

Town Centre Public Spaces Protection Order Consultation 2016

Consultation Feedback Report

Responses

Responses Total	170
Discounted	8
Incomplete duplicate	11
Valid Responses	151

170 responses in total were collected through the Town Centre Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) consultation.

Of these 6 responses did were completed without valid names, addresses or postcodes. A further 11 responses were found to be incomplete duplicate responses whereby the user may have timed out of the website and has therefore redone their answers. These responses have been discounted from the analysis.

Therefore the number of valid responses received was 151.

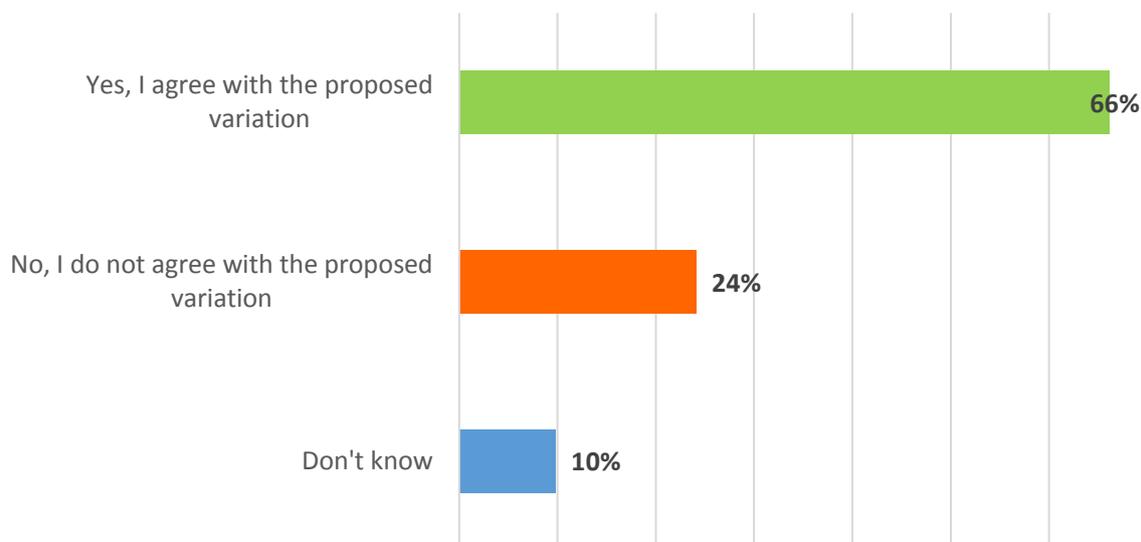
Proposed amendments to the PSPO:

Question 2 – Boundary

Responses: 132/151

In response to complaints received from businesses and residents about anti-social behaviour identified on the outskirts of the perimeter for the current Town Centre PSPO and issues witnessed by officers which are of detriment to those individuals quality of life, the below boundary (in black) has been proposed as a variation to prevent the activities continuing or recurring. This will ensure that the order covers the new development at Regents Circus, the routes through to the centre from the Train Station and Spring Gardens.

2. Do you agree with the proposed variation to the boundary of the order * as shown above?



	Responses	
Don't know	13	10%
No, I do not agree with the proposed variation	32	24%
Yes, I agree with the proposed variation	88	66%

