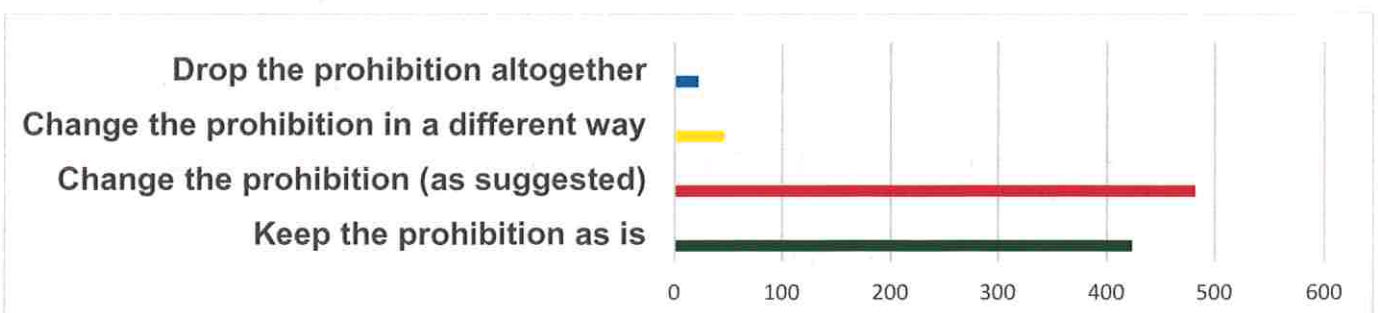


## Begging

CURRENT PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER			PROPOSED PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER	
PURPOSE	CURRENT PROHIBITION	WHEN	PROPOSED PROHIBITION	REASONS
<p>The aim is to support vulnerable people to break the cycle of begging and to reduce the impact this has on the town centre offer.</p> <p>People who make requests for money or donations in the Town Centre are less likely to access support services whilst they receive income from this to sustain their current lifestyles.</p> <p>This also impacts on the vibrancy and attractiveness of the environment of the town centre to visitors and shoppers and businesses.</p> <p>Enforcement action will primarily focus on helping people to change behaviour and access support services.</p>	<p>No person shall beg by making unsolicited and/or unauthorised requests for money (whether expressly requested or impliedly requested by conduct) within the Town Centre.</p> <p>This shall include any verbal, non-verbal or written request from a standing, sitting or lying down position for money, donations or goods, including the placing of hats, clothing or containers.</p>	<p>At all times (not including restriction on people who busk)</p>	<p>No person shall make any verbal, non-verbal or written request for money, donations or goods, including the placing of hats, clothing or containers so as to cause or is likely to cause nuisance, annoyance or distress</p>	<p>The evidence collected by the Council and the data from the police demonstrates there are still incidents of begging and the overall trend is increasing. The proposed changes aim to simplify the wording of the prohibition and focus on the anti-social behaviour associated with begging rather than the act itself</p>

### **Question Asked:**

**People asking you for money, donations or goods – including through placing of hats, clothing or containers – that causes harassment, alarm, distress, nuisance, or annoyance.**



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Keep the prohibition as is	423	43.47%
Change the prohibition (as suggested)	482	49.54%
Change the prohibition in a different way	46	4.73%
Drop the prohibition altogether	22	2.26%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>973</b>	<b>100%</b>

### **Keep the Prohibition as it is- 43.47%**

These responses still support the PSPO preventing begging but did not want it to be changed as suggested. Comments included:-

*"Begging should not be permitted, which the current PSPO states clearly. Proposal for the change states it is not against the act of begging - why?"*

*"I don't really think that there is much difference between the current prohibition and the proposed prohibition because I think that not making any non verbal or verbal requests for money is the same as what is said in the current prohibition, which says no one should make any unauthorised requests for money. A non verbal or verbal request for money is an unauthorised request for money"*

*"The town centre is a much more pleasant place to shop and to walk around with the Public Spaces Protection Order in place. I have noticed beggars are still there but usually walking around and asking quietly for money as you pass them. I am also aware that the beggars are more noticeable after 5pm when the streets are emptier. Well done and I congratulate you for the last 3 years efforts. I hope the order continues for the longest time possible"*

*"This is still needed"*

*"This may help to eradicate the professional beggars"*

*"Beggars are the number one reason that put me off going to town or any town centre"*

*"Doncaster night scene is great but what's not nice is to see and be approached by beggar's for money, they sit outside the pubs and make a lot of money from the party goers"*

*"I agree with simplifying the prohibition but the new version specifies harassment, alarm, distress etc. I find any form of begging distressing and intimidating and am concerned that if the prohibition is changed it would be more difficult for people to evidence that this behaviour is fulfilling the criteria of the PSPO. I.e someone asking for money 'politely' would be acceptable under the new prohibition"*

*"There is no need to make changes"*

Comments centred about finding begging intimidating and that the mere fact of people begging does not help the town. This view is not supported as the requirements of a PSPO means it must be demonstrated the act being prohibited has a detrimental

impact on the quality of life of those in the locality which is not met by the mere act of begging.

### **Change the Prohibition as suggested- 49.54%**

The data showing the number of breaches of this PSPO suggests that there is an increase in begging which suggests the continuation of this PSPO is needed. This was supported by almost 50% of responses agreeing to the suggested changes. Comments on the suggested changes to the PSPO included:-

*"Especially around the carparks iv seen people almost intimidated in to giving money to the point iv stepped in and stopped it"*

*"Lots of people approach & ask you for money especially around the Market area & St Sepulchre Gate. It is very intimidating"*

*"This is an absolutely crucial aspect of the behaviour of a minority of people that the majority find totally unacceptable"*

*Tighten up on aggressive begging, as majority are not true homeless people.*

*"Agree, simplified wording is better"*

*"Aggressive and persistent begging is one of the least pleasant aspects of visiting the town centre and anything that can be done to discourage it is very welcome as far as I'm concerned"*

*"Agree with proposal and to encourage people who beg to us the official resources available to them. It is difficult to know who is in genuine need and those who are just trying to take advantage"*

*"As one of the Town Ward Councillors we had a conference call about this amended proposed PSPO document and after discussions between us all we agreed with it in it's entirety"*

*"Home Office Guidelines might state they don't want to target rough sleepers, but many of those laid in doorways don't sleep out, fraudulent behaviour intended to con money out of people. They come into town from decent accommodation"*

*"I agree with the revised wording and reasons for this"*

*"I have seen 'organised begging' - someone in a large expensive car next to Christ Church organising a group of beggars who then dispersed around town"*

*"I think this is a good idea. I personally do give to the needy and offer people who ask for money something else such as a hot or cold drink or a pastry. I feel the main thing here as outlined in the wording is if one is feeling harrassed. I for one have not felt this by the people whom ask for such things"*

*"Most beggars arent homeless, some are polite, some are very rude"*

*"If people wish to donate/engage that is their right. However I feel the majority of general public always feel intimidated whether engaging or not"*

*"many people begging for money are not truly homeless and do it to for other reason. These issues need to be tackled. It can be intimidating when people are begging"*

*"This would allow the prohibition to reflect changes in legislation"*

Together with those who would rather the PSPO stay as it is currently total 93% of responses which is a strong view in favour of the begging prohibition remaining.

### **Change prohibition in a different way- 4.73%**

Much of the commentary relates to stricter enforcement though fines, bans from the Town Centre and a greater presence of police and Town Centre Ambassadors. Comments include:

*"Be stricter with those who do beg, there are still many people begging and causing a nuisance but police don't do anything about it".*

*"Increased enforcement of probation, and increased enforcement by town centre ambassadors and police".*

*"Place more police in the town centre, higher fines and ban anyone doing any kind of anti-social behaviour".*

Whilst these are valid suggestions, they go beyond the remit of the PSPO.

There is some level of concern regarding the correlation between begging and those who are in need of support. Comments here include:

*"Prevent the need for begging. Give practical help as needed eg housing, benefits, employment. Provide an answer to their need not hide them away".*

*"I feel that some of the people who ask for money are desperate and need serious help from the council".*

It is important to note, that the PSPO only relates to begging in an anti-social manner and that Doncaster Council has many services and programs to support those in need.

