

Pool Passage Area Community Safety Survey

Summary of responses

This survey was open from May 24th – June 1st 2022 and was released following the council decision to investigate reports of criminal and antisocial behaviour taking place in and around Pool Passage and to consider the value of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) highway restriction/gating scheme as a helpful response.

Fourteen residential/business addresses were identified as being within or accessing onto Pool Passage, and a paper copy of the survey was delivered to each of them, with email copies provided on request. Of the fourteen potential addresses, eleven completed forms were received, and these are summarised below.

1. Do you feel safe in and around Pool Passage?

YES 1 NO 10

If 'NO' what are your main concerns?

Respondents provided lengthy and detailed responses and the issues below were frequently identified. The most common concerns are around threatening behaviour, physical attack, intimidation, and general disorderly conduct connected to widespread drug and alcohol misuse taking place in the Passage.

Issue	Number of mentions	Issue	Number of mentions
Drug use	8	Physical attack	3
Drug dealing	8	graffiti	3
urinating	8	Prostitution	3
Intimidation	8	People entering properties	3
defecating	7	breaking bottles	2
Threats of violence to residents	7	unconscious inebriated people	2
needles & drug litter	5	Sex acts	2
Robbery	5	Shouting	2
Disorderly groups	5	Dumping of stolen property	1
vandalism	5	Indecent exposure	1
Dangerous for girls and women	4	violence	1
Damage to property	4	Poor lighting	1
vomiting	4	Rough sleeping	1
alcohol use	4		

2. It has been suggested that access into Pool Passage should be restricted by placing a lockable gate at the Pool Valley entrance to Pool Passage. (See the red circle on the map above). Do you think that this might be helpful?

YES 10 NO 1

The majority of respondents felt that a gate would be helpful for the reasons given below. The one objection related to the first comment and only concerned a gate at the Old Steine end and was not an objection to a gate at the Pool Valley end. One resident commented that a gate at both ends would be helpful, however, because of a specific exclusion in the legislation, this would not be possible at this location.

Comment	Number of mentions
We would object to a gate at the Old Steine end as this is our fire exit route. A gate at Pool Valley would be acceptable	1
Yes - it would be helpful and safer for the community	4
It might help by deterring people from that side of the passage but there should be a gate on both ends to effectively deter offenders	1
Helpful for security and to deter ASB	6
Would reduce illegal and antisocial behaviour from people leaving bars, clubs and beach at Pool Valley end	3
No entry signs at the Old Steine end would be needed	1
A gate would solve most of our problems and I would feel more safe	3

3. Are there any other spaces in and around the Pool Passage/Pool Valley which you feel are problematic?

YES 9 NO 1

The other clear area of concern is around the north end of the Passage as it joins Old Steine, followed by Pool Valley itself.

Comment	Number of mentions
The area around the Film School at the Old Steine end also attracts drug use, ASB, street fouling and disorderly groups	6
The passage is badly lit at the film school end	3
In Pool Valley when the clubs close there is a lot of fighting and shouting	2
The middle of Pool Passage outside the Terre a Terre doorway sees drug use, street fouling and disorder.	
crowds of drinkers outside the East Street Tap and the East Street Bar	
The whole of Pool Valley area is full of people being loud and drinking	

4. Do you have any ideas or suggestions for any environmental improvements to improve the look of the area or make it more pleasant or safer to use?

Comment	Number of mentions
Regular cleaning	5
More lighting and cameras around the film school	5
CCTV	3
Better lighting in the passage	2
No through route signage	2
Restrictions on drinking outside of venues	
An area for bins away from the Film School	

5. Thank you for your contribution. Please use the box below for any other comments.

Comment	Number of mentions
Strong support for a gate and other improvements	7
From a safety perspective any gate should be openable from the Inner side, and make sure the gate is open every day	

