

## City Centre Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) Final Report:

### Findings from Public Consultation – January 2017

The Council conducted a wide reaching public consultation on the proposed introduction of new city centre public spaces protection order and the extent to which these PSPOs will be applied.

Members of the public could complete an on-line survey or request a hard copy of the survey.

Consultation responses were actively sought from groups with a specific interest in the city centre. These groups included Coventry Older Voices, Skateboarding and Cycling groups and local businesses.

The following report indicates the headline results from each of the tick box questions where respondents were asked primarily whether they agreed or disagreed with the different proposals and analysis of all the comments from respondents who indicated they were not in agreement.

This final report will inform the cabinet report presented to the Cabinet Member on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017, when the decision whether to implement the PSPOs will be taken.

#### **Response Rate**

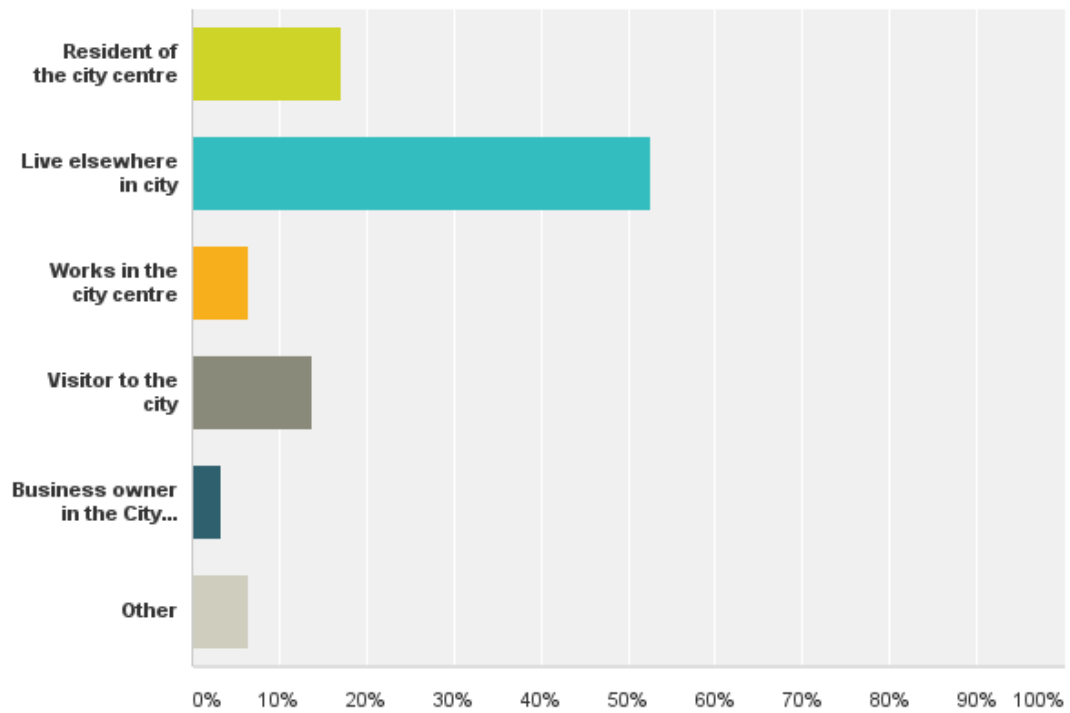
The survey ran from 29<sup>th</sup> November 2016 to 15th January 2017.

739 responses were received.

## Respondent Profile

### Q1 How are you responding to this consultation?

Answered: 737 Skipped: 2



Just over two thirds of respondents were residents of Coventry, 17% of those being resident in the city centre, the next largest group at 14% were visitors to the city.

