

**Rationale for proposed changes to a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for Barnstaple Pannier Market.**

Since re-opening in August 2023, following the extensive refurbishment programme there have been 9 recorded incidents of Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) in the market between the hours of 05:00 and 07:30.

Due to the hours these have occurred the incidents have been reported to Hannah Harrington, verbally by members of staff and / or traders.

The Police were called and attended on 2 occasions.

The ASB issues reported have included:

- Urinating / defecating
- Behaviour in a manner likely to cause intimidation, harassment, alarm or distress.
- The possession or consumption of alcohol and or controlled drugs, other than under a prescription

The number of incidents in this timeframe Incident logs:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Incident details</b>	<b>Method of reporting</b>
8 September 2023	07:00	Aggressive individual with dog threatening staff and traders	999 Police attended
09 Jan 2024	06:11	2 x aggressive individuals in toilets	verbal
01 June 2024	07:00	Intoxicated male drinking in toilets with open bottle.	verbal
12 June 2024	06:19	Individual drinking in market	verbal
19 June 2024	06:30	4 x individuals being aggressive. Bottles and needles found in vicinity	verbal
20 June 2024	06:00	2 x individuals being aggressive. Moved on at 07:30	verbal
17 July 2024	07:10	Group of 5 x street drinkers	verbal
24 September 2024	06:15	Intoxicated male, staff unable to wake up	verbal
2 October 2024	06:14	2 x individuals being threatening towards staff and traders	999 Police attended

**Anti-Social Behaviour outside of current restricted hours**

It has to be accepted that there is no recent evidence of anti-social behaviour which has taken place between 18:00 and 05:00 in the Pannier Market, but it is submitted that this reflects the success of the existing and previous PSPO's in the prevention of such behaviour.

In comparison there is ample evidence that instances of public disorder and street drinking, in breach of the PSPO which applies to the town centre area, are rife and would inevitably transfer to the Pannier Market if the PSPO permitting the closure of the gates between 18:00 and 07:30 am were not to be approved.

For example, data from the Street Marshal scheme 1 August 2023 – 12 November 2024 shows that the Pannier Market is the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest hotspot area for ASB in the town centre after the High Street and Bus Station.

In addition, NDC has conducted has issued 17 Community Protection Notices to prohibit individuals from possessing and consuming alcohol in the town centre of Barnstaple. A further 7 Community Protection Notices were issued for non-compliance resulting in 3 prosecutions so far in 2024.