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Alcohol Control
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Proposed Designation of Public Areas for Alcohol Control

As part of the commitment to reducing crime and disorder and the fear of crime within the borough, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council is proposing to designate certain roads, car parks, public areas and parks as Alcohol Control Zones and would like to receive peoples' views on the suggested plans.

The designation will not prevent all on-street drinking in those areas, but will enable the police to take action against people who are creating nuisance or annoyance to the public, or causing disorder.

The legislation

The Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 ('the 2001 Act') provides powers for local authorities to designate, by order, public places if it is satisfied that:

1. nuisance or annoyance to members of the public or a section of the public; or
2. disorder has been associated with the consumption of intoxicating liquor in that place

Only public places can be designated. Other privately owned businesses cannot such as licensed premises and registered clubs.

The process

Once the local authority has made a Designation Order, it is an offence in the designated public place:

1. to drink alcohol if required to stop by a police officer, and
2. not to surrender alcohol if required to do so by a police officer.

These are arrestable offences, for which the maximum penalty on summary conviction (ie in the Magistrates' Court, not 'on the spot') is a scale two fine, currently £500. Therefore, drinking alcohol in a designated place is not an offence in itself; only continuing to do so after being told to stop by a police officer or failing to hand over alcohol, if required.

West Kent Police, the Tunbridge Wells Community Safety Partnership, Safe Town Partnership and Pubwatch have all asked that consideration be given to designating the identified areas as Alcohol Control Areas to prevent crime and disorder.

During the period 2001 - 2004, whilst reports of disorder in the town centre decreased, there was an increase of 31.5% in drunkenness. Also during that period disturbance in a public place accounted for 26% of total incidents reported. The linkage between alcohol consumption, violence and criminal damage can be made as these offences occurred most commonly between 11pm and 3am.

If following consultation the areas are agreed, they will be clearly signed to ensure members of the public understand that the restriction exists.

Anyone wishing to make representation should write to:

Linda Mortley,
Community Development and Safety Manager,
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells,
Kent, TN1 1RS,
or e-mail: linda.mortley@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

Alternatively, use our [online comment form](#).

Deadline: 28 February 2006

For more information in the first instance please contact:

Nadine Squire,
Public Relations Officer
on 01892 554032 or
Sarah Olney,
Acting Public Relations Manager
on 01892 554270
or e-mail: pressoffice@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

The proposed areas for designation are as follows:

Royal Tunbridge Wells			
Grosvenor Road	Mount Pleasant Road	High Street	London Road
Castle Road from junction Church Road to London Road	Church Road	Crescent Road	Calverly Road to junction Mount Pleasant and Lansdowne Road
Culverden Street	Rock Villa Road	Hanover Road	Mount Ephraim Road
Lime Hill Road	Dudley Road	York Road	Clarence Road
Upper Grosvenor Road - junction Grosvenor Road to Meadow Road	Goods Station Road - junction Grosvenor Road to Victoria Road	Victoria Road - junction Goods Station Road to Camden Road	Camden Road - junction Monson Road to Victoria Road/Garden Road
Monson Road	Monson Way	Civic Way	Grove Hill Road - High Street to Claremont Road
Little Mount Sion	Frog Lane	Mountfield Road	Mountfield Gardens
Sutherland Road	Meadow Hill Road	Guildford Road	A26 St John's Road
Calverly Precinct	Newton Road	Inner London Road	Grassed area between Inner London Road and London Road
Vale Road	The Pantiles	Sussex Mews	A267 Frant Road from London Road to junction Sussex Mews
Mount Pleasant Avenue	Carrs Corner	Calverly Grounds	The Grove
The area of common land bounded by Castle Road, Church Road and London Road	Meadow Road Car Park	Royal Victoria Place Car Park	Crescent Road Car Park
Great Hall Car Park	Torrington Car Park		
Southborough			
A26 London Road from junction Speldhurst Road to junction Pennington Road	Holden Park Road	Meadow Road	Springfield Road
Doric Avenue	Playing Field at rear of Royal Victoria Hall (known as Ridgewaye)		



