

## Appendix 3: West Bromwich PSPO Renewal Consultation

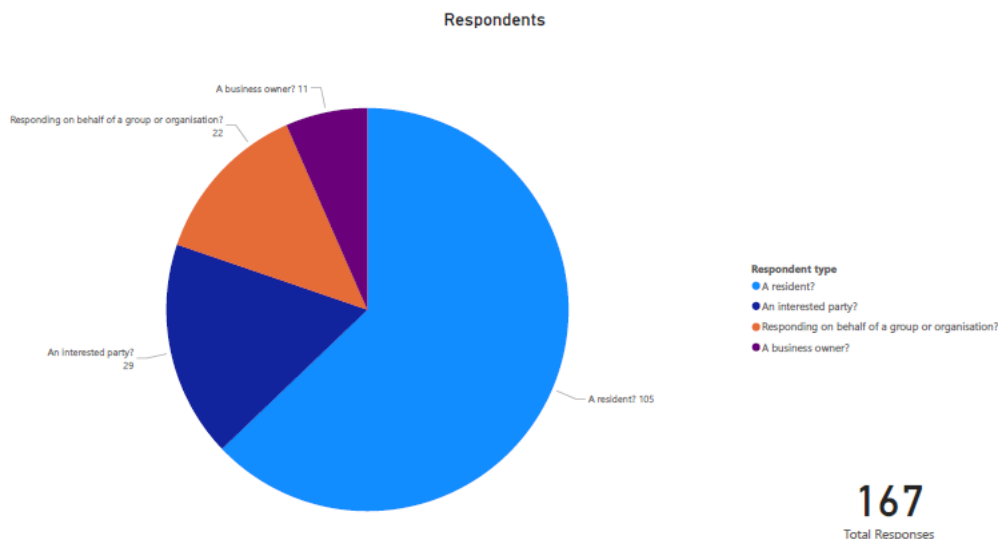
### Overview

The Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for West Bromwich Town Centre has been in place for six years; initially from 2018-2021, and then renewed for 2021-2024. It is now due for renewal. The PSPO is designed to tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB) that negatively impacts public safety and the overall well-being of the town centre. As part of the renewal process, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council launched a public consultation to gather feedback on the effectiveness of the PSPO and to determine whether it should be extended for another three years.

### Consultation Period

The public consultation engaged residents, businesses, and key stakeholders in West Bromwich Town Centre between 1 August and 15 September 2024. Feedback was collected from residents, business owners, community groups, and other interested parties via online submissions, email, and written responses. A total of 167 responses were received, and the consultation results demonstrate strong support for continuing the PSPO.

### Respondent Demographics



- **Residents:** 105 respondents (63%) were local residents, highlighting strong community interest in the PSPO's role in enhancing public safety.
- **Interested Parties:** 29 responses (17%) came from individuals with vested interests in West Bromwich, though they may not live or work directly within the PSPO area.
- **Organisations:** 22 respondents (13%) represented groups or organisations, including key stakeholders like Sandwell MBC Community Safety Team and West Bromwich BID.

- **Business Owners:** 11 respondents (7%) were local business owners, emphasising the importance of the PSPO from a business perspective.

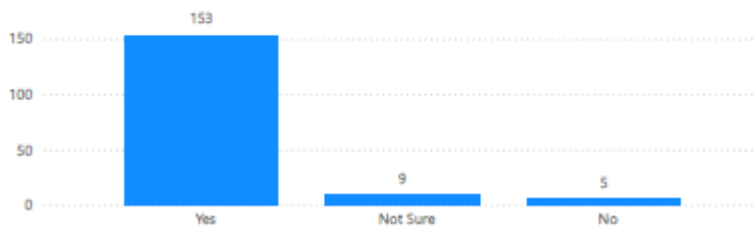
## Key Findings

### 1. Support for Renewal:

The feedback shows overwhelming support for the renewal of the PSPO across all categories of anti-social behaviour, particularly in relation to:

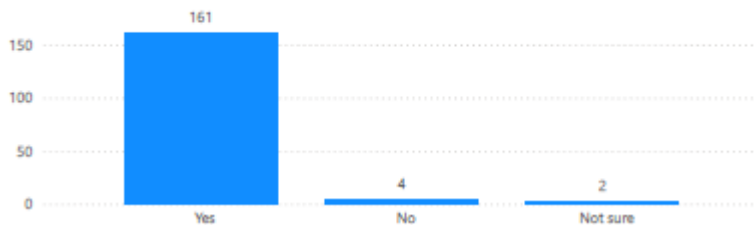
- **Alcohol-Related Anti-Social Behaviour:** 153 respondents (91%) supported the PSPO's renewal to address alcohol-related disturbances.

