



We asked..... You said.....

Ilfracombe Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Extension

The survey ran from Monday 17 June 2024 to Midday on Monday 8 July 2024

310 online responses were received.

0 Paper surveys have been received.

3 email responses were received (see "Email Responses Received" below).

To find out the results of this survey, and how it has affected the way we work, or what we have done as a result of the answers you have given please follow this project's progress at: [Council meeting on Wednesday, 17th July, 2024 at 6.30 pm](#) when this will be discussed.

Survey Responses

Questions one and two contained personal information and will not be published in this summary.

Q3, Are you answering as:

An Individual/Member of the public	291	93.87%
On behalf of an organisation	19	6.13%

Q4, Name of organisation:

The Proper Marmalade Company

Ocean Backpackers
Community Resources
Events 4 Ilfracombe
Belle's Place
Ilfracombe Infant and Nursery School
Ilfracombe C of E Junior School
Ilfracombe & District Business & Tourism Association
Ilfracombe Market
Ilfracombe Town Council
Mike Turton Butchers
Gardant Security Limited (Street Marshals)
Marine Court
Ashton Accounting
Ilfracombe in bloom
The Ilfracombe Academy
Ilfracombe Girl Guides

Q4, Postcode

CW9 = 1	0.32%
EX16 = 1	0.32%
EX22 = 1	0.32%
EX31 = 10	3.23%
EX32 = 2	0.65%
EX33 = 4	1.29%
EX34 = 284	91.61%
EX36 = 1	0.32%
EX37 = 2	0.65%
EX39 = 3	0.97%
HA5 = 1	0.32%

Q5, Do you support extending the current PSPO to the beaches of Wildermouth, the Harbour and Cheyne?

Yes = 294	94.84%
No = 8	2.58%
Blank = 8	2.58%

Q6, Do you agree that street drinking leads to anti-social behaviour?

Yes = 301	97.10%
No = 5	1.61%
Blank = 4	1.29%

Q7, The PSPO gives the Police, Wardens and authorised enforcement Officers the power to require individuals to surrender alcohol if they are found drinking it or intending to drink it. Do you agree with this deterrent?

Yes = 299	96.45%
No = 10	3.23%
Blank = 1	0.32%

Email Responses Received

1) I wanted to answer the consultation but I felt it didn't give me the right opportunity to express my view adequately. I work at Belles Place Ilfracombe supporting people who experience homelessness, addiction, mental illness and poverty.

The level of street drinking has increased and the number of people who are being placed here, or have drifted here with complex needs, has increased. It's quite a febrile situation with groups of established drinkers/addicts mixing with new people who present with similar problems.

It's not a simple case of having a prohibition order as this doesn't solve the underlying issues. These issues are complex but much of the problem lies with a lack of support services for mental health, social care, addiction, homelessness and poverty. Then we have the fact that more and more people are placed here in Ilfracombe with high levels of need from outside of the NDC area. These can be

people in supported living (a lucrative business for landlords who fail to provide that support) or in temporary accommodation. District Councils are placing people in TA in Ilfracombe but if the placement breaks down or they are found not to have an obligation then those people are then homeless and vulnerable (as well as challenging for all sorts of reasons) on the streets of Ilfracombe. Add people who have drifted here over the summer thinking that life would be better on the streets by the sea and you have a potentially explosive situation as you have seen.

Extending the PSPO is likely to push the problem elsewhere in the Town and won't solve the issues I've described. Also from my experience at Belles there aren't enough officers to enforce this extension. We have phoned for assistance before with someone in high distress and a possible danger to be told that no one was available until the next day. No police officers have ever visited Belles to engage with the people that run it on how best to reduce ASB or street drinking or to see what we do.

I am hoping Rich Preston might attend a partner's meeting on Friday at 10am in the Salvation Army building where Belles, the Foodbank, the outreach and housing team and Encompass will all be discussing the current situation.

2) I have completed the survey, however I notice that there are no questions relating to supporting those who use alcohol/drugs. I agree ASB needs to be reduced but this needs to be enforced alongside support for those with addictions - otherwise the issues just move to a different area (off the beach and to a more hidden corner - from experience this is normally next to residential buildings).

Those in residential homes need more support as the residential homes report they can't enforce anything. One example, is a local alcoholic that often frequents outside my house - his story is that he was placed in Ilfracombe on probation after accidentally burning a vacant building down from an untended fire he lit to keep warm. He resides in a residential home but is unsupported - he has reduced his drinking only to fall back off the wagon multiple times due to his addiction. This is a problem I am witnessing increase on our streets, with more new faces arriving each week, from conversations some are homeless but most are in residential homes.

3) To whom it may concern,

Many thanks for including me in the consultation regarding the proposed extension to the Public Space Protection Order in Ilfracombe. I did not feel the consultation questionnaire gave sufficient opportunity to voice my opinion on this complex issue, hence emailing instead.

To give some context, I am a GP working at Combe Coastal Practice and also run an outreach clinic at Belle's Place. Ilfracombe has been my local town since moving here in 2014, and I feel very invested in the town and community.

