

Street drinking crackdown plans

Harlow Council set to introduce protection order

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STREET drinkers, rowdy ball games and rogue cyclists in Harlow town centre are being targeted in a new clampdown.

Harlow Council is set to introduce a public space protection order to target antisocial behaviour.

It will prohibit dangerous cycling, alcohol consumption outside of licensed premises and antisocial ball games.

Eugenie Harvey, councillor responsible for community wellbeing, said: "This is an important piece of work that we hope will have a significant and positive impact on the daily lives of local shoppers, visitors and businesses in the town centre.

"The order is targeted at the minority of people who cause trouble and misery to others either through riding bikes dangerously and at people, drinking alcohol or kicking balls at people or property."

The plans follow a cabinet meeting in July last year in which councillors agreed to con-



TARGETING PROBLEMS:
Eugenie Harvey

sult with the public. The consultation ends on February 28.

Issues that came up the most during a previous consultation were dangerous cycling, antisocial behaviour and litter and alcohol consumption/drug use, with nearly 74 per cent of respondents stating they felt the town centre was affected

by these problems on a daily basis.

The order means any of the prohibited actions can lead to a fine or prosecution and will be enforced by council officers and police.

If the order is introduced it will be put in place for three years, after which time its impact will be reviewed.

Mrs Harvey said: "We know the issues that this order covers are not all that affect the town centre.

"We work closely with the police to tackle the issues that affect our residents and business owners in Harlow, while the police and our own community safety officers carry out patrols. The police can, for example, put dispersal orders in place to deal with issues surrounding large groups of people gathering and there are other more regular daily problems that this order will cover.

"We've gone out and spoken to those who use and work in the town centre in order to target the problems that matter most to them and this order will respond to those concerns."

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Makeover has given a primary school's library the wow factor



TRANSFORMED: THE library now has pictures including the BFG and Harry Potter on the walls, courtesy of the makeover by a graffiti artist

A GRAFFITI artist has transformed a primary school's library. Roydon Primary Academy, in Roydon, prides itself on having a reading culture and doing all it can to encourage children to read for pleasure.

Year 6 reading leaders, who were chosen as ambassadors to encourage peers to read, decided the library needed to have a makeover to reflect its importance in the school.

A graffiti artist transformed the space, adding images of children's favourite book characters, such as the BFG, Gangster

Granny and Harry Potter, onto the walls. Headteacher Michael Clark said: "We have a strong reading culture and the library is a big part of that. It was, therefore, lovely that the idea of decorating the library came from our children.

"We have worked hard with our parents and PTA to build up an impressive collection of books and a library that is a comfortable place to be.

"These beautiful walls have certainly given it the wow factor that makes children want to talk about it.

"Our library is now a real focal point."

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