

## Decision Document for a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) and map of location

<b>Location:</b>	<b>Old Hampton Lane, Westcroft</b>
<b>Problem:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fly tipping on several occasions being unsightly for residents which includes bottles, food packaging, drug paraphernalia, used condoms</li> <li>• Cars parked outside residents' homes for drug use</li> <li>• Cars parked outside residents' homes for sex</li> <li>• Abuse from people sitting in their cars to residents when questioned why they are parking their vehicle in this location</li> <li>• Alcohol being consumed by people in parked vehicles</li> </ul>
<b>Action Taken:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Covert cameras along the lane to identify fly tippers and obtain details of vehicles for evidence</li> <li>• This evidence could also have been used for drug use to tackle anti-social behaviour</li> </ul>
<b>Why is a PSPO required?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People who wish to 'fly-tip' have targeted Old Hampton Lane due to the rural nature of the location</li> <li>• The fly tipping has had a detrimental cost both in terms of the environment and the Council due to the costs of removal</li> <li>• Cars who park with the intention of their occupants behaving in an anti-social manner causes alarm and distress to residents</li> <li>• A Gating Order sits within the PSPO and will mean if all residents who are consulted agree, then the lane will be closed permanently for three years, however people who need access can hold keys e.g. residents who live on Old Hampton Lane</li> </ul>
<b>Consultation Comments:</b>	<p>Residents' comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "In sound agreement to the proposal and after speaking with Staffordshire Police, Councillors, Essington Parish Council and the local community interest group 'Friends of Essington', all of whom are in full support of the PSPO. All residents on the lane have been consistently affected by fly tipping/anti-social behaviour and being blocked in the lane by cars. During the consultation period (16/08/2022-16/09/2022) 9 reports were made to the Police and South Staffordshire Council of anti-social behaviour and fly tipping. The Public Protection Order is a step in the right direction for addressing and combatting the historic issue of anti-social behaviour/fly tipping and the lane being blocked; Whilst also being cost effective for the Council and The Police due to the sheer volume of fly tipping and Police Reports. Residents are prepared to be key holders</li> </ul>

	<p>for the gate and the farmers gate currently erected does not cause any restriction to premises adjacent or adjoining to the highway, therefore the location of the proposed gate, will serve the same.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “The Lane has been plagued with several awful scenarios of all behaviour types. One thing of concern is that following the gate restrictions is the inevitability of moving the activity including drug use, fly tipping, occupied cars parked for hours on end and even human faeces from the top of the lane to a makeshift lay-by just down the lane. This makeshift lay-by has been problematic. The PSPO is great news for the houses at the top of the lane and will make so much difference to their quality of life.”</li> <li>• “A resident has witnessed people urinating in the road and drug dealing too. The resident won’t walk past cars parked and feels something needs to be done to reduce the anti-social behaviour.”</li> <li>• “Can clarification be given to the positioning of the gate as it’s felt the suggested location at the top of the lane on the far side of Wood Hayes Road would be exactly the right position”</li> </ul>
	<p>Landowners’ comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “A landowner has an objection to the gate being installed across Old Hampton Lane. He had an objection to the installation of the existing gate around 20 years ago. He thinks the new proposal is further taking away more of his rights and further devaluing his land and if the proposed moving of the gate goes ahead, he will be seeking legal advice and pursuing a compensation claim because he thinks the impact on the current value of his land will be substantial. He feels if the gate is moving to the new location there are a lot of disadvantages and will impact on many people that drive to Old Hampton Lane and park their cars in the Lane. These people are genuine walkers, dog walkers, bird watchers and by moving the gate it will take away the parking spaces from these people and the council will be taking away the enjoyment these people have on the local public footpaths and would it then be a case of these people parking their cars in other parts of Wood Hayes Road which is a very busy small country lane. This would cause many problems with the local traffic which is already far too busy for a very small country lane. The landowner cannot see a massive escalation in anti-social behaviour and waste being dumped or litter so why suddenly is there a need for a PSPO for the gate to be moved?”</li> <li>• “I don’t raise any objections to this proposal of gating the lane at the bottom. As we own land up Old Hampton Lane, we need access to our land therefore need to have a key to the gate.”</li> </ul>

	Sharon Raymond, who lives opposite Old Hampton Lane on the Cannock Road wanted clarification as the positioning of the gate and felt the suggested location at the top of the lane on the far side of Wood Hayes Road was exactly the right position.
	<p>Councillors' comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Fully supports the PSPO in this location."</li> <li>• "Agree with the proposed Public Space Protection Order. It will certainly support Police in moving forward and addressing Anti-Social Behaviour and criminality in the area."</li> <li>• "Supportive of the PSPO."</li> </ul>
	Staffordshire Police agree with the proposed Public Space Protection Order. They comment that it will certainly support Police in moving forward and addressing Anti-Social Behaviour and criminality in the area.
	Staffordshire Highways have no objections to the PSPO and logistics of the installation of the gate will be determined following the PSPO being served
Signage Information:	<p>PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014</p> <p>Prohibited Behaviour:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fly tip material of any kind or drop litter of any kind along Old Hampton Lane</li> <li>• Take part in sexual activities inside or outside a vehicle</li> <li>• Act in an anti-social manner including being rowdy and inconsiderate causing alarm, harassment and distress to residents and other people</li> <li>• Use intoxicating substances (which include alcohol and what are commonly referred to as illegal highs and emerging drugs) inside or outside a vehicle</li> </ul> <p>Offenders will be liable to a Fixed Penalty Fine of £100 or Prosecution with a fine of up to £1000 For more information visit <a href="http://www.sstaffs.gov.uk">www.sstaffs.gov.uk</a></p>
Solution Following Consultation:	<p>Following consultation, it is proposed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Old Hampton Lane is divided into two sections. The first section links to the A460 Cannock Road and Wood Hayes Road, the second section leads to a dead end</li> <li>• The second section of Old Hampton Lane be gated meaning it will be permanently blocked for motorists who wish to find a secluded spot to behave in an anti-social manner</li> <li>• The first section will be included in the PSPO to reduce any occurrences of drug dealing/taking, sexual activity or fly tipping due to the closure of the second section.</li> <li>• Residents who live along or who need access to the land beyond the second section of Old Hampton Lane will be given a key for their own use</li> </ul>

- A key is kept by residents who are willing to act as “Responsible Gate Keepers” should other residents who would like to walk, run, cycle or horse ride along the lane require access
- Further discussion will be held about the Gating Order following the implementation of the PSPO.