Question 3 – Alcohol

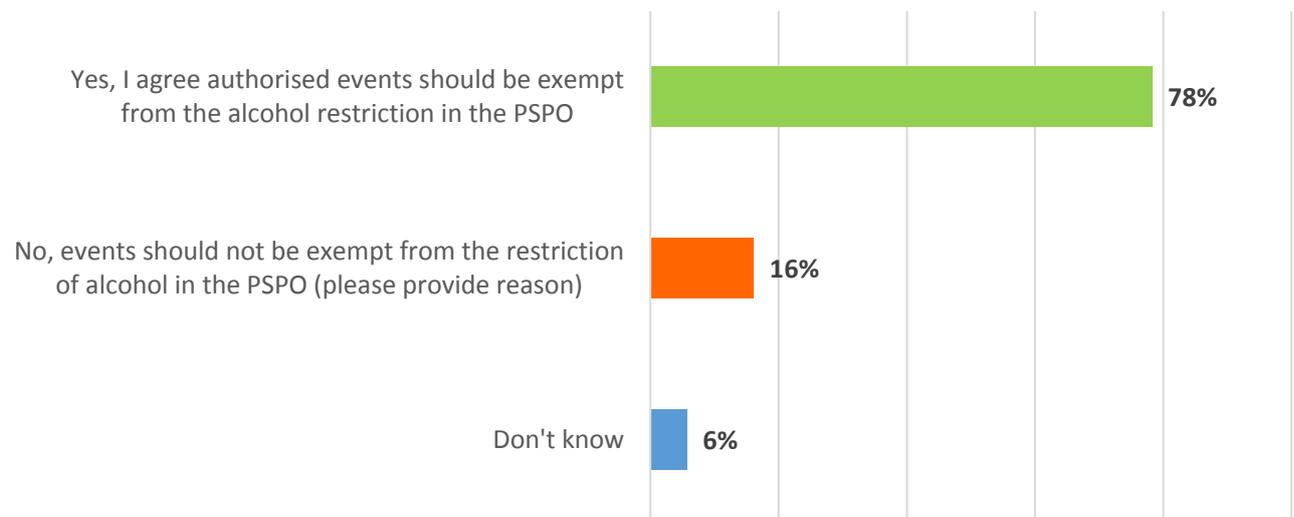
Responses: 124/151

Current Restriction: Any person is prohibited from, at any time, consuming alcohol or having an open alcohol container, unless subject to exemptions listed in Appendix Two below.

The proposed variation is to the exemptions which will now include an exemption for events with permission from the Local Authority.

This will mean anyone attending an event authorised by Swindon Borough Council will be exempt from the alcohol restriction above.

Do you agree with the introduction of this exemption for events?



	Responses	
	Count	Percentage
Don't know	7	6%
No, events should not be exempt from the restriction of alcohol in the PSPO (please provide reason)	20	16%
Yes, I agree authorised events should be exempt from the alcohol restriction in the PSPO	97	78%

Question 4 – Skateboarding

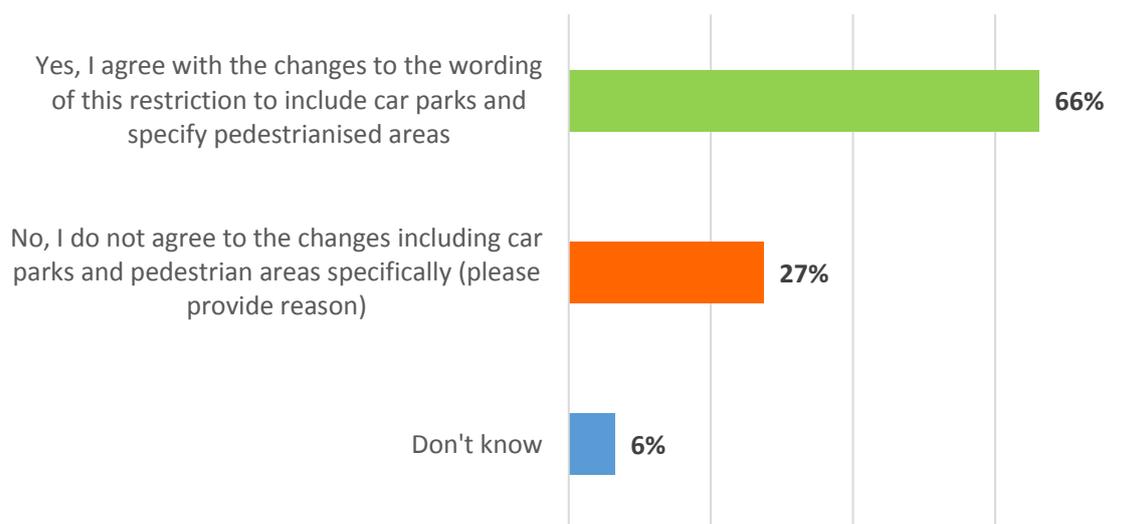
Responses: 124/151

Current Restriction: Any person is prohibited from, at any time, using a skateboard or similar in a way that may damage property or cause nuisance or annoyance.

Proposed Restriction: Any person is prohibited from skateboarding, at any time, in a pedestrianised zone or car park within the restricted area.

Following complaints in our car parks the restriction is proposed to include car parks specifically as well as pedestrian areas in particular, instead of the whole Town Centre where it may not necessarily be a problem.

Do you agree with the changes to the wording of this restriction?



