinghamshire County Council (as the Highway Authority) obtained an injunction for three years to prevent car cruising

activities. When that injunction expired, a further injunction was obtained, which expired in January 2018. Anti-social behaviour legislation later changed with the introduction of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 ('the Act'), enabling local authorities to introduce Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) to address behaviour within their area.

- 1.3 Section 59 of the Act allows a local authority to make a PSPO if it is satisfied, on reasonable grounds, that anti-social behaviour in a public place is having, or is likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality.
- 1.4 Gedling Borough Council introduced a three-year PSPO on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018 to prevent nuisance from car cruising. The PSPO expired in January 2021 and was not renewed. Previous injunctions (2012 and 2015) and the 2018 PSPO led to a significant reduction in reported incidents.
- 1.5 In 2023, with the development of Colliery Way, there was a significant increase in nuisance from vehicles and individuals engaged in car cruising activities. These included large volumes of vehicles travelling to the area, driving in convoy, parking and revving engines, playing loud music, and driving in a dangerous manner. A PSPO was reintroduced in June 2023 to address this behaviour and this is due to expire on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2026.
- 1.6 Nottinghamshire Police and Gedling Borough Council have deployed a range of staff-intensive measures, including a dedicated police operation, to manage these issues. Under Operation Triplefin (November 2022 to February 2023), the police issued 12 Section 59 warnings, reported 11 drivers for traffic offences, seized four vehicles, and made one arrest for drink driving. This demonstrates the scale and persistence of the problem.
- 1.7 CCTV has been installed on the Colwick Loop Road near Sainsbury's, and four ANPR cameras funded by the Safer Streets initiative have also been installed.
- 1.8 The historic evidence from the previous injunctions (2012 and 2015) and the earlier PSPOs (2018–2021 and 2023) clearly demonstrates that formal restrictions have been effective in preventing and reducing anti-social behaviour associated with car cruising in the locality. However, the periods during which no injunction or PSPO was in place show a pattern of the behaviour quickly returning and becoming persistent, with significant detrimental impact on local residents and

businesses. When the 2018 PSPO expired in 2021 and was not renewed, incidents of nuisance behaviour escalated again, particularly following the opening of the Gedling Access Road (Colliery Way) in 2023.

- 1.9 The historic pattern demonstrates that where controls lapse, the behaviour re-establishes itself and is often displaced to nearby areas without protective measures. Given this repeated and evidenced cycle, there is a real and credible risk that the behaviour will return if the current PSPO is not extended. Extending the PSPO is therefore considered necessary to prevent the re-emergence of car cruising activities and the associated anti-social behaviour that has previously caused significant nuisance, safety concerns, and disruption to the community.
- 1.10 PSPOs are a legal tool to prevent anti-social behaviour in public areas. They impose conditions to address specific behaviours and can last for up to three years, with an option to extend if the Council is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds to do so. This is to prevent the occurrence or recurrence of the behaviours, or an increase in the frequency or seriousness of the behaviour. The current PSPO is coming to the end of its three-year period, and this report asks Members to consider a further three-year extension.
- 1.11 The Council is required to consult with the police and appropriate stakeholders prior to extending a PSPO. Consultation has been undertaken with Nottinghamshire Police, ward councillors, and key stakeholders. All respondents expressed support for extending the PSPO.

Key feedback included:

- Full support from ward councillors, with a request to consider extending coverage to the remainder of Colwick Ward.
- Positive feedback highlighting reductions in car cruising in Stoke Bardolph.
- Support from Colwick Parish Council.

No comments were received from Burton Joyce Parish Council, Via Highways, or Savills (landowner at Victoria Retail Park).

- 1.12 Nottinghamshire Police raise no objections and fully support an extension of the PSPO. Police report a sustained reduction in car cruising and nuisance vehicle activity, which they attribute to the combined effect of the PSPO and targeted patrol activity. To date,

approximately 16 PSPO Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) have been issued, supported by police statements and CCTV evidence. Although the majority of FPNs were issued during the opening weekend in June 2023, the police have maintained a consistent zero-tolerance approach throughout the PSPO period.

