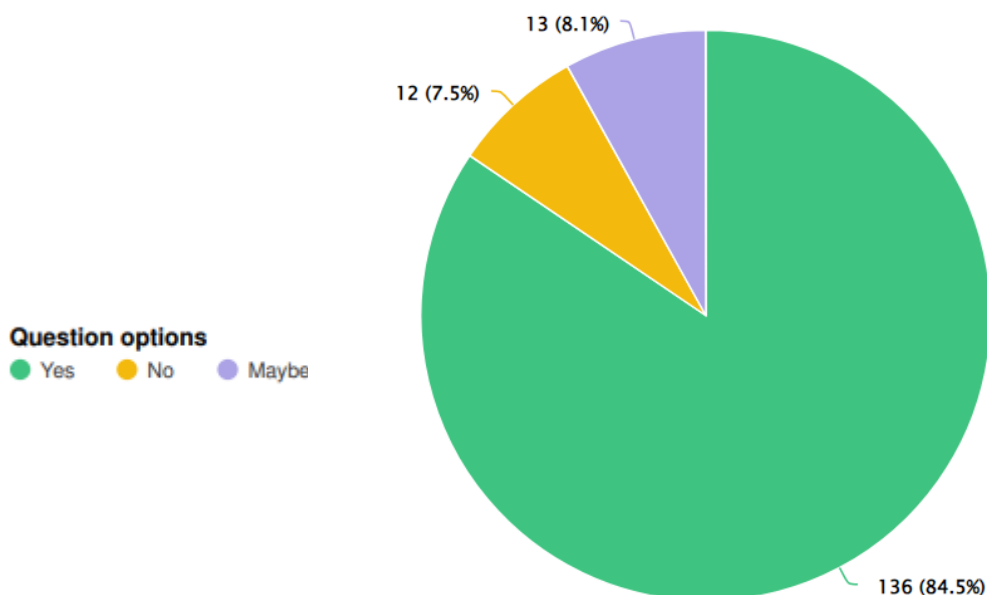


## Street Harassment PSPO - Consultation Results January 2024

### SUMMARY

1. The first round of public consultation took place for a period of 49 days, from 23 November 2023 to 11 January 2024, and received a total of 157 responses. The consultation was through the online 'Have Your Say' consultation platform and was advertised on the council's website, social media, through community groups, councillors, and ward panel meetings. An 'easy read' version of the consultation documents was also published. Two in-person pop up events were also held in the borough to target a wider audience.
2. Following feedback, the consultation was re-opened for another 31 days between 2 February and 4 March 2024. This was to mitigate the impact of holding the consultation over the holiday period previously, when residents might have been less engaged.
3. Overall, **84.5% (136)** of respondents were in support of introducing a Public Spaces Protection Order to tackle street harassment. Of this number, roughly 75% identified as female.
4. Of the 13 respondents who voted 'Unsure', 5 provided further comments which displayed hesitancy around the PSPO's enforcement. Meanwhile, 7.5% of respondents noted they were not in support of the PSPO.



### SECOND ROUND OF CONSULTATION

5. Advice from the chief of police and legal counsel resulted in the revision of the original Draft Order consulted upon. This was shared and signposted with residents as to ensure their continuous involvement. As such, a new survey was launched on Have your Say to ensure residents are aware and can share their opinion on the new Draft Order. This was advertised through social media platforms including X (Twitter) and Facebook, resident-facing newsletters and at in-person events held for International Women's Day.
6. The new Draft Order was shared online between 4 March and 18 March 2024. Of the 19 responses were recorded, 16 (84.2%) were in support of the revised wording, two noted 'Maybe' and one voted 'No' they were not in support.

## KEY THEMES

7. There were 53 additional comments submitted around the PSPO. A number of these responses expressed support for the PSPO, and more broadly work to ensure streets in our borough are kept clean & safe. One respondent commented:

*'I both live and work in the Borough and am happy to see there is a response in process for unwanted harassment, it would also be helpful to share areas of concern. For example, I find Shepherds Bush Green a unwelcoming area as a female.'*

8. The key themes from participants comments can be summarised below:

### 8.1. Enforcement & education

Where hesitancy was expressed by respondents, it was largely around the enforcement on the PSPO. While some did not trust uniformed officers to enforce the PSPO correctly, others highlighted that adequate training and preventative work will be required alongside this measure to ensure accuracy and success.

It is evident that comprehensive training for staff who would issue the PSPO will be required, in addition to a clear enforcement policy for staff and residents.

One respondent suggested:

*'Fines from the LET is a positive step. But emotionally and morally, I think we need to speak more of how this unwanted attention affects women and girls. Perhaps in addition to a fine, having the perpetrators attend an awareness course'.*

### 8.2. Uniformed officers

Participants felt that a greater uniformed presence from both the police and Law Enforcement Team were required at night.