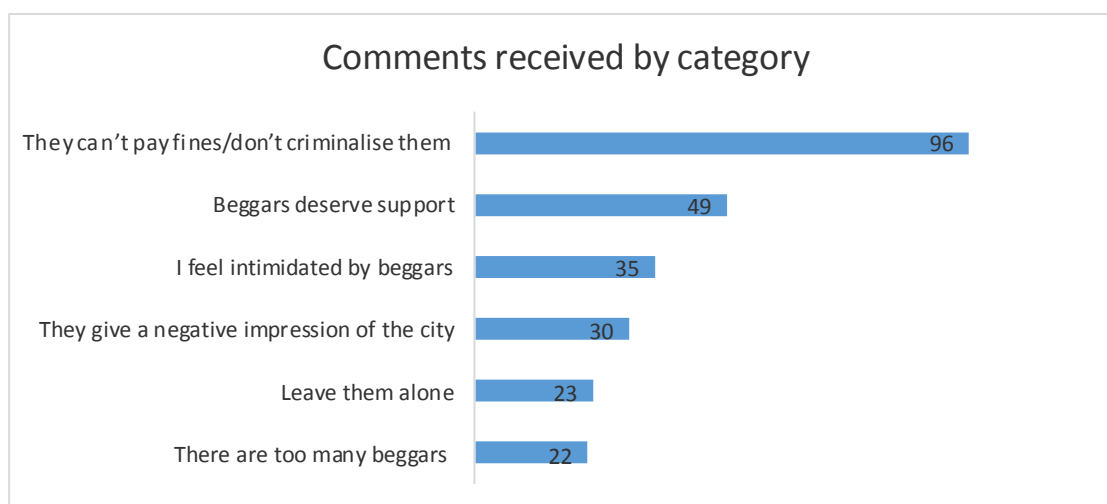
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Resident of the city centre	17.1%	126
Resident elsewhere in the city	52.6%	388
Non-resident that works in the city centre	6.5%	48
Visitor to the city	13.8%	102
Business owner in the City Centre	3.4%	25
Other	6.5%	48
Please specify		88
<i>answered question</i>		<b>737</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>2</b>

The respondents were then asked whether they agreed or disagreed with specific control orders.

**2. Do you believe that Coventry City Council should introduce a Public Space Protection Order to tackle begging in the city centre?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes - I agree	48.3%	329
No - I do not agree	41.0%	279
I don't know	10.7%	73
Please give reasons for your answer		417
<i>answered question</i>		<b>681</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>58</b>

Just under half of respondents agreed with the introduction of a PSPO to tackle begging in the city centre (48%)



*“How can you issue fines against someone who has no ability to pay and is already living below the breadline and having to resort to begging to raise money to just live”.*

*“The council should be helping people in this situation”*

*“There are many beggars and I believe they intimidate the public”*

*“I can't visit the city centre without harassment from numerous beggars and this problem appears to be growing. I think this gives the city a bad reputation”*

*“Beggars do not hassle anyone for fun”*

*“I'm fed up of been harassed every time I visit the city centre, sometimes 5 or 6 times”*

**3. Do you believe that Coventry City Council should introduce measures to control the activities of pedlars and street traders in the city centre with a PSPO?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes - I agree	69.8%	463
No - I do not agree	17.0%	113
I don't know	13.1%	87
Please give reasons for your answer		289
<i>answered question</i>		<b>663</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>76</b>

Over two third of respondents agreed to introduce measures of control to activities of pedlars and street traders in the city centre. This measure received the highest level of agreement.



