

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN PORTSWOOD – HRA STATEMENT

The following reflects HRA's understanding of the position following a meeting with police and City Council representatives on 13 August 2024.

Based on information collected by the HRA Crime Information Sharing WhatsApp group between June and July 2024, there appeared to have been a recent increase in various forms of ASB in Portswood, especially in the Broadway and nearby streets. Behaviour reported in the WhatsApp Group ranged from on-street drinking and aggressive attitudes to more serious instances of physical violence and drug use. Such behaviour was becoming more intrusive.

The authorities – the police and the City Council's Community Safety Group (CSG) – are well aware of this. A Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) came into force on 30 April 2022 which covers the area between Sainsbury's and Gordon Avenue. The order is enforced by the CSG and warranted police officers.

<https://www.southampton.gov.uk/media/2pil3mdd/pspo-portswood.pdf>

What to do:

Less serious cases – particularly of street drinking, carrying an open can/bottle of alcohol and drug paraphernalia (for example, needles) left on the street - should be reported to the Council's Community Safety Group on-line or by phone 07796278434, or by email:

<https://www.southampton.gov.uk/people-places/community-safety/>

Community.safety@southampton.gov.uk

Regrettably these contacts are only effective in terms of timing in normal hours during the working week as Community Wardens do not work in the evenings or at weekends. Any incidents occurring outside of these hours should be reported to the police (see below).

More serious behaviours, including any drug use on display or incidents of violence or criminal behaviour, should be reported to the police, preferably in person, to the Police Station in St Denys Road (open Monday to Friday, 8am to 4pm), by phone to 101 or on-line:

<https://www.hampshire.police.uk/>

To make an anonymous report on-line, phone Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or visit:

<https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/give-information-anonymously>

In cases of doubt, both sets of authorities should be contacted.

HRA will continue to monitor the position and liaise with the Council and the police.