	Responses	
	Count	Percentage
Don't know	8	6%
No, I do not agree to the changes including car parks and pedestrian areas specifically (please provide reason)	34	27%
Yes, I agree with the changes to the wording of this restriction to include car parks and specify pedestrianised areas	82	66%

Question 5 – Dogs on Lead

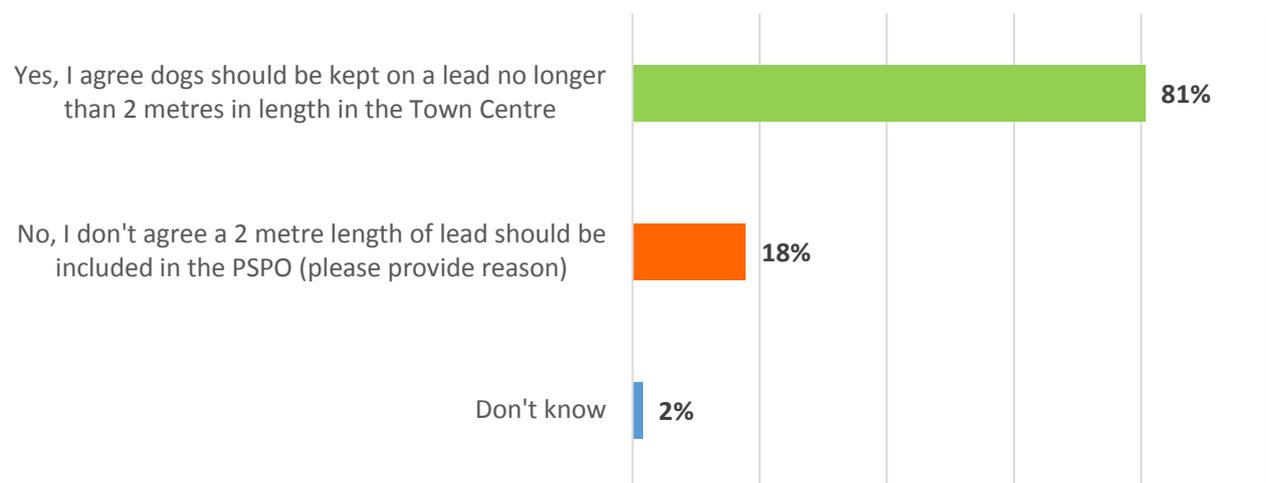
Responses: 124/151

Current Restriction: Any person in charge of a dog, at any time, must keep the dog on a lead unless subject to exemptions listed in Appendix Two below.

Proposed Restriction: Any person in charge of a dog, at any time, must keep the dog on a lead no longer than 2 metres in length, unless subject to exemptions listed in Appendix Two below.

The proposed variation is to the restriction; the stipulation on the length of lead being no longer than 2 metres in length. The reason for the introduction of this term is that long leads can cause a potential hazard to other pedestrians in the vicinity.

Do you agree persons in charge of a dog must keep the dog on a lead no longer than 2 metres in length?



	Responses	
Don't know	2	2%
No, I don't agree a 2 metre length of lead should be included in the PSPO (please provide reason)	22	18%
Yes, I agree dogs should be kept on a lead no longer than 2 metres in length in the Town Centre	100	81%

Question 6 – Begging

Responses: 124/151

Current Restriction: Any person is prohibited from, at any time, placing himself in a position to receive alms for a continuing period.

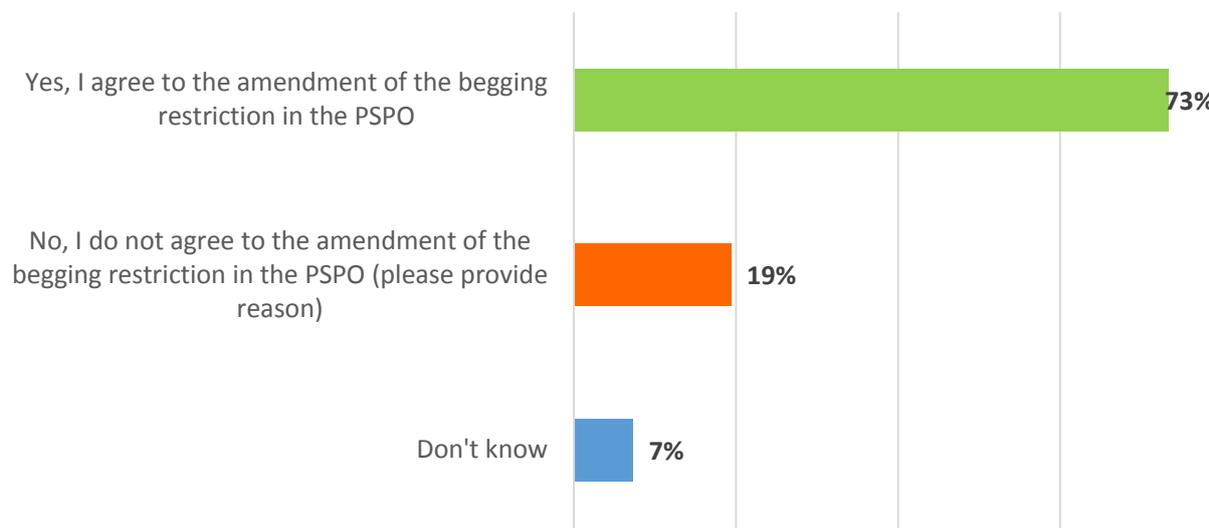
Proposed Restriction: Any person is prohibited from begging or asking members of the public for money in a manner which causes, or is likely to cause, nuisance or annoyance to any member of the public or business.

