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Ref: W/25/01366/ASB
Date: 03/10/2025

Dear Sirs,

Statutory Consultation – Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) – Proposed Prohibition of Pony and Trap use within the “restricted area” (A40 dual Carriageway East/Westbound from Downs Road Bridge Witney to Asthall Roundabout Burford)

West Oxfordshire District Council received a request from Thames Valley Police to initiate a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) under Section 59 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014. This request is being made in response to reports of unauthorised pony and trap racing on the A40 within the “restricted area” delineated in pink within Schedule of Land below. The Act specifies that a local authority wishing to introduce a PSPO must consult with the OPCC and any other relevant stakeholders.

Since 2020, Thames Valley Police have received 19 reports of pony and trap racing along this section of the A40, primarily occurring on weekends. These races are typically unannounced, unregulated, and pose serious public safety risks. This activity causes major disruption to the road network and endangers both road users and the animals involved.

West Oxfordshire District Council is of the view that the introduction of a PSPO to the “Restricted Area” to prohibit this specific activity within the highlighted location of the A40 meets the test. The test outlined within the Act which is designed to be broad and focus on the impact anti-social behaviour is having on victims and communities. A PSPO can be made by the Council if they are satisfied on reasonable grounds that the activities carried out, or likely to be carried out, in a public space:

- have had, or are likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality;
- is, or is likely to be, persistent or continuing in nature;
- is, or is likely to be, unreasonable; and
- justifies the restrictions imposed.”

The Act specifies that a local authority wishing to introduce a PSPO must consult with the Police and Crime Commissioner and other interested parties. The Council has considered the rights and freedoms enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights, in particular Article 10 (freedom of expression) and Article 11 (freedom of assembly and association). Having done so, the Council is

satisfied that the restrictions to be implemented by this Order on those rights and freedoms are lawful, reasonable, and proportionate.

The duration of a Public Space Protection Order can last up to 3 years but does have the ability to be extended or varied before the original Order is due to expire.

Please see below a summary of pony and trap related police reports which have occurred between 2020 and 2025. These reports relate to 18 separate incidences of racing, selling of horses and gambling on horses prior and in between races

	Count of Case File Number
ASB - Community	2
ASB - Personal	1
Road Related Incident	16
Grand Total	19

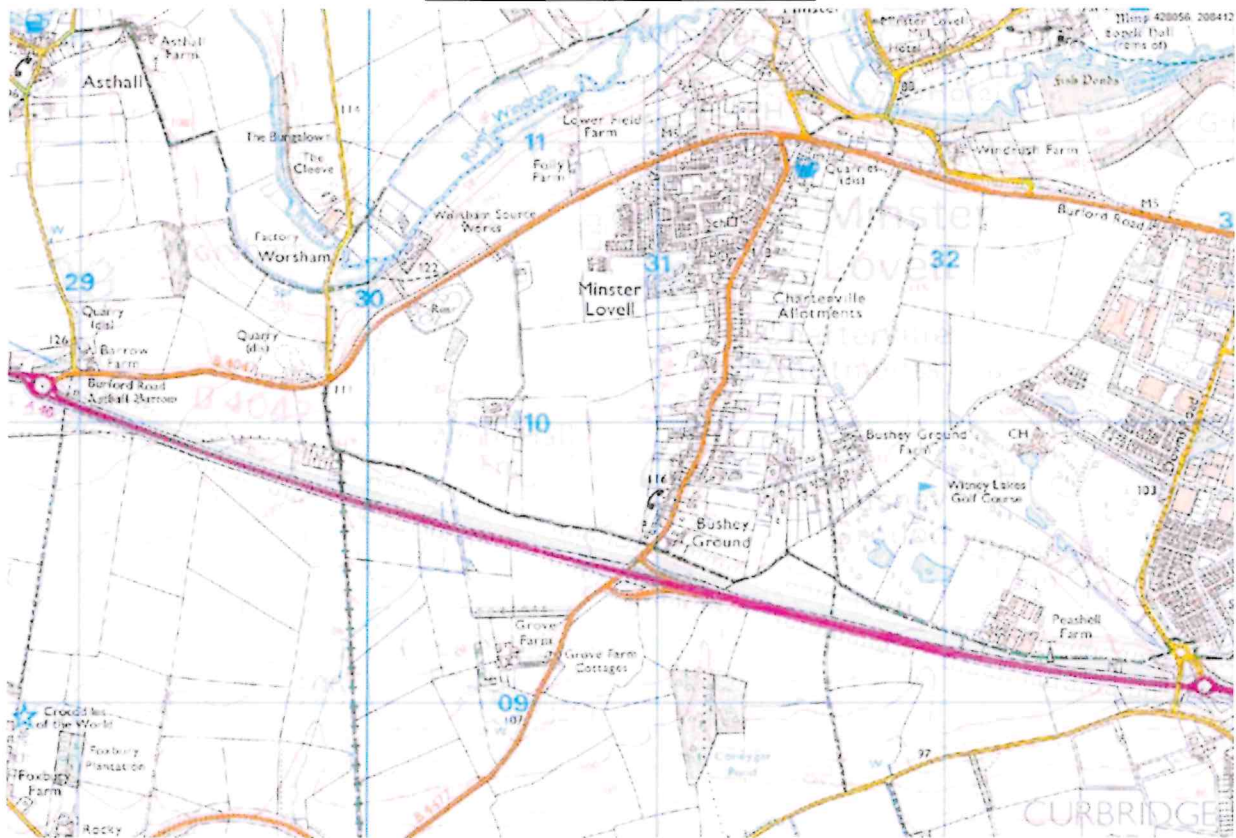
The consultation period for the proposed PSPO will run from 10th October 2025 until 21st November 2025. Should you require any further information regarding this consultation or to put your views forward, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Yours Faithfully,



Jennifer Bain
Environmental Protection Officer

PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF LAND



*Restricted area delineated in pink - A40 dual Carriageway East/Westbound at Downs Road Bridge Witney to Asthall Roundabout Burford