

# Wick Woodland PSPO

## Consultation Report

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## **Introduction**

The Council has received numerous complaints about noise, littering and other antisocial behaviour (ASB) taking place in Wick Woodland by Hackney Marshes. These include large antisocial parties that cause significant noise disturbance in the local area, as well as significant environmental and wildlife damage.

Although Council Officers and the Police have taken measures to prevent this, the Council believes that introducing a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO), which would enable Neighbourhood Enforcement Officers to issue on-the-spot fines to those organising and attending raves and causing ASB in the area, will help address residents' concerns and address wildlife in the area.

The aim of this consultation is to gauge support of the introduction of a PSPO, what else it could include and gain a better understanding of residents' experience of ASB in Wick Woodland so as to better protect and promote the space.

The consultation ran for 6 weeks from 31 October 2018 to 12 December 2018.

## **Methodology**

### **When did the consultation take place?**

The consultation ran for 6 weeks from 31 October 2018 to 12 December 2018.

**Total number of responses:** 123

### **Key stakeholders:**

This consultation sought the views of all residents in Hackney, but will be particularly targeting residents who live adjacent and opposite to Wick Woodland.

Additional stakeholders include:

- TFL
- Housing Associations
- Canal and River Trust
- Hackney Marsh Partnership
- Hackney Marshes Users Group
- London Borough of Waltham Forest

### **How could participants take part?**

The main components of the consultation process are as follows:

- Paper survey with supporting document
- Online survey with supporting document

*Paper: (27 - 22% responses)*

Paper copies of the survey and supporting document (which explains the purpose of the consultation and outlines the content of the PSPO) were posted to residents along with a freepost envelope.

Ward Councillors were given paper copies which they hand delivered to the properties adjacent to Wick Woodland, on the other side of the canal. A total of 400 of these were distributed in the local area.

**Please note:** there was a mistake on the paper copies, please see 'note on data quality' on page 4.

*Online: (96 - 78% responses)*

An online survey (but with the postcode question added in) and supporting document was uploaded onto the Council's Consultation Hub - Citizen Space; which could be accessed via the Council's website. The web-address was also included in all promotion and sent directly to Hackney Matters Online Citizen panelists.

### *Written letters:*

Written letters asking for comments on the PSPO were sent to:

- Hackney Marsh Partnership
- Hackney Marsh Users Group
- Sanctuary Homes
- Family Mosaic Homes
- Newlon Housing
- Circle 33
- Places for People.
- Councillors, staff at Matchmakers Wharf.

### **Communication and promotion of the consultation:**

- On the day of the consultation going live, Hackney Citizen and Hackney Gazette (the borough's local newspapers) were issued with a press release by the Council's Communications team. The consultation was reported on by the Hackney Gazette, East London Lines and Resident Advisor.
- In addition, posters promoting the consultation were put up on lamp-posts around the streets near the properties adjacent to the woodland.
- The consultation was also promoted on social media when it launched and in the week before it closed, and on the Council's website (<http://news.hackney.gov.uk/wick-woodland-consultation/>)
- An article promoting the consultation was included in Hackney Today (the Council's fortnightly newspaper which goes to every household and business in the borough) - issue 438 on 05 November 2018.

### **Data inputting and analysis:**

All paper copies of the consultation included a freepost reply envelope and completed surveys were mailed to the Community Safety, Business Regulation & Enforcement team where they were input manually into the Citizen Space.

The Senior Consultation Officer, and author of this report, coded and analysed the data independently from the Community Safety, Business Regulation & Enforcement, and samples of the paper copies were reviewed to check inputting quality.

The statistical data and qualitative comments have been analysed on Citizen Space by the Senior Consultation Officer who produced this report.

Quotations used in the report have been anonymised (hiding their postcode) and in some cases edited to protect the location and identity of those who took part.

**Note on the data quality:**

The number of responses for this consultation is small considering the size of the population local to Wick Woodland and Hackney as a whole. Furthermore, there are a number of participants who took part who live outside of Hackney (see section 'Who took part?' on page 6) which account for a proportionately significant amount of responses. Whilst the Council welcomes the views of everyone regarding services and facilities on offer in Hackney, the amount of representation from non-Hackney residents in this consultation is somewhat unbalanced.

With a small data set, particularly from the immediate locality to Wick Woodland, it becomes hard to draw meaningful conclusions from the data.

**Please note:** Unfortunately a mistake was made on the paper copies whereby the intended postcode question (included on the online version) was not included. Whilst the only paper copies distributed were hand delivered by Ward Councillors to properties adjacent to Wick Woodland (no other paper copies were requested by the public), the absence of a postcode question means there can be no guarantee as to the postcode location of participants who completed the paper copies; this data should be treated with caution. However, only 27 paper copies were received of the 400 distributed and with such a low total response rate (123) - which also means all data should be treated with caution. Nonetheless, the paper copies hand-delivered to this locality represents a targeted effort to ensure the consultation was promoted properly. Furthermore those who received a paper copy were also given the option to take part online and will have therefore be included in the E9 5 postcode area (if they answered the question) during analysis and reporting. Please see 'Who took part?' section on page 6 for more information.

## **Who took part?**

A total of 123 participants took part in the consultation.

The table 1.1 below shows the breakdown of participants by postcode area. Please note, paper copies have been included separately (please see 'note on data quality' on page 4/5). Wick Woodland is within the E9 5 postcode area which is also separated below. Local postcodes include E5 0, E10 5 and E10 7, and E12 2 alongside E9 5. Other Hackney postcodes do not include the local postcodes. All bar one of the outside Hackney postcodes were London postcodes.

**Table 1.1 - Responses by postcode**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Responses</b>
Paper copies	27
E9 5	15
Local postcodes (including E9 5)	21
Other Hackney postcodes	33
Outside of Hackney	20

The tables below show the demographic breakdowns of those who took part in this consultation. The results shown do not include those who did not answer from the base total.