Under UK law it is an offence to beg in a public place and the beggar can be arrested for committing such an offence. If you see a police officer or a community support officer in the vicinity inform them or alternatively telephone your local police (via 101) and inform them of the location and a description of the person begging.

There are many homeless charities in Swindon people can donate to that are best placed to help people sleeping rough or homeless in the local area offering services such as rehabilitation programmes, counselling and long term support to individuals to help them get back on their feet.

The inclusion of begging in the PSPO is to allow authorised council and partner officers to take action where begging is witnessed and is having a detrimental effect. It is important to note that officers will NOT be issuing any fixed penalty notices to individuals who are found to be genuinely homeless or in a position where they are unable to pay a fine. Those genuinely homeless or rough sleeping will instead be provided with advice and signposted to charities and teams whom are best placed to help them improve their current circumstance over the long term.

Taking account of the above, do you agree with the proposed amendment to the begging restriction which is in line with the current law?



	Responses	
	Count	Percentage
Don't know	9	7%
No, I do not agree to the amendment of the begging restriction in the PSPO (please provide reason)	24	19%
Yes, I agree to the amendment of the begging restriction in the PSPO	91	73%

Proposed removal of restrictions in the current PSPO:

Question 7 – Peddling/Street Trading

Responses: 121/151

Current Restriction: Any person is prohibited from, at any time, peddling/trading goods without the written permission of the authority, even if licensed.

The proposed variation is to remove the above restriction on Peddling and Street Trading in the Town Centre as these activities are well covered by current legislation and policy. Do you agree with the removal of the peddling/street trading restriction from the Swindon Town Centre PSPO?



	Responses	
	Count	Percentage
Don't know	19	16%
No, the restriction for peddling/street trading should not be removed from the PSPO (please provide reason)	29	24%
Other - a restriction for peddling should remain in the PSPO (please provide a reason below)	3	2%
Yes, I agree the restriction for peddling/street trading should be removed from the PSPO	70	58%