### **Drop the prohibition altogether- 2.26%**

As above, the majority of comments here relate to the need to support those in need through rehabilitation ensuring that those in need are not criminalised for begging. Some example of comments include:

*"DMBC should not be imposing criminalisation of poor and homeless people they must endeavour to help support and house homeless people and help and support for their residents when they fall on hard times".*

*"I have never been distressed by a hat on the floor or by somebody less fortunate asking for goods."*

*"Why not try to support homeless and desperate people rather than prohibit their existence?"*

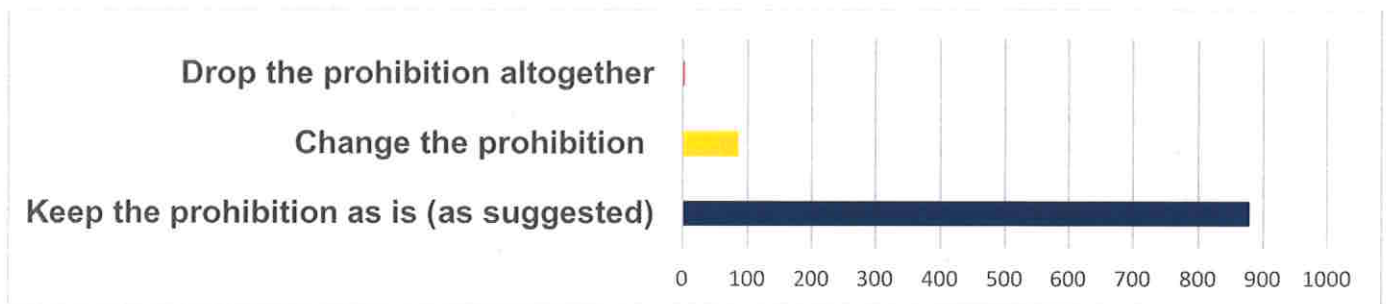
To re-iterate, the proposed PSPO is specifically attempting to prevent begging that is anti-social in nature and not the act of begging itself.

## Loitering

CURRENT PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER			PROPOSED PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER	
PURPOSE	CURRENT PROHIBITION	WHEN	PROPOSED PROHIBITION	REASONS
<p>The aim is to stop people loitering around ATMS and pay machines, which has a detrimental effect on people's feelings of safety and on the vibrancy of the Town Centre.</p> <p>Enforcement action will primarily focus on helping people to change behaviour and access support services.</p>	<p>No person shall loiter, sit or lay on the floor or on temporary structures in or adjacent to doorways or around pay machines (including banks, supermarkets) in a manner causing or likely to cause harassment, alarm, distress, nuisance or annoyance to any person within the Town Centre.</p>	<p>At all times</p>	<p>No change proposed</p>	<p>The evidence collected by the Council demonstrates the most complaint/incidents regarding antisocial behaviour in the town centre involved loitering. It is therefore proposed to keep this prohibition</p>

### Question Asked:

People hanging around pay machines (including banks, supermarkets) unless waiting to use them.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Keep the prohibition as is (as suggested)	879	89.79%
Change the prohibition	86	8.78%
Drop the prohibition altogether	14	1.43%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>979</b>	<b>100%</b>

### **Keep the prohibition as it is (as suggested) 89.79%**

The vast majority of survey participants selected this option, demonstrating that support for the PSPO is still. Some of the comments included:

*"I support this, the behaviour is unnerving."*

*"It is intimidating and especially in the evening when people sit right beside them. I feel intimidated and will not use a cash machine when someone is hanging about."*

*"Especially around supermarkets & more so Banks it makes me very nervous about using them. I will NOT use a cash machine with anyone near by at all"*

*"You feel intimidated when there are people lurking about when your trying to take cash out, thinking they are watching for your pin number and or snatching your money or evening mugging you for your card."*

*"Vital, if not I would go to another location i.e. out of town supermarket".*

*"Seems to be working."*

*"This is needed to make people feel safe. Doncaster town centre to me doesn't feel safe."*

*"Agree with proposal. This behaviour is intimidating and I am very wary of using a cash machine on my own."*

*"Can we paint 'red zones' on the floor to ensure people using the cash points are prompted to be aware they are being closely shadowed?"*

*"Keep PSPO to ensure safety of public."*

*"Safety to people who use the cash machines."*

*"Can signs not be erected adjacent to the machines clearly stating the details of the prohibition, and the penalties that may be applied if violations occur".*

*"Seems to have been working well and allows people to be more aware of the pickpocket gangs which were coming into town, the multiple distraction effect."*

*"Absolutely, keep this. It is completely threatening to people, especially elderly people. You feel like you are going to be mugged or worse."*

*"There should be a line painted on the floor that people waiting should stand behind when someone is using the ATM."*

*"I think this is a good idea to keep this as I know myself I will not use a cash machine if someone is stood or sat outside as I do not feel safe."*

*"I experience this several times before in Doncaster. So glad this is no longer allowed."*

As well as agreeing to keep this prohibition suggestions were made of how this could be enforced with suggestions about enforcement. The powers of enforcement are dealt with in legislation.

### **Change the prohibition 8.73%**

Comments attached this that option desired stricter enforcement of the prohibition. Suggestions included:-

*"There should be tougher actions against people who do this, not just by offering help or services. This can be a serious issue if people obtain people's bank account details and also, it can make you feel unsafe carrying the cash you have withdrawn. Regardless of your situation and circumstances, it is never acceptable to be loitering around people who are using atm machines and this needs proper policing."*

*"Needs to be more strict."*

*"The current ban does not work, maybe if there was an on the spot fine those who do this might think twice."*

*"I would not use any pay machine in town unless it was inside a bank as it currently feels unsafe. Additional powers to move people on need to be introduced."*

*"Needs to be stricter and these people need to be challenged as to their behaviour".*

*"Need more police with more power. Not just the PSO's having a chat & laugh. They are all well-known addicts & thieves".*

*"More rigorous enforcement."*

Much of these comments go beyond the benefit of the prohibition. The PSPO is enforced by Council Officers in collaboration with other agencies. The penalties for breach of the PSPO are set out in legislation

### **Drop the prohibition altogether 1.43%**

A small percentage of those who undertook the survey wanted the prohibition to be dropped altogether. Many comments relate to the homeless or those in need. Reasons cited for this are below:

*"Rehabilitation and investment in better rehabilitative services such as rough-sleeper hostels, support for local charities and initiatives that address the problem, as opposed to punishment for those that will likely then repeat their actions. Fining those who have little or no money might seem favourable to the public but not when they would consider the effectiveness of such measures. This mentality leads to the further demonisation of rough*

*sleeping and is a practice you would associate with a Conservative or populist government.”*

*“DMBC should not be imposing criminalisation of poor and homeless people they must endeavour to help support and house homeless people and help and support for their residents when they fall on hard times. This PSPO only moves any issues from town centres into the surrounding areas and criminalising poverty making the issues worse by imposing fines to people wholly unable to ever pay them. It used to be a great town now it's becoming a dump where the council just move problems out of their area into surrounding areas and towns.”*

This prohibition is for the benefit of all of those using the Town Centre and is certainly not a tool to criminalise those who may be in need. Doncaster Council offers many programs to those who need support in the community through teams such as Complex Lives.

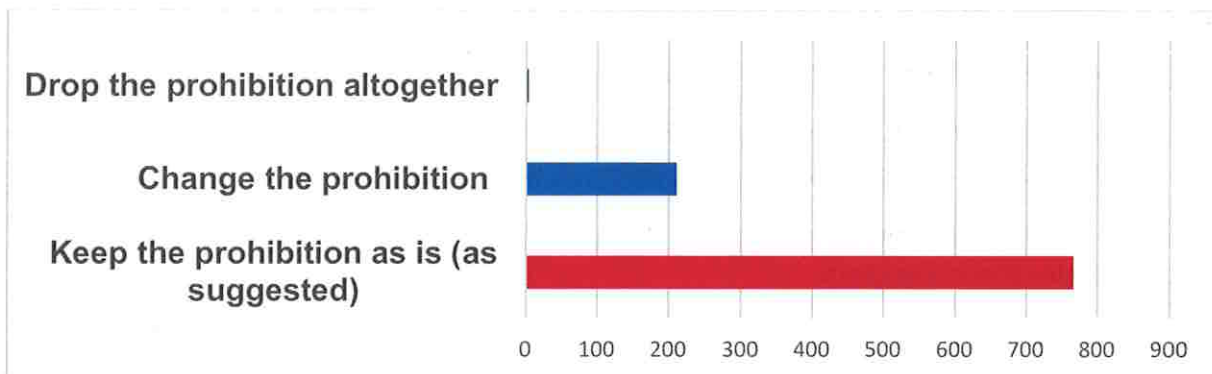


**No return in 24 hours**

CURRENT PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER			PROPOSED PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER	
PURPOSE	CURRENT PROHIBITION	WHEN	PROPOSED PROHIBITION	REASONS
<p>The aim is to deter people from behaving in an anti-social manner which has a detrimental effect on people's feelings of safety and on the vibrancy of the Town Centre.</p> <p>Enforcement action will primarily focus on helping people to change behaviour and access support services.</p>	<p>No person shall, after being requested to leave by an authorised officer due to them behaving in a manner causing or likely to cause harassment, alarm, distress, nuisance or annoyance to any person within the Town Centre without reasonable excuse, remain or return to the Town Centre within a period of 24 hours.</p>	<p>At all times. In respect of those individuals who are rough sleeping this prohibition will only apply if they have access to alternative accommodation or have refused support.</p>	<p>No change proposed</p>	<p>The evidence collected by the Council and the data from the police (referred to by the police as rowdy/inconsiderate behaviour) demonstrates such behaviour is prolific in the town centre. It is therefore proposed to keep this prohibition.</p>