**Table 1.2 - Age**

Under 18	0	0%
18-24	12	10%
25-34	46	38%
35-44	33	27%
45-54	14	12%
55-64	7	6%
65-74	9	7%
Total	121	100%

**Table 1.3 - Caring responsibilities** (Do you regularly provide unpaid support caring for someone?):

Yes	11	9%
No	110	91%
Total	121	100%

**Table 1.4 - Disability** (Do you consider yourself disabled?):

Yes	11	9%
No	110	91%
Prefer not to say	0	0%
Total	121	100%

**Table 1.5 - Ethnicity** (Which best describes your ethnic background?)

Asian or Asian British	3	3%
Black or Black British	5	4%
White or White British	93	79%
Mixed background	7	6%
Other ethnic group	9	8%
Total	117	100%

**Table 1.6 - Gender**

Male	59	50%
Female	58	50%
Prefer not to say	0	0%
Total	117	100%

**Table 1.7 - Religion**

Atheist/No religious belief	65	62%
Christian	27	26%
Muslim	5	5%
Secular beliefs	4	4%
Buddhist	1	1%
Hindu	1	1%
Jewish	2	2%
Total	105	100%

**Table 1.8 - Sexual orientation**

Heterosexual	89	82%
Gay Man	7	6%
Bisexual	10	9%
Lesbian or Gay woman	3	3%
Total	109	100%



## **Summary of consultation findings**

A total of 123 participants took part in the consultation.

- 46% (57) said they support the introduction of the PSPO
- 43% (53) said they oppose the introduction of the PSPO
- 4% (5) said they partially support the introduction of the PSPO
- 4% (5) said they are unsure
- 2% (3) did not answer.

The largest amount of those in **support** came from those who completed paper copies<sup>1</sup> (20 - 35%) followed by those who chose not to disclose their postcode (16 - 28%).

The largest amount of those in **oppose** came from those with 'Other Hackney' postcodes (not local to Wick Woodland) - 40% (21) and those Outside of Hackney - 30% (16). Viewed together, at least 70% of all those opposed who are not local to Wick Woodland.

### **Experiences of ASB in Wick Woodland:**

#### Noise and raves:

The most common topic referenced was noise; with some attributing them directly to the raves and parties for prolonged periods (over weekends). There were also some participants who said the noise was coming from beyond Wick Woodland; local neighbours, the canal, Hackney Marshes, Spitalfields and Mabley Green were also mentioned.

#### Rubbish/litter and environmental damage:

Other comments mentioned rubbish and environmental damage to be particularly bad after raves and parties; and not restricted to the Woodland. Comments also mentioned finding harmful things like drugs and human faeces; as well as fire damage and other environmental damage.

#### No negative experience and/or positive experiences of parties and raves:

There were references made by other participants, mainly by those who oppose the PSPO, saying they had no experience of ASB. There were also some comments which suggested that organisers were socially and environmentally conscious - and had set up rubbish bins and clearing up afterwards.

### **Elements of the PSPO participants think should be removed:**

Around 60% of participants answered this question, most comments were short with no overall majority theme identified out of the whole data set. Of the comments made, slightly more came from those who oppose the PSPO.

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<sup>1</sup> Although distributed to properties adjacent to Wick Woodland, the paper copies unfortunately did not include the intended postcode question (included in the online version) and therefore the 27 paper copies should be treated with caution when thinking about their location. Please see 'Note on data quality' on pages 4 and 5.

Of those that opposed, most the comments focused on arguing the PSPO was not necessary, that it prevents fun, sociable and cultural use of the space; and a few arguing their experience of the raves and parties have been largely positive. There were a few others asking for the removal of music volume restrictions.

Other comment themes tended to be smaller - a few comments asked for clarity on some definitions - mostly on distinctions between barbecues and fires and what would be included.

### **Other elements to include in the PSPO**

Around 60% of participants answered this question, most comments were short with no overall majority theme identified out of the whole data set.

#### Wider area for the PSPO:

Of the topics outlined below the one most mentioned was 'expanding the PSPO to a wider area'; these comments highlighted the need to extend it along the canal, Hackney Marshes and beyond. There were also a small number of references to focus on motorbikes, mopeds and parking (although it is unclear from the comments as to whether this is in reference to the woodland space or to the surrounding area).

#### Tougher PSPO and assurances on enforcement:

There were also a small number of comments calling on the PSPO to be tougher in terms of fines, and a similar number of references of the need to ensure it is enforced and/or more policing.

#### No PSPO

There were also a small number of comments asking reaffirming a PSPO should not happen as it will have an impact on culture; with some asking for alternative ways to allow raves and events to happen rather than preventing them via a PSPO altogether, although it should be noted that this activity is already prohibited.

## **Question 2: Please describe any experience you have had of antisocial behaviour, noise nuisance or environmental damage at Wick Woodland:**

**Total responses:** 115 (93.5%)

The aim of this question was to gain a better understanding of any anti-social behaviour (ASB), noise nuisance or environmental damage experienced by local residents and users of Wick Woodland. Whilst many participants stated they had experienced noise ASB and environmental damage, there were some participants who used this space to argue on the opposite. These participants said that either they had no experience of the issues raised in this question (or the supporting summary document), and/or that the experiences of raves, parties and gatherings had been a positive one with limited or no negative impact to Wick Woodland and surrounds. The key themes from the comments are outlined below.

### **Noise and raves:**

The most common topic referenced by participants in section was experiences of noise; with some attributing them directly to the raves and parties. Nearly all of the references to noise ASB mentioned loud music being played regularly throughout the summer at anti-social hours; some stating the music went on for longer than 24 hours. Some participants also mentioned it caused loss of sleep and stress. There were also some participants who said the noise was coming from beyond Wick Woodland; local neighbours, the canal, Hackney Marshes, Spitalfields and Mabley Green were all mentioned.

*“Noise nuisance all weekend so that I cannot get to sleep easily and may wake up earlier than wanted because of the noise, especially the bass sound. I have to keep all my windows and doors shut tight to eliminate as much noise as possible which is very unpleasant in warm weather. Also, if there is damage caused to Wick Woodland as a result of illegal raves then I heartily condemn this - a few selfish and inconsiderate people are ruining the enjoyment of our beautiful surroundings for the many and is clearly unfair, spiteful and derogatory to the fauna and flora there.”*

*Unknown postcode*

*“Children have been unable to sleep (sometimes on school nights) due to the noise of the raves and also myself, when I have work ect the next day. Walking my dog in the woodland after a rave I have witnessed so much rubbish and human excrement left behind. We have been a resident for 2 years and these raves are really affecting us and all of our neighbours”*

*Paper copy*

*“Every year during warmer months, Wick Village estate office receive numerous complaints from residents [...] about noisy rave parties in the woodlands. The parties normally take place in the evening/at night and cause considerable nuisance for all residents. Drug-dealers are very active at these events.”*

*E9 5 resident*

### **Rubbish/litter and environmental damage:**

References to rubbish and litter often stated seeing it in the woodland and/or noticed it being particularly bad after raves and parties. Some participants also said the issue of rubbish and littering was not just restricted to the woodland, but also the tow-path along the canal.

