



Public Spaces Protection Orders consultation 2016

Analysis of data

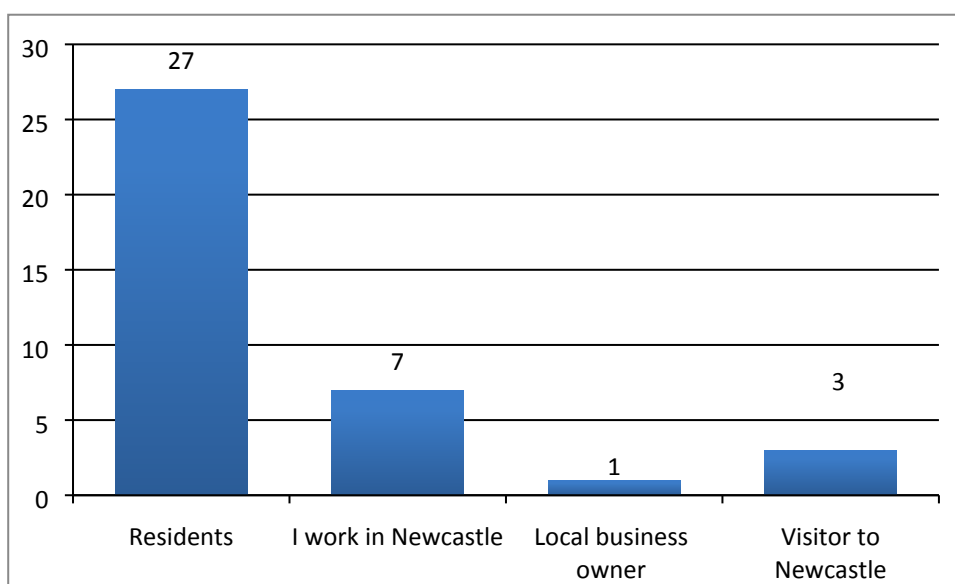
Q1) Which of the following apply to you?

Respondents were asked which of the following six options applied to them

I am a.....

- Resident of Newcastle
- Worker in Newcastle
- Local business owner
- Visitor to Newcastle
- Borough, county or parish councillor
- Representative from a local community group

There were 30 respondents but, as more than one option could apply, the results total more than 30.

