

## **Consultation questions for PSPO – Misuse of public land**

Spelthorne Borough Council is proposing the introduction of a new Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) on the subject of tents and barbecues on public land, and the parking of taxis and private hire vehicles within the Borough. The restrictions that the Council is proposing and the reasons for this are as follows:

### **Section 1 – Tents and similar structures**

Primarily during the summer months, Spelthorne Borough Council receive complaints in relation to tents or similar structures being erected on public land. Occupants of the tents or similar structures have been reported to use shrubbery within the public space they occupy as a toilet, litter in the area, and restrict parts of the public space which is designed for the use of all. Due to the issues caused, Spelthorne Borough Council have been forced to employ the services of a specialist cleaning firm on several occasions, costing thousands of pounds.

The Council is proposing to ban the erection of any tent, bivouac or similar structure on any of the Council's parks or open spaces, the Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) of Dumsey Meadow, Shepperton and Shortwood Common Staines, and Staines Moor.

Exemptions would apply for any event/group that have been given consent by the landowner to use the land.

### **Survey questions:**

- 1) To what extent do you agree that littering and human waste resulting from persons staying in tents causes problems for residents and visitors to parks and open spaces? (Strongly agree/Agree/Neither agree nor disagree/Disagree/Strongly disagree)
- 2) To what extent do you agree that littering and human waste resulting from persons staying in tents cause damage to the environment? (Strongly agree/Agree/Neither agree nor disagree/Disagree/Strongly disagree)
- 3) To what extent do you agree that littering and human waste resulting from persons staying in tents cause problems for the Council? (Strongly agree/Agree/Neither agree nor disagree/Disagree/Strongly disagree)
- 4) To what extent do you agree with the Council's proposal to ban the erection of tents, bivouacs or similar structures on the parks and open spaces, SSSIs and Staines Moor? (Strongly agree/Agree/Neither agree nor disagree/Disagree/Strongly disagree)

### **Section 2 – Barbecues**

Spelthorne Borough Council regularly receive complaints during the summer months in relation to the irresponsible use of barbecues on public land. The use of cooking equipment involving naked flames, especially during the summer months is extremely hazardous, particularly in biodiversity sites around the Borough, where a single stray spark could be disastrous. Damage has also been caused to Council property including unsightly burn marks to grass areas, and partially melted picnic benches.

The Council is proposing to ban the use of any device for cooking that utilises a naked flame, including barbecues and camping stoves on any of the Council's parks or open spaces, the SSSIs of Dumsey Meadow, Shepperton and Shortwood Common, Staines, and Staines Moor.

Exemptions would apply for any event/group that have been given consent by the landowner to use the land

**Survey questions:**

- 1) To what extent do you agree that the use of barbecues, fire pits, camp fires and other activities involving a naked flame increase the risk of wildfires occurring within Spelthorne? (Strongly agree/Agree/Neither agree nor disagree/Disagree/Strongly disagree)
- 2) To what extent do you agree with the Council's proposal to ban the use of any device for cooking that utilises a naked flame on the parks and open spaces, SSSIs and Staines Moor? (Strongly agree/Agree/Neither agree nor disagree/Disagree/Strongly disagree)

**Section 3 – Taxis and private hire vehicles**

Due to the rise of private hire companies such as Uber, Spelthorne Borough Council has seen a steady increase in the number of taxis and private hire vehicles using residential areas around Heathrow airport to park and await customers. This has led to reports of vehicles left idling for long periods of time, littering from vehicles and occupants urinating and defecating in hedgerows and bushes in residential areas. There is currently a specific car park at Heathrow Airport for taxis, and an Authorised Vehicle Area has been set up for the use of private hire vehicles at a reasonable cost.

The Council is proposing an exclusion zone within which no taxi, private hire vehicle or other vehicle carrying paying passengers will be allowed to park. This zone will encompass the entirety of Stanwell Moor, and parts of Stanwell particularly affected by the parking of these vehicles.

Exemptions would apply for a vehicle of this type dropping off or picking up a fare from within the exclusion zone, the owner/driver of the vehicle residing within the exclusion zone, or if a business operating such vehicles being based within the exclusion zone.

**Survey questions:**

- 1) To what extent do you agree that the presence of parked taxis/private hire vehicles causes parking issues for residents and visitors to the area? (Strongly agree/Agree/Neither agree nor disagree/Disagree/Strongly disagree)
- 2) To what extent do you agree that the littering, urination and defecation by some of the occupants of the vehicles causes problems for residents and visitors to the area? (Strongly agree/Agree/Neither agree nor disagree/Disagree/Strongly disagree)

- 3) To what extent do you agree that the littering, urination and defecation by some of the occupants of the vehicles causes damage to the environment?  
(Strongly agree/Agree/Neither agree nor disagree/Disagree/Strongly disagree)
- 4) To what extent do you agree with the Council's proposal to create an exclusion area encompassing Stanwell Moor and parts of Stanwell where no taxi, private hire vehicle or other vehicle carrying paying passengers will be allowed to wait, unless collecting or dropping off a fare from within the area?  
(Strongly agree/Agree/Neither agree nor disagree/Disagree/Strongly disagree)