

## Appendix A

## Public Spaces Protection Order Evidence information

Paragraph 3.1	Issue	Evidence
I	Aggressive/assertive (commercial or charity collection) or soliciting for money in the street	Customer services have received complaints from members of the public about overly aggressive charity collectors to which KBC wardens have responded to. Where KBC wardens have witnessed overly aggressive/assertive methods in the course of their duties, they have attempted to deal with these accordingly. Where customers have complained to the council, officers have had to refer to the police or the Charity Commission, in the absence of any other remedy.
II	Consumption of alcohol on street, to be continued and widened (excludes areas where a temporary or permanent licence is in place)	The police have reported that the culture of drinking to excess has led to a rise in violence offences during the evenings. Between the 1st May 2015 and the 1st October 2015 there were 101 violence offences recorded in Kettering Town Centre between the hours of 20.00-06.00. 80 of these offences were committed on Friday and Saturday nights. Kettering is currently ranked 14th out of 15 forces in our "Most Similar Group" which ranks forces of a similar size or county make-up.
III	Those under 18 in the area 11pm-8am	Currently the police have 10 vulnerable young people ranging from the age of 10 – 16 years old who are all on court ordered referral orders to prevent the youths from coming into Kettering Town centre. This is in response to an increase in youths being in the town centre late at night causing ASB and starting fights with people who are using the late opening restaurants and shops. There were over 100 calls within the last 12 months to McDonalds on the High Street Kettering in response to youths terrorising their customers, spitting in people's food and assaulting people. Other recorded incidents include arrests of young people drinking and being a nuisance Purple Flag survey feedback on town centre concerns: 'Teenagers hanging round the town in big gangs and drinking'

IV	Driving/using a car in an anti-social manner	<p>Due to several reports of car meets and anti-social behaviour with vehicles, the police have run Operation Goldfinch over the last 6 months. Several high impact operations have been run over weekend nights where police constables and members of the special constabulary attended these meets and issued various fixed penalty tickets for motoring offences, dealt with illegally adapted cars and seized several vehicles under section 59 powers for driving and using a vehicle in an anti-social manner. There is also evidence from police officers who staff Operation Nightsafe over the weekend around Silver Street and Gold Street, of persons using the town centre as a racing track and driving in a dangerous manner throughout the night and into the early hours of the morning. This has caused danger to pedestrians, who are walking through the town on a night out.</p> <p>Purple Flag survey feedback on town centre concerns:          'I have left work and found youths in super cars revving engines in the car park and I could smell heavy cannabis, it is intimidating and not pleasant when you are on your own'</p> <p>'Boy racers in the car park'</p>
V	Sale of vehicles on public land	No evidence identified relating to the area outlined in the proposed PSPO.
VI	Obstructing the highway/or loitering	<p>The police have stated that Kettering has a busy night time economy with over 2000 people visiting late night bars and clubs at the weekends. During the night time economy hours there are large amount of inebriated people who when a nightclub or pub shuts, pour out onto the street and cause a blockage in the road by either running into the road or just standing about on their way to another pub or club. This is particularly prevalent around the doors of the nightclubs especially Abacus. There are incidents every weekend where police officers have observed near misses of cars trying to drive through the town and</p>

		nearly colliding with people standing in the street. In one case this happened between a taxi and a pedestrian which nearly resulted in a fatality. The persons in the street have also obstructed police vehicles and other emergency services vehicles by refusing to move out of the way whilst they are trying to drive to incidents on blue lights and sirens
VII	Anti-social parking	<p>Operation Goldfinch was also set up by the police to tackle persons illegally parking and parking in a manner which was anti-social and made it impossible for other residents to use the roads. Parking tickets and warning notices/letters to residents have been issued in roads around the town centre which suffer from this issue. Joint patrols in the town centre with Kettering Borough Council wardens currently take place along with Police Community Support Officers and lead to a large amount of tickets being issued. In 3 months over 100 parking tickets were issued by PCSOs.</p> <p>An issue has recently come to light in Kettering Town Centre in the Horsemarket area, of double parking on the pavement that runs the length of the bus bays. The police have no powers to deal with this currently unless they can prove the vehicle is causing an obstruction; however it is causing other vehicles and buses to have to squeeze slowly past. This causes danger to pedestrians crossing the street who are hidden from view by this practice and who also cannot see approaching cars.</p> <p>This also can cause obstruction for blue light services.</p>
VIII	Unauthorised distribution of printed material/leaflets	Evidence to date has confirmed that leafleting is a regular issue which blights the town centre car parks. There have been 4 separate incidents of leafleting on windscreens between January and September 2015, with associated clean up requirements.
IX	Misuse of Skateboards, bicycles and scooters	<p>From September 2013 to August 2015 there were 30 specific reports to the police of Anti-Social Behaviour on the Market Place with 4 of these specifically mentioning skateboarding.</p> <p>Based on a town centre audit undertaken in July, an approximate costing for damage on the Market Place and on the museum steps</p>

