



COUNCIL MEETING – 23 February 2006

Question under Council Procedure Rule 14(2)(b)

QUESTION 5

From: Councillor Tait

To: The Portfolio Holder for Healthy and Inclusive Communities

“Could the Portfolio Holder explain the purpose of the Alcohol Exclusion Zone and why if he feels it has been so successful he now believes that rather than extending the zone to cover areas, which have suffered from “displacement”, he thinks that it will be better to talk to the offenders and dissuade them from drinking.”

Reply

“In 2005, the Council designated public places within the central area of Winchester as a “designated area” under the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2003. The purpose of this “Alcohol Designation Zone” (ADZ) is to discourage the consumption of alcoholic beverages in specified public places. The ADZ aims specifically to target any individual that is causing a nuisance or harassment to any other person within that vicinity.

It is an offence for anyone to continue drinking alcohol in public within the zone when asked not to do so by a police officer (the police have the power of arrest if the person refuses to stop drinking or fails to submit their alcohol to the officer as/if requested).

Since the launch of the ADZ in July 2005 the police, WCC CCTV Operations and businesses within the zone area have stated that the original problems have been alleviated. However, the Community Safety Partnership are fully aware of the displacement that has taken place into the immediate boundaries. As a result the police and Community Safety Officer started to collate a record log of complaints, made about any ADZ related incident which included drunkenness, rowdy behaviour, street drinking and police stop checks (the number of complaints had tailed off by early November).

Initially, the police did request the extension of the ADZ in order to tackle the displacement. They have since agreed to await the results of the ‘Outreach Project’ currently being undertaken by the Trinity Centre in partnership with other agencies.

The project aims to research the background behind street drinkers, identify gaps in service provision and signpost future clients to existing services. The project lead (Michelle Gardner) has been tasked to produce a final report on her findings which will include recommendations for consideration by both the Council and CSP at the end of the project (end of March 2006). Ultimately, that may include a recommendation that there is a further extension of the zone.

In short the extension of the existing zone has not been ruled out at this stage and would require much broader investigation and consultation.”