

22 September 2010



## DISPERSAL ORDER EXTENSION BARNSTAPLE

Police in Barnstaple have announced the extension of a dispersal order that has proved very effective in maintaining the town as an extremely safe place to live, work and socialise.

The current "section 30 order under the anti social behaviour act 2003", expires on 20<sup>th</sup> September but has been extended until 4<sup>th</sup> January 2011, following a consultation period between the district council, the town council, local Police and all contributing partner agencies.

The section 30 order forms part of a number of options provided to officers to deal with the small minority of individuals who have been identified as causing disorder within Barnstaple.

Sergeant Paul Jones neighbourhood team leader for Barnstaple town centre said, "This order has been used for a number of years within Barnstaple and is a major contributing factor in the 4% reduction in violent crime that we have so far recorded in the town this year".

"We have concentrated on tried and tested good old fashioned Policing with local officers on foot engaging with shoppers and revellers both day and night. This approach has so far seen a 72% detection rate in all violent crime for the whole of Barnstaple with those offenders being brought to justice"

The section 30 order gives Police the power to disperse anyone over the age of ten who is engaging or likely to engage in anti social behaviour, for a period of up to 24 hours from a specified area. If those persons refuse to leave or return to the area within that time they will be arrested. Devon and Cornwall Police have a positive charge policy in relation to breaches of this order which result in anyone arrested being put before the court.

Sergeant Jones said, "This order has been welcomed by both residents and business owners within Barnstaple for providing an immediate and robust deterrent to deal with any anti social individual whose behaviour at that point does not necessitate being arrested".

"We would like to extend a warm welcome to anyone living within or visiting Barnstaple to talk with their local officers when they are in town which helps us to maintain confidence in Policing at its traditional high levels"

A map of the dispersal area is attached for publication.

For further information please contact Sergeant Jones at Barnstaple Police station.

Section 30 Area for Barnstaple

