

#### Agenda item 4

For information - To raise the problem of aggressive begging in the town

Authors: Cllrs Mark Dorrington and Mel Usher

##### Summary

This report aims to increase publicity about aggressive begging in the town and encourages members of the community to report it to the police on their website [www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report/](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report/). It is anticipated that with increased reporting of incidents the police will be able to commit more resources to curtail this activity.

Recently, Cllrs Dorrington and Usher met with two shop owners on Catherine Hill who presented them and the relevant Neighbourhood Police officers with a petition from 51 shop owners in the town centre complaining about aggressive begging. FTC has raised this issue with the local police regularly in recent months and years.

Aggressive begging is something that intimidates local residents and deters them from going about their daily lives. In addition, a consequence of this is that people are less likely to go shopping and this can have a negative impact on local businesses as well as presenting a negative image of the town centre.

The police are doing what they can with the resources they have. For the police to do more, they need more resources and for senior officers to prioritise this type of Anti Social Behaviour (ASB). To access more resources, the police need data in the form of incidents reported by the community. We understand that the police are leafleting local businesses encouraging them to do this.

The purpose of this report is to raise public awareness to report incidents directly to the police on every occasion at [www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report/](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report/). The more evidence that is collected the more the police can act.