**Question Asked:**

**People who have been causing antisocial behaviour are prevented from returning to the Town Centre within 24 hours after being requested to leave**



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Keep the prohibition as is (as suggested)	766	77.45%
Change the prohibition	211	21.34%
Drop the prohibition altogether	12	1.21%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>989</b>	<b>100%</b>

### **Keep the prohibition as it is (as suggested)**

The vast majority of those surveyed favoured keeping the current prohibition as it is demonstrating that it is still supported and together with the data showing the number of times this PSPO has been breached shows the need for this prohibition. Some of the comments made by responders are detailed below:-

*"I agree with keeping this - if they are at risk of causing further hassle they should not be able to remain in the centre to be allowed to do this. Removing them is preventing the behaviour".*

*"Agree, people who cause anti social behaviour should be removed from the town centre. It is distressing and upsetting. It affects people coming to town."*

*"Agree with proposal."*

*"Sounds sensible. Gives them a chance to reflect on their behaviour."*

*"No changes as it works effectively to reduce antisocial behaviours."*

*"It is important that we have the power to disperse people from the Town Centre locality where ASB is identified and so that Doncaster residents feel safe, but are we not just shifting the problem elsewhere in the borough and to those areas on the edge of the locality."*

*"I think 24 hrs is adequate time for this. I do believe that repeat offenders should be banned."*

*"I believe preventing people who have been charged with anti social behaviour from entering the town centre within 24 hours is a good idea."*

*"Happy with the reasons given for the change."*

*"Anti-social behaviour has long plagued the town centre and has discouraged people that I know from visiting."*

Careful consideration must be given to the use of this prohibition to ensure its use is proportionate and necessary.

### **Change the prohibition 21.34%**

Commentary here supported stricter enforcement of the prohibition including extending the no return order to longer than 24 hours. Comments included:

*"Change it to 72 hours."*

*"Make it longer than 24hrs."*

*"The time should be extended to at least 72 hours."*

*"Make it a total ban"*

Given other powers at the Council's disposal, further extension of the PSPO is not regarded as proportionate or necessary.

### **Drop the prohibition altogether 1.21%**

Very few participants selected this option but the comments left were strongly against this being a prohibition. Comments included:

*"This does not work. If it is breached people get arrested and when they go to court they only get a fine. They can not go to prison for it. So they come back out needing more money to pay the fine. It just goes round in circles another option needs to be found as the whole PSPO doesn't work on regular town centre problem people"*

*"This one is fair enough, if used appropriately. Which given it's in the context of a PSPO, it can't possibly be used appropriately."*

*"DMBC should not be imposing criminalisation of poor and homeless people they must endeavour to help support and house homeless people and help and support for their residents when they fall on hard times. This pspo only moves any issues from town centres into the surrounding areas and criminalising poverty making the issues worse by imposing fines to people wholly unable to ever pay them. It used to be a great town now it's becoming a dump where the council just move problems out of their area into surrounding areas and towns"*

It should be noted the Council engages with those seemingly in breach of this PSPO which enables the Council to identify any needs and signpost to a number of programs or interventions to assist.

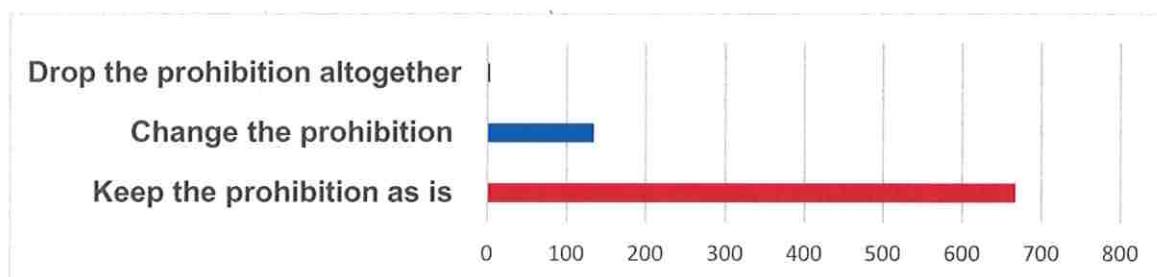


**Groups of three or more**

CURRENT PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER			PROPOSED PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER	
PURPOSE	CURRENT PROHIBITION	WHEN	PROPOSED PROHIBITION	REASONS
<p>The aim is to deter groups of people from behaving in an anti-social manner which can have a detrimental effect on people's feeling of safety and the vibrancy of the Town Centre.</p> <p>Enforcement action will focus on managing anti - social behaviour causing legitimate concern.</p>	<p>No person shall congregate in a group of 3 or more people and behave in a manner causing or likely to cause harassment, alarm, distress, nuisance or annoyance to any person within the Town Centre.</p>	<p>At all times</p>	<p>Remove in its entirety</p>	<p>The evidence collected by the Council and the data from the police show that the numbers of incidents relating to this prohibition are low. It is therefore determined there is no justification for this prohibition. Any problems that may occur can in the main be addressed by ordinary Police powers.</p>

**Question Asked:-**

**People in groups of three or more causing anti-social behaviour**



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Keep the prohibition as is	667	68.20%
Change the prohibition	135	13.80%
Drop the prohibition altogether	176	18.00%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>978</b>	<b>100%</b>

## **Keep the prohibition 68.2%**

Despite the consultation document recommending that this prohibition be dropped, the vast majority selected that they wanted to keep it. Comments included:

*"Again these people need to be addressed in a harsh manner, such as bans and fines for anti social behaviour, as this is the only way to stop it."*

*"Police are not always there, so keep a back up with council powers."*

*"This would only work, if we had enough police to monitor the situation. ..Doncaster is very poorly protected by police presence."*

*"Dropping the prohibition will only increase the likelihood of these groups forming, and having it in place will give those responsible with upholding the prohibition a stronger position if/when situations could potentially escalate."*

*"The police may have the powers but their presence is limited within the town centre & they are likely to unenforce those powers (too time consuming) IMO."*

*"It needs to be made clear that such behaviour is unacceptable and that enforcement officers have a number of instruments they can apply."*

*"In certain areas this has helped reduce the amount of anti social behaviour issues."*

*"Groups of people acting anti-socially make other people intimidated and this should not be tolerated, action against groups needs to be maintained."*

*"We absolutely MUST keep this proposal due to the high levels of anti social behaviour in the town centre caused by groups of people known to traders, shoppers and workers. We all know who these people are, we see them more than we see our own families. Dropping it would be a very odd thing to do."*

*"The existing prohibition sends a very clear message that anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated."*

*"Police powers aren't always going to be used, this is an addition to the armoury when police aren't available."*

*"This behaviour seemed to increase in 2019, with people congregating in groups in the market (on non-market days). Although the people may not intend to be intimidating, their behaviour can suggest otherwise."*

Many comments wanted this prohibition in place as a deterrent to stop this behaviour. However, for a prohibition to be included on the PSPO there must be an evidence base that this is an issue or likely to be so. As currently there is no evidence keeping this prohibition cannot be supported.