*"It's not fair to those who do pay and seek out permission so yes I agree"*

*"Charity if licenced is a good thing, with the right background information being checked I am a strong believer but with charity wrist bands being sold that clearly are a way to make a quick buck"*

*"I think that all traders should be legitimate and goods sold should be safe and come under consumer law"*

*"They can be annoying and irritating"*

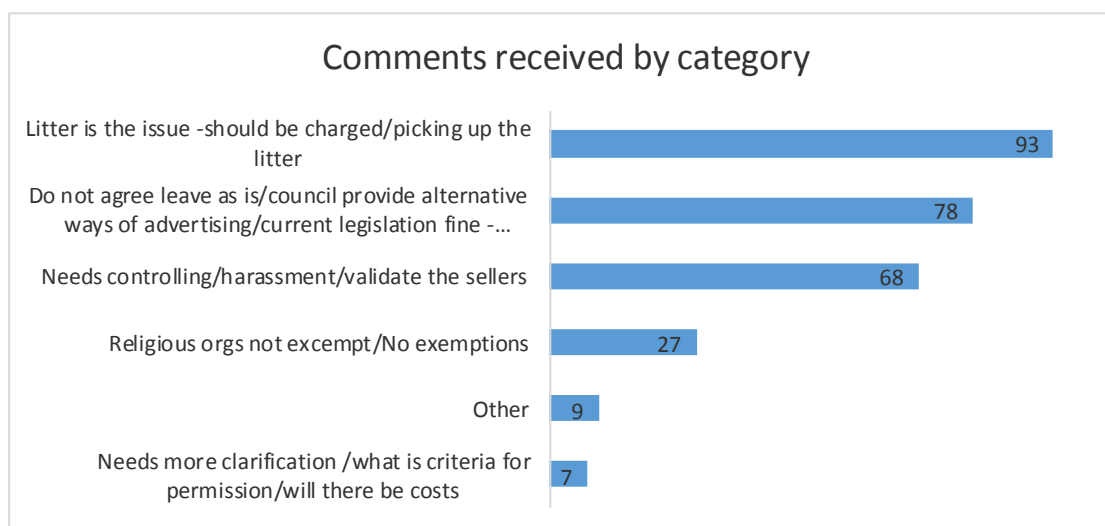
*"No, everyone has to make money somehow"*

*"There should be a set price and a low one so that they can afford. They only make a small profit. Which is why rather than do it legally and pay a charge they do it unauthorised"*

**4. Do you believe that Coventry City Council should introduce measures through a PSPO to better control those that distribute leaflets and other publicity in the city centre?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes - I agree	58.2%	379
No - I do not agree	27.0%	176
I don't know	14.7%	96
Please give reasons for your answer		278
<i>answered question</i>		<b>651</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>88</b>

Over half of respondents agreed to introduce measures to better control leaflets distribution in the city centre



*“All business literature distribution materials for commercial gain should have permission and be checked out that it is not a rogue trader.”*

*“You must not do this if you wish to protect freedom of speech and to encourage enterprise within Coventry.”*

*“Seems like a sensible way to reduce litter, hopefully this would promote businesses to employ alternative paper free advertising”*

*“I don't see why either registered charities or religious organisations should be exempt from activities which lead to significant littering”*

*“As an alternative I would love to see council backed easy to access and use city wide free website and forum/facebook perhaps connected to display boards or something in the city centre to advertise local events and small businesses.”*

**5. Do you agree that Coventry City Council should introduce measures as part of a PSPO to control the activities of Charity or Commercial Subscription collectors?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes - I agree	66.4%	426
No - I do not agree	22.1%	142
I don't know	11.5%	74
Please give reasons for your answer		238
<i>answered question</i>		<b>642</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>97</b>

Over two third of respondents agreed to introduce measure to control activities of Charities and Commercial Subscription



*“All cash collection services should be regulated to ensure they're acting legally, and do represent who they say they represent.”*

*“I get consistently harassed while walking through town even to my bus stop and feel pressured into donating to charities I don't wish to support.”*

*“Instead of limiting the number of days, zone the city centre out and rotate which zones are okay to use on each designated day so that charity workers know where they are allowed to be on certain days, this may reduce the perception that charity workers are always in the same locations in the city centre”*