Do you agree with the renewal of the PSPO in relation to alcohol related anti-social behaviour?



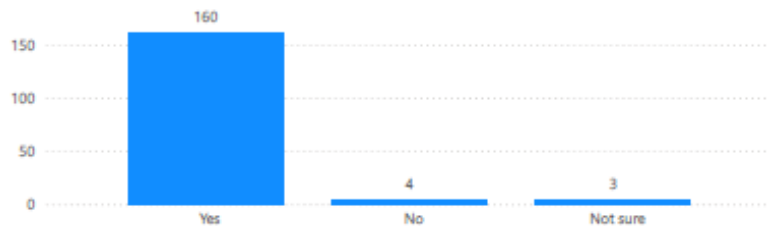
- **Threatening/Intimidating Behaviour:** 161 respondents (96%) agreed that the PSPO should remain in place to tackle threatening and intimidating behaviours.

Do you agree with the renewal of the PSPO in relation to threatening/intimidating behaviour?

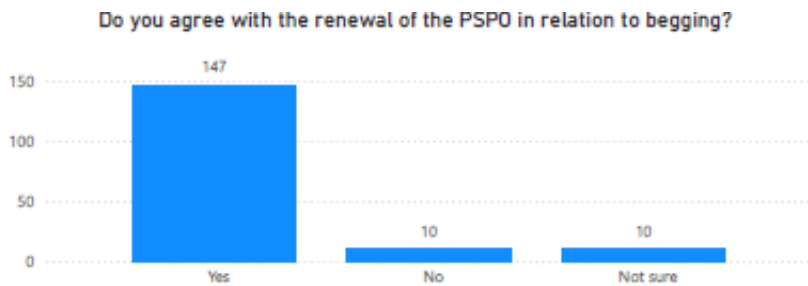


- **Violent Behaviour:** 160 respondents (95%) supported the PSPO's renewal to address violent behaviour in the town centre.

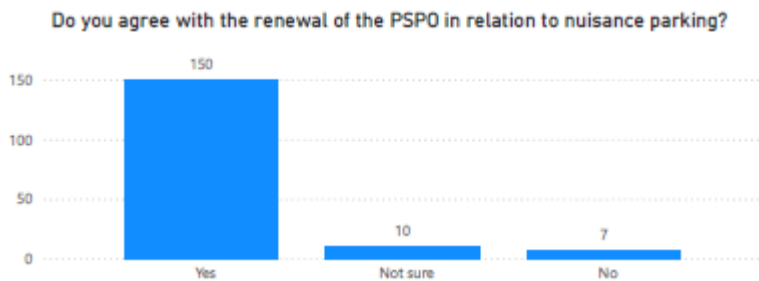
Do you agree with the renewal of the PSPO in relation to violent behaviour?



- **Begging:** There was also strong agreement for the continuation of measures to address begging, with many respondents reporting witnessing this issue regularly.



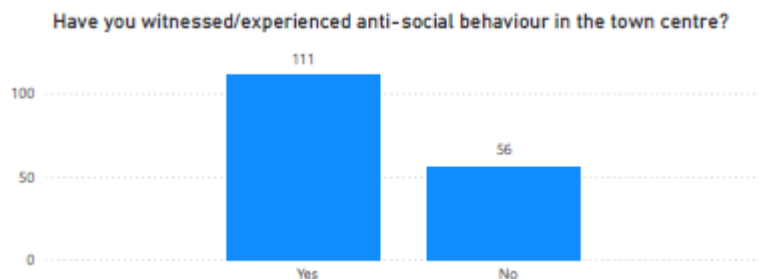
- **Nuisance Parking:** The public remains in favour of keeping regulations to prevent nuisance parking, especially around key pedestrian areas.



## 2. Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Experience

111 reported witnessing or experiencing ASB in West Bromwich Town Centre, particularly:

- **Begging:** Persistent issues with begging and drug dealing were mentioned frequently, particularly in busy areas such as shopping centres and public transport hubs.
- **Disruptive Behaviour:** Numerous reports of aggressive or disruptive behaviour, especially during evenings and weekends, when public intoxication and violent incidents were highlighted.



## Conclusion and Recommendations

The consultation results show strong support for the renewal of the PSPO. The

majority of respondents across all demographics agree that the PSPO is necessary to maintain public safety, address ongoing anti-social behaviour, and enhance the quality of life in West Bromwich Town Centre. Persistent issues with begging, drug use, and public disorder were key concerns raised by residents and businesses alike.

The findings strongly suggest that the PSPO continues to play a critical role in managing ASB in the town centre. Based on the feedback, it is recommended that the PSPO be renewed for another three years. Furthermore, the feedback underscores the need for enhanced enforcement during peak periods of ASB, particularly during evenings.