### **Drop the prohibition (as suggested) 18.00%**

There was some level of support to drop the prohibition as recommended. See comments below:

*"Agree with the rationale for changing this."*

*"Police already have powers to deal with this."*

*"Agree that the police already have the powers to tackle groups behaving in an anti-social manner."*

*"This is off putting for visitors to the town centre however if a situation arises police have the powers to deal with it."*

*"Again I personally have not been aware of this. I visit early in the morning."*

*"I believe this is should be controlled by the police rather than the council."*

### **Change the prohibition 13.8%**

A small percentage of responders wanted not only to keep the prohibition but to extend it. Comments included:-

*"Stricter rules need to be enforced."*

*"Should be immediately dispersed and told to leave the area."*

*"Immediate sanction and removal needed."*

*"Groups should be prohibited for longer and if they break it should be fined."*

*"Keep it as prohibited, but Extend the PSPO to other areas including lakeside and the Vue car park"*

*"Give on the spot fines and bans from the town centre."*

*"Remove all tables and chairs from pavements outside public houses."*

*"As with previous question harsher enforcement needs to take place as there are often groups of more than 3 hanging round the town centre shouting & intimidating shoppers."*

*"Concern about removal of this one. Personally witness ongoing regular problems on the grounds of Doncaster St Georges Minster where numbers of youths / homeless congregate. Regular problems with drinking/ drug use /anti social behaviour. Examples of groups of people in and around minster users and their cars. Disconcerting for mothers and children as they attend and use the Minster. I know their isn't an easy solution but being on the edge of the town centre authority presence as a deterrent is sporadic at best."*

The majority of comments made here favour maintaining the current prohibition and stricter enforcement through methods such as bans and fines. These go beyond the remit of the PSPO.

To summarise, there have been limited reported incidents of this occurring therefore, there is limited evidence to support this prohibition being renewed on the PSPO.

One suggestion made to deter groups gathering was to remove public seating however this could be detrimental to the elderly community or those with disabilities and is therefore not viable.

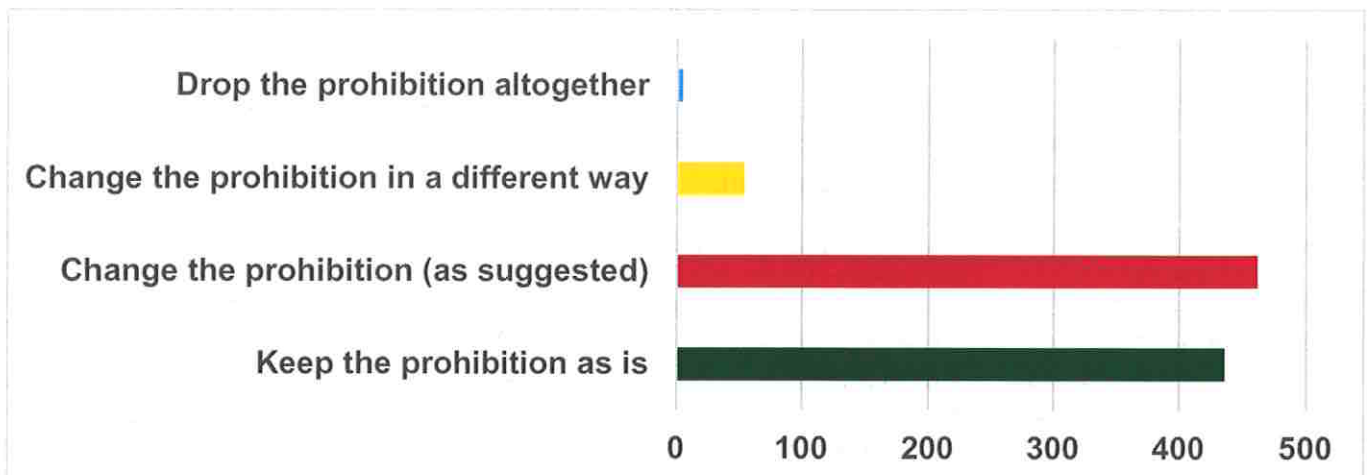


**Drinking**

CURRENT PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER			PROPOSED PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER	
PURPOSE	CURRENT PROHIBITION	WHEN	PROPOSED PROHIBITION	REASONS
<p>The aim is to deter people from consuming alcohol on the streets other than at licensed premises and to prevent antisocial behaviour and impacts on the town centre related to this.</p> <p>Enforcement action will primarily focus on helping people to change behaviour and access support services.</p>	<p>No person shall consume alcohol in any public place in the Town Centre other than at licensed premises.</p> <p>No person shall be in possession of any opened vessel containing or purporting to contain alcohol in any public place in the Town Centre</p>	<p>At all times</p> <p>(Street markets /events/f estivals will have obtained Temporary Event Notices, so will in effect be licensed premises for the time they are there)</p>	<p>No person shall consume alcohol in any public place in the Town Centre other than at licensed premises or shall be in possession of any opened vessel containing or purporting to contain alcohol in any public place save for those places identified by Section 62 of the Act</p>	<p>The evidence collected by the Council together with the data from the police relating to the consumption of alcohol demonstrates such behaviour is prolific in the town centre. It is therefore proposed to keep this prohibition subject to minor amendments to clarify that it does not impact on premises with licenses to sell alcohol</p>

**Question Asked:**

**People drinking in the street in the Town Centre other than in a pub or an area where this is allowed such as a pub garden**



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Keep the prohibition as is	437	44.77%
Change the prohibition (as suggested)	462	47.34%
Change the prohibition in a different way	54	5.53%
Drop the prohibition altogether	23	2.36%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>976</b>	<b>100%</b>

### **Keep the prohibition as it is 44.77%**

The fact that a high percentage of responses want to keep this PSPO prohibition as it is shows the support for its continuation. Commentary includes:

*“Drinking should only be allowed in pubs or beer gardens any where else and there will be anti social behaviour.”*

*“Drunkenness causes other forms of anti-social behaviour, as well as being anti-social in its own right. Drinking in the street bypasses the limits paced on drinking by bar and door staff in pubs. Nigel Gresley Square and St Sepulchre Gate are hot spots.”*

*“Since this came in, I have never seen anyone drinking in the street which is a good thing, this should be rolled out all over the borough.”*

*“There should be no drinking in the streets many find it scary.”*

*“Copious amounts of cheap alcohol consumed in the Minster grounds, leading to use of the area as a toilet, littering and other anti-social behaviour.”*

*“Do not agree with drinking unless in pub gardens/ areas.”*

*“Drinking in the street except in a designated place is unacceptable.”*

*“It does not help Doncaster to improve if people are drinking in the street.”*

Clearly, support for the PSPO is still strong. It should be noted that the suggested changes to the existing PSPO simply amend to allow for licensed premises to be excluded which complies with the legislation.

### **Change the prohibition as suggested 47.34%**

The majority of responses were in support of the changing of the PSPO as suggested. The suggested change was to ensure it was clear the PSPO had no impact on licensed premises where the sale of alcohol is lawful. Doncaster Town centre encourages a café culture allowing patrons to sit outside and be able to have a drink. The changes to the PSPO ensures this is not impacted by the PSPO. Comments included.

"Agree as alcohol can fuel further aggressive behaviour"

"Agree to prevent spill out of drinking on the streets and not in areas not licenced to enable this"

"Alcohol should only be consumed in licenced premises or events. People drinking in the streets can be intimidating for others and behaviours can escalate"

"Ban drinking in the town centre iff not on licensed premises"

"Drinking on the streets by people should be challenged and therefore I welcome the proposal to keep this in the PSPO"

"Drinking should be in pubs and bars where the licensee has responsibility to control customers. I would not feel comfortable if people were walking round drinking. Having said, Doncaster is much better than other places"

"This change makes sense"

Adding together the responses to keep the prohibition as it is and change as suggested shows a very strong agreement to this prohibition remaining.

### **Change the prohibition in a different way- 5.53%**

All these reponderrs were still in favour of a prohibition for drinking in the town centre but generally wanted a more stringent approach. Comments included:-

*"Stop people drinking in the streets full stop. There are beer gardens at pubs away from town centre where people can go to enjoy a drink. It's horrible for shoppers having to walk past people drinking outside, shouting and swearing and falling all over the place"*

*"The licenced premises have physical boundary restrictions, like DMBC PSPO. Withdraw outside drinking privileges to licenced establishments, preventing drinking on the streets totally"*

### **Drop the prohibition- 2.36%**

Although there were only a small percantage of those surveyed who wanted to drop the prohibiton they expressed stong views mainly that the issue was not with alcohol but drugs and therefore there was either no problem wth alcohol or there was no point in having such a prohibition. Comments included:-

*"Can't see the logic of this. So it's ok to drunk in a pub then come out onto the street but not ok to drink on the street? The issue isn't where the drinking takes place it is how people behave and drunk and disorderly is already an offence. The issue is the police presence in Doncaster town centre is close to zero so problem behaviour is not nipped in the bud"*

