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**Mr Andrew Mason
Monmouthshire County Council
County Hall
Usk
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1st February 2017

Dear Andrew,

Monmouthshire County Council Public Consultation Regarding Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) Fairfield and Skate Park Abergavenny

Thank you for the recent correspondence regarding the proposal to implement Public Space Protection Orders for Fairfield and the Skate Park within Abergavenny. I have given this due consideration since receipt and am able to provide you with the following comments in response to the public consultation.

Fairfield

The Fairfield car park in Abergavenny has for a number of years attracted the gathering of vehicles. Through their attendance at that location, local residents and visitors to the area have been subjected to anti-social behaviour, caused by inappropriate driving, noise and persistent nuisance. Such gatherings and the associated groups of people, along with careless and dangerous driving, at the car park have caused intimidation, disruption and danger to those living close by and those legitimately using the car park area.

There have been numerous multi-agency based intervention actions taken by Gwent Police, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Welsh Ambulance Service Trust and Monmouthshire County Council to address the issues, however these have had a limited amount of success and have not been seen to be sustainable solutions. It is anticipated that the powers contained within the proposed PSPO will support both the community and the agencies working with them in reducing anti-social behaviour within the area.

Skate Park

Abergavenny Skate Park has also been subject of numerous complaints regarding the behaviour of people in that location. Recently the local community has been vocal in its support and expectation that police and partner agencies invest both their powers and available resources in making the Skate Park a safe and an attractive place to visit and enjoy.

In addressing the formal consultation for this Public Space Protection Order, it is understood that the proposal was forthcoming following extensive consultation with key members within the community. These powers will support both the community and the agencies working with them in reducing anti-social behaviour, addressing public concern and making the location a safer place to be.

Introducing PSPOs in both of the above locations will enable the Authorised Officer to disrupt some of the activities that are being undertaken. However, enforcement action on its own will not fully influence the behaviour of those individuals. Gwent Police would want to be assured that the PSPOs were supported by other partner agency activity that will reduce or resolve the issues in the long term.

From a policing perspective therefore, we support the PSPOs as part of a wider diversionary strategy that focuses on impacting positively on the wellbeing and lifestyles of the people legitimately frequenting these areas. These powers will otherwise risk being a short-term intervention with the potential for the problem to be moved on to other nearby locations rather than dealt with.

I hope that these comments are useful during this formal public consultation.

Yours sincerely

pp 

**Jeff Farrar QPM OStJ
Chief Constable**