Question 8 – Aggressive Charity Collection

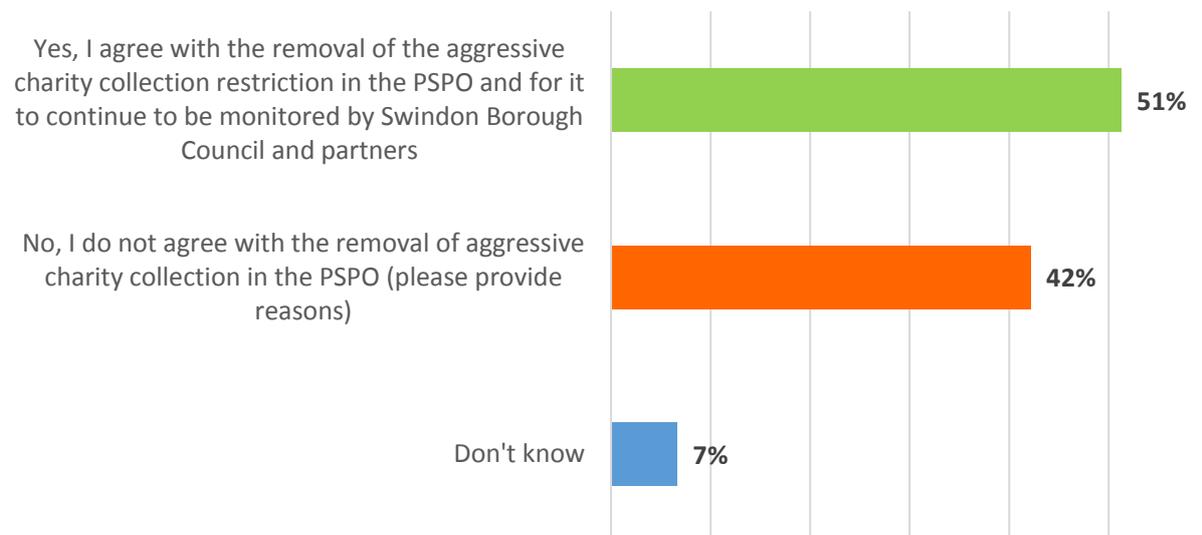
Responses: 121/151

Current Restrictions: Any person is prohibited from, at any time, on land detailed in Appendix One below, engaging in assertive or aggressive (commercial or charity) collection or soliciting of money.

There have been no continuing issues with aggressive charity collection since the PSPO was launched. Therefore it is proposed to remove the restriction.

Charity collectors will still continue to be monitored and authorised by Swindon Borough Council and partners as usual.

Do you agree with the removal of the charity collection restriction in the PSPO?



	Responses	
	Count	Percentage
Don't know	8	7%
No, I do not agree with the removal of aggressive charity collection in the PSPO (please provide reasons)	51	42%
Yes, I agree with the removal of the aggressive charity collection restriction in the PSPO and for it to continue to be monitored by Swindon Borough Council and partners	62	51%

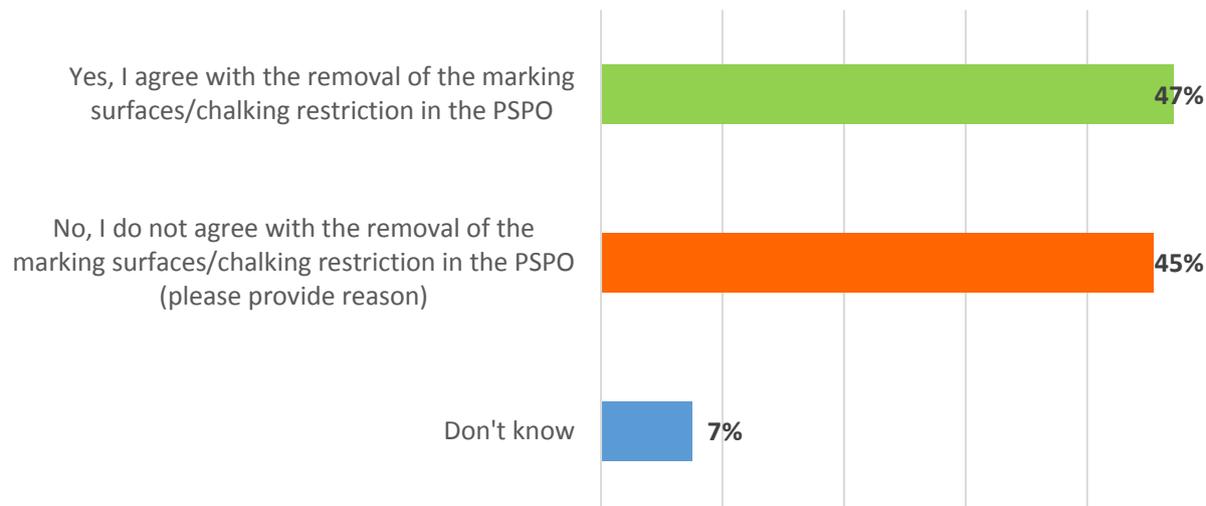
Question 9 – Marking Surfaces/Chalking

Responses: 121/151

Current Restriction: Any person is prohibited from, at any time, directly marking surfaces such as walls or pavements with paints, chalk or similar without the written permission of the Council.

Comments received from businesses and the public suggest there is no longer an issue with this activity that causes a detrimental effect to those using and visiting the Town Centre. Therefore it is proposed to remove the restriction.

Do you agree with the removal of the marking surfaces/chalking restriction in the PSPO?



