

Attending:

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|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Hannah Hancock | (HBAC) |
| Paul Sweeney | (Huntingdon Bid Manager) |
| Mags Clark | (Huntingdon Deputy Manager) |
| Sharon Wright | (Town Ranger – Huntingdon BID) |
| Rob Walker | (TK Maxx) |
| Elias Norton | (TK Maxx) |
| Celia Barden | (Shopmobility) |

Hannah thanked everyone for attending

Hannah proceeded to give an informative talk – a brief summary is included below:

Following on from the last meeting in March, we have had extensive conversation with partners, retailers and members of public regarding issues that are causing the most impact within the town centre. HBAC primary role is to bring these connections closer together. As resources are reduced and cut across Huntingdonshire, HBAC very often finds itself in uncharted territory, filling a gap that has previously been held by another organisation.

- **Multi-story Car park** – Ongoing issues and concerns within the area linked to youths using the area to congregate and act in an anti-social manner, often causing criminal damage and concern to car park users. The area has experienced a greater prevalence of crime in the last 24 months.

The offenders are mainly: Male / Age 10-16 / The children attend local schools and are housed mainly in the local area.

Action – Implementation of a security guard to cover the main times that the behaviour is being witnessed. Area is now guarded:

Monday-Friday – 2pm until 9pm

Saturday-Sunday – 1pm until 9pm

Police, Environmental Health and HBAC data was used to decide the times that the guards worked.

Sourced through a company called Evolve Security who provide all guards for the taxi marshal sites in Cambridge City Centre.

- **Street Drinking** – Historically Huntingdon experiences concerns linked to street drinking in:
Market Square
Bloomfield Park
St Benedicts Court
Bus Station

Often the individuals are well known for other crimes such as shoplifting and bike theft

- **Action** – Consultation for Public Space Protection Order

A PSPO is a **Public Spaces Protection Order**. They are made by councils and aim to stop behaviour in a particular area that is making life worse for the local community. PSPOs can ban certain things or require specific things to be done.

PSPO's are intended to deal with nuisance or problems in an area that cause harm to the quality of life of the local community. The power to make a Public Spaces Protection Order was given to District Councils by the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

They can be enforced by **the police, council enforcement officers or any other authorised officers**. Officers can issue a fine of £100 to anyone who breaches the PSPO. If they do not pay the fine then officers can take further action with a maximum fine of £1000.

Signage is used to show the area covered by the PSPO and the sanctions imposed should a breach occur.

A PSPO can last for **up to three years**, after which it must be reviewed. If the review supports an extension and other requirements are satisfied, it may be extended for up to a further three years. There is no limit on the number of times an Order may be reviewed and renewed.

In Huntingdonshire, Huntingdonshire District Council prefer to use the PSPO for fast, hard hitting enforcement and would look to run a PSPO for 6-12 months maximum.

What happens next?

HBAC will make a formal request to Huntingdonshire District Council for a consultation to begin on a PSPO for a defined area. It is anticipated that the area will be the Market Square in the first instance, with the option to disperse individuals out of the area for up to 24 hours, if they are acting in an anti-social manner.

Historically, HBAC has sent a warning letter to any individual who has been seen to breach the order.

- Radio training – Hannah quickly ran through the radio use.
- Disc training – Disc is an information sharing system available to all BID Levy payers. It contains information about current offenders and persons of interest in the town (not shown below) It is also an easy way to report incidents.



It is also an easy way to report incidents / intelligence:



Paul Sweeney, BID Manager then talked on two issues:

Turning point behind Wilko/ WHSmith/ Grammar School Walk where there are continually cars parked in the turning area despite large, yellow notices and double yellow lines. The area is due to be taken over by HDC next summer (2023) but in the meantime the parking causes safety issues such as blocking WHSmith fire doors; Wilko lorries having little space to turn; people who have legitimately bought parking places from Church Manor (upward of £1000 p.a.) being unable to leave in an emergency because of being blocked in. As there is no enforcement / ticketing people feel free to park there with immunity. Paul will be contacting the local police concerning this as another year is not sustainable.

Bikes – High Street, Huntingdon Paul talked about 2 issues here. The first being the school children who are still riding down the High Street at the end of the school day despite many requests on many levels by their school not to do so. BID has had useful and positive interaction with the school leads, including them visiting the town centre, however the situation continues. This has resulted in a major injury this week when a child fell off his bike. He was the only one injured and whilst sympathy is extended to him we are also grateful that no one else was injured at the same time such as an elderly person or a toddler. A meeting has been set up with Paul, the leaders of the school and the police to discuss any ideas to prevent this re-occurring.

The second issue is a desire by Cambridgeshire CC to add bike racks to the centre of town, within the pedestrian zone. We currently have 11 cycle racks all round the very edges of the town centre and it is BID's opinion that these offer adequate bike parking. Adding more bike racks to the centre of town would clutter the pedestrian zone and encourage the riding of bikes down the High Street and Chequers Court – the very thing we are working so hard to prevent so as to avoid future accidents.

Hannah closed the meeting.

The next meeting will be on July 14th 2022.