

Public Spaces Protection Order consultation 2023: comments by Friends of Tooting Common

Dear Wandsworth Council

These are comments by Friends of Tooting Common (FOTC) on the consultation on the Public Spaces Protection Order

There are major problems of antisocial behaviour on Tooting Common, including drugtaking, inappropriate sexual activity, damage to fencing and littering. FOTC certainly supports measures to reduce ASB on the Common, and supports the proposed continued inclusion of Tooting Common in a borough-wide PSPO to address alcohol-related antisocial behaviour, and the possession and consumption of NPS in a public space. However this PSPO is unlikely to have much effect unless there is a substantial increase in parks police patrolling, particularly in wooded areas during the evening. Current policing resources are very limited, and are insufficient for the needs of Tooting Common. While we recognise the financial pressures on Council spending, we would urge the Council to increase police patrolling resources - it is that rather than a PSPO as such which would be most likely to reduce antisocial behaviour.

We have no comments on the dog control aspects of the proposed PSPO in regards to areas where dogs are not allowed or need to be on a lead. We understand that these aspects for Tooting Common are essentially unchanged from the 2020 PSPO.

On the proposed amendments to the arrangements for professional dog walkers, our comment is that it is not clear from the consultation material for what purpose the Council are proposing these amendments. Also, the description of some of the proposals - including the areas where professional dog walkers would not be allowed - is not clear.

Chair, Friends of Tooting Common
24 July 2023