A lot of the comments referencing rubbish also referenced other environmental damage, such as human faeces and the cutting down of trees for fires after raves and parties.

*"I walk my dog in Wick Woodland virtually every day. I'm not affected directly when I'm in my home by noise, as I live sufficiently far away, however in the morning, usually Sunday morning, there is still music playing and the place is littered with rubbish, canisters, beer cans, single use plastic; and late attendees are cooking over open fires, which is incredibly hazardous during the hot dry summers. I always carry a bag with me, and pick up rubbish anyway, but after the raves I could literally fill a black bin liner (and sometimes have). I do focus on single use plastic then the next day will go back and pick up the aluminium cans. It's not as though the people doing this have any consideration for the environment; they are not in the wood because they love it (as I do) or because they are forest lovers. It is just a convenient and free venue for them. Their music is fuelled by petrol generators, which are noisy and environmentally damaging...."*

Non-local Hackney resident

*"I object to finding litter and remnants of parties in the woodland; parties have increased in their disrespect of the environment in recent years. I use the area regularly in the daytime and evening and often find mess."*

Unknown postcode

*"Frequently encountering noise from revellers and litter from parties when entering Wick Woodland early in the morning over weekends. I've seen: discarded marquees, drinks rubbish, human waste, trees spray-painted, discarded marquee, fire damage, tree branches broken..."*

Non-local Hackney resident

#### Other ASB:

In addition to the comments about noise and rubbish, a small number of references were made to drug-taking (including laughing gas balloons).

There were also some references to motorbikes and moped use - although it is unclear from the comments whether this is specific to Wick Woodland or connected to the events and gatherings held there.

#### No issues or impacts:

In contrast to the topics above, there were references made by other participants saying they had no experience of any ASB as described in the question or supporting summary document for this consultation. Most of these comments said they had attended raves and parties and had seen no ASB or environmental damage (although a small number said they saw some littering and environmental damage).

*"I have stumbled across these small parties on a couple of occasions when out walking and have no reservation against them. People attending are always very friendly and polite, I have observed there being bin liners put up to ensure no rubbish is left behind and the music cannot be heard outside the forest as the motorway noise drowns it out. It's better they happen there than elsewhere as there aren't any residential homes nearby. And I don't feel disturbed in the least myself walking past them because they are mainly small and well contained and don't cause any trouble. In the contrary I feel slightly bemused and to me this is what makes Hackney what it is - diverse, creative, interesting etc. And also this is the reason why many people want to live there - precisely because it's different!"*

Non-local Hackney resident

Positive experiences/support of social use:

There were also participants who said that their experiences of raves, parties and gatherings were positive ones and that their responsible use should be supported. These comments often suggested that organisers were socially and environmentally conscious - setting up rubbish bins and clearing up afterwards. In addition, some of these participants felt the raves and parties represented a community enjoying the space - suggesting there is a degree of cultural value to the space which they feel does not cause ASB or environmental damage.

*"I have been living in Hackney Wick since three years and what you are calling "ASB parties" are part of the culture. Nobody is causing any kind of damages, it is true that this year, due to new people coming in Hackney Wick, the site was not as clean as two years ago after party. We used to party until the sun goes up and clean everything behind us, the nature provides us everything and we understand the importance to leave the place as we found it at the very beginning. We are just people who enjoy dance, music and nature without any kind of bad thoughts, only into love and sharing. So to answer your question, my experiences that I have had with antisocial behaviour were awesome, it is good to find people who know how to party, with a passion for music, dance and encounters."*

E5 9 resident

### **Question 3: Do you support the introduction of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) as outlined in the summary document?**

**Total responses:** 120 (97.6%)

The aim of this question was to simply find out how many participants support and how many oppose the proposals; as well as those who partially support it and those who are unsure. Table 2.1 below shows overall how participants responded.

**Table 2.1: Do you support the introduction of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) as outlined in the summary document?**

Response	Count	Percentage
Yes	57	46%
No	53	43%
Partially	5	4%
Unsure	5	4%
Not Answered	3	2%

This table shows there is no overall majority of participants in favour of or in opposition to the PSPO; rather 46% in support, 4% partially supporting, with 43% in opposition.

#### **Results by postcode:**

The following results show the breakdown of those who said they supported and opposed the proposal by postcode:

Table 2.2 - Support by postcode:

Postcode area	Count	% Yes	% Base
Outside Hackney	3	5%	2%
Other Hackney***	12	21%	10%
Local**	6	11%	5%
Paper*	20	35%	16%
NA	16	28%	13%
Total Yes	57	100%	46%
Total base	123		

*\*Please note, paper copies have been separated here. Please see 'Note on data quality' on page 5*

*\*\*Please note, Local postcodes include E5 0, E10 5 and E10 7, and E12 2 alongside E9 5.*

*\*\*\*Other Hackney postcodes do not include the local postcodes.*

Table 2.2 shows that the proportionally largest amount of those in support came from those who completed paper copies (20 - 35%) followed by those who chose not to disclose their postcode (16 - 28%).

Table 2.3 - Oppose by postcode:

Postcode area	Count	% No	% Base
Outside Hackney	16	30%	13%
Other Hackney***	21	40%	17%
Local**	11	21%	9%
Paper*	2	4%	2%
NA	3	6%	2%
Total Oppose	53	100%	43%
Total Base	123		

*\*Please note, paper copies have been separated here. Please see 'Note on data quality' on page 5*

*\*\*Please note, Local postcodes include E5 0, E10 5 and E10 7, and E12 2 alongside E9 5.*

*\*\*\*Other Hackney postcodes do not include the local postcodes.*

Table 2.3 shows that the largest amount of those who oppose came from those with 'Other Hackney' postcodes (not local to Wick Woodland) - 40% (21) and those Outside of Hackney (non-Hackney postcodes) - 30% (16). A significant conclusion from this data suggests that a large majority of those opposed to the proposal to introduce a PSPO - 70% - are not local to Wick Woodland. Those local to Wick Woodland accounted for 19% (10) of responses and those who completed a paper copy accounted for 4% (2); however, collectively this is only 12 responses compared to 37 from non-local postcodes.

