

WIGAN PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER RESULTS

RESULTS

This original proposals and result of the responses are listed below:

Proposal 1

Surrender any intoxicating substance (i.e. alcohol or other legal highs) in their possession to an authorised person on request, if:

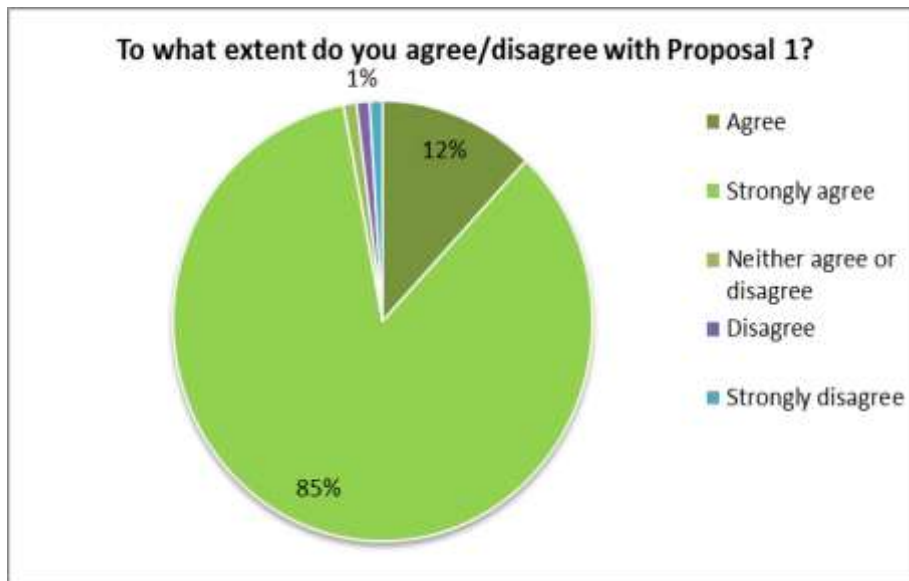
- a) They are found to be ingesting, inhaling, injecting, smoking or otherwise using intoxicating substances; or
- b) They are in possession of such intoxicating substances with the intent of using intoxicating substances within this area; or
- c) The authorised person has reasonable grounds to believe that such person is using or intends to use the intoxicating substance within the said area.

Intoxicating Substances is given the following definition (which includes Alcohol and what are commonly referred to as 'legal highs'): Substances with the capacity to stimulate or depress the central nervous system.

Exemptions shall apply in cases where the substances are used for a valid and demonstrable medicinal use, given to an animal as a medicinal remedy, are cigarettes or vaporisers (tobacco products), or are food stuffs regulated by food safety legislation, or where the use of the intoxicating substances fall within the curtilage of a premises licensed for the sale and consumption of alcohol and within the operating hours of such.

To what extent do you agree/disagree with Proposal 1?

- 85 (85.0%) Strongly agree
- 12 (12.0%) Agree
- 1 (1.0%) Neither agree or disagree
- 1 (1.0%) Disagree
- 1 (1.0%) Strongly disagree



Proposal 2

Not make any unauthorised request(s) for money i.e. begging (either by asking or implying i.e. having a sign) in a public place from a person or people they do not know.

For this purpose 'unauthorised' means without the express written consent of any owner (or person having control over or an interest in the land in question).

To what extent do you agree/disagree with Proposal 2?

