



Civic Centre, Riverside, Stafford

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Dear Members

Cabinet

A meeting of the Cabinet will be held on **Thursday 8 August 2024** at **6.30pm** in the **Craddock Room, Civic Centre, Riverside, Stafford** to deal with the business as set out on the agenda.

Please note that this meeting will be recorded

Members are reminded that contact officers are shown at the top of each report and members are welcome to raise questions etc in advance of the meeting with the appropriate officer.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "I. Curran".

Head of Law and Governance

CABINET - 8 AUGUST 2024

Chair - Councillor A T A Godfrey

AGENDA

- 1 Minutes of 11 July 2024 as circulated and published on 12 July 2024
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Councillors' Question Time (if any)
- 4 Proposals of the Cabinet Members (as follows):-

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Membership

Chair - Councillor A T A Godfrey

A T A Godfrey	- Leader
R Kenney	- Deputy Leader (Town Centres Regeneration Portfolio)
R P Cooke	- Resources Portfolio
I D Fordham	- Environment Portfolio
J Hood	- Community Portfolio
G P K Pardesi	- Leisure Portfolio
A N Pearce	- Climate Action and Nature Recovery Portfolio
A F Reid	- Economic Development and Planning Portfolio

Agenda Item 4(a)

Proposed Public Spaces Protection Order A34

Committee:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	8 August 2024
Report of:	Interim Community Safety Lead
Portfolio:	Community Portfolio

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide an update in respect of the consultation that has been conducted in relation to the application for a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPOs) under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 for the A34 from the link by Junction 14 of the M6 up to the Stoke-on-Trent boundary, to prohibit car cruising and car meets.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the content of this report be noted, and approval given for implementation of the new PSPO for the A34 from the link by Junction 14 of the M6 up to the Stoke-on-Trent boundary to prohibit car cruising and car meets.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.2 Police are seeing an increase in car cruising and car meets on the A34, specifically between Trentham and Redhill. Over a 6-month period there have been over 40 complaints and requests for police attendance regarding this matter. Although Community Protections Warnings have been issued to people involved in these activities, a more robust way would be to prohibit the activity using a Public Spaces Protection Order. The behaviour also causes noise nuisance and road safety concerns in the locality. A new order if approved would be valid for 3 years.
- 2.3 The consultation that has been undertaken strongly supports the proposal and if approved, the order would be valid for 3 years.

3 Key Issues

- 3.1 If left unchallenged, this type of anti-social behaviour can have a significant negative impact upon the lives of our communities, including those who live, work, visit and invest in our borough.
- 3.2 Public safety of legitimate road users is paramount and therefore any activity that threatens this needs to be stopped.
- 3.3 Updated Statutory guidance issued in March 2023 on the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, further stresses the need for local authorities to utilise all their tools in tackling anti-social behaviour.
- 3.4 The use of PSPO's as a robust mechanism to tackle this issue has been specifically recommended by specialist Roads Policing Teams across the country.

4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities

- 4.1 This contributes to all the corporate business objectives and directly supports business objective 2: 'To improve the quality of life of local people by providing a safe, clean, attractive place to live and work encouraging people to be engaged in developing strong communities that promote health and wellbeing'.

5 Report Detail

- 5.1 PSPO's are intended to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a particular area that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life, by imposing conditions on the use of that area which apply to everyone. A PSPO can make requirements, prohibitions, or both within a specified area. They can also be used to restrict access to specific areas to address ASB, however if this was required, consideration would need to be made in terms of the impact of such a restriction and if there are any alternatives. There are currently no proposed areas where access should be restricted.
- 5.2 Other powers have been considered including a high court injunction like that operational in the West Midlands but ruled out due to prohibitive costs. A pan Staffordshire approach would be an ideal way of addressing this issue so there is consistency across borders, this is being explored.
- 5.3 Updated Statutory guidance issued in March 2023 on the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, further stresses the need for local authorities to utilise all their tools and powers and promote greater consistency in their use.
- 5.4 This new PSPO, if recommended for approval, would prohibit car cruising and car meets on the A34 for 3 years.

- 5.5 The maximum duration of a PSPO is three years but they can last for shorter periods of time where appropriate and at any point before expiry, the Local Authority can extend or vary a PSPO by up to three years if they consider that it is necessary to prevent the original behaviour from occurring or recurring or if there is a need to alter/remove an existing prohibition or requirement, or to introduce a new one. The validity of a PSPO may be challenged by way of application to the High Court within six weeks of the order being made. Only those who are directly affected by the restrictions (i.e., persons who live in the restricted area or work there) can challenge the PSPO. Failure to comply with a prohibition or requirement as stated within the order is a criminal offence. Enforcement officers within the Local Authority and Police can issue a fixed penalty notice of up to £100 for breaches of an order if appropriate. A fine of up to £1000 can be imposed upon conviction in the Magistrates' Court.
- 5.6 Only local authorities can apply for a Public Spaces Protection Order, but enforcement powers are much broader. The test is designed to be broad and focus on the impact the 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 and continuing in nature;
 - is, or is likely to be unreasonable;
 - justifies the restrictions imposed.

To meet the test requirements, evidence is necessary to justify the restrictions imposed. Meetings have already taken place with internal and external stakeholders to discuss the new proposed order.

As is required consultation has taken place. Guidance states that consultation should be around 2 weeks, however, in this case 3 weeks were allowed for all interested parties to respond to the consultation. Parish Councils, and interested parties such as highways, police were contacted directly regarding the consultation and a press release was issued.