#### **A closer look at local responses:**

Unfortunately the response rate as a whole for this consultation is low - making it difficult to draw meaningful conclusions from the data; this applies to all the post code areas. Nonetheless, the tables below show how those living in postcodes local to Wick Woodland (as well as the postcode it is located) responded.

Table 2.4 - Paper copies:

Please see the section on data quality on page 5.

Response	Count	% Total	% Base
Yes	20	74%	16%
No	2	7%	2%
Partially	1	4%	1%
Unsure	1	4%	2%
Total	15		
Total base	123		
Yes total	57	35%	
No total	53	4%	

A closer look at the paper copies shows that almost all of those who support or partially support the proposal to introduce a PSPO referenced experiences of noise related ASB and/or seeing rubbish and litter around the area. There were also some references to having seen environmental damage.

Table 2.5 - Local postcodes (including E9 5):

Response	Count	% Total	% Base
Yes	6	29%	5%
No	11	52%	9%
Partially	2	10%	2%
Unsure	3	14%	2%
Total	21		
Total base	123		
Yes total	57	11%	
No total	53	19%	

Table 2.4 shows that participants who said they live in local postcodes and oppose the proposal are proportionately the largest group - 48% (10). However, those who support it account for only 4 participants less.



Table 2.6 - E9 5 Postcode:

Response	Count	% Total	% Base
Yes	3	20%	2%
No	8	53%	7%
Partially	1	7%	1%
Unknown	3	20%	2%
Total	15		
Total base	123		
Yes total	57	5%	
No total	53	15%	

Table 2.5 shows that participants who live in E9 5 and oppose the proposal are proportionately the largest group - 53% (8). However, those who support it account for only 5 participants less.

**Question 4: Are there any elements of the proposed PSPO which you feel should be removed? (Please also explain why):**

**Total responses:** 74 (60.2%)

The aim of this question was to see whether or not the aspects of the proposed PSPO needed to be removed. Most of the responses in this section were short with no overall majority theme. The responses have been themed and analysed below.

The number of responses for this question are comparatively low, making it difficult to draw meaningful conclusions from the data. However, of the comments made, slightly more came from those who are in opposition to the proposals. Of these, most of the comments focused on arguing the PSPO was not necessary, that it prevents fun, sociable and cultural use of the space; and a few arguing their experience of the raves and parties have been largely positive. Of the sections to be removed, these were small but focused on removing the restrictions on music volume and fines.

Other comment themes tended to be smaller - a few comments asked for clarity on some definitions - most on distinctions between barbecues and fires, and a few others asking for the removal on music volume restrictions.

Preventing fun, social and cultural use/Not necessary:

As explained above, slightly more responses for this question were from those who are in opposition to the proposals. Of these, most tend to argue that the PSPO is not necessary, that it prevents fun, sociable and cultural use of the space; and a few arguing their experience of the raves and parties have been largely positive.

An even smaller number of comments linked the need for the space and restrictions of amplified music to the change in Nightlife in London. Some also challenged the fines, saying it was too harsh and restrictive.

Overall these comments tended to express the view that the space is valued as an alternative cultural space for people to go and that restricting it with a PSPO would take that away.

*“Finning on spot people that come together for love of music is a bit drastic don’t you think? The gatherings in woodland are not about destruction of the area, quite the opposite we do enjoy the time there and the organisers of gigs should not suffer with fear that the equipment might be confiscated. We always collect the rubbish around the area as mentioned before, we don’t wish to create chaos in this beautiful space. We are all about preserving the woodland, not tearing it apart.”*

*Non-local Hackney Resident*

*“[Remove] no music with amplification’ which means no music at all.... It will kill the great atmosphere of this area.”*

*Non-local Hackney Resident*

*“ [Remove] anyone causing the types of antisocial behaviour outlined in the PSPO could be given an ‘on the spot’ Fixed Penalty Notice of £100, which would need to be paid in 14 days.’ I think having this kind of spaces in London it's unique. There are no houses around that may be affected and it adds great value to the nightlife options in London, which is being very affected by latest laws. Nightlife in a city is very important, not just building apartments. And this is a very cheap and good option that does not really affect to anyone. Having the right to make someone pay a penalty of £100 just for being there I think is totally unfair.*

*Non-local Hackney Resident*

#### Barbecues and fires:

A small number of participants questioned whether barbecues would be included in the PSPO? Most comments on this topic seem to suggest that they would want to have barbecues but not fires.

#### Clarity on points:

A small number of comments asked for clarity on a few technical points of the PSPO - mainly around definitions. Some of these were around what counts as a fire (does a barbecue count?), what level of noise is acceptable, who the PSPO applies to and how to apply for written permission to have music. As with all comments in the consultation, these have been passed to the service area for consideration.

## **Question 5: Is there anything you feel needs to be added to the PSPO?**

**(Please also explain why):**

**Total:** 74 (60.2%)

The aim of this section was to see whether the contents of the proposed PSPO had anything missing.

As with the Question 4, there is a small low response rate and no one strong theme - rather lots of smaller ones; making it difficult to draw meaningful conclusions from the data.

Of the topics outlined below the one most mentioned was 'expanding the PSPO to a wider area'; these comments highlighted the need to extend it along the canal, Hackney Marshes and beyond. There were also a small number of comments calling on the PSPO to be tougher in terms of fines, and a similar amount of references to the need to ensure it is enforced and/or more policing. There were also some references to the need to focus on motorbikes, mopeds and parking (although it is unclear from the comments as to whether this is in reference to the woodland space or to the surrounding area).

There were also a small amount of comments asking for promotion of the space - most in opposition to the PSPO - and some requests for better regulation of events to allow them to exist rather than preventing them via a PSPO altogether.

These themes are explored in more detail below.

### Expanding the PSPO to a wider area:

Of the topics outlined below the one most mentioned was 'expanding the PSPO to a wider area'. Although the most common topic, this topic does not account for the majority and not a particularly strong theme. However, these comments highlighted the need to extend it along the canal, Hackney Marshes and beyond. Some mentioned that they could hear music coming from beyond the Woodland, whilst a small number of others mentioned littering and music along the canal which they felt should be included in the PSPO.

