

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 the Community Safety team at Arun District Council in relation to crime and anti-social behaviour, specifically in the town centre. It is an update on activity since the October 2024 TCAG meeting.

Street drinking and behavioural warnings

The councils' Community Wardens and ASB Caseworker have undertaken a more robust approach to street drinking where it is believed that individuals are engaging in ASB. This approach is 'disrupt and deter' approach.

On 6 occasions, alcohol has been removed from individuals and disposed of. Generally, those spoken to are compliant with any requests given by officers i.e. to stop drinking or to leave the area. This does not mean that they do not return at a later time, but if they are seen and officers have concerns about their behaviour, they are again approached and spoken with.

Regular reviews between the council's ASB Enforcement Team Leader and the Arun NPT Sgt. are ongoing in relation to known street drinkers. This ensures that agencies can progress with enforcement such as CPWs and CPNs collectively and that officer's reports are collated and utilised to progress actions.

Regrettably, there has been a report of an individual purchasing 24 cans of alcohol from a shop and drinking in the High Street. 8 cans were subsequently removed from them by the police, only for the individual to then return to the same retailer and purchase another 24 cans of alcohol. The council's ASB Enforcement Team Leader has maintained a close working link with the Licensing team to report concerns and support licensing checks at off-licenses of concern.

Visible Foot Patrols

Community Wardens have continued their directed presence on the High Street every day they are on shift and to intervene where ASB occurs. These patrols are supported by ASB Caseworker, and this activity has been noted by retailers and

commented on as providing greater engagement between the team and businesses, as well as offering reassurance to shoppers.

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.

Joint patrols with PCSOs have also increased allowing more timely sharing of information and for joint interventions to take place.

Some of the outcomes from officers being present in the town centre include –

- Prevention of shoplifting on several occasions
- Recovery of items stolen from shops
- Intervention where ASB being caused by groups of students from APC, including sharing of names and behaviours to the school directly
- Intelligence submissions to police in relation to criminal behaviours
- Enforcement of arrest warrants where council officers have identified wanted individuals.
- Enforcement of CPWs and CPNs by witnessing behaviour contravening the notices and submitting statements
- Challenging ASB and carry out early interventions, reducing the negative impact on the community

HMOs (temporary and emergency accommodation)

There are a number of short-term accommodation HMOs within the town centre for those in need of housing support or experiencing homelessness. Officers are pursuing a more detailed understanding of each HMO and the operators, as well as how better engagement and information sharing about individuals can be achieved.

Where permission for new HMO developments are sought, the team are sighted and will make representations although reasons for refusal are limited.

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.

Youth ASB

On the whole, incidents of youth ASB have been low. A few individuals have been reported as the main perpetrators and proactive interventions have taken place. The Community Safety team are taking an early multi-agency approach which involves calling together all agencies currently working with any young person engaging in ASB. This has meant that everyone is made aware of their behaviour and has created a much stronger partnership in trying to manage behaviour.