*“St Mungo’s notes that people sleeping rough may use alcohol and drugs to self-medicate for their mental health problems and they may also use substances to help them sleep and feel less cold. They note that people sleeping rough are more likely to have substance use problems if they have mental health problems. This suggests that rough sleepers with mental health problems are more likely to breach the PSPO than rough sleepers who do not have a disability. • Your PSPO will therefore target vulnerable members of society with financial penalties that they cannot afford. • Such a blunt provision is also likely to disproportionately affect young people who may not have money to socialise in a pub. • The Equality Act imposes a duty (the public sector equality duty) on local authorities to promote equality between people with a protected characteristic (which includes young people and those with a disability). A disability is a health condition that has a substantial and long-term effect on someone’s ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities and encompasses mental as well as physical health. • As discussed above rough sleepers with mental health problems may use alcohol and drugs to self-medicate meaning they are more likely to breach this PSPO than rough sleepers who do not have a disability. Similarly, young people are more likely to be affected by and breach the PSPO due to their lack of financial means to socialise on a licensed premise. This provision would therefore go against the Equality Act 2010, as well as basic principles of fairness as it would result in heavy fines or criminalisation of individuals suffering from mental health problems and/or young people who cannot afford to drink on licensed premises.*

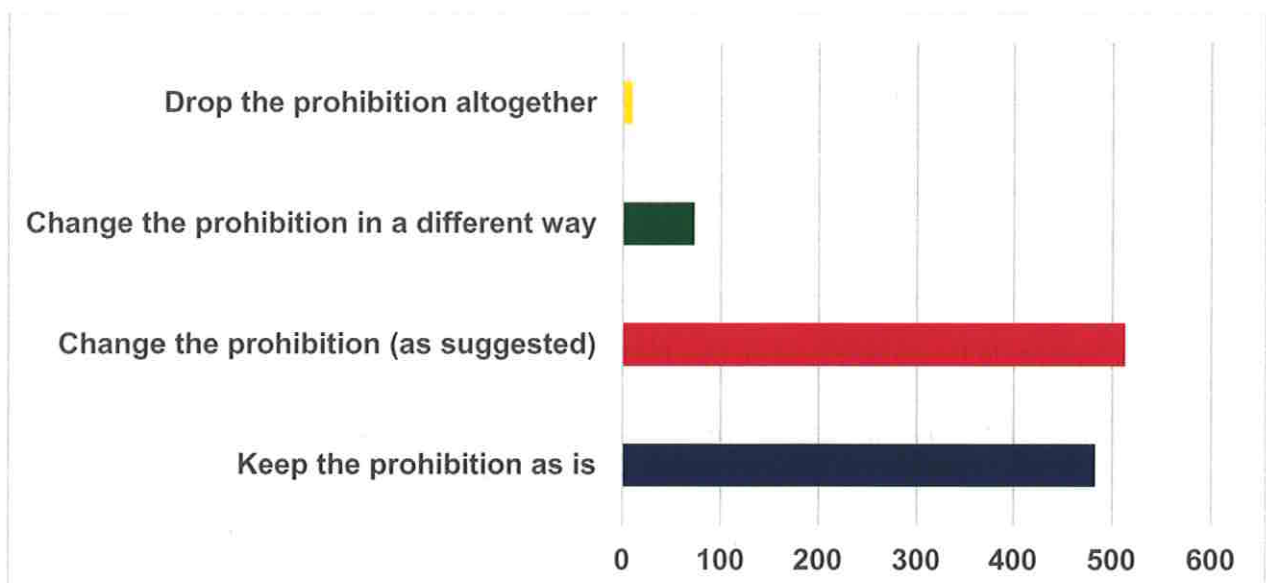
The equality issues mentioned above are dealt with in the Equality Impact assessment attached to the Report.

## Drugs

CURRENT PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER			PROPOSED PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER	
PURPOSE	CURRENT PROHIBITION	WHEN	PROPOSED PROHIBITION	REASONS
<p>The aim is to deter people from consuming drugs/intoxicating substances and to prevent antisocial behaviour and impacts on the town centre related to this.</p> <p>Enforcement action will primarily focus on helping people to change behaviour and access support services.</p>	<p>No person within the Town Centre will ingest, inhale, inject, smoke or otherwise use intoxicating substances (substances with the capacity to stimulate or depress the central nervous system).</p> <p>No person will possess any item that can be used to assist in the taking of intoxicating substances. This includes any device for smoking substances other than e-cigarettes, it also includes needles, except for those packaged and sealed by the manufacturer and stored in a hard case.</p>	At all times	<p>No person will ingest, inhale, inject, smoke or otherwise use intoxicating substances (substances with the capacity to stimulate or depress the central nervous system) or possess any item that can be used to assist in the taking of intoxicating substances. This includes any device for smoking substances other than e-cigarettes, it also includes needles, except for those packaged and sealed by the manufacturer and stored in a hard case</p>	<p>The evidence collected by the Council and the data from the police relating to the intoxicating substances demonstrates such behaviour is prolific in the town centre. It is therefore proposed to keep this prohibition subject to minor drafting amendments.</p>

### Question Asked:

People having, taking or using recreational drugs/intoxicating substances within the Town Centre



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Keep the prohibition as is	483	39.12%
Change the prohibition (as suggested)	513	52.40%
Change the prohibition in a different way	73	7.46%
Drop the prohibition altogether	10	1.02%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>979</b>	<b>100%</b>

### **Keep the prohibition as it is 39.12%**

A reasonably large percentage of responders wanted to maintain the prohibition as it is currently. The current wording still acts to prohibit anyone taking intoxicating substances in the Town Centre. Comments included:

*"I haven't seen so many recently so it must be working."*

*"Of late I have seen less cases on my visits."*

*"People under the influence of drugs cause a big problem in the town centre, often being verbally abusive and unpredictable, and sometimes being threatening and / or violent. Scares shoppers away, and can be very frightening to encounter alone in the dark after work."*

*"This behaviour gives a poor impression on the people of Doncaster to visitors."*

*"I think leaving the probation as it is will not encourage the youth to perform these acts."*

*"This needs to be addressed as going into the market area and seeing people who use spice is not a good image for the town, and ruins the experience for others."*

### **Change the prohibition (as suggested) 52.40%**

Over 50% of those who completed the survey said that they wanted to change the prohibition as suggested. A selection of these comments are below:

*"This new PSPO keeps better control on people who think it's ok to do this in public."*

*"It goes some way to improving the look and feel of the town centre."*

*"Extremely important part of the PSPO".*

*"Drug taking should be prohibited at all times. This is off putting for visitors to the town centre as well as safety issues around the debris left behind."*

*"If you choose to do this, do it out of sight of the public, behind closed doors. Away from people. I don't think people should see this."*

*"As already stated we see evidence of this regularly."*

*"Sensible update/rewording suggested"*

*"I used to witness people physically taking drugs at least twice, sometimes 5 times a day during my shop opening hours. I have found this has dropped significantly and I do not see people actually using drugs except maybe a couple of times a month. I think this is down to the town centre policing. (This is only what I can see from my shop so it may be different elsewhere in town). However, I still see people under the influence of drugs and Doing drug deals in broad daylight. I feel anyone caught injecting/smoking etc drugs in a public place should have consequences. I also think that those who are constantly under the influence and causing distress should be removed from the town centre."*

*"Agreed to change. I hate seeing used needles around and seeing people using them in broad daylight! It's scary to see and doesn't give a good impression of Doncaster."*

*"A grave concern - I don't want my daughter or other young people to see this or potentially pick up needles..."*

*"This became a problem in 2019, however I felt that the Council's actions resulted in a quick ending to people behaving in this manner, which was very positive."*

Therefore, overall the consultation successfully demonstrated that the prohibition is still needed and that the suggested amendments are supported.

### **Change the prohibition in a different way 7.46%**

Comments made here very much favoured tougher action/enforcement. Some comments wanted the boundary of the PSPO to be extended beyond what is currently proposed. See below:

*"Need to be stricter especially at night and/or in the winter when walking back from work its dark and shops are closed, the only people around are walking around like zombies before sprinting at you and collapsing due to spice"*

*"Community service for anyone caught using drugs I, whether it be scrubbing graffiti, farm work l.. make the work hard but offer rewards too, encourage a change of behaviour rather than constantly confiscating drugs, moving on etc."*

*"Make the penalties harsher as walking through town with my children and having people on illegal substances or intoxicated with alcohol is distressing for them."*

*"To include other areas away from the town centre eg Cusworth Hall."*

*“Extend it to include lakeside.”*

*“Put more police in town centre, shopping areas, and give them more control.”*

*“Prosecuted and banned for minimum 28 days. Repeat offenders banned for longer periods and/or fined and imprisoned.”*

*“Illegal drug taking should have a harder line taken against them. It makes it very uncomfortable for children and the elderly to have to walk past.”*

For those comments where suggestions have been to extend the PSPO to other areas this is not possible as in order for a PSPO to be considered there needs to be an issue in that area. The Council only has evidence of issues regarding consuming illegal substances in the Town centre. The penalties for breach of a PSPO are as set out in legislation.