A total of 186 responses were received.

All the responses have been compiled. The results from the questionnaire and a summary of responses can be found in **APPENDIX 1**.

The responses received strongly supported the proposals, with over 93% of responses supporting the proposed order.

The few negative responses received are also included in **APPENDIX 1** and are highlighted.

- 5.7 If the order is authorised a copy of the order must be published, and signs displayed in key areas to show members of the public that a PSPO is in place and what the restrictions are.

Following consideration of the consultation results which support the proposals, we seek approval to;

- Approve a PSPO to cover the A34, north of Stafford from the link at Junction 14 M6 to the boundary with Stoke on Trent at Trentham which prohibits car cruising and car meets.
 - The proposed restrictions contained within the PSPO are listed in **APPENDIX 2**. These mirror what Newcastle Borough Council are proposing for a PSPO to deal with the same issues.
- 5.8 It's proposed that all breaches of the PSPO continue to be dealt with by means of issuing a Fine via a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) at a level of £100 reduced to £75 if paid within 10 days.
- 5.9 FPN's can be served on a juvenile as well as an over 18. It is proposed that the driver of any vehicles breaching the PSPO who be issued with an FPN, so there may be some 17-year-olds that this applies to.

6 Implications

6.1 Financial

Staffordshire Police have committed to working in partnership and are required to assist in the enforcement of the PSPO if approved.

There will also be some additional costs for signage which is a requirement if the order is approved, these will also need to be contained within existing budgets.

6.2 Legal

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to grant a new PSPO.

In accordance with s.59 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 a PSPO may be made if the Local Authority is satisfied on reasonable grounds that two conditions are met.

(2) The first condition is that:

- (a) activities carried on in a public place within the authority's area have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, or
- (b) it is likely that activities will be carried on in a public place within that area and that they will have such an effect.

- (3) The second condition is that the effect, or likely effect, of the activities
- (a) is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature,
 - (b) is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable,
and
 - (c) justifies the restrictions imposed by the notice.

The restrictions imposed by an Order must be reasonable and either prevent or reduce the detrimental effect of the problem behaviour, or reduce the risk of that detrimental effect continuing, occurring or recurring.

Challenges can be made to the making of a PSPO on the grounds that the Local Authority did not have the power to make the Order, did not follow the correct process in making the Order, that the statutory test was not made out or a challenge to the restrictions within the Order. Any challenge must be made to the High Court within 6 weeks of the Order being made. The High Court may quash, uphold or vary the PSPO. The operation of the PSPO may be suspended pending the challenge.

Legal services will be consulted with for advice and other legal implications required in approval of the order.

6.2 Human Resources

None

6.3 Risk Management

The Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 is designed to put victims at the heart of an organisation's response to ASB and gives professionals the flexibility to deal with any given situation.

The council have and continue to implement the requirement of the Act and to adhere to its statutory duty.

6.4 Equalities and Diversity

The Borough Council considers the effect of its actions on all sections of our community and has addressed all the Equality Strands in the production of this report.

ASB can and does affect anyone irrespective of, age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

The ASB team will work closely with agencies to support individuals with vulnerabilities, using appropriate referral mechanisms and the Partnership Hub.

6.5 Health

The ASB team works closely with agencies to support individuals with vulnerabilities, using appropriate referral mechanisms and the Partnership Hub.

ASB can have a negative impact on health, in particular mental health; addressing ASB is likely to reduce these negative impacts.

6.7 Climate Change

None

7 Appendices

Appendix: Consultation results

8 Previous Consideration

None

9 Background Papers

None

Contact Officer: Helen Marshall

Telephone Number: 01785 619417

Ward Interest: All

Report Track:

Key Decision: No

Do you think that a New PSPO should be granted implementing restrictions on car cruising and car meets on the A34?	Comments
Yes Yes	Although I live close but far enough away from the A34 so I haven't been directly impacted, I support the order. I would question however; surely the static speed cameras, of which there are several along the A34, could/should be used to deter car racing. If these are as I suspect inoperative surely it would be a good idea to modernise them and bring them back into use.
Yes	The new PSPO is a really good idea. These cars cause a nuisance to the residents, other road users and the police. Residents should not have to put up with the loud exhausts and revving of vehicles (especially during the evenings). I have personally seen these vehicles speeding along the A34 and there have been near misses with other road users going about their usual day to day business. The police being deployed to deal with these people, is taking them away from other important incidents they should be dealing with. A PSPO would send a clear message out to people and hopefully prevent further issues with car cruising and car meets in the area.
Yes	I think if this order is used correctly it will make the roads safer. If , but we will never know it stops one accident and saves one life it is worth it. Unfortunately signs are not just enough so the Police must always use the powers they have to the maximum. Impound the cars and fine the drivers.
Yes	Dangerous
No	The A34 brings many car and bike enthusiasts to the area and implementing a PSPO would further drive people away from Stone. The George and Dragon pub which sits on the A34 also has regular car and bike meets and this would likely be detrimental to the business in an already struggling sector. The current rules and laws need enforcement, there is no need for further rules to not be enforced
Yes	
Yes	Racing of any sort should not be permitted on our roads. As someone who worked on the Think! Road safety campaign I believe roads should be safe for all users. It is also a social menace and should be stopped.
Yes	I struggle to understand why it's allowed to carry on and why measures have to be put in place to stop it! What is wrong with the existing laws!?! So you are allowed to drive at speed on the public highways until a Psp is granted? Really! So you can wipe people out with your speeding vehicle whilst onlookers cheer you on? You can do what the hell you want and cause a nuisance to local residents at all hours. Maybe pile into someone's house when your dangerous driving gets out of control? Use your vehicle like a loaded weapon? Car tax and insurance would be the least of your worries as you drive round like a potential murderer. And any authority that allows this to knowingly happen whilst they put measures in place have blood on their hands too! Absolutely ridiculous! They are speeding and driving dangerously! They are going to kill innocent people! How many times are we told speed kills! They should not have the privilege of a licence! I think it's made my views clear!
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
No	Existing road laws are there, just need to be enforced. No need to add additional which costs money
No	I believe the current laws are sufficient in stopping the current situation.
No	If anything bring in specific law nationally on the noise levels that vehicles can make during evening to early morning times
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	Such anti social behaviour regarding car meets etc. should be prohibited. However, much of the behaviour (speeding, dangerous driving) displayed on our roads is clearly already illegal and should be strictly enforced immediately.
Yes	
No	Speed limits and cameras already in force. Would be a waste of funding that is better spent elsewhere. I believe a few members of the community have exaggerated their experiences, only coming to light since a person of importance has been "affected". Where would the money from the fine go? Not to us mere mortals that's for sure...
Yes	Any order needs to be seen to be enforced, in order to be effective and deter anti-social behaviour. If enforcement is not visible, due to budget restrictions for example, the PSPO is worthless.
Yes	Unmarked police patrols and mobile speed cameras, along with road signage and publicity campaigns would be essential for success of the order.
Yes	The car cruising and races creates a safety risk for other road users.
Yes	
No	This would also potentially ban motorcycle and car meets/cruises with participants who are respectful to other road users and local residents. There is already legislation to deal with inappropriate use of vehicles, racing on the public highway, disturbance of the peace. The existing PSPO that applies in the Borough already overreaches restricting the freedoms of respectful people who abide by it and lacks exemptions, for example no allowances made for disabled people who rely on a bicycle to access Stafford Town Centre. The clumsy wording of the existing PSPO potentially criminalises anyone visiting a park without a good reason and leaves some dog walkers without a space within walking distance from their home in which they can meet obligations to exercise their dogs under the animal welfare act. Without seeing the wording of proposed PSPO I could not possibly support it.
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	I live close to the A34 and agree that the noise from cars racing up and down the A34 is highly disruptive, essentially in summer months when our windows are open to keep bedrooms cool. It is also dangerous for road users.
Yes	I think that a public space protection order should be introduced as there is a risk of an accident on the A34. This would be for 2 main reasons. The first one is for the safety of the riders themselves and also the people on the roads and paths involved as they are often travelling at very high speeds and risk their own lives and other peoples if an accident happens. The second reason is for the people living close to the A34 as the noise is unbearable.
Yes	It's essential. Please implement as quickly as possible and enforce it as rigorously as possible.
Yes	The car cruising has been ongoing for too long, it's environmentally impacting, noise impacting and is dangerous to the general public and motorists. It's only a matter of time before there is a fatality.
Yes	
Yes	The PSPO will be invaluable in that it will instrumental in saving lives, many times both myself and my daughters have been subject to intimidation from the drivers of the cars if we dare to be driving along the A34 at the same time that they wish to be racing.
Yes	The situation has been allowed to go on for far too long and I glad that at last some action will be taken to prevent it.
Yes	
Yes	Although I'm not directly affected by A34 racing and noise I am however a resident on B5026 Eccleshall Road and have become more aware of an increase in speeding and noise on the B5026 to and from A34 through Walton.
Yes	Long overdue. But of no value unless properly enforced. Let us see regular updates on drivers caught flouting the ban, including mug shots, and the amount of the fines, and points on their licences.
Yes	We can hear lots of speeding cars on the A34 most weeks at night .
Yes	I live on the Cherryfields Estate in Stone, close to the junction of the A34 and A51. It is an all-too-regular occurrence to hear and see cars and motorcycles accelerating from the roundabout at that junction at full throttle and redlining through the gears. The act itself is reckless and dangerous. The noise is very annoying.
Yes	Instead of coming down on the racing, why not engage with the racers? Look into providing suitable alternatives. What about the old seighford airfield. Maybe look into getting this opened up so they can race and trash their cars. It's dangerous and noisy near homes so look to work with them to move them onto suitable alternatives. So yes maybe force a ban on built up areas.
Yes	Noise can be intolerable even 1 street away from A34. I walk 2 nervous rescue dogs along the A34 footpaths and I've had situations where the noise, wheel spinning, revving etc has caused them dogs tremendous distress. I have witnessed extremely dangerous driving and extreme excess speed which I am amazed is not actively policed.
Yes	Better than nothing but think more speed cameras should be installed - and switched on!!! Very dangerous driving. A serious accident is inevitable.
Yes	Very noisy. It's regularly keeping me awake with both the noise and resulting anxiety waiting for an accident. Concern about walking along A34 when no safer route available for son and walking between home and friends. Think 50mph speed limit from Darlaston to Walton should be reduced to 40mph and cameras installed.
Yes	We have people driving past our house of an evening at incredibly dangerous speeds. We've had to have gates built to make sure our children and pets don't go anywhere near the road and this type of behaviour has made us consider moving away from the area altogether. We live at Great Bridgeford, just a mile from junction 14 of the M6 and it seems people use our road towards Eccleshall as if it is a racetrack: something has to change before somebody is killed.
Yes	The speed at which cars race from the BP roundabout to the Darlaston roundabout on the A34 is ridiculous. It is both motorcycles and cars and aside from the speed and its obvious obvious dangers the noise levels are disturbing throughout the day and night. I would also welcome an average speed camera along this stretch.
Yes	The noise and nuisance the vehicles in question has been unrelenting for months. They typically arrive after 10pm most nights and the noise is heard for miles around; and is made worse in the summer when you have windows open. This has been a persistent, repeated issue that has caused significant disruption to our right for a quiet and peaceful existence.

