

Anti-social Behaviour and Crime: Partnership Actions



This summary report is provided to the **Littlehampton Town Centre Action Group** to outline the actions taken by both the Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) and Community Safety team at Arun District Council in relation to crime and anti-social behaviour, specifically in the town centre.

Street drinking and behavioural warnings

Ongoing collaboration between the Police, ASB team, and Community Wardens to give verbal and written warnings to individuals about street drinking and to set expectations around behaviour in public. To date, 19 individuals have been issued with warning letters.

It is acknowledged that this is not a high-end enforcement route, but it is a necessary first step in ensuring that people are fully aware of the implications around their behaviour. In several instances, those who have received warnings have taken note and no further action has been necessary.

Regular reviews are undertaken by the NPT Sergeant and ADC's ASB Enforcement Team Leader in relation to known individuals, to ensure that both agencies are aware of behaviours and to jointly consider appropriate action. This is based upon reports submitted to indicate the level of impact each person is having on the community.

Feedback from individuals engaged in street drinking indicates that they tend to frequent the area to the West end of the High Street due to access to WiFi and because of its close proximity to other services they access, such as the breakfast club and prescription collection points. Discussions have been had with Sainsbury's about blocking access to their WiFi from outside of the store, but it remains accessible for free.

Liaison between ADC's ASB Enforcement Team Leader and Licensing Officer is ongoing to carry out licensing checks of off-licences. It is unknown where many of the street drinkers are obtaining their alcohol from as the day passes, and so checks will be carried out to establish whether premises are knowingly selling to individuals already intoxicated. Alcohol retailers have previously been visited and given reminders that they should not be selling alcohol to street drinkers during Arun DC and NPT days of action.

Visible Foot Patrols

Community Wardens are directed to provide a presence on the High Street every day they are on shift and to intervene where ASB occurs. This takes place alongside the ASB Caseworker who now also regularly walks the High Street to provide an additional presence.

Whilst carrying out these targeted daily patrols, the Community Wardens identified a specific day of the week as being busier than others in terms of activity amongst known nominals. This was supported by comments made to them by businesses. As a result, officers have been instructed to spend that whole day together on the High Street targeting the area outside Sainsbury's to deter and disrupt nuisance activity and behaviour.

The Neighbourhood Policing team have embedded Operation Sonar as a dedicated response to ASB in the town centre. PCSO's and the NPT PC are completing patrols of the High Street and surrounding roads, they are also assisting with obtaining statements from impacted businesses and responding to 999/101 calls.

All patrols are recorded on the Operation Sonar directed patrol activity system and are monitored by the NPT Sergeant.

These patrols are carried out whenever PCSO's have availability to do so, when they are not dealing with NPT related reports, significant incidents, or other matters such as missing persons. Other departments such as the Roads Policing Unit and Tutor Unit have been asked to complete further patrols of the area to try and increase resources.

PCSO's are conducting joint patrols with the Community Wardens and are liaising with agencies to try and find long term solutions to deal with the reported anti-social behaviour. Street briefings have been held in High Street and Sainsburys by the Neighbourhood Policing Team where members of the public have been engaged with.

Community Protection Warnings

5 issued by Police.

11 issued by ASB team.

Community Protection Notices

3 issued by Police.

1 individual taken to Court for breaches of their CPN.

3 issued by ASB team.

Criminal Behaviour Orders

2 obtained by Police.

Police are awaiting a Court date for another individual due to persistent nature of breaching CPN conditions.

HMOs (temporary accommodation)

There are several HMOs within the town centre, providing short-term accommodation for those in need of housing support. Police and ASB team have established good lines of communication with providers and regularly have dialogue where residents are causing issues in the town centre.

Where the behaviour of those temporarily housed in centrally located HMOs has a negative impact on the High Street or to surrounding residents, individuals are flagged with the property operators who have shown they are willing to tackle the reports with the occupier. On several occasions, people have been re-housed away from the town following such discussions.

Homelessness support and Drug and Alcohol services

Often, individuals who engage in street drinking and associated ASB have complex needs and require multi-agency support and intervention. Both ADC and the Police are mandated to consider the needs and circumstances of each individual they deal with in relation to the causes of anti-social behaviour.

Therefore, close working relationships with other support services is an important step in trying to tackle these issues. Turning Tides and Change Grow Live are examples of external organisations that regularly engage with these individuals, whether helping to secure housing, access wide ranging support, or offer assistance to reduce drug and alcohol use.

Both the Police and Community Safety team do regularly liaise with these agencies about individuals in support to ensure that enforcement action is proportionate and relevant, and to illustrate that all agencies are working together to try and resolve behavioural problems. In some cases, this is the only way by which conversations can be had with people.

PSPO signage

Following removal of the original signs during the public realm works new signage was erected around the town centre on 6 September 2024. These set out the conditions of the PSPO in a clearer way to everyone, assisting officers to set expectations and to take action where necessary. Active enforcement has resulted in numerous incidents of alcohol being removed from individuals and requests made to leave an area due to nuisance behaviour caused by alcohol consumption.

There is a clear expectation that all authorised officers take the appropriate steps to require someone to hand over alcohol in circumstances where they witness someone causing a nuisance in conjunction with the drinking of alcohol.

Youth ASB

Over the past couple of months, there has been a significant reduction in reported and observed ASB explicitly caused by young people. In addition to the intervention work undertaken by agencies, the opening of AYP Connect on the High Street has undoubtedly been a positive provision for young people.

CCTV

All town centre public facing CCTV has been upgraded by Arun DC to provide cloud based storage and enhanced imagery.

CCTV has been installed within the Arcade by the property owners, with match-funding provided by the Safer Arun Partnership.

Operation Sonar

The following is a summary of directed activity undertaken by the Neighbourhood Policing Team since the implementation of Op Sonar –

- Progressed three incidents of driving otherwise in accordance of a licence relating to electric bikes being ridden in the vicinity of Littlehampton High Street.
- Completed joint visits to retailers with Trading Standards.
- Carried out Domestic related arrests after incidents occurred in the vicinity of High Street.
- Carried out breach of Criminal Behaviour Order and CPN arrests.
- Liaised with Police Licensing resulting in a new DPS at one of the public houses.
- Carried out drugs related arrests (Possession with Intent to Supply)

- Carried out an arrest for assault Police/Wanted on Warrant.
- Carried out an arrest for failing to provide after a male was found drunk in charge of a motor vehicle.
- Seized stolen motor vehicles.
- Seized alcohol from persons drinking in the street and provided directions to leave.
- Carried out an arrest for a person being drunk and disorderly in a public place.
- Carried out arrests for shoplifting.
- Carried out an arrest for threats with a bladed article in a public place.
- Carried out recall to prison and fail to appear at Court arrests.
- Carried out an aggravated burglary arrest.
- Submitted safeguarding referrals to social services for vulnerable adults and children.
- Obtained many evidential statements and identified many offenders linked to crime.
- Recorded many offences which have been passed on to the relevant investigations department.
- Charged shoplifters to Court along with a suspect breaching their CBO.

This does not include the work that is conducted by the Divisional Response Team who attend the 999 calls or incidents that are not suitable for PCSO's – or the Business Crime Team.