#### **Drop the prohibition 1.02%**

Only a small number of individuals selected this option. Comments made voiced concern about this prohibition disproportionately affecting those in need of support. See below:

*“Seems discriminatory to addicts and street homeless.”*

The proposed prohibition acts to ensure this type of behaviour which the Council regards as anti-social is prohibited in the town centre. Doncaster Council operates many support services for those affected by drug use which they are able to access.

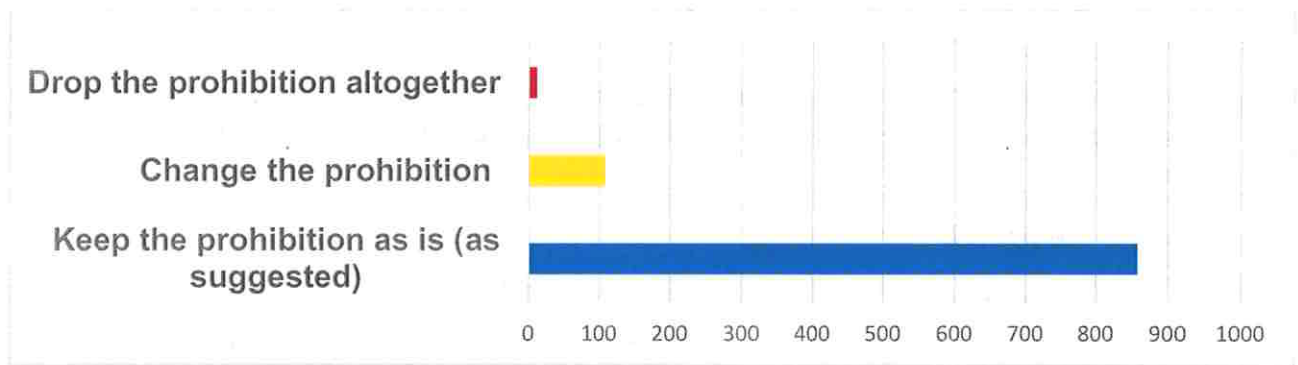


## Urination and Defecation

CURRENT PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER			PROPOSED PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER	
PURPOSE	CURRENT PROHIBITION	WHEN	PROPOSED PROHIBITION	REASONS
The aim is to deter people from behaving in an anti-social way which can cause public and environmental health problems, as well as difficulties for town centre businesses/traders.	No person shall urinate or defecate in any public place; this does not include public toilets.	At all times	No change proposed	The evidence collected by the Council demonstrates that there still remains an unacceptable level of such behaviour occurring in the town centre. It is therefore proposed to keep this prohibition

### **Question Asked:**

**People urinating or defecating other than in public toilets.**



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Keep the prohibition as is (as suggested)	858	87.64%
Change the prohibition	109	11.13%
Drop the prohibition altogether	12	1.23%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>979</b>	<b>100%</b>

### **Keep the Prohibition as it is- 87.64%**

Unsurprisingly the vast majority of those surveyed wanted to keep the prohibition. Typical responses included:-

*"We have a major problem with this in the alleyway off Scott Lane that leads to our car park. It's not just the rough sleepers either"*

*"Agree with this. This is visible at night when people are moving from bar to bar. It is not a good advert to have to walk past drunken people stood in the street urinating in full view"*

*"Behaviour still exists"*

*"I agree that this behaviour is unacceptable, particularly as the Council has made provision for public toilets in the market and Frenchgate Centre"*

*"I witness this daily. I have had people urinate on my door and shop front. It's not only disgusting but indecent exposure when there are minors around"*

*"See this very often in the evening, disgusting, and it smells, the bins at back of public toilets smell horrible, and it does smell like human faeces, as well and it is not far from the wool market where food is served"*

*"This is disgusting and gives a poor image of our town to visitors"*

*"This should stay the same as suggested because this is a very unsightly act and they should just use a public toilet"*

*"There is never an excuse to do this. This is a health issue for the people visiting and also the people who's job it becomes to clean up after them. This should be severely dealt with"*

Therefore, overall the consultation revealed that keeping the prohibition is not only supported but is still needed as was determined when the PSPO was first established.

### **Change the prohibition- 11.13%**

Some of the commentary here suggests that the PSPO should be extended to include areas of Doncaster that fall outside the current proposed PSPO. A PSPO can only be established to deal with an issue. The Council does not have any data that suggests this is an issue in any other areas of the borough. Comments include:-

*"Keep it as prohibited, but extend the PSPO to other areas including lakeside and the Vue car park' and 'to include Cusworth Hall"*

The majority of comments attached to the change of the prohibition option were in favour of stricter enforcement/punishment. Many supported bans from the town centre, large fines and more policing of this issue through the form of arrests. Comments included statements such as:-

*"6 month ban and £1000 fine"*

*"Arrest, charge, imprison and give life ban to these people from coming into town!"*

*"Up the fine and make it more of a deterrent, there's no excuse for this".*

However, the penalties for breaching a PSPO are as set out in legislation.

**Drop the prohibition altogether- 1.23%**

Those selecting this option were limited in numbers and referred to public facilities. Comments included:-

“The issue is the lack of free public toilets. What do you expect them to do, soil themselves? If they have to go they have to go, it's not optional”

Ultimately, the existence of public facilities does not excuse this behaviour and Doncaster Town Centre does have public facilities

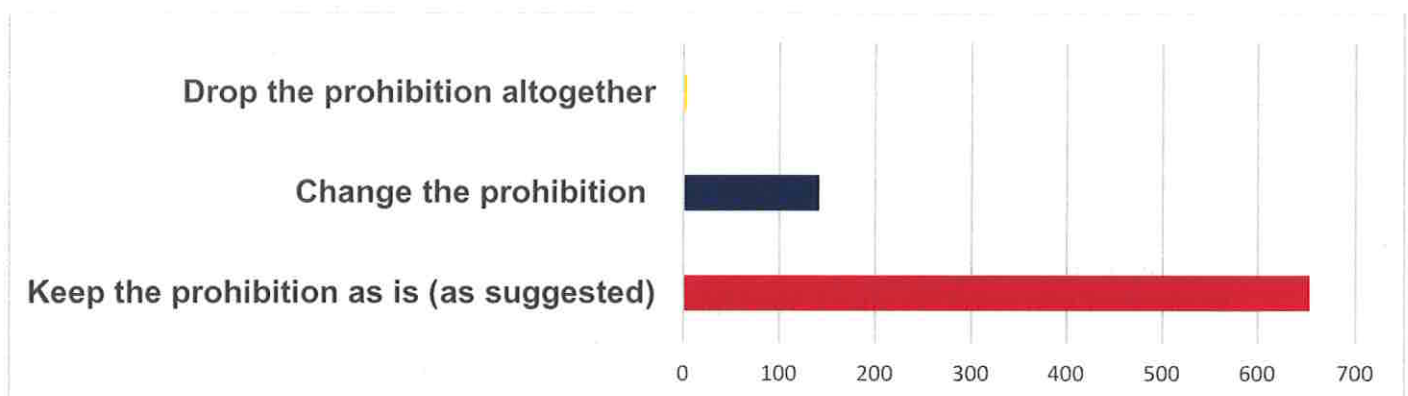


## Chugging

CURRENT PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER			PROPOSED PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER	
PURPOSE	CURRENT PROHIBITION	WHEN	PROPOSED PROHIBITION	REASONS
The aim is to deter unauthorised face to face fundraising and marketing, including that which can result in people committing to future payments to financial institutions (e.g. credit card companies or charities)	<p>No person shall stop or approach another person with the intention of asking that other person:</p> <p>(I) to enter into any arrangements which involve that other person making any future payment for the benefit of charitable purposes, or access to credit.</p> <p>(II) for any information to assist in that other person being contacted at another time with a view to making arrangements for that person to make any payment for the benefit of charitable or other purposes.</p> <p>(III) A person shall not encourage any person to do anything which would constitute a breach of this prohibition.</p>	<p>At all times</p> <p>This prohibition does not apply where the activities have been authorised by the Council in accordance with a scheme operated or expressly approved by it or covered by a licence</p>	Remove in its entirety	The evidence collected by the Council and the data from the police show that the numbers of incidents relating to this prohibition are extremely low. There is a booking system in place to control the number and location of fundraisers/marketing personnel in the Town Centre which has operated very well for some time. It is therefore determined there is no justification for this prohibition.