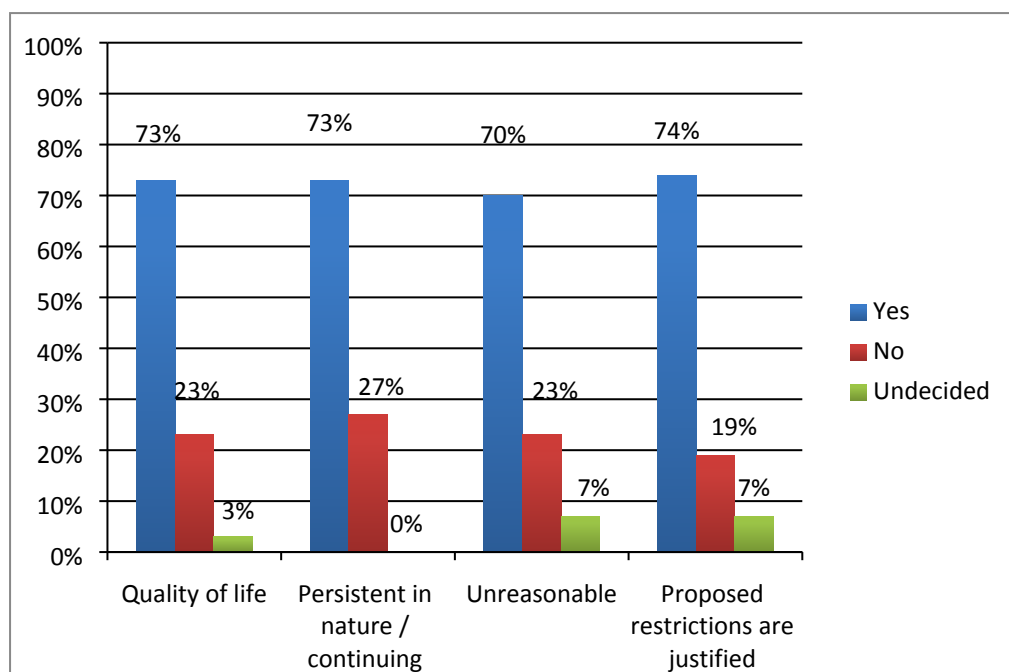


The most common response, by far, was 'Resident of Newcastle', with 27 of the 30 respondents choosing this. Seven said they worked in Newcastle, with five of them also being residents here. One respondent said they were a local business owner, with three saying they were visitors.

Respondents were then asked a series of questions to ascertain whether they felt various issues were

- Affecting their quality of life
- Persistent in nature / continuing
- Unreasonable or
- The proposed restrictions were justified.

Do you feel that street drinking in and around Newcastle Town Centre is having a detrimental effect on people's quality of life, is persistent in nature, is unreasonable and that the proposed restrictions are justified?



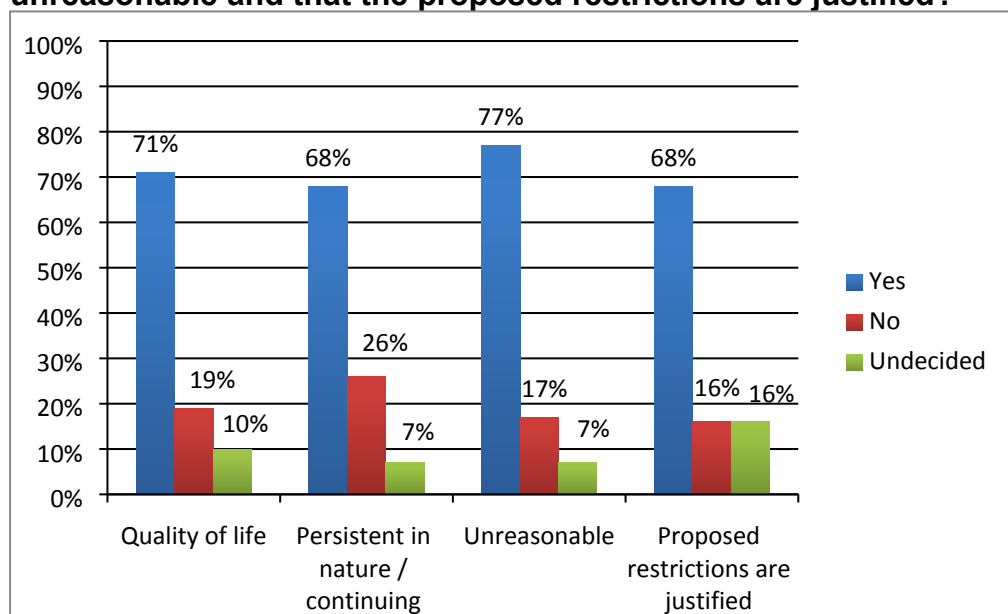
Almost three-quarters of respondents (between 70 per cent and 73 per cent) agreed that street drinking around the town centre was an issue, and 74 per cent thought that the proposed restrictions were justified.

The following comments were added.