With regards to the consultation, I do not dispute the principle that we want Ilfracombe to be a safe and beautiful place to live and visit. I recognise that this is essential for the wellbeing of the town residents, along with the many small businesses that are reliant on visitors throughout the year. I do not condone any of

the anti-social behaviour that has occurred in Ilfracombe recently. That said, I do object to the use of Public Space Protection Orders in order to achieve this.

We cannot escape the fact that Ilfracombe has areas of significant deprivation, with many complex and highly vulnerable people living in the community. Drug and alcohol problems are unfortunately part and parcel of this. These individuals already feel looked down on by society. Further dehumanising them by restricting where they are able to go in the town is, I believe, not the solution here (and is likely to just push the issue elsewhere in the town anyway).

Street drinking is often not a pro-active choice of individuals. A significant proportion of people who I speak to with addiction problems tell me that they drink outside as they 'have nowhere else to go'.

I believe we need to be looking at pro-active, as opposed to punitive, measures to tackle anti-social behaviour linked to drinking in our community. I understand Carol has made changes to the opening times at Belle's to enable people to come in early and have a place to base for a part of the day to socialise and eat. I believe this has had some success. Further exploring solutions such as these is, I believe, the solution here. Additionally, I think it is essential to involve the individuals who this PSPO is directed towards in these conversations, as I suspect they are the people most likely to be able to offer solutions. I am unclear whether or not these conversations have been had as part of this consultation.

We are never going to be able to solve the complex social and psychological issues that lead to addiction overnight. However, I believe that Ilfracombe is a compassionate community that has always explored innovative approaches to addressing problems, and would be really keen that we do this once more with this issue.

2 Responses received online

1) Why are they allowed to bring this town down Ilfracombe has enough problems without people that don't come from here using the beaches and gardens as their toilets. Is this what I have to pay over two thousand pounds in council tax for send them back to Barnstaple.

2) In a town that relies on tourism it is vital that our beaches be free of the sort of behaviour described above. As a parent, grandparent and resident of Ilfracombe I feel I should be able to visit these spaces without feeling intimidated or threatened. I whole heartedly support the extension of the PSPO to cover these areas, and also Rapparee beach.

Equality Information

Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 applies to public sector organisations, whereby Local Authorities must have due regard to the 8 protected characteristics (age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion/belief, sexual orientation (and marriage and civil partnership in employment) in its decision making.

Not all questions were answered – percentages based on number who did respond.

Equality Protected Characteristics:

The information below includes responses from across all demographic groups and communities in North Devon.

Representations have also been received from a number of organisations on behalf of people with the following protected characteristics:

Disability

Community Resources

Belle's Place

Age

The Ilfracombe Academy

Ilfracombe Girl Guides

Ilfracombe C of E Junior School

Ilfracombe Infant and Nursery School

Responses

What is your age?

- 19 and under =0 0.0%
- 20 to 24 =0 0.0%
- 25 to 34 =19 6.13%
- 35 to 49 =106 34.19%
- 50 to 64 =110 35.48%
- 65 to 74 =45 14.525%
- 75 to 84 =16 5.16%
- 85 and over =1 0.32%
- Prefer not to say =13 4.19%

Do you consider yourself to have a disability (according to the Equality Act 2010)?

- No = 259 83.55%

- Yes = 29 9.35%
- Prefer not to say = 21 6.77%
- Blank = 1 0.32%

How would you describe your ethnicity?

- White = 277 89.35%
- Prefer not to say = 23 7.42%
- Asian, Asian British, or Asian Welsh = 2 0.65%
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups = 5 1.61%
- Other ethnic group = 3 0.97%

What is your religion or belief?

- No religion = 162 52.26%
- Christian = 93 30.00%
- Prefer not to say = 38 12.26%
- Other religion = 14 4.52%
- Buddhist = 2 0.65%
- Jewish = 0 0.0%
- Hindu = 0 0.0%
- Blanks = 1 0.32%

Sex

- Female = 197 63.55%
- Male = 97 31.29%
- Prefer not to say = 13 4.19%
- Other = 1 0.32%
- Blank = 1 0.32%
- Both = 1 0.32%

Please confirm if this is the same as registered at birth

- Yes = 294 94.84%
- Prefer not to say = 15 4.840%
- No = 0 0.0%
- Blank = 1 0.32%

Sexual orientation

- Straight or Heterosexual = 267 86.97%
- Prefer not to say = 32 10.42%

- Bisexual = 3 0.98%
- Gay or Lesbian = 5 1.63%
- Other = 0 0.0%
- Pansexual = 0 0.0%
- Other sexual orientation = 0 0.0%

The results of the equality information responses will be considered alongside the census information for the North Devon Council area. Equality and diversity monitoring can help identify current and future needs, possible inequalities including problems accessing or using services and information, as well as checking that a cross-section of people have been reached and given their views. Results have been published in an anonymised way.

Please note that percentage figures provided are approximate and shown to up to two decimal places.