### 8.3. Shepherds Bush / Uxbridge Road

Dissatisfaction and concern with the Shepherds Bush / Uxbridge Road area was repeatedly flagged by participants of the survey. Particularly in relation to where

people frequently urinate, defecate, and harass women. Multiple participants flagged feeling unsafe in the area, taking additional precautions when moving through the area if they can.

*'Areas around Shepherd's Bush can feel tense as a woman especially at night walking past large groups on the green and around the tube/ Westfield'.*

#### **8.4. Street Begging**

A couple of respondents expressed that the PSPO should look at urinating, defecating and street begging as under the jurisdiction of harassment. The council continue to closely monitor any changes the government consider to begging offences through Criminal Justice Bill. Meanwhile, our Law Enforcement Team have existing power to issue fines regarding in incidents or urination or defecation.

### **BROADER SAFETY IN H&F**

9. The second part of the survey asked participants questions on how safe they feel in Hammersmith & Fulham more broadly, and what changes can be made to improve their safety.

10. A variety of responses and suggestions have been collated and summarised below, providing useful insight for if the PSPO prohibiting street harassment is introduced.

- Several comments supported more police and LET patrols, particularly nighttime, 24-hr and plain clothed patrols.
- More education and preventative measures around harassment and unacceptable behaviour, especially for young boys and men in school
- More enforcement (fines, warnings etc.)
- More use of CCTV
- Better street lighting
- Promoting safe spaces in the borough

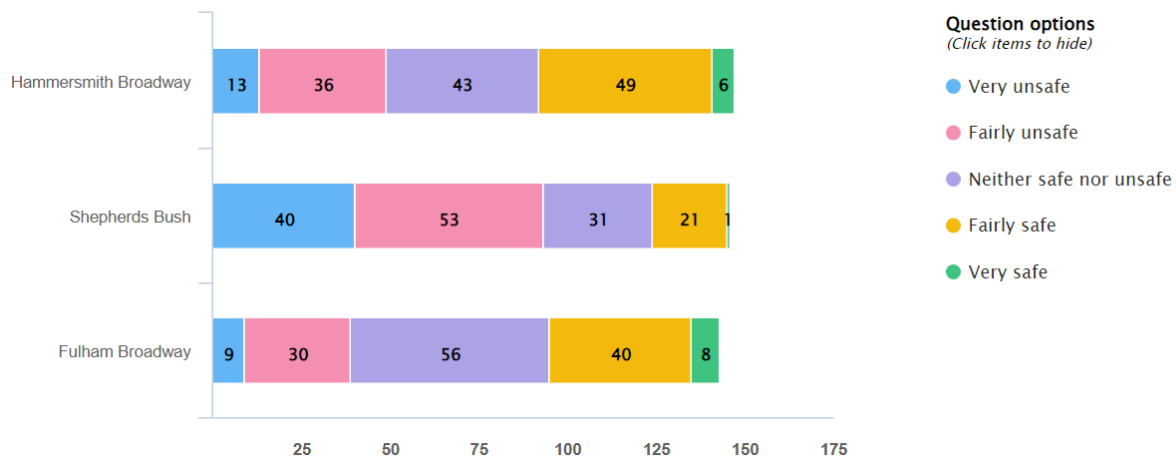
Overall, a key theme from these comments was for the police and partners to prioritising tackling violence against women and girls, through dedicating sufficient resource and taking effective action.

Aside from the PSPO, the council are committed to tackling crime and ASB in the area. In total, £4.5 million has been invested into our CCTV, meanwhile our Law Enforcement continue to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour, with 5,704 investigations, 5,621 weapon sweeps and 98,667 patrols conducted in 2023. The council will continue to explore ways in which to communicate and signpost residents such measures.

11. In reply to the question ‘What makes you feel unsafe in the borough?’ respondent picked from a variety of listed options. The top answers were:

- **Antisocial behaviour in the area** (54.1%)
- **Drunk or rowdy people** (40.5%)
- **Large groups of men** (31.8%)
- **No visible police or enforcement officers** (28.4%)

12. When asked ‘How safe do you feel in Hammersmith & Fulham’s town centres at night’, the following responses were received:



Evidently, many respondents (93) felt ‘very unsafe’ and ‘fairly unsafe’ around Shepherd's Bush at nighttime, and the majority feel safer in Hammersmith Fulham Broadway town centres.

13. Other key locations noted as unsafe or requiring further resource were:

- *‘Parson’s Green*
- *Conningham Road – on the busses*
- *Eel brook common*
- *King street at night*
- *Alley way by Ravenscourt Park Station*
- *Junction of Uxbridge and Loftus Roads*
- *Area under Hammersmith fly over*
- *Fulham Broadway*
- *Poor lighting along Fulham Palace Road*
- *Little Tesco, Clarence pub old fulham boys school*
- *Titmuss St. as this street is rather dark. And the small ally at the back between 66-84 Goldhawk Road.’*