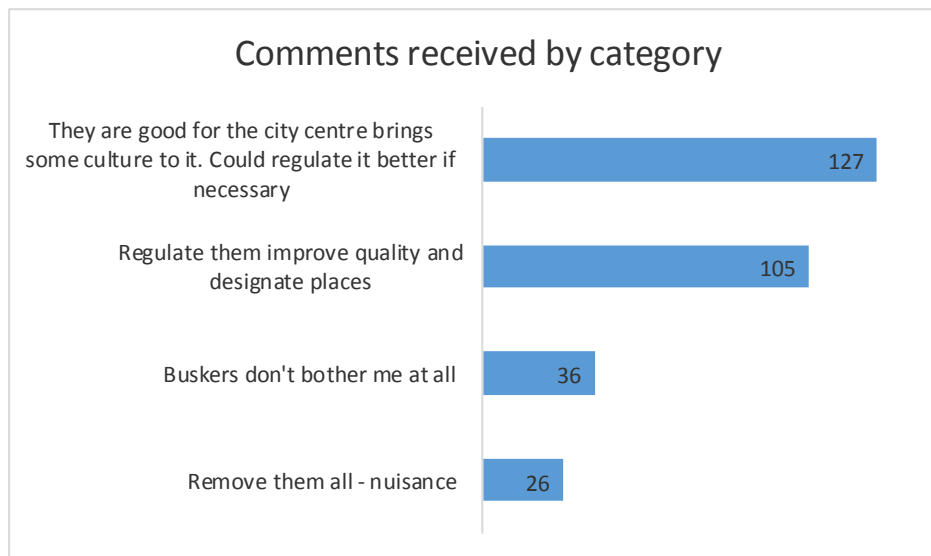
*“So called chuggers have become a nuisance.”*

*“I think there should be some control which I don't think should be an issue for bona fide collectors like the Poppy Appeal or Guide Dogs..”*

**6. Do you believe Coventry City Council should use powers in the PSPO to enforce the condition contained in the Code of Practice for Buskers?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes - I agree	50.7%	322
No - I do not agree	35.6%	226
I don't know	13.7%	87
Please give reasons for your answer		272
<i>answered question</i>		<b>635</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>104</b>

Half of the respondents agreed to enforce code of practice on Buskers



*"I personally like the buskers music in the City Centre and think it adds to the vibe. I think it should be controlled though.."*

*"Coventry wants to be the city of culture 2021 but are questioning whether busking should be banned.. definitely no."*

*"I don't mind buskers, but the amplification of music sometimes reaches unacceptable levels. Ban amplifiers."*

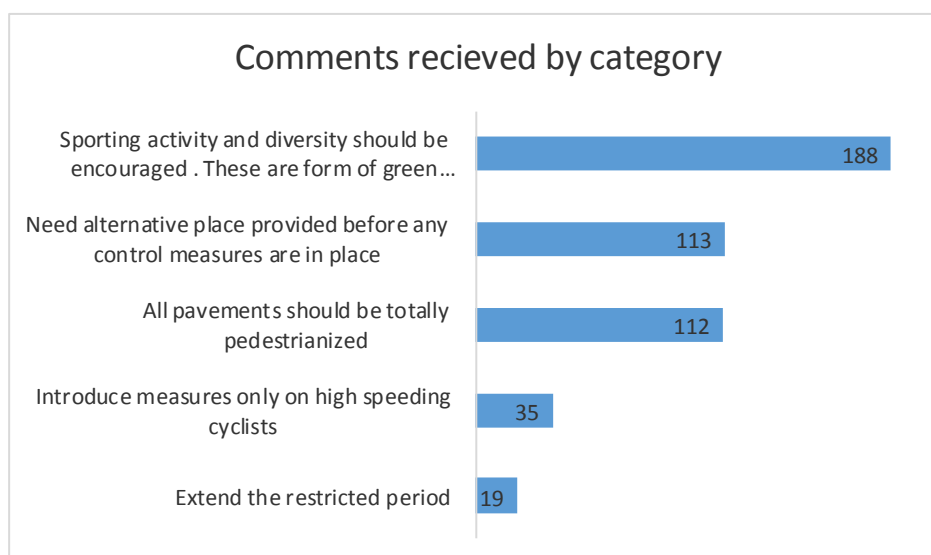
*"They're busking, not strangling people. Policing a bit of street music? The council needs to get a grip.."*

