

PSPO/SPP/2021 - Gating of St Peters Passage

Responses received to the partner and public consultation, public and business responses have been anonymised

LPFT

Lincolnshire Partnership have no information or concerns for the PSPO and believe that the gating the passage is a positive action. We would support that it remains gated.

Lincoln BIG

In March of this year, it was brought to my attention that access had been gained by individuals to St Peters Passage. On inspection by myself and City Centre Wardens, it was apparent that access had been gained and that attempts had been made to remove the hinges for the gate. Lincoln BIG instructed Lincoln Metal Craft to replace the lock for the passageway. When inspecting the area there were obvious signs of this area being used for Anti Social behaviour. There were discarded needles, litter and other drug paraphernalia left on the floor.

When the lock was replaced the City Centre Wardens undertook a deep clean of the area and removed rubbish weeds, faeces and 9 discarded needles.

Lincoln BIG would support the continuation of the PSPO and do not believe that the gating has had a negative impact on the area, if anything it has improved this area as it has removed the anti social behaviour, as shown by the amount of ASB occurring in the short time the area was accessed.

I have attached photos as evidence to support these statements.



Longhurst Group

In response to the PSPO review, please find my response below.

1.Does your agency have any information in support of the PSPO?

We have no information in support of the PSPO as there are no Longhurst Group properties within the immediate vicinity

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

Longhurst Group has no concerns or objections to the PSPO

3.If St Peters Passage was re-opened would you use it to walk through?

No, due to the information provided of the alleged drug use and it being used as a public toilet.

4.Do you believe that gating St Peters Passage has had a negative impact on other areas? If so, please provide details.

I cannot comment on this question as I am not aware of any displacement of anti-social activity following the gating of St Peters Passage.

Framework

1.Does your agency have any information in support of the PSPO?

None

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

None

3.If St Peters Passage was re-opened would you use it to walk through?

No I would not

4.Do you believe that gating St Peters Passage has had a negative impact on other areas? If so, please provide details.

No

Local Business 1

Prior the gates being installed on St Peters Passage we had a series of very unpleasant events;

- The passageway being used 24 hours a day as a toilet, with faeces all around the passage and also the constant smell of urine which you could smell inside the store (there is a fire exit leading to the passage)
- The passageway housing homeless people who were sleeping rough.
- Needles from drug users that were scattered from front to back and being kicked into the High Street.
- Violence and abuse to my team and the general public daily.
- Complaints from my customers and the general public.
- Shop theft from both my store and nearby retailers where the alleyway was being used as a Thorofare/ getaway, which was a daily occurrence.
- Constant call outs during the nights where my team had to attend the store as the alarms had been activated from the activities in and around the passage area.
- The feedback from tourist visiting the City was it was an issue and would have a detrimental effect on return visits to Lincoln and the surrounding areas of Lincolnshire.

A few months ago the locks on the gates were vandalised and the above had started again albeit for the few days until the lock was replaced.

Although some of the above elements are nationwide, the gating has stopped a lot of the problems occurring.

I believe if the gates were re-opened this would have a detriment to my business, an increase in drug use, homelessness and the passage being used as a permanent toilet.

We are just seeing and increased tourist trade which we cannot afford to lose not only for my business but for the whole City.

We strongly believe that St Peters Passage should remain gated.

If you require any further information on the above points raised please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Local Business 2

I understand that you will soon be conducting a review of the PSPO placed on St Peters Passageway. In answer to the following questions laid out in the partner consultancy letter please see below.

1. Does your agency have any information in support of the PSPO?
Our business has two fire exits leads out onto St Peters passageway. Before the gates were in place St peters passageway was a hot bed of anti-social behaviour. Our fire exits were constantly used as a public toilet and a space for vagrants to fornicate and take drugs. Most days I or a team member had to pick up human faeces and used drug needles from the passageway and our fire exits. The smell of urine washed into our building and we would have to on mostly a daily basis have to sanitise and clean the area external to our fire exits.
1. Does your agency have any concerns or objections to the PSPO?
Absolutely not. Please keep the gates in place.
1. If St Peters Passage was re-opened would you use it to walk through?
No, and no one ever did! The only thing St Peters passage was used for is to conduct anti-social behaviour.
1. Do you believe that gating St Peters Passage has had a negative impact on other areas? If so, please provide details.

I don't believe so. But it has had a positive impact on the businesses that share the passageway.

Paula Burton

CoLC

1. My agency does have information in support of the PSPO which is why the action and this consultation is taking place.
2. My agency is completing a consultation process so may be advised of objections but I don't believe that we have any as an agency.
3. I would not use St Peters Passage to walk through if re-opened.
4. I believe that gating the passage may have had a negative impact on other areas as the people frequenting the passage previously and using it for inappropriate reasons will have found alternative places. However, I don't believe that this is a reason to open the passage as the behaviour should be disrupted to ensure the public's safety and enjoyment of the city.

Lincolnshire County Council

On behalf of Lincolnshire County Council, and in its capacity as highway authority for the route in question (part of Lincoln – Public Footpath No. 21), I can confirm that the authority has no objection for an extension to the intial closure of the route through the Public Space Protection Order process.

The County Council would like to see this route be reopened in the future however does understand that at this present moment in time the anti-social and criminal behaviour experienced prior to the intial PSPO are likely to return. I would be grateful if you would be able to outline what the City of Lincoln's long term plan for the public right of way may be

Councillor Vaughan

Please keep it Gated