

Enfield Green Party are concerned about some of the proposals made in Enfield Councils consultation on the use of PSPOs in the borough.

The proposals against persons sleeping or living in public spaces without consent and aggressive begging will penalize the disadvantaged the most. We think Liberty excellently summarises our sentiments: 'If somebody is forced to beg or spend the night in a public toilet, that's not a lifestyle choice or anti-social behaviour – that's extreme poverty. Local authorities should focus on finding ways to help the most vulnerable – not criminalise them and slap them with fines they can't possibly pay'.

We acknowledge that the consultation recognises living without secure fixed accommodation is not often a choice for people and that the council does provide support services to those who need it. However we think the the statement 'some choose not to access this support' inadequate as justification for a PSPO. The reference to people sleeping under the North Circular Flyover is puzzling, are we to infer that they sleep there by choice?

Both the proposals for PSPOs against sleeping in public places and aggressive begging seem to suggest that the council thinks that charging people money will cause them to cease behaviour caused by a lack of money. We don't understand this logic.

Another suggestion that we oppose is the possible ban of some mobility scooters on pavements. Forcing users to travel on roads is dangerous for their health, both from potential traffic accidents and exhaust fumes. We believe this is discriminatory and could open disabled people up to more physical and verbal abuse.

In general, we do not think it is transparent why PSPOs are being used by the council to target anti-social behavior. There are already measures against several items of the consultation. For example, throwing fireworks and illegal parking are both illegal. Fixed penalty notices can be issued for offences relating to dog fouling, nuisance parking and graffiti. If these measures aren't effective, what is the evidence to think that PSPOs will be.