Yes Whilst I agree with the proposal, as far as it goes, I would like to see it expanded to cover the whole of Stafford Borough.

Failing that, at the very least, it should be expanded to include:
1) the A34 from Stafford town centre to Redhill Island;
2) Redhill Island to M6 junction 14; and
3) the A5013 between M6 junction 14 and Stafford town centre
as this was the racing 'circuit' regularly being used until the current roadworks prevented its use; no doubt the 'racers' will return to this circuit once the current roadworks end. Indeed the 24 hour McDonalds on the A5013 was a regular meeting point.

Yes
Yes Ensure the A518 at parkside and Marston grange is also considered. With the new dual carriageway being built this will become the new drag strip!
Yes I have been in the roads while this happens and it is incredibly unsafe - I also have to put up with the constant noise from these fools most weekends.

Don't Know There are various speed limits on the A34. Presumably, if drivers are racing they are speeding. So Police already have powers re speeding, and, I guess, dangerous driving? What difference would this order make? If decided on it will take time to set up. There are powers/legislation to act now - Surely, these racers could be apprehended/stopped before any order was in place?
Or, am I missing something?
Would rather money was spent on at least one safe pedestrian crossing of the A34 in the Tittensor area, preferably one in the main village (the obvious place), and one near Tittensor Road, close to the end of the 40mph speed limit. Thank you

Yes
Yes The car racing noise is very noticeable 400m up Longton Road away from the A34.
Yes Absolutely brilliant idea, but I would be checking them all for illegal substances, and confiscating their cars as well. I'm not sure that a £100 fine is sufficient enough to deter them.
Yes
Yes Coming home from Stafford one evening the 'boy racers' were raving between monkey Park and Trentham roundabout at silly speeds. Onlookers in the central reservation, very dangerous.
Yes
Yes Luckily I was with my husband, had I been by myself I would have been very intimidated.
Yes
Yes Is there no where for them to let off steam without using public roads?
Yes
Yes We did report it to 101 and were advised they were aware.

Yes
Yes
Yes Although I haven't witnessed this at first hand, as a resident of Longton Road, I often have to contend with racing vehicles (cars and motorbikes) making a loud noise particularly in the early evening.
Yes Not only that the police should mount operations to stop and check legality of vehicles and drivers.. Zero tolerance should apply in relation to construction and use regulations in all aspects.
Yes
Yes Check points should be set up and immediate courts set up in Stafford or Stoke. No tickets or reports for summons later. Offenders should be taken straight to the court.

Yes
Yes As soon as possible before someone is killed!
Yes Also a terrible noise nuisance!

Yes
Yes If they are allowed to continue someone is likely to be killed or seriously injured. I am scared to use that road when the meets take place.
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes Far too dangerous - someone is going to be killed!!!
Yes Trentham roundabout will have a fatality soon on that crossing!!
Yes Very noisy too and time they were stopped.
Yes Even though the racers have orders on the A34 they still race most nights, they not bothered
Yes I live approximately a mile away from the a34 yet can hear the cars racing in the night disrupting my peace and quiet and on occasions my sleep . I and my family should be able to enjoy our surroundings and not subject to inconsiderate driving and noise. This is a police issue and should not be left to councils or councillors who have no influence on the area in which I live. The police are required to enforce the law regardless of boundaries on a map. Failure to act only reinforces the current media hype that the police don't care. Deal with it
Yes This will be a very welcome public order. The street racing and car meet activities are extremely dangerous and exceptionally anti-social. This type of behaviour needs to be stopped as quickly as possible. There are no circumstances where this type of behaviour is acceptable.
Yes Absolutely the right decision.
Yes Concerned about drivers racing up and down a34
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes

No It started with the racing more at weekends but now it's nearly every night, I have 3 young children and they keep waking them up which is affecting them getting up in the morning for school especially when the are back firing the cars! When it's warm I have to close the windows because they are that loud! I know I sound like a nagging person and if it was just me and my partner I wouldn't be so frustrated but because it's affecting my children it is very very frustrating

No I think the implementation of a PSPO is an overreaction. We should not be subject to the tyranny of the minority.

Yes It's sick of hearing the engine revving late at night especially when I have to be up at 5am for work the next morning. It's also incredibly intimidating to drive down the A34 when this is happening and obviously dangerous. They also leave a large amount of litter behind after they've had one of these 'meets'.
Yes Yes, it needs to be stopped.
Yes It's a danger to other road users who get caught up in it.
Yes There is also a lot of noise pollution, late at night as a result.

