

Appendix B - Consultation

Cabinet Report Heading: To seek approval for the St James Barton Underpasses (The Bear Pit) to be made subject to a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)

The following individuals/organisations have been consulted with and agree with the proposal:

Bear Pit Improvement Group (comprising People's Republic of Stokes Croft and Bristol Civic Society), Bear Pit Traders, Whitbread Group (owners of Premier Inn who own Haymarket Walk), Holiday Inn, 5102 Residents Association, Destination Bristol, Avon and Somerset Police, Bristol Bus Station, Incredible Edible Bristol.

All of the responses from these groups supported the PSPO in the proposed terms. There were some concerns around displacement and alcohol sales.

Concerns over displacement should be allayed by communicating that has not happened in the past and other areas likely to displace to are covered by DPPO.

Concerns over alcohol sales from within the Bear Pit can be allayed as any licence application will be heavily scrutinised due to high level of crime and ASB in area.

Bristol Bus Station requested that their premises be included in the PSPO. We have engaged with them over this request. Having, explained that the DDPO they are currently part of will become a PSPO and that we do not have evidence of NPS use in the Bus Station, they now indicate that they do not feel it necessary to be a part of this PSPO.

We also carried out a day long consultation with users of the Bear Pit. We spoke with 82 individuals who were commuters, customers, skaters, street drinkers, beggars, buskers and local residents. The three largest groups were Commuters (51%), Street Drinkers (14%), Customers (17%).

Overall, 82% of respondents supported the proposal. It was of note that 58% of the street drinkers and beggars supported the proposal.

The main reasons given for supporting the proposal were that people currently felt intimidated and unsafe, that alcohol and substance misuse was a bad thing and that a PSPO could help improve the area.

The main reasons for those who didn't support the proposal were around concerns of displacement, dislike of authority and not wanting to criminalise people.