- Street Drinkers are blighting our town, they are very intimidating and make you feel scared
- I have witnessed many times the street drinkers shouting and swearing (often in an aggressive manner) at other street drinkers.
- I come into town most days after work and come in each weekend for shopping and coffee. The same faces are drinking, begging, taking drugs all the time. It can be very intimidating if you have to walk past the groups who are drinking by Wilkinson's or in the subway in Newcastle. I've had to call 111 on several occasions to report this. These restrictions need to come in force to try to put a stop to this awful behaviour
- I am getting tired of walking around the town and being met by groups of drinkers sitting on steps etc in the most surprising of places at all times of day. I find some groups quite intimidating especially when I am alone.
- Most afternoons and early evenings the street drinkers/beggars are causing anti-social behaviour in the town. Only this week (Tues afternoon) I was in the town for about an hour and witnessed one set of street drinkers having a full blown argument outside Nat West and another street drinker shouting and swearing at some girl as they were walking past Santander.
- I have not witnessed street drinking during my visits to Newcastle, however, I don't tend to visit during the evening. I do feel that street drinking should be banned though as it encourages threatening behaviour, violence and can be a burden on emergency services.

- I want to hear what the scale of the problem is and what has been done about it.
- Not enough is being done to clamp down
- Only introduce if current powers are insufficient. Be mindful that gates etc can be disruptive for other residents.
- I believe that there is a time and place for everything and drinking of alcoholic beverages should not be allowed outside around the town centre and parks
- Zero tolerance
- This is just a measure to allow arbitrary arrest or move people on to other areas when they have not committed an offence.
- Very limited impact on other people.
- Since I moved to Newcastle in 2008 I have seen an increase in this behaviour.

Do you feel that drug taking in and around Newcastle Town Centre is having a detrimental effect on people’s quality of life, is persistent in nature, is unreasonable and that the proposed restrictions are justified?

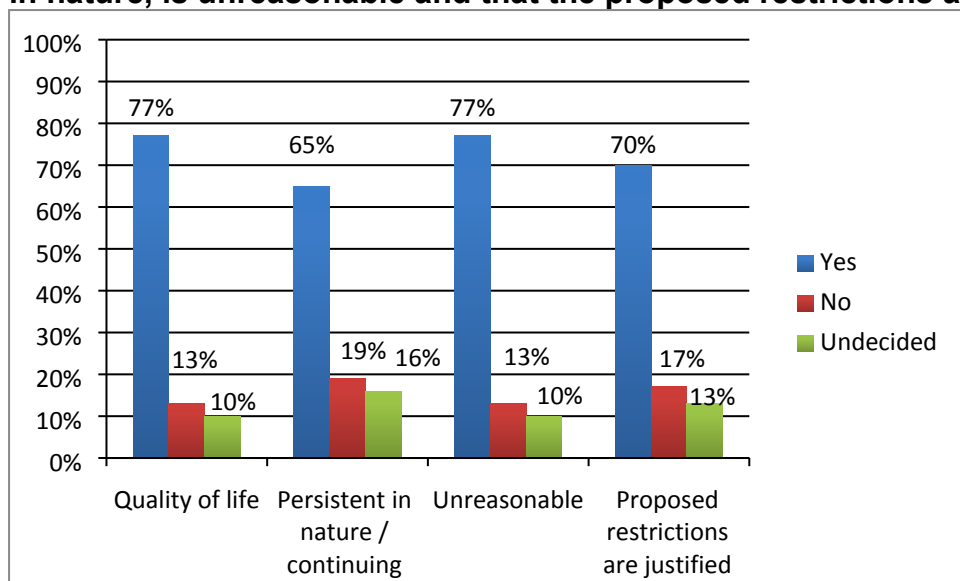


Responses were fairly similar to the previous section. Between 68 per cent and 77 per cent agreed that there were problems and 68 per cent thought that the proposed restrictions were justified. Several comments were left, as follows

- Seeing people under the influence of drugs is not good and it certainly brings down the town centre. Drug dealing also takes place in and around Newcastle which needs to stop. These are causing the same issues in the town as the street drinkers. I have not witnessed drug taking during my visits to Newcastle, however I don't tend to visit during the evening, when I assume there is more activity of the type to take drugs. I do feel that as drugs are illegal they should of course be banned and restricted in Newcastle.