*"One of the most unwelcome features of the city centre are buskers, especially the ones that use small amplifiers to play a backing track. I appreciate buskers might be perceived as adding atmosphere to a city centre but for me and many others they put me off entering the shopping area.."*

**7. Do you believe Coventry City Council should introduce measures to control the activities of Skateboarders and Cyclists in the City Centre with a PSPO?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes - I agree	48.6%	304
No - I do not agree	46.0%	288
I don't know	5.4%	34
Please give reasons for your answer		366
<i>answered question</i>		<b>626</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>113</b>

This proposal received the highest level of disagreement at 46% received the highest level of disagreement at 46%



*“There is currently inadequate infrastructure for cyclists to cycle in and across the city centre safely and quickly... Treating cyclists as criminals doesn't make cycling any easier for anyone.*

*“I believe the council should be working on a place for skaters and cyclists to go and skate/cycle. This city will never win city of culture if it doesn't start to accept its own young people and the things they enjoy”*

*“The idea that the city which invented the modern bicycle would ban it in the city centre is utterly ludicrous. We currently do not have an adequate network of cycle lanes, so cracking down on cycling is a ridiculous idea - especially given the threat of climate change. As for skateboarding, the skateboarders who use the city centre are, in my experience, responsible and considerate of other people in the area they use. And the idea that they are a threat to tourism is plain silly.”*

*“The city centre shopping precinct was recognised nationally when constructed in the 1950's as ground breaking - a pedestrianized area for shoppers to walk about safely*



*without any form of traffic interfering. This principle holds good in the 21st century and should be upheld throughout the shopping areas, not just to 3.30p.m. but till at least 6p.m...*

*"Seems very heavy handed unless there is statistical evidence that people on skateboards and bikes are actually causing injuries to other people."*

*"Skateboarders and cyclists are a danger to people especially the elderly and the disabled. They seem to think they have a right to do these activities on the pavements and believe we should move out of their way."*

A full list of comments is available on request.

## Equalities Monitoring

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Male	53.9%	326
Female	46.1%	279
	<i>answered question</i>	<b>605</b>
	<i>skipped question</i>	<b>134</b>

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
White English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British	86.7%	523
White Irish	2.3%	14
White Gypsy or Irish Traveller	0.0%	0
Any other White background	3.2%	19
Mixed White and Black Caribbean	1.5%	9
Mixed White and Black African	0.3%	2
Mixed White and Asian	1.0%	6
Any other Mixed/ multiple ethnic background	0.7%	4
Asian Indian	1.8%	11
Asian Pakistani	0.2%	1
Asian Bangladeshi	0.2%	1
Chinese	0.5%	3
Any other Asian background	0.0%	0
Black African	0.3%	2
Black Caribbean	0.2%	1
Any other Black/ African/ Caribbean/ background	0.0%	0
Arab	0.2%	1
Any other ethnic group	1.0%	6
If Other, please state		15
	<i>answered question</i>	<b>603</b>
	<i>skipped question</i>	<b>136</b>

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Under 16	0.3%	2
16 - 24	16.8%	102
25 - 34	19.4%	118
35 - 44	17.5%	106
45 - 54	18.9%	115
55 - 64	12.7%	77
65 - 74	9.9%	60
75 - 84	3.5%	21
85+	1.0%	6
	<i>answered question</i>	<b>607</b>
	<i>skipped question</i>	<b>132</b>

Do you consider yourself to be a disabled person?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	12.0%	72
No	88.0%	527
	<i>answered question</i>	<b>599</b>
	<i>skipped question</i>	<b>140</b>