- 1.13 Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPT) and Roads Policing have supported regular patrols during key periods. This has contributed to a year-on-year reduction in offending. Officers are regularly tasked through the police tasking system, and this will continue if the PSPO is extended.
- 1.14 The installation of gates at Teal Park in October 2024 has further reduced offending, although these are not always secured. Police continue to liaise with the landowner.
- 1.15 Police emphasise that without the PSPO in place, it is likely that nuisance vehicle activity would increase again.
- 1.16 Since June 2023, there have been 16 PSPO breaches resulting in FPNs, of which all but one have been paid. Since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025, only one breach has occurred, indicating strong effectiveness.
- 1.17 On the Council's internal reporting system, five incidents of car cruising have been reported between July 2023 and August 2025. In addition, automatic (code-operated) gates have been installed at Teal Park, which has successfully prevented vehicles from causing further nuisance in that area.

## **2 Proposal**

- 2.1 It is proposed that Members approve the extension of the Public Space Protection Order (Colliery Way) 2023 for a further three years from **24<sup>th</sup> June 2026**.
- 2.2 It is proposed that the level of fixed penalty for contravening the PSPO remains at £100, payable within 14 days. This is in accordance with the Act and reflects the level of fixed penalties for other PSPO breaches within the borough.

## **3 Alternative Options**

- 3.1 An alternative option would be for Members not to authorise the extension of the current PSPO and to allow it to expire with effect from midnight on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2026. This would mean that the Council would not be able to enforce the restrictions or prosecute those found to be car cruising in the area. This option is not recommended, as there is a history of this type of behaviour in the Netherfield and Colwick area,

and it is highly likely that the behaviour would return if the PSPO expired, which would leave the Council unable to enforce against this type of behaviour.

- 3.2 Members could choose to extend the PSPO by a shorter period. Again, this is not recommended as there is a long history of this type of behaviour within the area. It is felt that the full three-year extension is necessary.
- 3.3 Members could choose to extend the PSPO and amend the conditions. This is not recommended, as the current PSPO conditions are felt to be proportionate, reasonable, and enforceable, and have been sufficient in addressing the behaviour in the past three years.
- 3.4 The level of fixed penalty could be lower than £100; however, this would not be consistent with other PSPO breaches and would not accurately reflect the costs involved with enforcement.

#### **4 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 There are minimal costs. Enforcement will be absorbed into existing officer duties. Signage costs can be met through Community Safety funding. If FPNs are not paid, legal costs may arise from prosecution. If the PSPO were not extended, the Council would lose associated FPN income.

The Finance Team has reviewed the report and confirmed that there are no additional financial costs associated with the proposed extension, as enforcement activity will continue to be managed within existing resources.

Income generated through Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) issued under the PSPO is retained in full by the Council. Should the PSPO not be extended, the Council would no longer be able to issue FPNs under this power, resulting in a loss of associated income.

#### **5 Legal Implications**

- 5.1 Under Section 60 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, the Council may extend a PSPO only where it is satisfied, on reasonable grounds, that it is necessary to prevent the occurrence or recurrence, after that time, of the activities identified in the order, or an increase in the frequency or seriousness of those activities after that time.

An extension may not be for a period of more than three years and must be published in accordance with regulations made by the Secretary of State.

5.2 Challenges must be made to the High Court within six weeks by those directly affected. An interested person is someone who lives in, regularly works in, or visits the area covered by the order. Therefore, only those directly affected by the restrictions have the right to challenge the order.

5.3 Data sharing between Gedling Borough Council and Nottinghamshire Police is compliant with GDPR as it is for the prevention and detection of crime.

## **6 Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)**

6.1 If introduced, the PSPO will extend into any new local government arrangements in 2028. The proposed PSPO will offer protection up to that date, and it will be for the new local authority to manage the transition of enforcement powers and to embed the PSPO within its own regulatory regime.

## **7 Equalities implications**

7.1 Equality Impact Assessment – (Appendix 4)

## **8 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications**

8.1 A reduction in car cruising will reduce emissions caused by revving, idling, and high-speed acceleration, improving air quality in the areas listed above.

## **8.2 Appendix 3 – Climate Impact Assessment**

A Climate Impact Assessment is provided at Appendix 3, summarising the anticipated climate-related impacts of extending the PSPO and any mitigation measures.

## **9 Appendices**

9.1 Appendix 1 – Draft PSPO

9.2 Appendix 2 – Map of area covered by PSPO

9.3 Appendix 3 – Climate Impact Assessment

9.4 Appendix 4 – Equality Impact Assessment

**10 Background Papers**

10.1 Previous PSPO (2023)

Relevant media coverage on car cruising incidents

**Statutory Officer approval**

**Approved by:**

**Date:**

**On behalf of the Chief Financial Officer**

**Approved by:**

**Date:**

**On behalf of the Monitoring Officer**