- Unaware of the problem; but I would want to know the scale of it and what has been done about it
- Zero tolerance
- Not noticed this problem, compared to Manchester City Centre or Stoke upon Trent or Hanley
- Visitors to the town centre, especially after trading hours, have to deal with the effects of drug taking (confrontation by 'high' or aggressive people in public places), and there is also the health aspect when the gear is left where children might be walking of playing.
- I have literally never encountered street drug abuse here. Occasionally I have seen a limited amount of rubbish left behind (e.g. cans from nitrous oxide use), but this is not a place (like others I have lived in) where it is common to smell cannabis whilst walking down the street.
- Since I moved to Newcastle in 2008 I have seen an increase in this behaviour and in drug dealing.

Do you feel that anti-social behaviour in and around Newcastle Town Centre is having a detrimental effect on people’s quality of life, is persistent in nature, is unreasonable and that the proposed restrictions are justified?

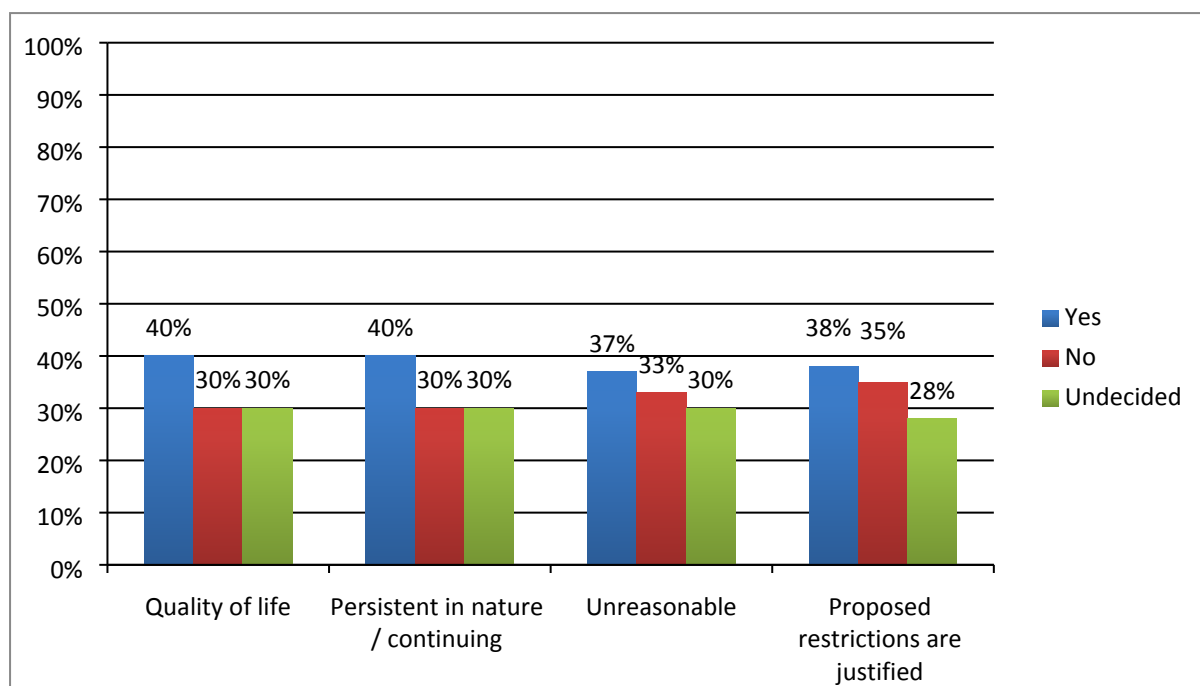


Responses were fairly similar to the previous two issues, with between 65 per cent and 77 per cent saying there was a problem, and 70 per cent saying that the proposed restrictions were justified. The following comments were made:

- The behaviour is particularly bad late afternoon early evening. As well as the usual buggers, homeless, drunks etc something needs to be done about the groups of kids who hang about McDonalds and the cinema swearing and spitting.
- Often linked to drinking at all times of the day but especially during daytime hours - it will drive people from the town centre.

