

1. Please close the passage. It's a health hazard.
2. Yes but it is not vital to the city and causes more problems than benefits.
3. No.

- 2 I use St Peters Passage regularly and I am concerned that this move will set a poor precedent for closing more public rights of way such as this in the future.

It is common knowledge that there is a drug problem in the City Centre but I am not convinced that closing St Peters Passage will ameliorate the the issue, nor help to improve the image of the City. St Peters Passage is not a prominent feature of the High Street (I was nor aware of its existence until after a number of years living in the City). It is not often used by tourists and yet there are many other just as public spaces in which drug taking can be carried out away from prying eyes and closing the passage will not make the people who use paraphernalia such as needles any more likely to dispose of them sensibly, they will simply be left wherever they are used, just as dangerous and just as accessible to the wandering child.

I might also add that although the smell of urine is indeed a common experience, this is no different to any other alleyway in the City Centre and I have certainly never seen any faeces (I would be interested to know how often this has been reported).

- 3 I am pleased that the Council is taking our public health seriously, however, it would be unfortunate if it were to close a useful and historic public right of way in the name of public health only to find that it has made no difference at all to instances of the sort of anti-social behaviour described by the consultation paper. My concern is that this would shift the focus to other public rights of way where this sort of activity is alleged to occur, and on the basis of the precedent set by the closure of St Peters Passage, these would also be closed, to no obvious benefit for the City.

I hope that you will take this view into consideration and ultimately opt not to close the passageway, while I cannot offer any suggestions as to the prevention of the use of this passage (or indeed others) as a toilet - beyond opening a public lavatory which is open 24/7 on the High Street - I hope that the Council will consider the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs's report "Reducing Opioid-related Deaths in the UK"* which recommends the creation of legal Drug Consumption Clinics in order to treat addicts (point 5.5.12 onward) and which would likely reduce public consumption leading to the problem of needles pointed to in your consultation document. Perhaps that is outside the scope of this consultation - but I nevertheless hope that it is something you will consider.

- 4 Passage way should not be close off, because of anti social behaviour. Prioritised removing anti social behaviour.

Before we know it ! We will all be living in gated community. No!! More patrolling and maybe a few more public toilets...

Sent from my iPhone

- 5 I am emailing to express concern at the revived proposal to close the public thoroughfare St Peter's Passage as a trial measure.

On a previous occasion I researched (and published locally) the history of this path and identified past references to what would now be described as anti social behaviour occurring on it. The path was not blocked or closed on those occasions, but other steps were taken to deter or detect unwanted activity.

Modern technology provides numerous methods for deterring such activity on a public path, including CCTV and lighting solutions. It is depressing that Lincoln City Council - and the adjacent property owners/occupiers - cannot devise a scheme to improve the situation without blocking the thoroughfare. I hope that the proposal is not being suggested as a means to raise adjacent property values but removing an inconvenient path.

I have used the path two or three times, and I accept that it is not in frequent use. Usage as a thoroughfare might increase with the completion of the residential accommodation on the junction of Park Street. If the path is closed, I would expect much of the associated anti social behaviour to move elsewhere - which could create a cycle of rights of way closures if the same approach is proposed.

I would urge officers and councillors to try other approaches to improve this situation. Many existing rights of way represent historically used routes and they are a part of the City together with historic buildings. There is often an ebb and flow to the popular use and appreciation of these features.