	Responses	
	Count	Percentage
Don't know	9	7%
No, I do not agree with the removal of the marking surfaces/chalking restriction in the PSPO (please provide reason)	55	45%
Yes, I agree with the removal of the marking surfaces/chalking restriction in the PSPO	57	47%

Proposed addition to the PSPO

Question 10 – Cycling

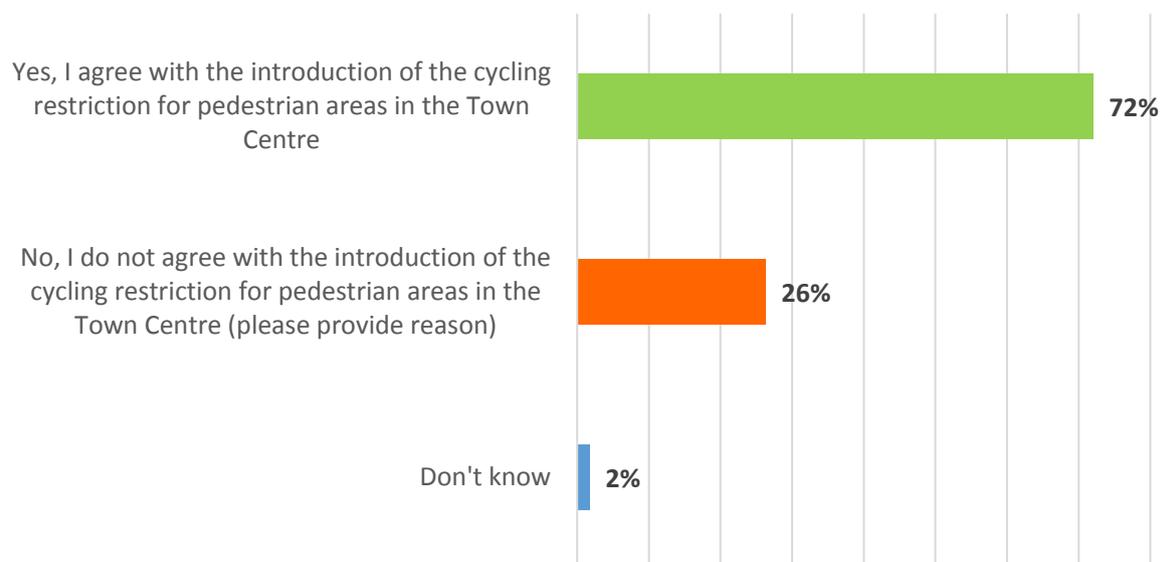
Responses: 118/151

Proposed Restriction: Any person is prohibited from cycling, at any time, in a pedestrianised zone within the restricted area.

Comments from users of the Town Centre and incidents investigated by partners indicate that there is a growing concern with people riding bicycles in the Town Centre. Where bicycles, shoppers, families with young children, elderly or vulnerable persons are present there is a potential for collision which could result in devastating consequences. In response to this concern we propose the above restriction on riding bicycles in the pedestrian areas in the Town Centre.

This is NOT a ban on cyclists in the whole of the Town Centre. There are routes around the central shopping area (pedestrianised area) and cyclists are welcome to dismount and walk through pedestrian areas.

Do you agree with the proposed restriction for cycling in the pedestrian areas of the Town Centre?



	Responses	
Don't know	2	2%
No, I do not agree with the introduction of the cycling restriction for pedestrian areas in the Town Centre (please provide reason)	31	26%
Yes, I agree with the introduction of the cycling restriction for pedestrian areas in the Town Centre	85	72%

Appendix 1: PSPO Consultation Engagement Methods

- Full details placed on Swindon CSP webpage (<http://www.swindon-csp.org.uk/asb/Pages/pspo.aspx>) and Swindon Council webpage (http://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20029/people_and_communities/638/public_spaces_protection_orders_pspo)
- Posters affixed to lampposts throughout the Town Centre, including prominent locations along Regent Street and key routes into the centre with smartphone compatible QR scan link to the consultation page.



- Emails sent directly to Town Centre businesses through local BID company inswindon to notify them of the consultation taking place
- Press release sent to local media companies
 - Article appeared on Swindon Advertiser webpage on 31st October 2016 ([http://www.swindonadvertiser.co.uk/news/14834152.Skateboarding outlawed by t pavement poet set to be able to draw legally again_/](http://www.swindonadvertiser.co.uk/news/14834152.Skateboarding_outlawed_by_t_pavement_poet_set_to_be_able_to_draw_legally_again_/))
 - Article appeared on Swindon Link webpage on 28th October 2016 (<https://swindonlink.com/swindon-borough-council-to-see-views-on-proposed-changes-to-town-centre-pspo/>)
 - Article appeared on Swindon Town Centre webpage on 31st October 2016 (<http://www.swindontowncentre.co.uk/news/?contentID=2970>)