Yes The speeds at which the participants travel along our road is dangerous.
Yes The road is a 40mph speed limit, I estimate sometimes , at certain times , speeds are in excess of 65mph.
Yes I can recognise the types of cars together in groups, which are participants of the meets.
Yes We also have two inactive speed cameras by our home, which should be either enabled or updated to aid speed limit adherence

Yes
Yes It needs to extend to the main entrance of Trentham Gardens, not the Monkey Forest roundabout. Otherwise the stretch between those two is very likely to be used for racing.
Yes Definitely needs to be done, for the safety of all concerned.
Yes The noise late at night on a regular basis is disrupting to our young family and causes anxiety to my daughter.
Yes
Yes We regularly have cars racing on our lane to and from the A34
Yes The racing is disturbing, it frightens my dogs when we go for a walk. It is also dangerous, to the general public and those taking part
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes Any public road should never be considered an area for any type of car cruises or meets and should be considered a very serious offence if these events are organised. With the drivers who take part, clubs/website who organise. Sadly it will only be a matter of time before someone is killed.
Yes Something needs to be done before someone is severely injured or killed
Yes I live a mile away from the bottom of the 'circuit' and the noise coming from the engines. It is literally like a formula 1 race track. I would hate to see the speed the cars are reaching with the noise the produce. The sheer danger of any other vehicle unlucky enough to get caught up in the racing unawares and god forbid a pedestrian out running or walking. It is terrifying. There are also implications to wildlife in the area and the sustainability of an already very busy road which has a high usage at the best of time.
Yes I live on park drive and some evenings the sound from the exhausts racing up and down is so incredibly loud. It must be very dangerous as they are repeatedly going up and down at quite a speed.
Yes
Yes
Yes

No This will only apply to a relatively unpopulated part of the A34 and leave the properly unaddressed in the more heavily populated Stoke-on-Trent section, thus creating a worse situation overall.
Yes
Yes There is also a failure to enforce existing laws that are being broken.

No I ride my motorcycle up the roads in question quite often and have never seen any 'street racing' going on. And 'cruising', is when guys drive around in groups in their cars showing them off. There's no harm in that.
Yes
Yes However, if certain individuals are driving dangerously or speeding then police should apprehend and deal with them, individually, in the correct manner according to the law.
Yes
Yes A blanket ban or PSPO on cruising is a cop out, because it's easier than the police actually going out and doing their job: catching dangerous or speeding drivers.

Yes Unless there are consequences for those involved they will continue to use this stretch of road as a race track causing a nuisance and potentially harm to themselves or others
Yes A danger to other road users and ASB to homes within the area
Yes This issue has been ongoing for a while and there needs to be more power in place to stop this. It is dangerous for other vehicles, pedestrians and surrounding wildlife. I know of individuals who have been driving on the a34 when this behaviour has been occurring and it terrified them.
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes This issue does not need a public consultation, driving above the speed limit is illegal, racing on public roads is illegal get a grip catch them prosecute them take there driving licence away.
Yes The street racing needs to be stopped and heavy fines and bans imposed. It has been going on for far too long.

Yes Very disturbing at night and dangerous for road users at the same time. This needs to stop!

No We don't have any issue with cars, we can't hear anything and regularly travel at night and have never had an issue with racing or anti-social behaviour. We have more issues with drunk and disorderly people leaving local establishments.

Yes This is obviously a very dangerous and antisocial activity on this busy stretch of road so race meets & personal races on it should be covered by a PSPO

Yes

Yes These vehicles that are causing issues clearly do not meet MOT STANDARDS for noise and should be seized at the roadside. I can hear them from over 1 mile away. They have modified exhaust systems which are probably have switchable Reid valves and/ or overrun to create false exhaust noise, producing flaming, banging and popping.

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes I feel if action is not taken to stop this occurring there will be a serious accident resulting in multiple fatalities.

Yes Given the problems reported, and in the interests of public safety and the wellbeing of people who live near this stretch of road, I think this is a reasonable action to take.

Yes I completely agree with this proposal. If it means that the roads become safer for the general public, both road users and residents alike, then yes.

Yes Cars speeding and racing in this area is a significant problem.

Yes Travelling along the A34 on an evening the road racers are gathering is extremely dangerous and very frightening. My husband travels that route and trying to pass in to the outside lane approaching the Trentham Estate roundabout to turn into Longton Road was impossible due to the speeds of cars coming from Strongford direction. It is making this journey both dangerous and extremely frightening as to what could happen.

Yes

Yes It is a very dangerous practice. Not all drivers of these cars are safe drivers creates a noise and public safety issue. People who have to legally drive on the A34 at these times are being put in danger

Yes

Yes The noise at weekends is sometimes unbearable - I worry for anyone driving down the A34 & for the pedestrians!

Yes Even from where I live I can hear them racing along the A34 at Trentham. God knows how they on the A34 get to sleep.

Yes Living on XXX I have never heard the cars but seen people complaining. Recently I have been hearing loud car noises. It sounds like I live next to an F1 track. I have to get up early in the mornings and have a 3 year old son that has even commented on hearing them. All hours of the day. It used to be so peaceful and now it's shocking. It's in the day when I'm off work sat in the garden. At night when I go to bed I have to close my windows in hot weather because the noise from the cars is so loud. I really hope this gets sorted and I am so glad to see this as it's making my life extra difficult especially as it's waking my son up. Thanks for your time.

Yes The racing is so dangerous and definitely needs action

Yes The police need to be empowered to prevent illegal and dangerous behaviour on our roads.

Yes Our house backs on to Stone Business Park and I have had to call the police on numerous occasions due to anti social issues (boy racers using it as a racetrack) We can also hear them tearing along the A34.