*"More recently de raves have moved to the area of the marshes bordering the River Lea. I would recommend extending the area of the PSPO"*

*Unknown postcode area*

*"Please also include any other sections of Hackney Marshes prone to these activities. e.g. in particular the East Marsh / River Lea area"*

*Unknown postcode area*

### Parking, mopeds and motorbikes:

As well as expanding the area of the PSPO there were a small number of comments which referenced the need to tackle parking, mopeds and motorbikes - although it is not overly clear whether these comments referred to their use in the woodland, or in terms of noise or antisocial behavior (for example) more generally in the area. Either way, access to the site in terms of cars and bikes and their use is not something addressed by the current PSPO proposal and could be considered.

More policing, tougher penalties:

A few references were made regarding the need for more policing and/or better enforcement, and there were a similar small number of references for the need for tougher penalties (fines).

*“Noise complaints to police and local authorities does very little in shutting it down. Additional policing in the area when this goes on would be great.”*

*Unknown postcode area*

*“Yes, frequent checks at weekends and you can see for yourself what is going on in the woodlands, it's not exactly hidden”*

*Paper copy*

Promotion and/or better regulation of current use (alternatives to PSPO).

In contrast to the the topics highlighted above, some participants (most who oppose the proposal to introduce a PSPO; a small number unsure) suggested protecting and/or promoting the woodland in its current status. Looking at these comments as a whole, the data suggests these participants would like to see the space protected and promoted for social and cultural uses (in the form of gatherings, parties and raves) and do not see them as being antisocial or environmentally harmful.

Linked to these themes were some comments suggesting better regulation of the space rather than introducing a PSPO that would restrict parties and raves etc.; which would result in a loss of a perceived cultural asset. Some of these comments suggest there is a belief organisers and attendees are socially and environmentally conscious and would be open to regulate the use of the woodland to prevent ASB and environmental harm.

*“I think it is important to save the wildlife but it is even more important to let people use the city area for their different needs. A healthy city can provide places for people to use without commercial value. Hackney area is known for its young residents and their vibrant culture and removing this area from their use is hitting the minorities and the underprivileged part of the community.”*

*E9 5 resident*

*“Maybe instead of working fully against any art/music and nightlife happening in Hackney, try working with the people. If the issue is the possible damage to the area (if that is the case), make it easier for the event organisers to clean up afterwards/ensure that no damage is done. I'm sure they would listen and be happy to cooperate.”*

*E9 5 resident*

## Letters from key stakeholders

As part of the consultation process, various local organisations and user groups were identified as key stakeholders and a letter was sent asking them to consider and comment on the proposal. This section summarises the written responses we received. All letters were sent directly to the service area for consideration.

In addition to letters from key stakeholders, one email was received from a resident. This letter has been considered alongside other findings from the survey and was also passed directly to the service area for consideration.

Key stakeholders written to:

- Sanctuary Housing
- London & Quadrant
- Canal and River Trust
- Hackney Marshes Users Group
- TFL
- London Borough of Waltham Forest

Written responses received from:

- Canal and River Trust
- Hackney Marshes Users Group
- TFL
- London Borough of Waltham Forest

### **Response from the Canal and River Trust:**

The Canal and River Trust waterways expressed that the open access yet isolated nature of the waterways makes them particularly vulnerable to any anti-social behaviour, fly-tipping and crime. They stated that anti-social behaviour in the Wick Woodland area has been a major issue for the Trust, including theft and vandalism of signage, damage to trees and vegetation, fly-tipping and dumping of equipment and materials in the Woodland and under the A12. They say this causes visual blight, negative perceptions of community safety, and issues of health and safety.

The Trust also explained that these impacts have been exacerbated by unauthorised workshop/studio activities under the A12, both by local artists and individuals working on boats; which is beyond the Woodland area.

Overall the Trust welcomes the proposed PSPO and specifically highlights the following:

1. The eastern boundary is specified as the Lee Navigation should include the whole width of the canal, and that the boundary should extend to the western waterway wall of the canal as they want to ensure that ASB is not displaced from the Wick Woodland area onto boats using the Lee Navigation, and that any prohibitions on ASB covered in the PSPO applies to pontoons or other structures or in the waterway, or to raves or amplified music on boats.

2. The PSPO should not include the use solid fuel stoves for domestic heating or running boat's engine or a stand-alone generator for boats moored on the towpath.
3. They welcome 'on the spot' Fixed Penalty Notice fines, and the proposed powers to require anyone breaching the PSPO to leave the area immediately and not return for 48 hours.
4. They wish to see the Council use the proposed PSPO in conjunction with other powers to ensure that area, and the area under the A12 bridge, is kept clean and safe for the public.
5. They are keen to work on sustainable management solutions for the A12 under-croft area, which provides opportunities for a managed space which could contribute to local community, cultural and economic needs.

#### **Comments by Hackney Marshes Users Group:**

The Hackney Marshes Users Group response focused chiefly on highlighting environmental damage and the need for the PSPO to make provisions for certain types of use were appropriate to allow for volunteer and educational activities (such as fires and gas stoves).

Specifically HMUG highlighted dead hedges that volunteers had built for wildlife habitat had been demolished and the wood removed or burned; they explained that the destruction of the habitat (such as burning dead hedges kills) any invertebrate eggs or larvae using them, and fungi. They went on to state that hedges are an important measure for building the biodiversity of this young woodland, especially by providing shelter for birds and small mammals such as voles and hedgehogs; in addition, the destruction of the environment in this way was undermining their volunteers efforts to protect and promote the environment. They also stated that raves have resulted in soil compaction with effects on plant growth, and night disturbance with possible effects on the nocturnal wildlife we are trying to encourage, notably small mammals. They also highlighted the riding of trail motorbikes which has been a serious problem in the past - but not so much recently.

HMUG agreed with the proposal, but requested the part about total prohibition of fires be changed. This is because their winter woodland management volunteer sessions run by Hackney Marshes Users Group and the Tree Musketeers provides volunteers food using a camping gas ring mounted on a trailer. They state that the loss of this facility would pose a difficulty in running these all-day cold weather sessions which are currently very popular and successful, enable them to create a regular woodland management cycle to the benefit of biodiversity and of public understanding of the woodland. They also felt that forest school groups using the woods may want to introduce students to outdoor fire making and management, using a fire bowl which they feel is a legitimate and useful educational activity. As such, they suggest using some such wording as: 'fires may be used by organised groups, with council agreement and only under the supervision of suitable group leaders.'