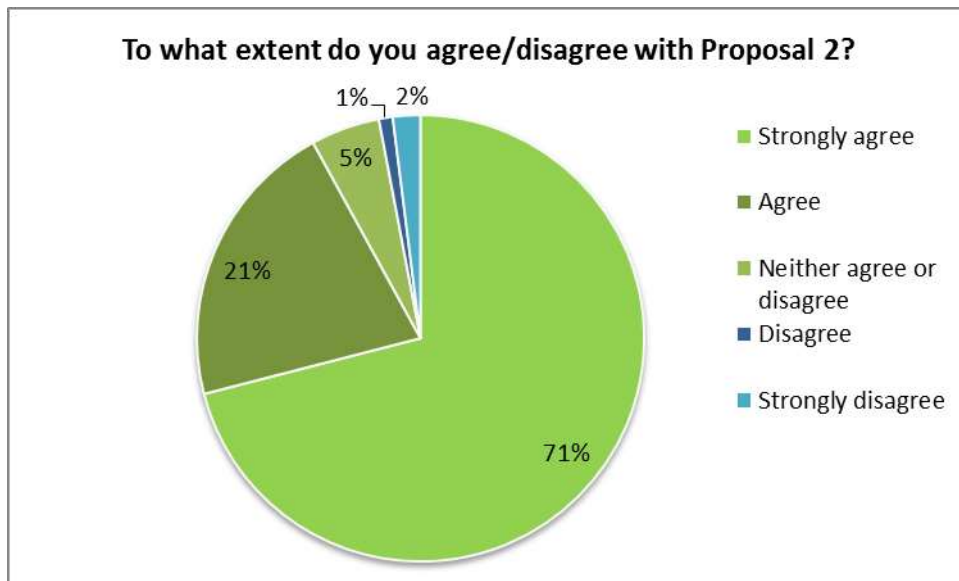
71 (71.0%) Strongly agree

21 (21.0%) Agree

5 (5.0%) Neither agree or disagree

1 (1.0%) Disagree

2 (2.0%) Strongly disagree



Proposal 3

Not behave either individually or in a group of two or more people in a manner that has resulted or is likely to result in any member of the public being intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed by that behaviour.

3. To what extent do you agree/disagree with Proposal 3?

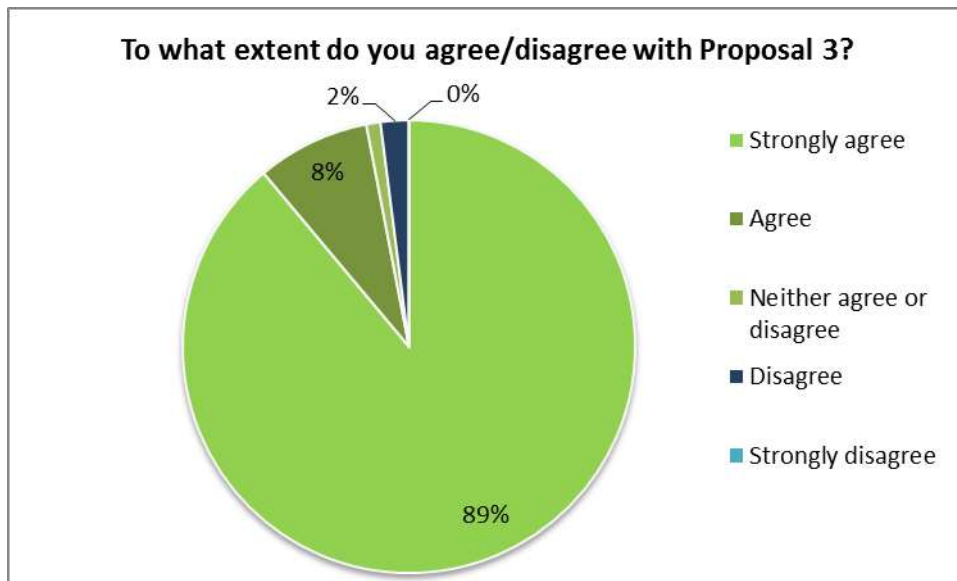
88 (88.9%) Strongly agree

8 (8.1%) Agree

1 (1.0%) Neither agree or disagree

2 (2.0%) Disagree

0 (0.0%) Strongly disagree



Proposal 4

If a person is deemed to be breaking Proposal 2 or 3, an authorised officer may -

Order any individual or all members of a group to disperse (I.e. split up but remain in the designated area)

Order them to disperse and LEAVE the designated area, if they live outside of it.

Order them to disperse and LEAVE the designated area, if they live outside of it, and not return until a specified time (maximum of 24 hours).

(For those that live within the designated area, option 1 can be lawfully used.)