Yes I can hear the racing from where I live which is in Hanford village next to Trentham just off A34.

Yes It is the most horrendous noise and no matter what the police do it just continues. If I can hear it where I am I can't imagine what the inhabitants of the homes along the A44 and Tittensor are having to contend with, how they sleep I really don't know!

Yes This has to be stopped it really is a nuisance and makes evening/ night time quite unbearable.

Yes

Yes The meets and racing need to stop, it is only a matter of time before a serious injury or worse. If this route gives more facilities for this to happen then please do it asap.

Yes

Yes Over the last 12 months our evenings have been severely disrupted by the screaming noises of cars racing on the A34 between Trentham Gardens roundabout and the Monkey Forest roundabout at Tittensor. Sometimes it has drowned out the sound of our T.V., sometimes it has spoilt an evening entertaining friends, occasionally frightened our grandchildren and it has even woken us up. Numerous times I have tried to report it in real-time using 101 but no one was available to pick up the phone. I tried to use the on-line chat service, but no one was available to answer. To register my complaint I reluctantly resorted to phoning 999 to try to get it stopped. Any PSPO that may help stamp out this anti social behaviour will be welcomed.

Yes I definitely support any action that puts a stop to car cruising / racing along the A34 (especially in the section between Trentham Gardens roundabout and the Monkey Forest roundabout. The noise from these vehicles at night is deafening and impacts on our lives, by disturbing our sleep, waking up our grandchildren, disrupting our quiet evenings whereby we have trouble listening to the tv. This anti social behaviour, racing and dangerous driving is a danger and hazard to all other Road users and has to be stopped before a serious accident is caused. Each time this occurs we waste so much of our time trying to contact the police to report the incident. Line 101 is rarely answered, police online chat site is never manned at night so we have had to resort in calling 999. This PSPO has to be implemented as soon as possible.

No This will have the effect of pushing the meets to another area. We only have to equate this situation to Festival Park. The police have adequate powers under the Road Traffic Act, Construction and use Regs and Public Order Act to deter this type of driving and to ensure that the vehicles are road worthy. Once the drivers start picking up penalty points, they will soon think twice about pursuing their passion. It just takes a bit of determination on the part of properly trained and qualified traffic officers. I see these vehicles being driven about with numerous construction and use offences such as illegal exhaust systems, modified lights, blacked out windows, defective suspension to name but a few. Many of the modifications will not have been disclosed to the owners insurance companies so false declarations to obtain insurance will have been made. So whilst I understand there is an issue with car meetings you really are using the wrong hammer to crack this nut.

Yes

Yes We live facing the A34 in Stone and the racing is very annoying and unsafe. There are a lot of residential properties on the stretch of the A34. It can be dangerous trying to pull out of Blundell drive to be confronted by racing vehicles approaching at excessive speeds. They can be heard at times driving in a loop on the industrial estate and back again late at night.

Yes

Yes Although I don't live directly on the route, I can hear the revving, wheel screeching and racing from my home. It is a regular occurrence and I fear for regular traffic travelling on the A34 coming across the racing cars. I think it's only a matter of time before someone is seriously injured on this road stretch.

Yes The noise of the racing has kept me and my children awake at night. The unsafe driving makes me wary of using the road when the racing is going on. It is only a matter of time before there is a serious accident involving these cars.

Yes

Yes I think that this behaviour should be stopped because it is dangerous to participants and other road users. It should be totally illegal because roads should not be used as racing tracks. If that is your hobby the you need to take it up professionally.

Yes I witnessed extremely dangerous driving earlier this year. High speed cars treating roads like race tracks. Never seen anything like it. Incredibly dangerous and without a care for other road users/pedestrians. This needs to stop.

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes It shouldn't take a PSPO to sort this out. Speeding is an offence, loud exhausts are an offence. Antisocial behaviour has to be dealt with. If this order provides easier powers to prosecute then good. I doubt the fines will make a difference to racers that spend a lot on their cars, but impounding cars will soon sort the problem. Without doubt this has to be about the amenity for local residents and safety, anything else is simply wrong. Find a legitimate racetrack, that is what they are for.

Yes Restricting car cruising is not enough it has to be totally banned before a serious accident occurs to either a road user or member of the public. We hear the horrendous noise from these vehicles on a regular basis at night on the section between Trentham Gardens and the Monkey Forest roundabouts. It disturbs our peace, makes it impossible to listen to the tv, impossible to have a conversation and depending on the time keeps us awake, and wakes the children. This is anti social, dangerous and has to be stopped. During the racing period our time is now taken up by either calling 101 (although we rarely get through), attempting to contact police via online chat which is not normally manned at night so our only solution has been to call 999. A PSPO has to be implemented asap or a complete ban put in place.

Yes

Yes My house is adjacent to the Southbound A34 and for over the last six years I have observed an increase in car and motorbike speeders. The noise produced is intrusive and very loud and is not limited to any particular time but through out the day. They race each other and I'm surprised there hasn't been any major accidents. I would welcome any action to reduce the antics of these anti social speeders. As an aside on Sunday 26th motor bikes were racing one another at 2 AM! Speed cameras would be most welcome!

Yes

Yes Restrictions on car cruising and racing seems very sensible.