- 6 I dont think this is something that I should be commenting on

- 7 I have no evidence for or against this
- 8 I have known of the passage in the past years. In all the people who pass this passage 99.9% have no idea it exists. Close the passage and fit gates so that no one can domicile in front of them.
- 9 I am emailing you to support the closure of St Peter's Passage.
- I do not use the passage itself as I do not find it a pleasant or safe environment but I walk past the entrance near Primark everyday on my way to and from work.
- During the hot weather earlier this month the smell of urine coming from the Passage was overwhelming. Anyone walking up the High St from Primark up to the Stonebow would have been affected. As well as the health risks it gave a bad impression to visitors of Lincoln. I overheard several comments from people about the smell as I walked past.
- The only way to stop this would be to close it to public use.
- 10 I work in the High street for a national retailer, and the constant level of thieves and shoplifters that we get in every 10 to 15 minutes every day that come in, grab something, because we have an open door policy, and run out down the passage, and go into the hostel on mint lane or vanish into the crowd is ridiculous, nobody who has decent morales uses the passage because of the known drug taking, drug dealing and the usage of the passage as a public toilet by the lowlifes that reside on the High street ruining this city. Please for the good of the city close this rat run and try to keep our city that little bit nicer.
- In support of the proposal to close St Peter's Passage, last Friday (27th July) my husband and I sitting in Café Nero at about 9:45am witnessed what can only be described as a queue of half a dozen or so people going into this lane and out again in quick succession. I was clear to us that these people had been using the lane to take drugs of whatever kind – it was clear from their demeanour and appearance this was the case (we are qualified to draw this conclusion). The proposal would be in the public interest, people who live and work in the centre of town probably know not to use this lane but unsuspecting people could have a very unpleasant and potentially dangerous experience if they use this lane unawares in the spirit of exploration – I certainly wouldn't use this lane nor the passageway further down the high street towards Primark. Has it been considered this may become the place of choice if St Peters passage closes?
- Clearly the presence of urine and faecal material is a public health hazard.
- There doesn't seem any rational reason to keep the passageway open in view of the current issues in the town centre with the numbers of apparent substance misusers around at any one time, from my own observations there appears to be clusters around the William Foster pub (people openly dealing from their outside seating), on the area next to the Angel café (no implications on them whatsoever but who would want to sit in their outside area when people are openly taking drugs less than 20 feet away!) and the area by McDonalds in the Cornmarket.
- 11 It feels intimidating when I'm on my own sometimes to be walking through the whole high street area in Lincoln from the Railway station to Orchard Street at 7:30am when lots of the same people are begging and congregating, its the same crowd we saw in St Peter's Passage who are there all day and they are very recognisable.
- 12 I have no concerns in closing St. Peter's Passage in Lincoln. I would like to raise the same concerns that you are considering with the public right of way with the one located between Elliott's picture framing shop and wildwood restaurant on Lincoln high Street, the same issues are faced down there. I walk through it frequently in order to reach the rear of my property and for example this morning there are 2 needles and strong smells or urine. I feel it should also be considered for closure.
- 13 My thoughts on this would be why don't you put a cctv camera or 2 (one each end). If this is closed the "users" I would guess will just find another passage to use for the same purposes and then what will happen? Another passage will be closed? I'm not sure closing it is the answer
- 14 I agree entirely that St Peters Passage should be gates at both ends. It is a focal point for drug use and is used by both the street community and drunks during the evening economy as a toilet. The proposal is only for 3 years after which it can be reviewed so it doesn't have to be permanent. I greatly hope that in gating the passage the congregations of drug users will move away from that particular area of the high street.
- I would like to put forward my experience as a Lincoln resident in support of the closure of St Peter's Passage. I often find myself holding my breath as I walk passed the entrance of the passage. The smell is an offence to that whole section of the High Street.

I have two young children and I hesitate to bring them into town because it no longer feels hygienic or safe. There are many contributing factors and other hotspots for this kind of activity in the city centre, which I trust you are also planning to tackle, however the area of St Peter's Passage is undoubtedly one of the worst.

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No respectable person would use St Peter's Passage as a right of way in its current state. I have no difficulty navigating the city centre via other routes. It would not be a loss to the general public to gate it off.

16

I agree the passage has to be cleaned up. Perhaps if Lincoln had the resources to provide outreach services to the homeless and the people with mental health and addictions this would also keep the passage clean and safe. After all these people do exist so if the passage is closed off they will find another place to go, they won't just disappear.

I am in agreement that this is a good idea and would temporarily solve part of a larger issue within the city. As a student of the city I avoid this passage at all costs, whether day or night, due to the unsavoury characters that hang around this area. I have seen many a used needle in Lincoln, so St Peters Passage is not the only place drug taking is occurring. However, walking past the passage on the far side of the high street and being able to smell faeces and urine very strongly is not pleasant and not something that locals or visitors such be exposed to in such a beautiful city.