### Question Asked:-

People stopping you in the street for fundraising/marketing ('chuggers')



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Keep the prohibition as is (as suggested)	653	67.00%
Change the prohibition	142	14.51%
Drop the prohibition altogether	181	18.49%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>979</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Keep the prohibition as it is

The vast majority of people who participated in the survey selected to keep the current prohibition as it is. A selection of comments made in relation to this option can be seen below:

"There's far too many and it's intrusive and detrimental to shoppers, especially elderly and vulnerable."

"I find this a major annoyance. It's almost verging on harassment. If I want to donate to charity I will find my own way to do it"

"I hate being approached by chuggers. Some are okay and can be ignored but some are very aggressive in their approach and manner."

"I don't want to play avoid the fund raiser every twenty yards every time I walk through the Frenchgate again."

"I find this upsetting even when people have applied for licenses to be there."

"Unless controlled how will the council know whether individuals/organisation have 'booked' - by challenging all who carry out this method the unlicensed will be caught."

"I am fed up with even licensed people doing this, I do not mind giving a donation for a worthy charity but no they want direct debit it not good."

"There's nothing worse than been stopped/harassed by the chuggers, they do not stop until they have your attention, you feel obliged to listen and before you know it you've signed up to giving money."

"I am in the town centre regularly and I find these people really annoying to the point where I avoid the areas that they are in. I would definitely keep this in."

"Just because there is a booking system will not deter unauthorised activity. This needs to remain a PSPO power. All of the behaviours in this PSPO are not acceptable in a civilised society, but they still occur and therefore need powers to counteract - so simply stating that unless registered you can't on street fund raise is very naive."

"This is a nuisance. We personally subscribe to several charities of our choosing, never from this approach."

“Hassle customers outside the store, preventing people entering without getting harassment, some are very hard sell and follow people while they are walking away.”

“Although we have a booking system in place we do regularly get organisations turn up to do questionnaires, energy supplier switching etc without authorisation. Removing this will give officers less powers to deal with them.”

“Don’t like it and puts me off coming in to the town centre”.

“The fundraisers are too pushy and can be intimidating so need to be monitored and kept to a minimum.”

“I have been approached on my commute to work through the town centre by people trying to sell bogus charity magazines and books. This should remain a banned activity.”

“I find that I am approached by someone every time I am in the town centre, I do not know if these people/companies/charities are or were authorised to be there but I find it extremely annoying to be constantly harassed whilst going about my business.”

“I feel that whenever I venture into the town centre I’m stopped quite frequently so removing this prohibition may see an increase in this sort of activity.”

“Or give a dedicated spot where people can choose to visit if they wish to donate.”

Overall, clearly those consulted feel strongly that the prohibition should remain in force and not be dropped as the Council is currently proposing. Many comments cite that they simply find this activity a nuisance and feel harassed into giving away money.

There were also concerns expressed that if this prohibition is dropped from the PSPO there may be a rise in unlicensed individuals and that that PSPO was a good mechanism to control this. There were also some suggestions made that there are currently unlicensed vendors operating in the town centre.

Whilst all of these comments are valid and evidently this is a very prevalent issue, ultimately the Council’s data does not reflect the feedback received. There have been very few incidents reported in the 3 year period of the PSPO of unauthorised fundraising/marketing therefore there is no evidence to justify the continuation of this prohibition.

### **Drop the prohibition altogether (as suggested)**

Much of the comments made here support the Council’s view to drop the prohibition, see below:

“Much better than it was.”

"If there is an effective booking system in place and those not adhering to this can still be removed."

"I'm ok with genuine fund raisers as long as they have identification to prove what charity they represent."

"The Council's booking system is clearly working as this is not the problem it once was."

"If there is evidence showing the licensing scheme is working, then I believe it's suitable."

"I am comfortable saying a polite "no thanks" to such people. I don't feel intimidated by them at all as they are at least trying to do good and/or earn an income."

"If the booking system is working well, then agree that this can be dropped. Charitable donations are important."

"Please ensure that the number of licensed operators are kept to a very limited number and areas of the town."

Comments here support the prohibition being dropped on the basis that they have confidence that the booking system in place is working effectively in order to ensure that only licensed individual are able to fundraise. Some comments suggested that numbers allowed on a daily basis should be limited but this already occurs through this current system in place.

### **Change the prohibition**

Some comments made favoured changing the current prohibition. Predominantly these comments related to enforcement, see below:

*"I don't like being approached at all in the street I would like to see chuggers banned altogether."*

*"People whether licensed or not, should be prohibited from approaching individuals."*

*"One of the main reasons I do not use the town centre. I go to shop and leisurely browse not be harassed every few minutes by charity or supplier sellers! Please reduce the numbers and ensure aggressive sellers are banned."*

*"Should not be allowed to ask for money, if people want to give to charities, they will"*

*"Limit the numbers."*

*"Get rid completely. I regularly get hassled in town by these people!"*

Many favoured a complete ban of this activity and certainly a limitation on the numbers authorised to do this. The current booking system is in place to ensure the authorised vendors are controlled whilst conducting this activity. The limited amount of reported



incidents does not support an outright ban or a prohibition which is why it is proposed to drop this prohibition.



## Camping

CURRENT PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER			PROPOSED PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER	
PURPOSE	CURRENT PROHIBITION	WHEN	PROPOSED PROHIBITION	REASONS
<p>The aim is to deter camping and tented protests in the Town Centre which have in the past been linked to anti-social behaviour, disorder and drug use.</p> <p>Enforcement action will primarily focus on helping people to change behaviour and access support services.</p>	<p>No person shall in the Town Centre camp or sleep overnight with or without a tent, or using a vehicle or any other structure in a public place to which the public or a section of the public has or is permitted to have access, whether on payment or otherwise.</p>	<p>At all times unless with the prior written consent of the Council</p>	<p>Remove in its entirety</p>	<p>The evidence collected by the Council and the data from the police show that the numbers of incidents relating to this prohibition are very low. In addition, this prohibition is contrary to the updated Home Office Guidance on PSPOs. It is therefore determined there is no justification for this prohibition to be retained. Should there be any repeat of this behaviour, it can be addressed by an application for an injunction.</p>

There were no options provided in relation to the camping prohibition from the initial PSPO established 3 years ago. This is because evidence collected by the Council and the Police demonstrate that incidents relating this prohibition are low. In addition to this, the prohibition is contrary to Home Office Guidance produced since the introduction of the PSPO. Therefore, there is no justification for prohibition to continue.

However, there was still a box available for those who wished to make any comments about the prohibition and/or its removal. A significant number of comments were made and many expressed concerns about homelessness in Doncaster Town Centre and the need to offer support to those affected. Comments included:

*“Agree, people who have to live in tents should be offered accommodation and support.”*

*“Agreed. work needs to be done on this area to help these people.”*

*“Anyone caught camping or sleeping in the street overnight should be offered temporary accommodation immediately.”*

*“As long as the Home Office guidance actually works to change this when it happens. Homeless/rough sleeping in the town centre and within other borough of Doncaster happens on a regular basis and needs to be dealt with. No one should be sleeping rough in 2020!”*

*"With all the empty buildings in Doncaster there is no reason why anyone has to sleep on the street. These buildings should be turned into dormitory accommodation. Then if people refuse to use them they should be moved on."*

*"Why do people need to sleep in town centre. We should not have homeless in this area. We have lots of rooms to let in Doncaster."*

*"Where else are they supposed to sleep if they are homeless? Allowing homeless people to sleep in a shop doorway where they may be dry and somewhat protected from the elements is surely the least we can do. What should be the focus is providing adequate housing for these people."*

*"Well I think if people have to do this, then no point criminalising it. Instead focus efforts and funding in providing beds in hostel like accommodation."*

*"We do not want to see people rough sleeping in shop doorways or anywhere in the town centre from a social and a health and hygiene perspective."*

*"We are led to believe that Doncaster has enough accommodation and facilities, to ensure that no person has no other option but to sleep on the streets. Sleeping rough in and around our town has a serious detrimental impact on our town centre, and the perception of those who wish to invest, shop or visit. Central Government should have no right to enforce these new rules on remote towns and cities. If 'rough sleepers' were invisible from dawn it might not be so bad, but seeing individuals carrying sleeping bags and all manner of other possessions around town during the day is simply not right, in the same way as it is totally unnecessary with the facilities provided by our authorities."*

*"Try get them homes and help the ones who want help."*

*"This should be tackled with the homelessness team and maybe introduce loans to refurbish run down properties for the purposes of combating homelessness."*

*"Rough sleepers don't need to be there when there are so many other places (derelict buildings) in and around Doncaster. I think it needs some authority in the town centre, to ensure safety."*

*"These people are vulnerable and where possible should access shelters for their own safety."*

*"Just think there should be more funding for shelters. At the moment there is no good way of dealing with this issue. It's a shame that people are still sleeping in shop doorways in this day and age."*

*"It is very sad to see these people when there are so many empty buildings around Doncaster that could be used to give them a roof over their heads"*

*- Doncaster Council clean up our streets by taking the homeless off our streets."*

Clearly many feel that homelessness is still an issue in the Town Centre and want more support to be offered to those who are rough sleepers through providing accommodation. It is important to note that in Doncaster Town Centre there are few individuals who are considered 'roofless'. The Complex Lives team offer support to these individuals and consistently attempt to engage with them in order to improve their wellbeing.

