



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.

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:

Tel: **02083564470**, Email: **consultation@hackney.gov.uk**

If you have another ASB issue or would like to make a report please get in touch:

Website: **www.hackney.gov.uk/noise**, Email: **ASBTeam@hackney.gov.uk**, Tel: **101**