- It is no longer an enjoyable experience to be in the town centre late afternoon. Most of the behaviour is caused by the street drinkers, druggies. The police and council should be taking action against these people without the need for a consultation.
- Should include Brampton park
- Again, I have not witnessed anti-social behaviour in Newcastle, it tends to be quite pleasant during the day. I would of course support any measures to reduce anti-social behaviour however.
- zero tolerance
- This measure is just providing an excuse for arbitrary arrest and effectively criminalising people. Deal with the issues that might be causing the problem not unjust end of pipe solutions
- All three issues, vandalism/excessive alcohol/drug taking, very often result in aggressive behaviour and unsanitary behaviour, making the town centre a place where law-abiding people are harassed and embarrassed - the town centre at nights is not a place one feels safe in, or a place where one would like to take children.
- Would be useful if antisocial behaviour were defined properly in this context here. However, illegal activity can be appropriately penalised. Merely standing around in public does not constitute ASB. Personally I would like the chuggers gone during the day as they are irritating, but again not doing anything illegal and I don't think that they really ought to be banned. Where will it stop if this is the case?
- Since I moved to Newcastle in 2008 I have seen an increase in this behaviour in particular in the Garden St, Back Garden St, West St areas.

Do you feel that the car parks in and around Newcastle Town Centre are being misused, and that this is having a detrimental effect on people's quality of life, is persistent in nature, is unreasonable and that the proposed restrictions are justified?



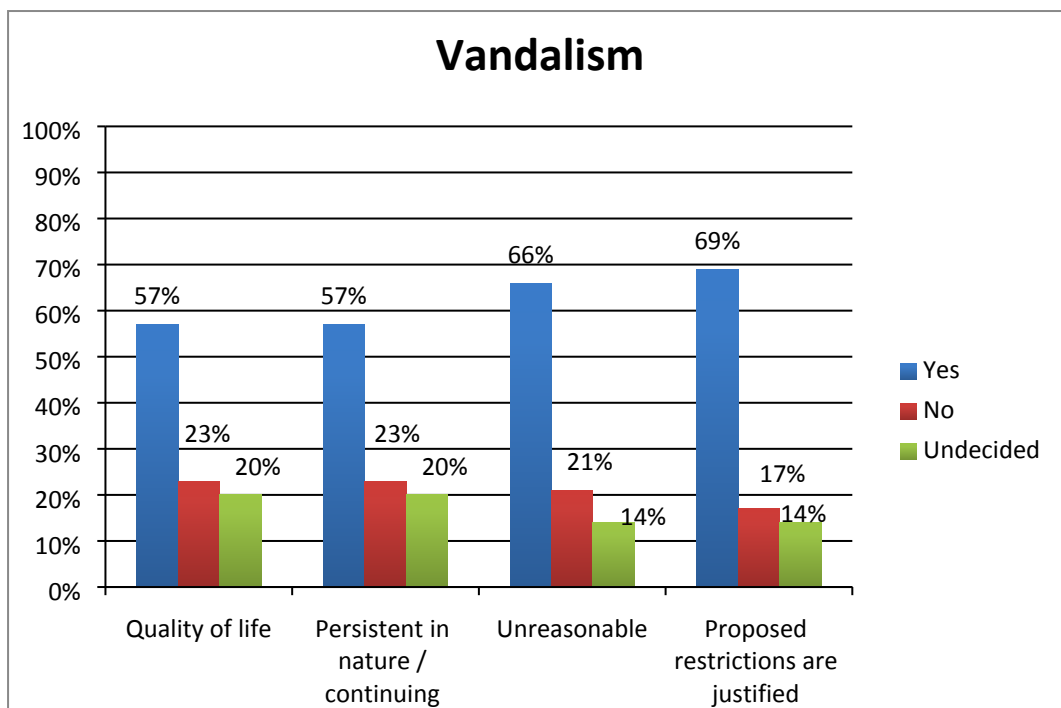
Answers here were far more mixed than for any of the previous subjects. Fewer than half of respondents (between 37 per cent and 40 per cent) thought there was a problem, and whilst 38 per cent felt the proposed restrictions were justified, almost as many (35 per cent) did not, with the remaining 28 per cent undecided. The following comments were left:

- car park attended on Silverdale Road comes at the same time everyday 10am and 2pm when there is hardly any cars parked it is mostly 9 am, 12pm and 3 pm where it is been misused Just this weekend I witnessed a man under the influence of drugs trying to defecate in Goose street car park at 6.00pm.
- the car parks are awful smell awful and are generally not nice places to go
- Lack of NHS mental health services has meant multi-storey car parks have been used to attempt suicide. This just indicates they are high elevations with easy access. No legislation will ameliorate this situation.
- I believe there is sufficient car parking provided in Newcastle, however I have noticed people parking in side streets to avoid parking fees. The fees are fairly low however I feel that if parking fees were reduced (or even eliminated) it would encourage people to use the parking facilities and not to park in side streets. I believe it would also bring more people into Newcastle.
- Unaware of a problem; you need to spell out what it is. not just car parks misused in the town centre. ASDA Retail Park Wolstanton is becoming a nightly haven for Boy Racers and their cars with big loud exhausts. The police and the council need to clamp down hard on this
- Only misuse issue I'm aware of is car racing. Meetings of like-minded car enthusiasts may benefit from a selected venue which can be policed, where cars can be shown and compared without the dangerous and noisy activity that annoys others misuse of the car parks that I have encountered is people parking irresponsibly, particularly on days where there are no charges so they don't get caught parking in areas that are not spaces, which is dangerous to all users. This measure will not stop this. I don't

really understand what the issue is in this case

- With the introduction of resident parking at the extremes of the town centre have made quite a difference to the residents. Only rarely now do we get phalanxes of loud louts waling past you homes to get to their cars. Further, vandalism to cars and property has decreased as a result of these restrictions.
- In what way? People are not using them to mend cars on a regular basis. There is little or no justification to take action against people unless they are doing something unacceptable (which would probably constitute criminal activity). This proposal is utterly draconian.

Do you feel that vandalism (including defacement by aerosols) in and around Newcastle Town Centre is having a detrimental effect on people’s quality of life, is persistent in nature, is unreasonable and that the proposed restrictions are justified?



The majority of respondents (between 57 per cent and 66 per cent) thought that there was an issue from vandalism, but 69 per cent felt that the proposed restrictions were justified. 17 per cent felt they were not justified with the remaining 14 per cent being undecided.

The following comments were left:

- I feel that more police and PCSO need to be in the town centre. Some weekends there are no visible officers and this is why people are able to drink, take drugs and behave in the way they do. I ring 111
- i think the graffiti is the least of your problems why not commission young artists to spruce the areas up

- The erection of public notices designating PSPO would have a detrimental effect on quality of life, and a wider area might suffer by displacement.
- The subways look a mess with the spray paint
- I have noticed a small amount of vandalism and graffiti in and around Newcastle, and this of course should be reduced where possible. However I don't believe it is at a level where it affects people's quality of life
- I see a bit of aerosol spraying but not much. In what way would what you propose deal with the issue?
- zero tolerance
- it's really a limited problem in Newcastle. Although in some cases 'graffiti' can be a positive addition to the town. Might be better of thinking about how to get shot of the subways. There are genuine pieces of art as well as mere 'graffiti' around. It is unjustified to take people off the streets or detain them under suspicion of intent to graffiti.
- The pedestrian underpasses on the Grosvenor roundabout are bad enough in terms of the litter and gloomy nature of the underpass. The graffiti is just awful and adds to the oppressive unsafe feeling.