Yes

Yes As well as racing along the A34 the drivers also seem to be using the playing field car park on Tilling Drive as a rest stop. Most nights there are several vehicles (2-5) stopped here between around 9-10pm. They leave litter, speed along Tilling Drive, play loud music and beep their horns (bearing in mind that they are metres from family homes, many of which have small children or elderly people living in them). I've also witnessed them using the bushes at the back of the nursery as a toilet.

Yes I use this stretch of the A34 on a regular basis. I agree with proposals that will help to enforce the speed limit and make the road as safe as it can be for all road users.

Yes I personally have experience of the danger of this activity. Last year having dropped my granddaughter at her friends house in Trentham I was making my way home along the A34 around 9.30pm the cars were literally climbing all over me. I was forced into the fast lane because they were queuing to get into the lay-by blocking the inside lane. They then were racing down undertaking me on the inside making it impossible for me to pull into the inside lane again. I can honestly say I have never been as frightened in any driving situation before or since and I drive abroad regularly so am not an occasional driver. If not one of the racers, but some unsuspecting driver just returning home from a day out with the family will get seriously hurt if not worse. This has to be stopped. The noise on these nights is also ridiculous carrying on for hours.

Yes As someone who lives directly looking onto the A34 the speeding cars usually have an additional loud exhaust which makes our lives a misery and often wakes our 3 year old Granddaughter as they excessively accelerate past the speed camera at Tittensor.

Yes

Yes

Yes The public highway should not be used for this type of event. It is a danger to the public and to participants and spectators and a nuisance to residents. It could also lead to other antisocial behaviour during and after the event.

Yes we understand how much of an issue this can be and the impact that this type of behaviour has on residents and communities.

Yes

Yes

Yes If a few people impose through their behaviour stressful and noisy conditions on residents and businesses then there must be a way to correct this behaviour. In Stoke on Trent we also suffer from off road motorbikers droning around an area for hours upsetting local residents peace and quiet enjoyment of their home life

Yes I hear the cars racing along the A34 between both North and South Trentham Gardens entries from my address and it's scary. The people involved are putting innocent people at risk if something goes wrong. Deer regularly cross that road. I think Â£100 fine us far too lenient, it should be far higher and points should also be issued. Long term bans should be given for multiple offences. These people should also be shown videos of high speed collisions and how this affects people and the people left behind for ever.

Yes The outcome of implementing these restrictions is that it will not solve the problem, it will just move it somewhere else.

Yes Perhaps some consideration can be given to finding an area that the car could meet where the disruption to surrounding residents would be minimal.

Yes There needs to be. Something. Done. As only last week there was. A fatal. Accident with 2 people seriously hurt by a couple of cats. On our estate. This is ridiculous as they use Falkland road as. A race track showing off

Yes I lived on Newstead and the cars could be heard there. This in a dangerous situation how long before an accident happens.

No **There are enough laws to police the problem already, just not enough police to do the policing.**

Yes Not just A34, Wolstanton Retail Park, Reginald Mitchell Way and Rowhurst Ind est.
We are kept awake until 3-4 am with exhausts and engines popping, we can hear the music from half a mile away. They drive dangerously and have no respect or consideration for any other road user.

Yes Normal every day driving behaviour is bad enough.
We should not allow our roads to become race circuits.

Yes Regularly disturbed by noise of boy racers into early hours of the morning

Yes Provided the order is for a limited time and is subject to review, with independent oversight and re-consultation should the order need to be extended beyond a defined period, then Iâ€™m in favour.

Yes

Yes I fully support this action. I live on Queens Park Avenue in the apartments there and we experience sadly boy racers tearing up and down the road regularly. I have seen these type of cars on the A34 and elsewhere and the stronger enforcement action may just curtail them to some extent. I am however surprised that current legislation won't cover their actions but as it clearly doesn't please enforce this new process.

Yes Most definatly need this order ,i live fronting A34 and continually have boy racers going back and forth along a34 , racing and also on stone business park doing laps of road and doughnuts , the noise can be loud especially late at night , seen few near misses by the traffic lights too

Yes This is a wider issue, the A50 in Longton is also an issue with car enthusiasts gathering on Tesco Bath Street.

Yes Apart from the danger to road users and pedestrians it is totally disruptive and anti social behaviour. Any form of street racing should be banned.

Yes Racing on this stretch of the A34 has increased massively over the past few years especially during the hours off 22:00 until 02:00 . The exhausts and banging and popping cause households to have disturbed sleep and pets are distressed as if fireworks are going off. The gathering of large volumes of cars around the car dealerships/businesses in the Redhill area also affect overnight HGV drivers whom are trying to sleep so they can safely operate there vehicles on public highways the next day.

Yes

Yes

Yes I think a new PSPO should be granted in the area suggested to help keep pedestrians and other road users safe.
Myself and young family live along the Eccleshall road (just off jn14 of M6) and over the last 2 years we have witnessed an increase in faster, wreckless driving by some cars and are clearly fitted with excessively loud exhaust silencers.
Much of this happens during hours of f darkness which is a disturbance of peace to local communities.
Dangerous driving is also witnessed in the daytime which is obviously a concern for my children crossing roads etc.
Please give the Police resources and power to help tackle this problem.

Yes Personally I think they need to be tougher on these meets.

I know what it us like having neighbours who go up and down the avenue at 40-50miles an hour on motor bikes, electric bikes, in 4 x 4 s ! It's a nightmare, only a matter if time before someone / thing is injured/ killed!!!
I believe these acts start the thrill to go to such meets!

