By-law bid could make drinking in square illegal

Councillors are fed up of 'undesirables' drinking in Lampeter town centre. Story: Scarlet Jones

LAMPETER councillors are fighting for a by-law to be introduced that would make drinking alcohol in Harford Square illegal.

They are fed up with "undesirables" looing on the square and giving the town a bad name.

Most councillors, who met at a town council meeting last week, feel that a by-law banning drinking would be an excellent idea.

But some were concerned that such a move would simply shift the problem to another part of town.

Lampeter Inspector Rossanne Lloyd-Jones later declined to comment on the matter until she had met with the town council to discuss the situation.

But traders on the square were not so reticent. They want something done about the problem and think a by-law is needed as soon as possible.

Cllr Greg Evans told the town council meeting: "I've seen undesirables drinking there and it doesn't look good.

"We could go down the road of getting a by-law, and it would be enforced by the new CCTV system."

Cllr Ivor Williams agreed, saying: "Quite a few towns have the by-law in place now, so it's not unreasonable."

But Cllr Hazel Davies said: "Where would they go? We've only just got rid of them from outside the library near Somerfield!"

Councillors and police have had trouble previously near the Somerfield stores where improved lighting is said to be needed to deter vandals and troublemakers from congregating there.

Councillors agreed to consult the police on the matter but after the town council meeting, Lyn Young, of Stewart's Stores, said: "The sooner they get the troublemakers off the square, the better.

"The police have been looking into ways to stop them looing and I shall be closing up the door of the store, where they all sit after hours."

Lino Comi, who owns Comi's Cafe, added: "Drinking on the square seems to have diminished recently, but there should be a by-law in place, especially as it stops young people from drinking.

"One of the problems is rowdism from people leaving the pubs."

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"The other main problem is the young people driving the cars like idiots. There are handbrake turns happening everywhere.

"Sooner or later they will kill someone."

A local resident, who did not wish to be named, thought the by-law would be a good idea. He said: "The main noise we hear living by the square doesn't always come from those leaving the pubs, it is normally from the younger crowd who park their cars there in the evenings and scream and shout at each other."

"A by-law might stop them drinking there but hopefully these new cameras will also help a lot."

It is hoped that the CCTV cameras will be in place by the end of the month.

The six cameras will be sited on Harford Square, covering the three main streets, one on the High Street opposite the Town Hall, and a third at the corner of Station Terrace, covering College Street, Station Terrace and North Road.

The fourth will be positioned at the end of Drovers Road, another opposite Drovers Road on Bridge Street and the last at the end of Fitzwilliam Terrace on the corner of Mount Walk, covering the school, Rookery car park and leisure centre.

Inspector Lloyd-Jones has previously said that anti-social behaviour caused by alcohol would not be tolerated and that anti-social behaviour had been noted in the town.

She also said that individuals had been identified under the 1998 Anti-social Behaviour Orders. These are orders that prevent individuals from coming into the town and certainly from drinking in the pubs.

Plans are underway to stop people from damaging the walls by putting railings around them and it has been agreed that a barrier or bollard to prevent parking of vehicles would also help. This comes after news of youths blocking the fountain with fireworks and late-night disturbances.