They also felt including something specific to address the motorbike use would be a good idea.

**TFL - acknowledged but chose not to comment.**

**London Borough of Waltham Forest**

The ASB team and Environmental Health team responded on behalf of Waltham Forest. They felt that the proposal sounds like a good idea - but they had not experienced major issues regarding ASB. They did however say they would like to engage with Hackney Council further to better understand the ASB Hackney residents are experiencing and consider any possible displacement of ASB if the PSPO is brought into force.



## Conclusion

The response rate for this consultation was low, with 123 responses received. Given the low response rate, it becomes harder to draw overall conclusions regarding the proposals to introduce a PSPO to Wick Woodland, and this section of conclusions should therefore be treated with caution. It is, however, possible to explore the opinions people expressed.

With the split of results of 46% (57) in support, 4% (5) partially supporting and 43% (53) in opposition it, overall 50% of responses were in support of the proposals but without a strong conclusive view, either in support or opposition, in terms of numbers. There were also a low number of responses locally; with 27 returned out of 400 paper distributed. However, these responses came from those living closest to Wick Woodland, and therefore most likely to be affected by antisocial behaviour at Wick Woodland. Furthermore, 20 of the 27 paper responses said they supported a PSPO (and 1 partially) and almost all paper copies referenced noise related ASB and/or seeing rubbish and litter around the area; a small number numerically, but proportionately suggests a strong conclusion based on respondents. In contrast, those living in postcodes not local to Wick Woodland and those living outside of Hackney, account for 43% (53) of all answers. Furthermore, these same groups account for 70% (37) of all those who oppose the PSPO, and it could be argued that this group is impacted less (or is less likely to witness) ASB and other issues in Wick Woodland.

Although the data set is small, looking at comments about experiences of ASB and other issues in Wick Woodland, the common themes are around noise from raves, rubbish and littering and other environmental damage; these references are the most frequent and noticeable amongst all themes from all the comments made in the consultation as a whole. This supports the pre-existing data the Council has collected from resident complaints and photos or reports from the Parks Service (as referenced in the consultation supporting document). However, there is also comments stating the opposite - that there is little/no ASB and experiences of raves/gatherings have been positive and environmentally and socially conscious. It seems some participants think raves may not always end up with noise ASB or environmental harm. Either way, comments amongst those who support and oppose the PSPO suggest there is a shared concern to ensure the woodland is respected and environment protected.

Looking at comments about what aspects should be removed from the PSPO, there are few meaningful conclusions to be drawn from the data beyond those who just oppose the PSPO because not many people responded to this question. Most of those who oppose the PSPO focus on getting rid of the fixed penalty notices and music volume restrictions. Other comments asked for minor clarifications - particularly on the use of barbecues and fires.

Comments on other elements to be included in the PSPO were also few, again making it difficult to draw meaningful conclusions. Of the comments made, there could be a case for exploring the extension of the PSPO beyond Wick Woodland, as noise and littering from areas beyond the woodland were highlighted. There are also some suggestions that things like anti-social parking and use of motorbikes/mopeds be considered too. Considered together this data could suggest the need to think about ASB issues connected to, but beyond, the woodland and not just the woodland itself. There were also comments in this final section opposing the PSPO and stating the positive nature and/or cultural importance of raves and parties. Some said that introducing a PSPO would take this away, even though it must be acknowledged that this activity is already illegal. Some of these comments suggest there could be some who would be interested in exploring ways of having a space

provided to allow for use in a way that does not harm others or the environment; however the data supporting this conclusion is comparatively small.

Although not all the key stakeholders took part in the consultation process, a conclusion from this data is that there is no major opposition to the proposal from key stakeholders, although there are some suggested changes. Both the Canal and River Trust and Hackney Marshes Users Group highlighted ASB in Wick Woodland and the surrounding areas. The Trust specifically highlighted the area under the A12, and requested clarity on the boundary of the PSPO, and that it should be extended to include this area and that they would be willing to work with the Council to improve the space for social, environmental and economic use. This corresponds to some of the comments made by residents in the survey. Likewise, the Hackney Marshes Users Group highlighted environmental damage and its long term effects, however highlighted that fires and gas stoves (when used appropriately by organisations) should be permitted. They also suggested specific reference to motorbikes be included in the proposal. These comments also correspond to some of the comments made by residents in the survey. Overall, the letters from stakeholders suggest working with them to possibly extend the PSPO area, address some of the causes, and allow for reasonable use of fires (and not total prohibition) would help ensure the space is protected and promoted.

The responses indicated that Wick Woodland is valued by different people in different ways, and introducing a PSPO will have positive effects for some and negative effects for others. For those who have experienced various forms of ASB, littering and other forms of environmental damage, a PSPO would be positive. For those opposed to the PSPO, an introduction would result in a loss of what they perceive to be a cultural space - despite using it illegally - which they think is not harming the environment. However, the locality and frequency of those using and experiencing the effects of ASB should also be considered, as the strength of feeling and chances of experiencing the effects is arguably higher among those who live near to the woodland.

This consultation was effectively promoted and locally targeted. However, with the low response rate, it is difficult to draw robust conclusions from this consultation alone. Moving forward, the Council could consider doing more consultation - using more intensive methods such as door knocking - to find and develop more robust conclusions. However this consultation was effectively promoted and the locality targeted; and it is likely the results would be similar. Either way, and especially as the response rate from this consultation is low, all consultation data should be considered alongside other evidence collected by the Council and the public when making a final decision on the proposal.

# APPENDIX 1



# Wick Woodland PSPO Consultation 2018

have  say

 **Hackney**

# Background

For a number of years the Council has received numerous complaints about unauthorised gatherings and associated noise, littering and other antisocial behaviour (ASB) taking place in Wick Woodland (by Hackney Marshes). This includes large antisocial parties and raves that cause significant noise disturbance in the local area, as well as significant environmental and wildlife damage. As a result of the raves, trees have been broken and uprooted, which has had a detrimental effect on nesting birds and mammals living in the woodland. The Council's parks team has also had to clear up an extensive amount of rubbish and repair the damage caused to the Wick Woodland area.

The Council and the Police have taken measures to prevent ASB on Wick Woodland. This has included: installing logs and natural fencing to make the area difficult to access with machinery; applying for injunctions to prevent organisers setting up raves; and issuing community protection warnings. The Woodland Trust have also replanted worn areas of woodland. However, this has not stopped the antisocial behaviour, which is why we are proposing to introduce a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO), enabling our Neighbourhood Enforcement Officers to issue on-the-spot fines to those organising and attending raves and causing ASB in the area.