		<p>totalled £2821.00.</p> <p>Businesses and residents have reported young people skateboarding in the pedestrianized scheme, asking wardens to go and patrol and ask them to move along. Some businesses have asked that skateboarders be moved on from their shops and the library steps.</p> <p>Morrison's car park have reported a number of incidents within the lower car park, including the following:</p> <p>14 separate reports about skateboarders and young people using the lower car park between February and November 2015 with over 152 youths involved. Reported issues ranged from general ASB, including skateboarding, bikes, abusive behaviour, littering and noise.</p>
X	Begging on the Street	<p>Recently there has been a notable increase in local businesses and members of the public contacting the police and Kettering Borough Council around aggressive and persistent beggars within the town centre. This has resulted in 3 people who repeatedly begged in the town centre currently being taken through the courts system by the police for the offence of persistent begging.</p> <p>Under current legislation police officers and PCSOs have to repeatedly visit shops and take anti-social behaviour statements from employees who have made the complaint relating to begging in the street.</p> <p>This problem also exist at night outside the eating places in the town centre which causes families concern and distress and during the weekend puts the people begging in vulnerable position of being assaulted by drunk persons.</p> <p>Some of the individuals regularly seen begging in town are not vulnerable in the usual sense of the term. Whilst existing Police powers exist under the 1847 Act, it is difficult, in the view of the police, to effectively enforce.</p>

XI	Foul and abusive language	<p>During the last 6 months on Gold Street and High Street there has been 8 recorded section 5 public order offences recorded during the daytime hours involving language. There are 3 persistent offenders who regularly enter the town centre and shout foul language at people.</p> <p>Swearing is a regular issue that wardens and police officers have been subject to. This year alone 4 incidences were of such an extreme nature that wardens formally reported the incidences under the RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995). They are subject to abusive language often on a daily basis.</p>

#### Further evidence from the Town Centre audit done for the Purple Flag

##### Evaluation of the February 2015 Night-time Economy Survey

One of the main focuses for Kettering Borough Council has been working towards the national Purple Flag accreditation scheme for the association of town and city management at night. This initiative aims to broaden appeal and providing a wide night time offer, and we believed that aiming to attain Purple Flag status would add impetus to efforts to broaden the night time offer in Kettering.

We carried out two late night audits on Saturday nights in Kettering Town Centre, with members of the taskforce including Council officers and Kettering Police. As part of the process we also carried out two public surveys to hear views about how the night time economy in the borough should develop in the future. The survey received an impressive number of responses with a wide range of views expressed, both positive and negative about the night time economy.

From the evidence gathered over the course of this review we have concluded that it is important that a more diverse night time offer is developed in Kettering, as this attracts a more mixed audience which should impact positively on problematic anti-social behaviour in night time economy hotspots.

Question 14: In relation to Kettering Town during the evening and night time, how concerned are you about the following...

All of the below fell into the 'a great deal' category

- Aggressive/violent behaviour: 47 out of 95
- Drunk and rowdy behaviour: 45 out of 95
- Begging/rough sleeping: 39 out of 95
- Street drinking: 40 out of 95
- Urinating in public: 41 out of 95
- Drug use or dealing: 33 out of 95
- Vandalism: 31 people said 'To some extent'
- Litter/Rubbish: 35 people said 'To some extent'
- Noise: 31 people said 'Not at all'

Question 16: How safe do you feel in Kettering Town during the evening/night time?

Out of the 95 people that completed the survey;

- 'Neither safe nor unsafe' had the highest response of 35 people.
- 27 people selected 'Safe'
- 9 people said they felt 'Very Unsafe'

Question 18: Are there any other types of anti-social behaviour or crime that concerns you, in relation to the night time economy?

Below are some comments that can specifically be linked to the Public Spaces Protection Order;

- 'Youths congregating around the market place, smoking, skateboarding and graffiti. Damage being caused to expensive pavings, granite etc. Drinking alcohol in public places'
- 'I have great faith that Kettering is moving in the right direction with the opening of some great venues, however youth drinking is pulling the atmosphere down'
- 'Boy racers in the car park'
- 'It needs to be a safe place to bring children without the worry of a constant stream of cars driving down Montagu Street'
- 'Teenagers hanging around the town in big gangs and drinking'
- 'I have left work and found youths in super cars revving engines in the car park and I could smell heavy cannabis, it is intimidating and not pleasant when you are on your own'
- 'Constantly harassed for money, by beggars'
- 'Less people hanging around the streets, especially the European shops, it is very intimidating when you are a woman on your own'
- 'Beggars moved on'