



BEMERTON ESTATE/THORNHILL SQUARE DISPERSAL ORDER

Islington Police & the Council have decided that a Dispersal Order will operate in the Bemerton Estate and Thornhill Square area of Islington between 18/02/11 and 17/05/11.

This is in response to an increase in anti-social behaviour and offending by a group in this area. It will provide additional protection to those living, visiting & working in the area over the next three months.

What is a dispersal order and how does it affect me?

A dispersal order is a tool used by the police and the local council to help them to tackle problems with people behaving anti socially and making life difficult or unpleasant for other people.

It's used to deal with an identified group who are frequently at the location and commit crimes or are involved persistently in anti social behaviour. These people are well known to the Police officers & PCSOs who will be policing the location.

If you are in the area but you are going about your usual business and not behaving in a way that could intimidate or upset anyone else, then the dispersal order will not affect you at all.

How do I know where it is?

The dispersal area will be marked by signs displayed in the area, which includes a map showing the boundaries.

What can the Police do?

If a group is gathered in the dispersal zone and they are involved in antisocial behaviour or are causing trouble or problems for other people, they can be

given one or more of the following directions by a Police Officer or Police Community Support Officer (PCSO);

- Disperse
- Leave the authorised area as requested
- Not return to the area for up to 24 hours

Under 16?

As well as the directions explained above, if you are under 16 years old and you are not with a parent or responsible adult (over 18), **and you are involved in antisocial behaviour**, the police officers or PCSOs may take you to your home address or to a place of safety.

This does not mean you are not allowed to be in the dispersal zone if you are under 16- as long as you are behaving in a reasonable and considerate way, the dispersal order won't affect you.

What if I live inside the dispersal zone boundaries?

If you live within the dispersal zone, you cannot be directed to leave it but you can be directed to disperse.

Breach of any of the directions given is an offence and will lead to arrest.

How is a direction given?

The officers will explain to each person what direction(s) they are giving them, complete a stop & account form for each person and request their details. Whenever possible they will also give them with a separate form explaining the direction they have been given which includes a map of the area they are not to enter on the back.

It is important to understand that if you are given a direction, you have not committed an offence at this stage. It is only an offence if you fail to comply with the directions you are given by the officer.

What if I'm arrested?

It is a Criminal offence to breach a direction you have been given by a Police officer or PCSO. In the worst cases this can result in a criminal conviction punishable by up to 6 months imprisonment or a fine of up to £5,000.

If you repeatedly breach directions in the area & are convicted of those breaches the joint Police & Council Antisocial Behaviour Team will consider applying for an Antisocial Behaviour Order. This is far more serious & can place an individual under particular conditions they must abide by & which is punishable by up to five years imprisonment if breached.

For further information you can contact Caledonian Safer Neighbourhood Team on: **020 7421 0271** or **07876 132092**

Map of Area Covered by Dispersal Order