Some further comments made were opposed to the removal of this prohibition from the Town Centre PSPO and expressed some discontent to the Home Office Guidance. As seen below:

*"We have a lot of homeless people sleeping in the streets in Doncaster who are often very intimidating I have been approached a couple of times in an aggressive manner and felt extremely vulnerable as a single woman so I do not agree this has been removed."*

*"Very disappointed that the guidance has changed. Home Office out of touch. Hope such activity can be dealt with successfully using the alternative means suggested."*

*"Unfortunately I would have liked to see this prohibition restored."*

*"This will only encourage people to rough sleep in the town centre."*

*"This is ridiculous. Shop owners have to clear the mess and rubbish away prior to opening in the morning. Sometimes washing urine away. There should be no sleeping allowed in shop doorways."*

*"Think this should still stand but obviously it can't. This makes for a very unattractive proposition if you need to be in town late. Very intimidating & upsetting."*

*"That is Doncaster Council's interpretation of the Home Office Guidance. The update says the orders should be used "only to address any specific behaviour that is causing a detrimental effect on the community's quality of life which is beyond the control of the person concerned." I think more emphasis should be placed on the fact that Doncaster council tax payers do not want people camping and sleeping in tents in the street - this should still be part of the PSPO."*

*"Sleeping in town centre, including doorways of shops and businesses should be prohibited. It's anti-social behaviour."*

*"It's not fair on shop workers who start work at 5.30, like my daughter, scared to walk to her place of work cos people are sleeping in door ways."*

*"I don't agree with the Home Office, this behaviour stops people visiting towns and spending money in the town centre because it becomes*

*undesirable and not a nice place to spend time. It also leads to feeling unsafe."*

To summarise, there is a limited number of individuals considered roofless within the Town Centre and Council Officers do consistently attempt to interact and engage with these individuals.

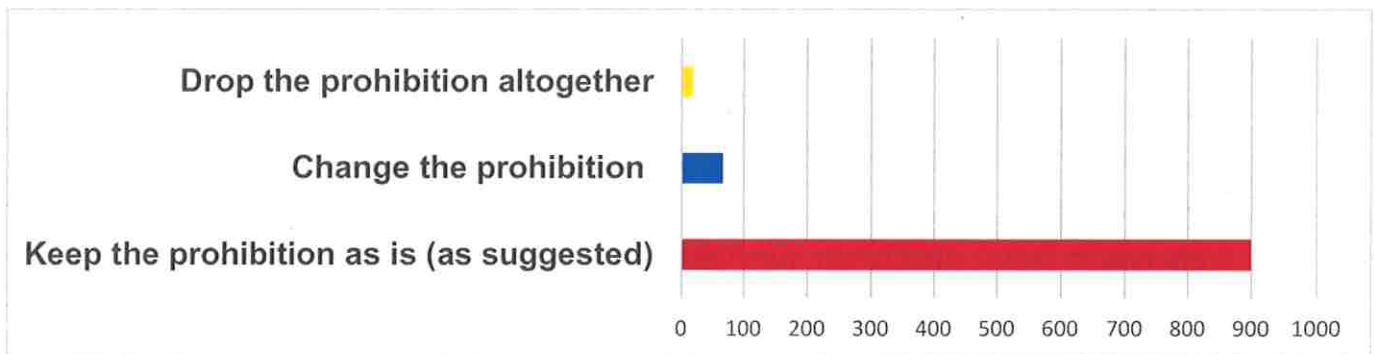
With regards to comments made about the Home Office Guidance and Doncaster Council's interpretation of it, the guidance is to be interpreted together with the statute therefore it is necessary and important that the PSPO changes to reflect the guidance provided or the Council could be considered to be acting unlawfully.

**Car parking Equipment**

CURRENT PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER			PROPOSED PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER	
PURPOSE	CURRENT PROHIBITION	WHEN	PROPOSED PROHIBITION	REASONS
<p>The aim is to ensure effective provision of car parking in the Town Centre, which is vital to the economy and most important to vulnerable and disabled visitors.</p> <p>Vandalism and blockages of parking machines causes great frustration and expense to car park users and deters from the experience of using the Town Centre.</p>	<p>No person shall, unless they have a parked vehicle in the location, without reasonable excuse, loiter near to, touch or interfere with any parking equipment, in the Town Centre without authorisation.</p>	<p>At all times</p>	<p>No change proposed</p>	<p>The evidence collected by the Council demonstrates that there still remains an unacceptable level of such behaviour occurring in the town centre. It is therefore proposed to keep this prohibition.</p>

**Question Asked:**

**People standing around, touching or interfering with any parking equipment, in the Town Centre**



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Keep the prohibition as is (as suggested)	900	91.46%
Change the prohibition	66	6.71%
Drop the prohibition altogether	18	1.83%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>984</b>	<b>100%</b>

### **Keep the prohibition as it is 91.46%**

The vast majority of those who participated in the survey wanted to keep the prohibition as it is currently. Comments included:

*"Again, not acceptable in any way."*

*"Agree that present PSPO should remain."*

*"Happy with the reasons given."*

*"I believe that people should not be allowed to hang around parking equipment."*

*"It puts me off parking when people are loitering around car park ticket machines and start harassing you for money saying they've helped you pay for your ticket."*

*"Makes me nervous and I avoid certain parking places due to this."*

*"Messing around with any official equipment should be classed unlawful".*

*"Puts people off visiting town centre."*

*"This is a major factor for town centre visitors based on what my customers say. It deters them from coming and parking in town and spending money in our town centre. Instead they visit Meadowhall, Wheatley hall road and lakeside as the parking is free and therefore no parking meters and no one begging for money."*

*"This is something which features in a lot of complaints about the town centre and therefore must be kept."*

*"Totally agree. Have wasted time on several occasions when the parking machine has been tampered with."*

*"I think this because the points made in the current prohibition are still valid as people shouldn't be messing with any parking equipment."*

*"So annoying when people are sitting by the machines intersecting and offering to 'help'. Also when machines are jammed it is annoying when you lose your money and cant park in the space. A good idea to stop this."*

*There was some support in turning all parking equipment cashless to prevent interference. Comments here included:*

*"All car parks should operate a cashless payment system."*

*"Increase card/app type payment to reduce the amount of cash held in machine."*

*"Install card only parking. It is better for the most numbers and the others will have to learn to get on with it as happens with all changes."*



Overall, 90% of those surveyed wanted to keep the prohibition which provides a strong consensus that the PSPO is supported and also still very much needed.

### **Change the Prohibition 6.71%**

Those responded who indicated they wanted to change the prohibition were generally wanted stricter penalties and more enforcement of this issue.

*"Allow traffic wardens to move on and hand out fines, these people deter shoppers"*

*"Ban them from the town centre"*

*"Get them removed and banned from town. As a female it's very daunting"*

*"More police presence needed but total ban for those convicted of such crimes"*

*"Should be tougher restrictions. Same people seen in car parks on regular basis"*

The Council is restricted from imposing more stringent enforcement as the penalties for breach of the PSPO are set out in legislation.

### **Drop the Prohibition 1.83%**

A small group responded indicating the prohibition should be dropped altogether, Their comments general suggested this was not a problem. See the comments below:-

*"Can't see this being a massive problem... If it's parking pay machines, then theft is already an offence, if its vandalism, that's also an offence in it's own right"*

*"This is not an issue. All car park payments should use ring go or accept contact less payment"*

This is the opposite view to some comments referred to above who had witnessed such behaviour. Therefore, the overwhelming agreement was for the continuation of the PSPO and the evidence of breaches of the current PSPO suggests this is still an issue requiring action.

