

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET MEETING
24th NOVEMBER 2005

Proposed Alcohol Restriction Zone for Stourport-on-Severn

OPEN	
COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME:	Safer Communities
CORPORATE PLAN THEME:	Enabling Community Wellbeing
KEY PRIORITY:	Community Safety
CABINET MEMBER:	Cllr. Nathan Desmond
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Chief Executive
CONTACT OFFICER:	Alison Braithwaite Ext.2781 alison.braithwaite@wyreforestdc.gov.uk
APPENDICES	<p>Map 1 – Proposed Alcohol Restriction Zone for Stourport-on-Severn Town Centre and Stourport-on-Severn War Memorial Park.</p> <p>Map 2 - Revised proposed Alcohol Restriction Zone for Stourport-on-Severn.</p> <p>Summary of comments from statutory consultation is available electronically. A public inspection copy is available on request (see front cover for details).</p>

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To report the results of the recent statutory public consultation exercise for the potential designation of Stourport-on-Severn Town Centre and Stourport-on-Severn War Memorial Park as an Alcohol Restriction Zone, where the drinking of alcohol would be restricted.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet is asked to **RECOMMEND** to Council that:

- 2.1 Subject to receiving no significant objections to the statutory consultation on the **revised Alcohol Restriction Zone proposal** for Stourport-on-Severn, as set out on Map 2 attached to the report, this geographical area be designated as an Alcohol Restriction Zone under the provisions of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001, where restrictions to control anti-social drinking in public places will apply.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 On 7th March 2005, the District Council received a formal request from Stourport-on-Severn Town Council for the designation of the following public areas in Stourport-on-Severn, as an Alcohol Restriction Zone under Sections 12 to 16 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001:
- a) The War Memorial Park
 - b) Riverside
 - c) Lombard Street
 - d) Lion Hill
 - e) York Street
 - f) High Street
 - g) Bridge Street
- 3.2 An initial crime and disorder assessment of the request was undertaken by Ben Aspinall, West Mercia Constabulary's Divisional Intelligence Analyst and PC Jon Harris, Police Beat Manager for Stourport-on-Severn.
- 3.3 On 18th April 2005, West Mercia Constabulary formally confirmed their endorsement of the request, however asked that consideration be given to some minor geographical revisions.
- 3.4 To further discussions a Working Group comprising of the following representatives was established in June 2005:
- District Councillors - Mitton and Lickhill Wards (Wards the proposal covered)
 - Stourport-on-Severn Town Councillors (x2)
 - Pc Jon Harris, West Mercia Constabulary, Beat Manager for Stourport-on-Severn
 - District Council Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services
 - Chief Executive, Wyre Forest District Council (WFDC)
 - Strategy, Partnerships and Communications Manager (WFDC)
 - Community Safety Officer (WFDC)
- 3.5 Taking into consideration West Mercia Constabulary's suggested revisions, the Working Group agreed the geographical boundaries for the proposed Alcohol Restriction Zone, which included some areas of Stourport-on-Severn Town Centre and Stourport-on-Severn War Memorial Park, as set out on **Map 1**.
- 3.6 In line with Home Office Guidance, a formal consultation process for the identified geographical areas was undertaken. This included a Public Notice being placed in the Kidderminster Shuttle, Times and News on 15th September 2005 and a letter of notification being delivered to 1500 properties within and immediately surrounding the proposed areas. Both consultation methods invited views and comments on the proposal put forward.
- 3.7 The deadline for submission of comments was 14th October 2005 and a total of 58 letters / emails were received.

- 3.8 A summary of the comments has been placed in Members' Group Rooms for information, which show overall there is very strong resident support for the introduction of an Alcohol Restriction Zone in Stourport-on-Severn.

4 KEY ISSUES - COMMENTS FROM CONSULTATION

- 4.1 On 31st October 2005 the Working Group reviewed the comments and in light of their discussions decided to revise the proposed Alcohol Restriction Zone boundary, to include a number of additional areas, as set out on **Map 2**.
- 4.2 A copy of the Working Group's comments in response to resident feedback has also been placed in Members' Group Rooms.

5. NEXT STEPS

- 5.1 Due to the proposed revisions as outlined on Map 2, the Council is required by law to consult with the owners and occupiers of premises within those areas that have now been added to the proposal. A Public Notice will also be placed in the local press.
- 5.2 It should however be noted that these properties were consulted with regarding the original Alcohol Restriction Zone proposal due to being located immediately outside the boundary. Consequently the requests made for the inclusion of the additional areas, as now outlined on Map 2, were largely received from these same residents.
- 5.3 In view of this, we do not expect to receive any significant objections to the revised proposal. The consultation feedback, which should be available by 7th December 2005, will be reviewed and reported to Council accordingly.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Associated costs can currently be met within the existing community safety budget.

7. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The designation of public places where the drinking of alcohol is restricted underpins the Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership's targets to reduce the problematic use of alcohol and also endorses the Council's Section 17 duty of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 8.1 There are no risk management issues in connection with this report.

9. CONCLUSION

- 9.1 The strong resident feedback from the statutory consultation demonstrates that local people wish to see the introduction of an Alcohol Restriction Zone in Stourport-on-Severn, which will provide the Police with an additional power to

deal with incidents of alcohol related anti-social behaviour and drunkenness.

10. CONSULTEES

- 10.1
- Stourport-on-Severn Alcohol Restriction Zone Working Group
 - Corporate Management Team

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1
- Minutes of the Stourport-on-Severn Alcohol Restriction Zone Working Group Meetings – 30th June 2005, 5th September 2005 and 31st October 2005.

Last updated – 31st October 2005