

Public space protection order, restriction of alcohol: proposed amendments

The St Margaret's with St Nicholas Ward Forum represents residents and businesses within the ward.

Following consultation with our members we welcome the extension of the order to the areas proposed – a number of which are within the ward. However there are further areas, where alcohol is a problem and the forum wishes to see these included and asks that the order is duly amended. They are:

Nelson Street, Devils Alley, Lath Mansion car park (east side of Nelson Street), St Margaret's Place, Saturday Market Place and Tower Gardens.

Residents of Nelson Street report that what was once a quiet, pleasant thoroughfare now attracts drinkers at all times of the day and night. Not only are they noisy but they throw drinks cans and bottles over garden walls and leave them on window cills. The narrow alleys, courts and car parks that lead off the street, are secluded and lend themselves to abuse; frequently they are pungent with the smell of urine because of their use as an outdoor lavatory in the absence of other facilities.

A particular draw is the car-park at Lath Mansion, where drinkers congregate when it rains while Devils Alley provides a quiet location between Nelson Street and the South Quay.

St Margaret's Place, Saturday Market Place and Tower Gardens. May already be subject to the order, but a number of our members have complained about drinking there, even now that The Wennis public house is – temporarily – closed. We mention them in case they are not included, but in the event that they are, because this highlights a contributing factor: the need for sustained policing.

Regrettably protection orders and alcohol restriction will have little effect if they are not enforced. They provide all the powers necessary to deal with the problem and the ward forum strongly urges that they are thus employed.

Coupled with this is the availability of alcohol for long periods of the day. Surely this must be addressed? The ward forum is particularly concerned by the recent granting of the licence for a premises in London Road allows alcohol to be bought from 6am. It cannot be necessary to make alcohol available from this very early hour.

Yours etc