

# Preventing wildfires in the district

## Introduction

Following a request from central government and a number of wildfires across the district, we want your views on our proposal to introduce a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) designed to reduce the risk of them breaking out in the future.

Dry weather has increased the risk of fires in open spaces and is likely to do so in the future.

Wildfires can cause significant damage to wildlife habitats, public open spaces, property and infrastructure while posing a significant risk to the public.

They also place considerable pressure on emergency services and the council.

We are considering introducing restrictions on activities that may increase the risk of fire in specific public spaces and would like to hear your views before any decision is made.

## About the proposal

The council is considering a PSPO that could prohibit or restrict activities such as:

- lighting barbecues in designated public spaces
- lighting open fires
- using portable stoves or fire pits
- discarding lit cigarettes or other smoking materials
- any activity that creates an unnecessary fire risk during periods of heightened wildfire risk

The precise details and locations covered by any future PSPO have not yet been determined and we will take account of consultation responses.

## Consultation questions

1. **Which of the following best describes you?** \* Please tick one box only

- ☐ A resident of the Canterbury district
- ☐ A visitor to the Canterbury district
- ☐ A worker in the Canterbury district
- ☐ A business, organisation or community group, please provide the name:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ A city, county, parish or town councillor, please specify:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ An MP
- ☐ Other, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

2. **Have you seen or experienced any wildfire, grass fire or uncontrolled outdoor fire within the district? \***

☐ Yes      ☐ No

If yes, please provide details

[illegible]

3. **To what extent do wildfires, grass fires or uncontrolled outdoor fires have a detrimental effect on your quality of life? \***

☐ Very large

☐ Large

☐ Neither a large nor a small

☐ Small effect

☐ No effect

4. To what extent do you support restrictions on the following in the public spaces where there is a high risk of wildfire? \*

[illegible]

5. **Are there particular locations where you believe additional wildfire prevention measures are needed? \***

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please tell us which locations and why.

6. **Do you think a PSPO is an appropriate way to help reduce the risk of wildfires in public spaces? \***

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

Please explain your answer.

7. **Are there any groups or activities that could be unfairly affected by these proposals? \***

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

If yes, please provide details.

8. **Are there any alternative measures the council should consider to reduce wildfire risk?**

9. **Do you have any other comments regarding this proposal?**

### **Corporate consultations**

**We have several corporate consultations coming up soon and we would like to hear from you. Would you like to be informed about these? \***

☐ Yes ☐ No

**If you'd like to be informed, and are happy for the council to contact you about corporate consultations, please tick the box to indicate your consent to us contacting you:**

☐ I consent to being contacted by the council

**How would you like to be contacted? \***

☐ By email   ☐ By post

Please provide your email address: \*

Please provide your details:

|            |                      |
|------------|----------------------|
| Title *    | <input type="text"/> |
| First name | <input type="text"/> |
| Surname *  | <input type="text"/> |
| Address *  | <input type="text"/> |
| Address    | <input type="text"/> |
| Town *     | <input type="text"/> |
| Postcode * | <input type="text"/> |

**How did you find out about this consultation? \*** Please tick those that apply

|                                                 |                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Email from the council | <input type="checkbox"/> Council website      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Council Facebook post  | <input type="checkbox"/> Word of mouth        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Council Twitter post   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please state: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Council LinkedIn post  | <input type="text"/>                          |

**Equality information**

We ask a small number of optional questions so we can better understand who is taking part in our consultations and, just as importantly, who we may not be reaching. This helps us to make sure our services and engagement are fair, inclusive and accessible to everyone. You can read our privacy notice [canterbury.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2026-02/Consultations%20general%20privacy%20notice.pdf](https://canterbury.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2026-02/Consultations%20general%20privacy%20notice.pdf) at any time to see how we handle, store and protect your data.

**What age are you?** Please tick one box only

|                                   |                                            |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Under 18 | <input type="checkbox"/> 55 to 64          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18 to 25 | <input type="checkbox"/> 65 to 74          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 26 to 34 | <input type="checkbox"/> 75 to 84          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 35 to 44 | <input type="checkbox"/> 85 and above      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 45 to 54 | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |

**What gender are you?** Please tick one box only

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Prefer to self-describe (for example, non-binary, gender fluid etc)
- ☐ Prefer not to say

**Do you consider yourself to be disabled?** Please tick one box only

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to say

**What is your ethnic background?** (select the group that best describes you)

- ☐ White (English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British)
- ☐ Irish
- ☐ Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- ☐ Any other White background (please specify): .....
- ☐ Mixed or multiple ethnic groups
- ☐ Asian / Asian British
- ☐ Black / African / Caribbean / Black British
- ☐ Other ethnic group (please specify): .....
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this consultation.