The aim of this consultation is to understand your experiences of ASB in Wick Woodland, understand whether you would support the introduction of a PSPO, and gather your thoughts on what it should include. We want to make sure we get this right, so that the Council can protect this valued woodland space, whilst also ensuring we allow and encourage residents to use and appreciate it.

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## Proposed Public Space Protection Order

### Location:

We are proposing to introduce a PSPO covering Wick Woodland, the area bordered by Homerton Road E9, Eastway E9, and the River Lee Navigation Canal. Please see map below.



## What is a PSPO and what would it involve?

PSPOs are aimed at ensuring public spaces can be enjoyed free from anti-social behaviour. They are not about stopping the responsible use of public spaces - but they do provide councils with a tool to tackle persistent issues that are damaging their communities. We propose that the PSPO for the Wick Woodland area includes the following controls, specifically designed to prevent antisocial behaviour resulting from parties and raves:

- No gatherings within designated area, after dusk and before daylight, as to cause nuisance to wider public, without written permission of the Council.
- No person shall remove, uproot, destroy or injure any tree, shrub or plant, without written permission of the Council.
- No person shall be in possession, consumption or involved in the sale of nitrous oxide, laughing gas or CO2.
- No person shall play music with amplification in the designated area, without written permission of the Council.
- No person shall operate an engine or generator within the designated area, without written permission of the Council.
- No lighting of fires, stoves and/or naked flames.
- A Police Constable or Authorised Officer of the Council may require anyone who is in breach of conditions to leave the designated area and not return for 48 hours

These powers would only apply to the area indicated on the map opposite.

## How would the PSPO be enforced?

Anyone causing the types of antisocial behaviour outlined in the PSPO could be given an 'on the spot' Fixed Penalty Notice of £100, which would need to be paid in 14 days. If the fine is not paid within 14 days, the person would be liable to prosecution. Fines can only be issued by the police or council enforcement officers and only in relation to the controls set out in the PSPO.

The PSPO will also allow the Council's Enforcement Team to require someone causing ASB to leave the Wick Woodland area for up to 48 hours or report them by summons to Magistrates Court. Currently, only the police can disperse those causing antisocial behaviour from the Hackney Wick Woodland area - the PSPO will allow the Enforcement Team to do this, and free up police time.

## How long would the PSPO last for?

We are proposing that the PSPO lasts for three years, at which point we would decide whether to renew it in consultation with residents.

## Have your say (and what happens next?)

We are currently considering the introduction of the PSPO but would like to know what local residents think - please take the time to complete the attached survey and tell us whether or not you support it and offer any comments you may have. **Consultation closes 12 December.**

Having considered the consultation findings, a report will be made and presented to the Council's Cabinet in January where they will decide whether or not to proceed with the proposal to introduce the PSPO.

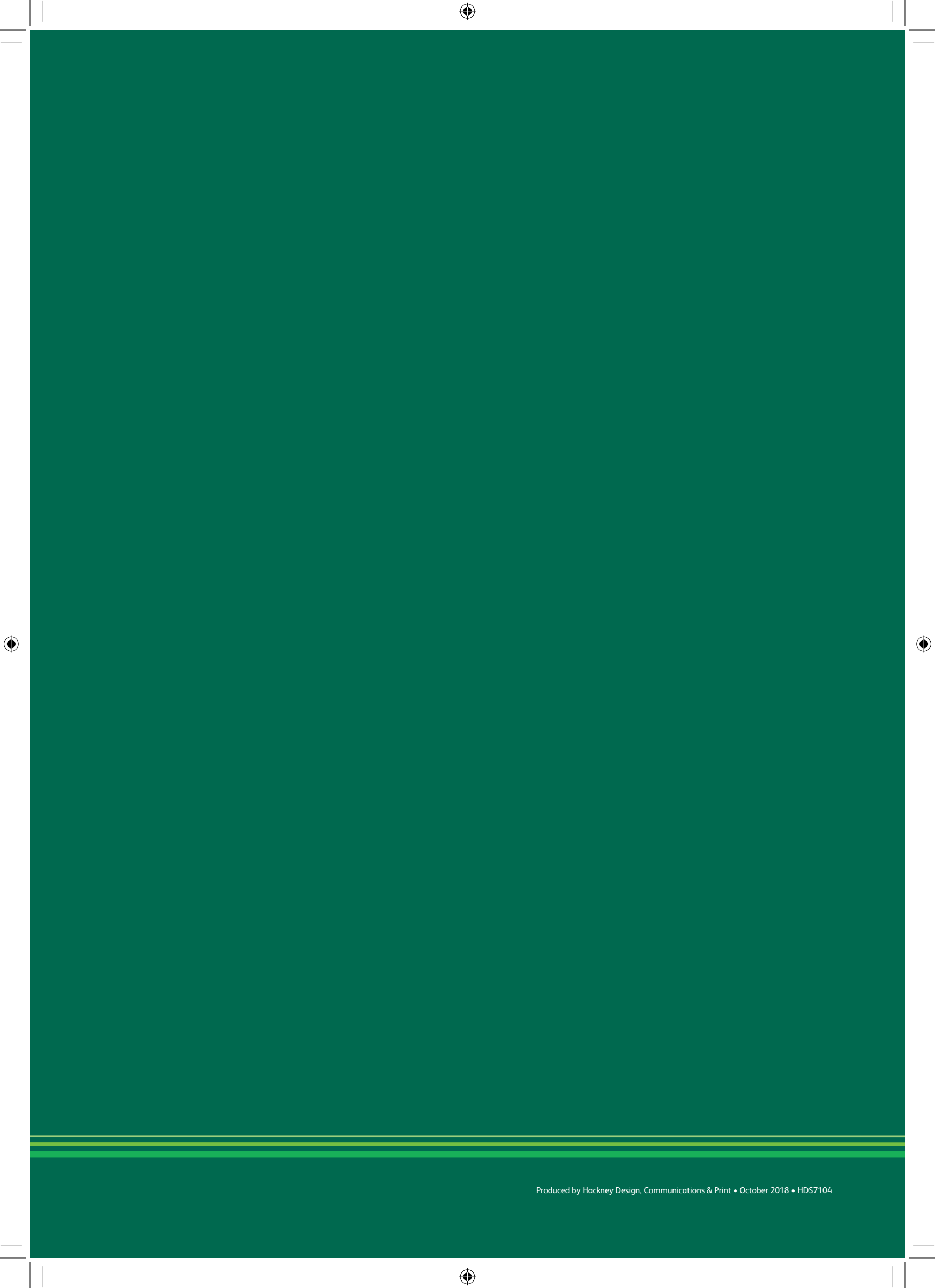
## Contact details:

For more information or if you have any questions about this consultation please get in touch:

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# APPENDIX 2



# Wick Woodland PSPO Survey questionnaire

Please return the completed survey in the envelope provided by 12 December 2018

1. Please describe any experience you have had of antisocial behaviour, noise nuisance or environmental damage at Wick Woodland?

