

Appendix 5 Stakeholder Consultation Responses

Neighbourhood Inspector Jeff Scott, Hertfordshire Constabulary

“Impressions of the District Enforcement team are generally positive and I believe they contribute to the feeling of safety particularly in the Town Centre.

Police do not necessarily have full visibility of matters outside of that location so I will focus on the impact that we can see. There has been a definite reduction in the number of people that we see cycling and littering in the town. It has reduced demand on both your direct resources and those of the police.

I am therefore fully supportive of the work they are doing.

They also assisted us in finding an outstanding wanted person in the town centre that they had spotted.

Our officers have expressed concerns about the lack of signage in the town both about the cycling and the littering. It was mentioned that there is nothing saying that cigarette butts would be treated as litter. Another case was described where someone feeding bread to ducks was fined for littering but there was no signage to say that you could not feed the ducks.

Whilst I am personally fully supportive of actions taken, my officers expressed concern about lack of discretion and we have been called upon to assist in some marginal cases where officers thought that discretion should have been used. Examples quoted were someone who claimed they were on their way to Wilkos to purchase dog bags but was still fined and a person asked to pick up a cigarette butt, which they did but was still given a fine.

My view is that people should know not to leave their dirty cigarette butts and litter laying around and it should not have become normalised. I am glad to see that we are finally doing something about it. Why would they consider that doing so is acceptable?

We do however need to publicise that is unacceptable through media and other engagement because my officers otherwise do not agree with me and think that a warning should suffice in some of the marginal cases particularly for first offence. It is recognised however by the same officers that there may be no mechanism to measure how many times an individual has been spoken to and they weren't aware that scheme was self-funding.

Overall we would all be keen for this work to continue please.”

Rob Cassidy, Parks & Open Spaces Officer, Dacorum Borough Council

“District enforcement from a parks perspective have been a bit of a God send. They have helped out at the Watergardens with street drinkers during the day. This was becoming an issue again. The enforcement team helped us massively with tackling this issue, moving them on and taking alcohol from them. In Gadebridge Park they have taken on the main issues we have with dog owners, ensuring that they don't let their dogs in the play area. The team are great at communicating with our staff and are happy to help whenever they can. The only negative thing I have to say is that there aren't enough of them!”

Gail Buckland, Bid Manager, Hemel Hempstead Town Centre

“Due to various issues that had been reported relating to behaviours detailed in the PSPO for Hemel Hempstead Town Centre we were keen to support the introduction of PSPO Enforcement Officers. Since their introduction the team has made a clear difference in the Town Centre. There has been a massive decline in reports received from businesses by the BID about cycling through the town which had been causing a great deal of frustration for many due to the risk to visitor’s safety.

We had been seeing a group of people that spent most days drinking in the town centre near the public toilets. Not only were the toilets misused terribly, when they were closed, there were many instances where defecating and urinating was happening behind these. The team have done a sterling job at also managing this as a priority and again reports of these problems have practically diminished.

The team have been professional and supportive and are a fantastic addition ensuring that Hemel Hempstead Town Centre is a safe, welcoming and friendly place to live work and visit.”

Chris Conley, Senior Supervisor Clean, Safe & Green, Dacorum Borough Council

“Ongoing littering is an issue across the Borough which is very hard to manage whilst also affecting the local wildlife. Having that ability to identify these areas to the district team and then seeing the results of a cleaner environment is an asset to the services and also helping protect the local wildlife.”

Peter Ablett, Chair Estates Committee, Boxmoor Trust

“The Boxmoor Trust, with its 500 acres of pasture, woodland and footpaths running from the ‘Magic Roundabout’ out to Bourne End and Bovingdon is delighted by the Council’s application of the PSPO to our estate and for the continuing support of DBC’s officers In getting messages about fouling and protection of our sheep and cattle over to the dog walking public whom we welcome our land.

Visits to our estate on behalf of the Council by District Enforcement have been much appreciated by the public - and our staff. They represent a necessary addition to our own efforts to get appropriate messages over to the public. The evident professionalism and courtesy, born of the training and experience of DE, is just what we need in helping all our visitors to understand the law on dogs and the sound reasons behind it. Courteous face to face contacts by District Enforcement really do contribute to creating a place where respectful dog walkers can enjoy visits for their own health and welfare - and for that of their much loved four- legged friends!”