4. To what extent do you agree/disagree with Proposal 4?

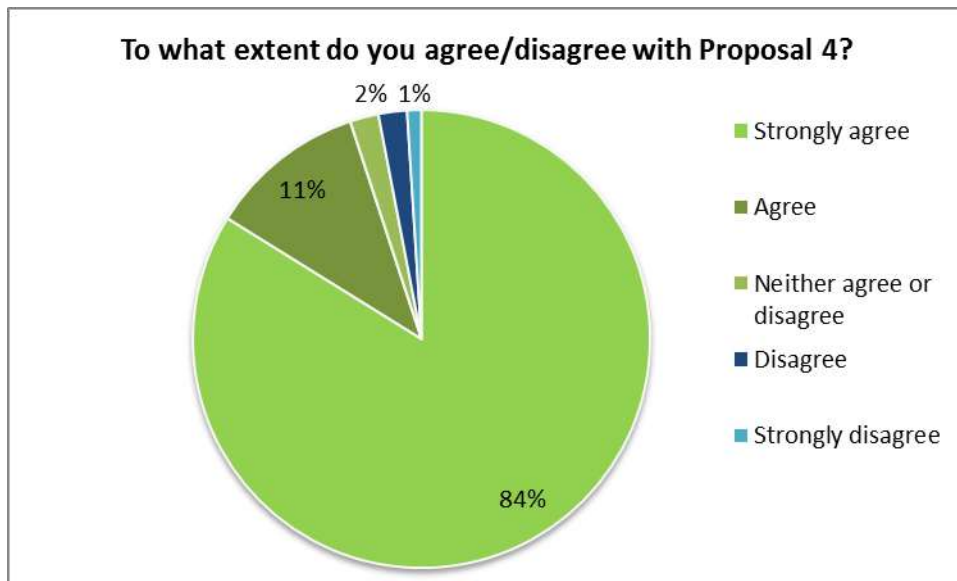
83 (83.8%) Strongly agree

11 (11.1%) Agree

2 (2.0%) Neither agree or disagree

2 (2.0%) Disagree

1 (1.0%) Strongly disagree



As can be seen from the above results, the overwhelming majority of respondents are in favour of the proposals put forward in the consultation. In addition a number of additional comments were made by people responding to the consultation. Below is a selection of the comments

“People shouldn’t be begging for money near doorways of businesses as it puts off potential custom as some people will avoid going in”

“It would be a brilliant idea to bring this into force, as a lot of OAP are actually scared to go into town centre to many ATM robbery pick pockets drunks please”

“These beggars are a blight on the streets and give visitors a bad impression of the town and there seems to be a definite increase just now”

“I work in the Wigan town centre and every day we see them begging, drinking, being rude and generally making a mess”

“I agree with the proposals as long as it doesn't just transfer the issue to a different area”

“Over the past few months we have had several issues with beggars outside of our shop which is not good for business but on a more personal note I was verbally abused by (named individual redacted) outside my place of employment because I would not give him a cigarette a matter which was reported and a statement taken by PC Ashton.”

“I tend not to enter Wigan Town Centre anymore. Sick of being pestered by beggars and other scroungers. Also, several of my friends have been 'propositioned' by females. (East Europeans) There also tends to be inadequate police presence within the town centre. Nothing better than officers on beat patrol. I would be willing to pay a large increase in the police precept in order to recruit more officers. At present - I believe we get policing on the cheap”

“Very good proposal.”

“A bit worried about targeting vulnerable people around begging. We need to make sure we take into account their circumstances. The use of the powers to disperse groups needs to be justified. We expect young people to hang around in groups to converse with each other but this doesn't mean they are anti-social”

“Working in Wigan every day, I see the same person sat in the same place every day. It is extremely uncomfortable having to walk past someone who is consistently asking for money, begging and often shouting and swearing at people walking past. Why should people that are going about their business have to deal with this? ??”

“The amount of people stopping others on a daily basis usually for money is intimidating & annoying - I used to work in Wigan town centre about 6 years ago - I only come to the town now to shop - sometimes it can be very intrusive & unpleasant - I wish the council would stop all begging / donating / monthly payments / etc. I would be prepared to come into Wigan more often”