

Bury St Edmunds Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 Section 59

Public Spaces Protection Order (alcohol, begging, congregation and antisocial use of vehicles) 2019 (extended 2020)

West Suffolk Council has pursuant to Section 60 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 extended the Public Space Protection Order (Alcohol, Begging, Congregation and Anti-Social Use Of Vehicles) 2019 for Bury St Edmunds which came into force on 19 April 2019

The extended Public Space Protection Order comes into effect on 1 October 2020 at midnight and will expire on 3 September 2023 at 11.59pm

Preliminary

1. The council, in making this order is satisfied on reasonable grounds that:
 - the activities identified below have been carried out in public places within the council's area and have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality,and that:
 - the effect, or likely effect of the activities:
 - is, or is likely to be of a persistent or continuing nature,
 - is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable, and
 - justifies the restrictions imposed by the notice.
2. The council is satisfied that the prohibitions imposed by this order are reasonable to impose in order to prevent the detrimental effect of these activities from continuing, occurring or recurring, or to reduce that detrimental effect or to reduce the risk of its continuance, occurrence or recurrence.
3. The council has had particular regard to the rights and freedoms set out in Article 10 (right of freedom of expression) and Article 11 (right of freedom of assembly) of the European Convention on Human Rights and has concluded that the restrictions on such rights and freedoms imposed by this order are lawful, necessary and proportionate.

The activities and prohibition

- 4.1 No person shall within the restricted area, refuse to stop drinking alcohol or hand over containers (sealed or unsealed) which are believed to contain alcohol, when required to do so by an authorised officer, to prevent public nuisance, anti-social behaviour or disorder.

- 4.2 Persons within the restricted area will not approach another person either in person or verbally in order to beg from the other person.
- 4.3 Persons within the restricted area will not sit or loiter in a public space, with any receptacle used to contain monies for the purpose of begging.
- 4.4 No person shall within the restricted area, gather in groups of two or more motor vehicles for purposes other than simply parking, which will cause or is likely to cause harassment, alarm and distress to others by performing any of the activities listed below.
- a. Using a motor vehicle to race or perform stunts.
 - b. Repeatedly sounding horns and/or revving engines (as to cause a public nuisance).
 - c. Playing music excessively loud (as to cause a public nuisance).
 - d. Using foul or abusive language.
 - e. Using threatening, intimidating behaviour towards another person.
 - f. Causing obstruction on a public highway, or a publicly accessible place, whether moving or stationary.

A person shall not engage in any of the activities listed above anywhere within the restricted area as shown shaded on the attached map labelled 'The Restricted Area'

What happens if you fail to comply with this order?

Section 63 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 says that it is a criminal offence if a person, without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with a requirement of a constable or authorised person:

- a. not to consume, in breach of the order, alcohol or anything which the constable or authorised person reasonably believes to be alcohol,
- b. to surrender anything in the persons possession which is, or which the constable or authorised person reasonably believes to be, alcohol or a container for alcohol.

A person guilty of an offence under section 63 is liable on conviction in the magistrates' court to a fine not exceeding level 2 on the standard scale.

Section 67 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 says that it is a criminal offence for a person without reasonable excuse:

- a. to do anything that the person is prohibited from doing by a public spaces protection order, or
- b. to fail to comply with a requirement to which the person is subject under a public spaces protection order.

A person guilty of an offence under section 67 is liable on conviction in the magistrates' court to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

Fixed penalty

A constable, police community support officer or council enforcement officer may issue a fixed penalty notice to anyone he or she believes has committed an offence under section 63 and/or section 67 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act. You will have 14 days to pay the fixed penalty of £80. If you pay the fixed penalty within the 14 days, you will not be prosecuted.

Appeals

Any challenge to this order must be made in the high court by an interested person within six weeks of it being made. An interested person is someone who lives in, regularly works in, or visits the restricted area. This means that only those who are directly affected by the restrictions have the power to challenge. The right to challenge also exists where an order is varied by the council.

Interested persons can challenge the validity of this order on two grounds: that the council did not have the power to make the order, or to include particular prohibitions or requirements; or that one of the requirements of the legislation, for instance consultation, has not been complied with.

When an application is made the high court can decide to suspend the operation of the order pending the court's decision, in part or in totality. The high court has the ability to uphold the order, quash it, or vary it.

Dated 24 September 2020

The Common Seal of West Suffolk
Council was affixed in the presence
of

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Authorised signatory