2. Do you support the introduction of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) as outlined in the above summary document?

Yes

No


Partially

Unsure

3. Are there any elements of the proposed PSPO which you feel should be removed? (Please also explain why)

4. Is there anything you feel needs to be added to the PSPO?

5. Join Hackney Matters, become a panel member, give us your feedback and earn points to get Love2Shop vouchers!

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## About you:

So we can best understand our service users and residents, please fill in this optional information about you. All information is used under the strict controls of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

### Gender:

- Male  Female

If you prefer to use your own term please provide this here:

Is your gender identity different to the sex you were assumed to be at birth?

- Yes it's different  No it's the same

### Age: What is your age group?

- Under 16  16-17  
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 35-44  45-54  
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 85+

**Disability:** Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or expected to last at least 12 months?

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**Caring responsibilities:** A carer is someone who spends a significant proportion of their time providing unpaid support to a family member, partner or friend who is ill, frail, disabled or has mental health or substance misuse problems.

Do you regularly provide unpaid support caring for someone?

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### Ethnicity: Are you...

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 Other ethnic group

Other (please state if you wish):

### Religion or belief: Are you or do you have...

- Atheist/no religious belief  
 Buddhist  
 Charedi  
 Christian  
 Hindu  
 Jewish  
 Muslim  
 Secular beliefs  
 Sikh

Other (please state if you wish):

### Sexual orientation: Are you...

- Bisexual  
 Gay man  
 Lesbian or Gay woman  
 Heterosexual

Other (please state if you wish):

*Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey, your feedback is important to us.*

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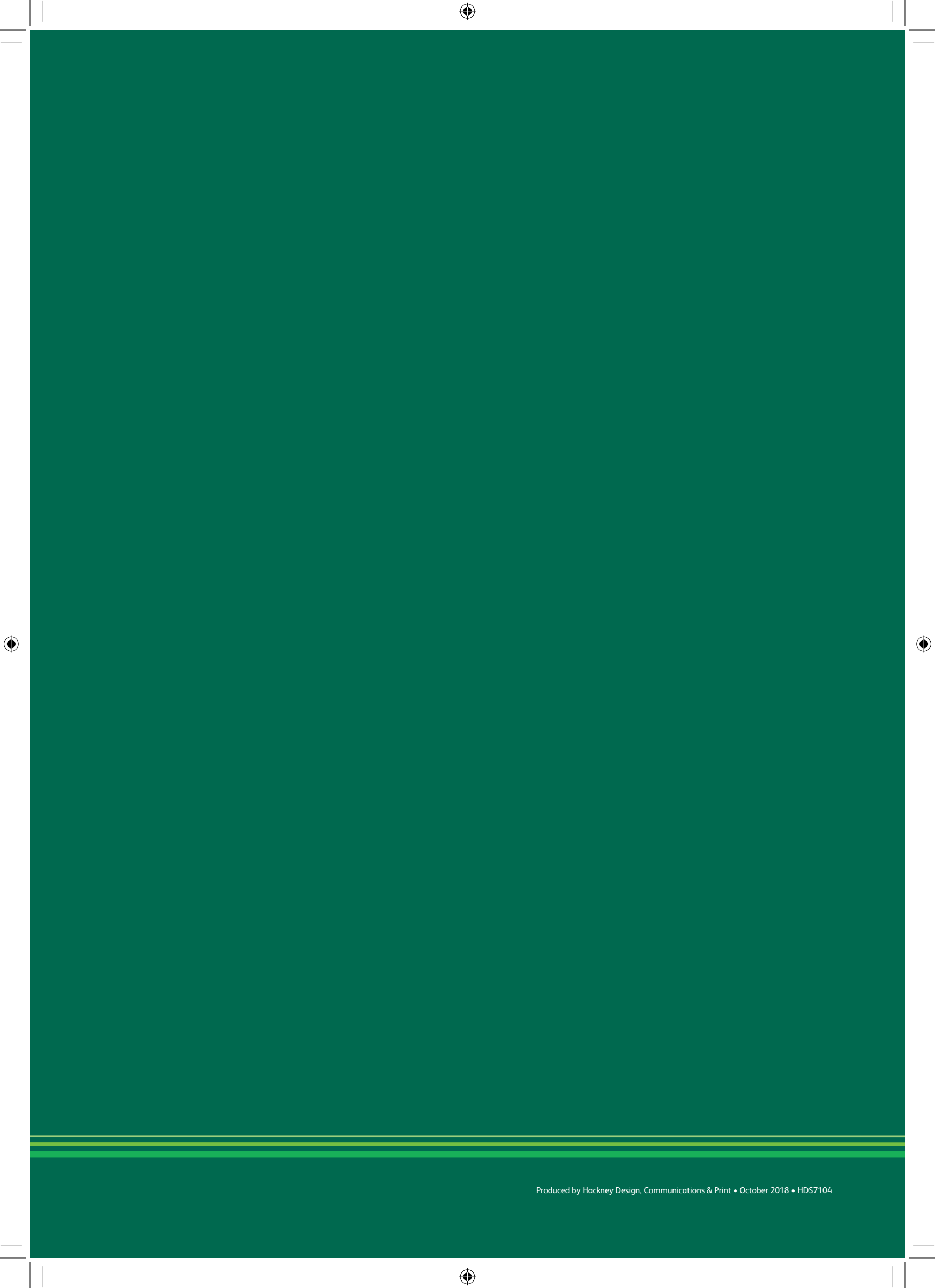
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 Jewish  
 Muslim  
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 Sikh

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