17

However, I also feel that simply closing the passage with dispel the problem to another area of the city as it is not the passage itself rather the dwellers of said. This could move to other more heavily trafficked passages, such as the Glory Hole, which would be a further detriment to the city with this being a main thoroughfare to and from the University. The people using St Peters Passage as a toilet and drug taking spot are the main issue and I hope that in consideration of closing the passage and within the review after 3 years should the passage be closed, this is strongly taken into consideration so that this issue does not reoccur elsewhere.

I do not use this passage for simple fact that more often than not it smells of urine just walking past it.

There's also the fact that it isn't any quicker to walk this way than either going towards Mint Street or Park Street.

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My only concern would be what it would look like and not creating some sort of eyesore.

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In your consultation process I do not see any mention of your new Team that is supposed to prevent this kind of behaviour! I know this might be a bit of a radical idea but why not get "Look North" to do a report on the problem, then the police will suddenly find that they don't need to search for historic crime and might patrol the area.

20

To prevent further increases of ASB and criminal activity, PCC Marc Jones would fully support the introduction of a gate to stop access to St Peters passage.

1. Does your agency have any information in support of or against the proposal of the PSPO.

It is unfortunate but the passage way is being used for activities as shared and yes to gate if off will stop the issues however the NCP carpark stairwell on Broadgate already has the same activity. My concern at the moment is that as a proactive response to the city centre issues , the problem is being moved to Monks Road area.

2. Does your agency require access to St Peters Passage? If yes then for what reason?

No

3. Does your agency have any concerns or objections to the proposed PSPO?

21

I Support the Proposed but do think it will only move the problem to Usher Art , NCP , and local neighbouring areas .

1. Do you have any information in support of the proposed PSPO?

Only that whenever I walk past it looks dark, dingy and smells. I have never seen anyone go into it or when I look down it I have never seen anybody in there.

2. Do you use St Peters Passage?

I wouldn't dare walk down there and actually don't think I ever have. The smell alone puts me off and the fact that it seems very unsafe. I have a mantra that you never use a shortcut but stick to light areas.

3. Do you have any concerns or objections to the proposed PSPO?

22

I have no concerns and totally agree with the proposal to close off St Peters Passage for the safety of the unfortunate people that have to go in there to take drugs and sleep and also for the shoppers passing by who may stumble upon equipment used for drug taking. I also worry that someone might use it as a shortcut and be attacked (not by people using drugs) but by opportune offenders who see someone go in and decide to follow them. Also the drug users are hidden out of view and could be in trouble or unconscious and we would not be able to help them.

23

Sad, but I believe the right decision.

1. Does your agency have any information in support of or against the proposal of the PSPO

a. No

2. Does your agency require access to St Peters Passage? If yes then for what reason?

a. No

3. Does your agency have any concerns or objections to the proposed PSPO?

a. Yes – There is no doubt that St Peters passage has been used for drug taking, I have witnessed some injecting paraphernalia along the passage recently, it is also obviously used as a toilet by the night time economy. However if you close St Peters Passage are you also planning to close Much Lane and any other passage, ally way or quiet corner of the city. Closing St Peters passage will only move the issue and will not solve it. The area is already in the street alcohol PSPO zone and drugs are illegal, powers already exist to deal with this situation.

b. Blocking the passage off will achieve little other than depleting the character of the city, the problem needs to be solving not diverted.

c. City of Lincoln council have recently announced the commencement of a PSPO based team to look at the anti-social behaviour in the city centre, this should be on that list not blocked off by a gate

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d. Perhaps some of the resources currently going in to cleaning Orchard street every day of the week could be redirected to ensure the passages within the city stay clean and tidy as Orchard Street does not really need sweeping/cleaning at least 5 days a week.

Given the difficulties experienced, I can see no reason why the passage should not be gated, in these circumstances.

25

I therefore support the proposal to gate St Peter's Passage, on behalf of the Trust.

I use St. Peter's Passage as part of my commute and occasionally during social outings in the evening/weekends.

I rarely see the aforementioned Drug use and Paraphernalia/urine & faeces. (Statistically I would say less than 1/10 uses).

I feel shutting the Passage would only push the few that abuse the area to other more visible and valued parts of Lincoln city centre.

Overall, I feel, shutting the Passage would have a negative effect.