

Subject: Vehicle Enthusiasts - Great Yarmouth Seafront

Report to: Housing and Neighbourhoods Committee – 2 March 2017

Report by: Group Manager – Neighbourhoods & Communities

SUBJECT MATTER/RECOMMENDATIONS

To give an update on the proposed multi-agency response to issue of car and motorbike enthusiasts causing anti-social behaviour along Great Yarmouth Seafront.

1.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This report is an update on the issues and work detailed in the report to the Housing and Neighbourhoods Committee in October 2016 around the issues associated with car and motor bike enthusiasts on Great Yarmouth Seafront and provides an update on the actions required leading up to and after go-live at Easter 2017 (Friday 14 April).
- 1.2 Vehicle rallies continue to be advertised and organised via social media for 2017. A motorcycle rally has already been advertised for June 2017 for the area outside the Marina Centre, similar to the unauthorised event that took place last year before the Traffic Regulation Order prohibiting parking on the esplanade was in place.
- 1.3 The Council continues to work closely with the Police and Norfolk County Council Highways to tackle the issues and progress long-term solutions. It has been agreed to provide adequate staffing and strong enforcement from both the Police and the Council for at least the first six Sundays after go-live of the PSPO in order to send out a strong message to the motorcycle and car groups. This time frame would cover Easter and the two May bank holiday weekends which were particularly problematic last year. If agencies become aware of any other authorised events on other dates, they will work together to identify whether any resources will be available on these additional dates.

2.0 CURRENT ISSUES

- 2.1 The Police have reported that the area has been quiet over the winter months.

They will continue to monitor facebook and other social media to identify potential meetings so they can provide a policing presence to deter future events.

- 2.3 The Traffic Regulation Order for the slow lane on Marine Parade has been live for approximately 6 months, but due to working patterns of Civil Enforcement Officers there is no enforcement beyond 4:30pm on a Sunday, when the majority of infringements occur both in the slow lane and in the area between King's Road roundabout and the Pleasure Beach.

3.0 PROGRESS TOWARDS GO-LIVE

- 3.1 The multi-agency group agreed that it was important to go-live no later than Good Friday (14 April).
- 3.2 The Police have offered to co-ordinate partnership working "on the ground" during the first six week, intensive enforcement period under the banner of "Op Clarion". The planning meeting will be held on 28 February 2017 to determine who will attend on each Sunday to carry out enforcement. Op Clarion has been the title for multi-agency working around vehicle enthusiasts for the past few years.
- 3.3 **Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)**
The Public Spaces Protection Order went live on 1 February 2017 and is available to view on the Council's website. It will become enforceable once appropriate signage is put up within the PSPO area. The Council has to allow a six week challenge period in case any person wishes to challenge the Order in the High Court before go-live. This challenge period passed without comment or challenge.
- 3.4 A joint site visit between the Council, Norfolk County Council (NCC) and the Police along the seafront to identify signage locations took place in January. The Council is waiting for NCC colleagues to provide a map of appropriate locations before placing an order for signage. Appropriate locations are identified by: entrance and exit points to the seafront; hotspot areas identified from last year; proximity to other street signs and furniture (technical requirement) and to ensure a balance between enough signs to be able to enforce without too many to create clutter and inappropriate distraction to road users. GYB Services will be responsible for putting up the signs ready for the 14 April go-live date. Priority will be given to getting signs in place between the

Pleasure Beach to King's Road roundabout, followed by the area between King's Road Roundabout to the Britannia Pier.

- 3.5 Work is underway to finalise resources to carry out enforcement, process paperwork and take forward prosecutions.

3.5 Traffic Regulation Order (TRO)

The multi-agency working group requested NCC to consider creating a new Traffic Regulation Order for the area between King's Road Roundabout to Main Cross Road to simplify the parking restrictions for that area as well as bring in prohibitions for parking on the footway.

NCC has now launched the consultation for the creation of the new TRO and has included all of the multi-agency group's requests and recommendations. If the consultation gains public support, the TRO would go live in September / October this year.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Housing and Neighbourhoods committee has already approved the costs relating to the installation of signs to enable the PSPO to go live.
- 4.2 Norfolk County Council has agreed to carry the cost of the TRO consultation and implementation without financial support from outside agencies.
- 4.3 Overtime costs for one Senior Civil Parking Enforcement Officer (CPEO) and three CPEO's to work between 7pm to 11pm for the six Sundays would cost approx. £334 per Sunday (approx. total of £2,000).
- 4.4 Overtime costs for the Environmental Services officers to work between 7pm to 11pm on Sundays are estimated to be £800 per Sunday (approx. total of £4,800). This would be for 6 officers: Community Protection team, Environmental Rangers team and Seafront Enforcement Officer. However, only the Community Protection team will be able to enforce all of the conditions of the PSPO whilst the other officers will only enforce part of the PSPO.
- 4.5 Enforcement activity could result in income derived from fixed penalty notices, penalty charge notices or other fines issued as a result of breaches of the PSPO and existing TRO's.

5.0 RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 As stated in the October report on this issue there are a number of risks for the Council relating to the issues relating to seafront vehicle enthusiasts. There is a clear risk to the safety of the public should these unauthorised events continue and further incidents occur.
- 5.2 Whilst it is clear that there is multi-agency responsibility for the range of issues presented by vehicle enthusiasts on a reputational level the Council is seen as the place-leader for the borough as noted by the number of complaints the Council has received to date.
- 5.3 The implementation of a PSPO and TRO will also carry risk implications for the Council should they not be executed correctly. Central to this will be ensuring the staff that enforce the PSPO and TRO have the appropriate training, resources and support. There are a number of issues relating to officer delegations and personal safety that have been raised by relevant service areas in relation to this.
- 5.4 All of the above risks will need to be considered and mitigated against before enforcement of the new PSPO and any TRO comes into effect. This is currently being explored through the Council's Enforcement Board.

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 Success will be dependent on having staff in place and adequately trained to carry out adequate enforcement in the evenings and on weekends working alongside the Police with appropriate support to process any potential prosecutions and legal work following any face-to-face enforcement.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Housing and Neighbourhoods Committee is asked to note the content of the report and the progress of the multi-agency group in tackling the issue of the vehicle enthusiasts:
 - a) Note that the PSPO has gone live, but awaiting signage before enforcement commences.
 - b) Note that the Pleasure Beach TRO is being progressed by NCC

- c) Note that work is underway to ensure that adequate numbers of staff are available to enforce the PSPO and that they are trained / supported appropriately
- d) Note the financial implications both for overtime costs and potential income opportunities
- e) Agree to receive a review and update on the first six week enforcement under Op Clarion. This review to include consideration of ongoing commitment to Sunday / weekend enforcement until September 2017.

Area for consideration	Comment
Monitoring Officer Consultation:	
Section 151 Officer Consultation:	
Existing Council Policies:	
Financial Implications:	Costs relating to implementation and enforcement of a PSPO.
Legal Implications (including human rights):	To ensure that the PSPO is enforced correctly under ASB legislation.
Risk Implications:	Considered in the report.
Equality Issues/EQIA assessment:	Equality issues considered as part of the creation of a PSPO and TRO.
Crime & Disorder:	Relates to the conventions of the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and the Council's obligations under the Crime and Disorder Act 1988.
Every Child Matters:	Not applicable.