



**NORWICH**  
City Council

**Council**  
**28 September 2021**  
**Petition to council**

**Mr Stephen Robinson to present the following petition:**

“We, the residents of Britannia Road, are in favour of a court injunction (Public Space Protection Order) to address the antisocial behaviour of boy racers on Britannia Road and in the Britannia Road car park.”

**Councillor Jones, cabinet member for safer, stronger neighbourhoods’ response:**

“Thank you Mr Robinson for attending full council this evening and the excellent work you have achieved, working with fellow residents, to highlight this significant and recurrent problem.

Norwich City Council understands well how anti-social behaviour can blight the lives of people in their local communities, with those affected often feeling powerless to act.

I am particularly aware of the significant disturbance the problem of “boy racers” cause the community on Britannia Road, the noise, fear of damage to vehicles, rubbish left and sometimes intimidation faced by residents to have sought to repeatedly challenge this. It is utterly unacceptable that you should face this problem.

The city council has a key role to play in helping make local areas safe places to live, visit and work and tackling anti-social behaviour continues to be a high priority for the city council and our partners within the district.

The city council is aware of the ongoing allegations of anti-social behaviour related to vehicle use in the Britannia Road area. Officers of the Early intervention and community safety team are currently liaising with other agencies, including Norfolk Constabulary, in order to assess the nature of the issues and find appropriate and effective intervention solutions.

I know that Crome ward councillors have been working with local residents and the Police, including joining a police patrol, discussing the issue at local SNAP meetings, and securing SAM2 speed cameras from Norfolk County Council to deter future activity and collect vital intelligence for the police.

The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced several new tools and powers for use by councils and their partners to address anti-social behaviour (ASB) in their local areas. These tools were brought in as part of a Government commitment to put victims at the centre of approaches to tackling ASB, focussing on the impact behaviour can have on both communities and individuals, particularly on the most vulnerable.

One of the tools within the 2014 Act is the use of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's). Orders can be introduced in a specific public area where the local authority is satisfied on reasonable grounds that certain conditions have been met. The first test concerns the nature of the anti-social behaviour, requiring that:

- activities that have taken place have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, or it is likely that activities will take place and that they will have a detrimental effect.
- the effect or likely effect of these activities:
  - is, or is likely to be, persistent or continuing in nature
  - is, or is likely to be, unreasonable
  - justifies the restrictions being imposed

I am reminded from the legislation that, PSPO's must be used proportionately and in the right circumstances. PSPOs will not be suitable or effective in all circumstances, and it is important to consider carefully the right approach for identifying and addressing the problem behaviour.

Some issues may be adequately addressed using other tools. For instance, awareness raising campaigns about the impact of certain activities on others, improved community engagement, or offering support to those exhibiting certain behaviours may be enough to address the ASB identified.

Overall, in the case of Britannia Road, given the evidence provided, it is clear to me and your ward councillors that all these pre-emptive measures have been largely tried repeatedly, with little long-term success.

Norwich City Council, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, will consider all the possible interventions required to tackle this issue. But the consideration of the introduction of a PSPO seems at present to me like a valuable and positive opportunity and one which could be pursued.

In summary, upon completion of the work with officers and the police, and their report, I will be in a final position to decide upon this but would like to also ensure the community is consulted too.

Lastly, I would like to thank you again for the time taken, effort, energy and commitment shown to pursuing this problem and seeking a positive and hopeful longer-term solution for residents living locally.

I will contact you personally again, in due course. ”