The suggested restrictions are as follows;

1. To participate in 'Car Cruising' anywhere in the proposed location within Stafford borough council area.

Participating in 'Car Cruising' means being the registered keeper or driver of, or being carried in or on a motor vehicle, when two or more vehicles (including motorbikes) being on a highway, or a publicly accessible place, at which any such vehicle, or occupant of a vehicle, performs any of the activities listed in the Schedule below.

SCHEDULE: The prohibited activities referred to in Clause 1 are:

- (a) Causing a danger to other road users including pedestrians or causing a significant risk of damage to property by either speeding or racing.
 - (b) Driving in convoy while car cruising
 - (c) Performing stunts while car cruising
 - (d) Repeatedly sounding horns (as to cause a significant public nuisance)
 - (e) Playing music excessively loud (as to cause a significant public nuisance)
 - (f) Using foul or abusive language
 - (g) Using threatening, intimidating behaviour towards another person, or
 - (h) Causing an obstruction on a public highway, or a publicly accessible place, whether moving or stationary.
2. To promote, organise or publicise, via email, the internet, Facebook, Twitter or similar social media, or any publication or broadcast any 'car cruising' within the defined geographical area.
 3. Attending any meeting of two or more vehicles in a public space either as a vehicle owner, driver, passenger or spectator and engaging in any activity that a reasonable person would consider to be 'car cruising'

Agenda Item 4(b)

Civic Car Replacement

Committee:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	8 August 2024
Report of:	Head of Law and Governance
Portfolio:	Resources

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider replacement of the Civic Car.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet gives permission to spend up to £40,000 to replace the civic car, with a used electric or plug-in hybrid powered model being preferred.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.2 The purchase of a newer second-hand replacement civic car would produce longer term savings, and increased operational reliability, due to the age of the current car and the risk of increasing repair and maintenance costs.

3 Key Issues

- 3.1 The current civic car was purchased second-hand around 2013 and is used to transport the Mayor/Deputy Mayor to civic events.
- 3.2 Ten years is considered a reasonable lifespan to retain a car in service. As the car continues to age, the Council can expect a risk of increasing repair and maintenance costs.
- 3.3 There is also an opportunity to consider lowering emissions through the purchase of an electric or plug-in hybrid powered vehicle.

4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities

- 4.1 CBO 3 and 4: Using resources in the most efficient way to reduce costs and reducing emissions.

5 Report Detail

- 5.1 The Civic Car is owned by the council and is used to transport the Mayor, or Deputy Mayor, to civic functions throughout the year. The current vehicle was purchased around 2013. Ten years is considered a reasonable lifespan to retain a car in service before repair and maintenance costs become a concern.
- 5.2 The Mayor is officially the first citizen of the Borough and is the public representative of the Council and the Borough. The office has an important role in fostering good relations between the Council and its residents, and businesses, and for enhancing the reputation of the Borough. As such, there are a variety of engagements that the Mayor is invited to, and expected to attend, throughout the year.
- 5.3 As an alternative to owning their own vehicle, some authorities use hire cars, or taxis, for transport of Civic Heads. Based upon the average number of engagements over the last few years, it is estimated that hire costs would amount to between £12,000 to £15,000 per year. The cost of this over 3 to 4 years would therefore fund the purchase of a replacement car up to £40,000. The outright purchase of a car would therefore be more commercially prudent as long as the lifespan of the car was 5 years or more.
- 5.4 Since the purchase of the last civic car, Car technology has progressed and the Council has also adopted a corporate objective to reduce its emissions. In purchasing a new car, there is potential for the Council to acquire an electric or plug-in hybrid powered vehicle to assist in this objective.

6 Implications

6.1 Financial

Based upon the average number of Mayoral engagements each year (between 150 to 190), hire costs can be estimated at between £12,000 to £15,000 per year.

There is currently a budget of £2,470 to cover running costs such as servicing, repairs, tax, MOT and fuel. There would be no savings on fuel if a hire car was used instead of car purchase. The current car needs imminent repair works estimated as amounting to around £2,000. Any proceeds from a sale of the current car would be used to offset the cost of the replacement car (estimated sale value in Parkers is currently £2,000 - £3,000).

The accounting rules introduced around leases would require a full assessment of any lease arrangement entered into. This would likely mean the asset would need to be brought on balance sheet, negating the benefits that would be possible through an operational lease and instead require it to be accounted for as a finance lease. There would therefore be financial

implications for the Council's Treasury Management Strategy, its Capital Programme and its financial statements. Vehicle lease arrangements would inevitably involve the payment of interest rates that would not apply in an outright purchase, creating an "interest" cost. It is therefore considered that outright purchase of a vehicle would offer the best commercial option in this instance as the opportunity cost of using council funds (the return on potential investments) would be lower than a finance interest cost built into a lease.

6.2 Legal

Nil

6.3 Human Resources

Nil

6.4 Risk Management

The current car could be repaired and kept in service. However, attempts to continue the service of the current car could risk unforeseen repair costs arising, or even risk breakdowns in reliability when transporting the Mayor to engagements. Those risks would increase significantly as the car gets older.

6.5 Equalities and Diversity

Nil

6.6 Health

Nil

6.7 Climate Change

A hybrid powered car would assist in reducing emissions from this service.

7 Appendices

Appendix 1: None

8 Previous Consideration

None

9 Background Papers

None

Contact Officer: Mr I Curran
Telephone Number: 01785 619220
Ward Interest: None
Report Track: Cabinet 8 August 2024 (Only)
Key Decision: No