

Police are given the authority to disperse yobs in Filton

New powers to get a grip on the gangs

EP 29/10/05

POLICE have been given the power to clear gangs of yobs from areas of Filton where they have been making life a misery for residents and shopkeepers.

Magistrates passed a court order granting police the authority to disperse groups of youths in an area between Filton Avenue and the A38 from the junction between the two roads near Filton College down to the Bristol City Council boundary by Monk's Park School.

The dispersal order has been granted under the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003, and is the latest weapon being used to curb nuisance caused by young people.

Inspector Richard Corrigan, who is in charge of the police's Filton sector, said: "The Filton beat has experienced increased and significant levels of anti-social behaviour and youth disorder.

“ The presence of these groups is seen by many people in the community as intimidating and only reinforces their fear of crime

Inspector Richard Corrigan



by Julie Harding

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"However, one of the most frustrating issues has been not being able to move on the groups of mainly young people who have been gathering on the streets and causing nuisance, alarm and distress to the local residents and workers.

"Even if not actually engaged in crime, the presence of these groups is

seen by many people in the community as intimidating and only reinforces their fear of crime, thereby reducing their quality of life.

"I am confident the dispersal order will be effective in tackling this behaviour."

Filton Community Safety Group has expressed concern about teenagers gathering in the area who have, at times, been abusive to other people.

The group has supported police by

providing a hand-held video camera that will be used to record any gatherings or other incidents.

Safer South Gloucestershire Community Safety and Drugs Partnership's Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator, Philippa Isbell, said: "South Gloucestershire Council continues to support the police in their use of dispersal orders to tackle problems of anti-social behaviour associated with groups of people gathering.

"The enforcement of this dispersal order, together with a co-ordinated approach from Youth Services and other agencies, will help Filton residents to feel safer in their community."

All streets inside the boundary including Filton flats and Elm Park will be covered by the order.

Signs have been put up in the area to notify residents and young people about the dispersal order which will come into effect on Monday.