# Feral youths and drug gangs transform Bournemouth beach town into hotspot for antisocial behaviour



Residents of Bournemouth, once lauded for its picturesque seaside charm, are now grappling with escalating antisocial behaviour that has transformed their beloved town into a troubling landscape of drug use and lawlessness. Locals express their dismay as feral youths on electric scooters roam freely, engaging in reckless activities such as public urination and inhaling nitrous oxide-filled balloons, often referred to as laughing gas. This shift has led many to feel unsafe venturing out, particularly after dark.

The beachfront promenade, which used to be a serene escape, now bears a heavy burden. Lifelong residents lament how the area has devolved into a scene reminiscent of a lawless society. Authorities have recorded a significant uptick in incidents involving drug deals in plain sight, as well as graffiti that mars the once pristine walls. The pervasive smell of cannabis wafts through the air, while empty nitrous oxide canisters dot the sandy landscape, indicating a new type of recreational culture that locals find troubling.

The problems around Bournemouth are compounded by the impacts of the pandemic, with the outgoing deputy mayor, Anne Filer, underscoring how the town has deteriorated since lockdown. Speaking to the local media, she described the town as "looking more like a tip," highlighting broken benches and overgrown vegetation as glaring reminders of neglect. Amidst this setting, the opening of upmarket establishments such as The Ivy restaurant last November is seen by some as a stark contrast to the declining conditions surrounding it. While the restaurant enjoyed a staggering 12,000 bookings before its grand opening, its proximity to distressed public spaces has not gone unnoticed by patrons and locals alike.

Businesses in Bournemouth are also feeling the strain of changing circumstances, with accounts of theft and vandalism becoming alarmingly common. One local baker described their establishment as resembling a "self-service buffet," plagued by rampant shoplifting that has left them feeling powerless. Such incidents are not isolated but rather indicative of a broader trend affecting the town's economy. Business owners like Karolina, from the Cornish Bakehouse, voice frustration that after years of stability, the situation has turned dire, resulting in closures of many small shops and a lack of viable alternatives for locals and visitors.

Further complicating the issue, Bournemouth has become a hotspot for drug-related incidents. Recent intelligence reports indicate that organised crime, particularly involving Jamaican gangs known for their ruthlessness, is establishing a foothold in the area. This situation has drawn serious concern from local authorities, who are prioritising efforts to combat not just drug activity, but also the associated violence and antisocial behaviour it brings. Meanwhile, shifting patterns of drug distribution have seen dealers switching to using bicycles to avoid detection, exacerbating the challenges faced by law enforcement.

Compounding the matter is the growing trend of nitrous oxide use amongst youths, with police actively trying to address incidents linked to its recreational use and environmental impacts. Multiple studies have flagged the health risks associated with inhaling nitrous oxide, which, while popular among young adults, poses serious challenges to public health and safety. Moreover, the UK government is now considering a ban on the substance expected in forthcoming legislation aimed at tackling antisocial behaviour tied to its use.

As different segments of the Bournemouth community grapple with these challenges, there is an underlying yearning for the return of a town that is welcoming and safe. Locals express a desire for increased policing and better infrastructure to support small businesses, voiced by community members who remember a time when the town was celebrated for its idyllic beach and vibrant local culture. Bournemouth, with its renowned coastline, has the potential to reclaim its status as a prime attraction. However, this will require collective efforts and a renewed commitment from both residents and authorities to address these pervasive issues that threaten its character and safety.

Despite the shadows that now loom over this once-beloved destination, individuals like Floyd Gordon, manager of Jerk Hut Catering, remain hopeful. Gordon noted that while challenges persist, Bournemouth still possesses great potential, echoing sentiments from long-term residents who wish for renewed investment and civic pride to restore the town to its former glory. As Bournemouth stands at a crossroads, the path toward revitalisation and safety will demand not only immediate action but a long-term vision for sustainable growth and community wellbeing.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 - Source [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14678833/Our-seaside-town-paradise-destroyed-feral-youths-e-scooters-transformed-haven-drugs-people-urinate-beach-huts-embed-bongs-sand.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
2. Paragraphs 2, 6, 10 - Source [[2]](https://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/23630739.bournemouth-beach-laughing-gas-poses-serious-risk/)
3. Paragraphs 1, 3, 4, 5 - Source [[3]](https://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/19545738.scam-spate-involving-sale-laughing-gas-bournemouth/)
4. Paragraph 6 - Source [[4]](https://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/16092433.dealers-using-bikes-deliver-drugs-addicts-bournemouth-underpass-residents-say/)
5. Paragraphs 6, 10 - Source [[5]](https://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/23141313.drug-gang-flooded-bournemouth-crack-cocaine-heroin/)
6. Paragraph 6 - Source [[6]](https://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/5373805.yardies-are-in-town-shock-report-reveals/)
7. Paragraph 7 - Source [[7]](https://news.sky.com/story/nitrous-oxide-to-be-banned-under-plans-to-clamp-down-on-anti-social-behaviour-12842786)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14678833/Our-seaside-town-paradise-destroyed-feral-youths-e-scooters-transformed-haven-drugs-people-urinate-beach-huts-embed-bongs-sand.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/23630739.bournemouth-beach-laughing-gas-poses-serious-risk/> - Police in Bournemouth have reported a rise in antisocial behaviour linked to the recreational use of nitrous oxide, commonly known as laughing gas. Teenagers and young adults are inhaling the gas along the beaches, leading to environmental concerns due to discarded canisters. Officers have noted a connection between nitrous oxide use and increased antisocial behaviour, including public intoxication and littering. The police are actively targeting users and suppliers, emphasizing the health risks associated with inhaling the substance and its impact on public spaces.
3. <https://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/19545738.scam-spate-involving-sale-laughing-gas-bournemouth/> - Detectives in Bournemouth are investigating a series of incidents where intoxicated individuals were targeted by scammers selling nitrous oxide canisters. Victims reported handing over their phones to make online payments for the gas, only to find fraudulent transactions and theft of personal information. The incidents occurred in the town centre, particularly around Horseshoe Common and The Triangle. Authorities advise the public to remain vigilant, avoid handing over personal devices to strangers, and report any suspicious activity to the police.
4. <https://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/16092433.dealers-using-bikes-deliver-drugs-addicts-bournemouth-underpass-residents-say/> - Residents in Bournemouth have reported that drug dealers are using bicycles to deliver class A drugs, such as crack cocaine and heroin, to addicts in a local underpass. The Lowther Road underpass has been described as a 'drug dealing haven,' with dealers riding bikes to the area while keeping their main stock elsewhere. While some residents have observed begging and suspicious activity near local businesses, police have stated that there have been no reports of drug activity near the Tesco store since at least December 2017.
5. <https://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/23141313.drug-gang-flooded-bournemouth-crack-cocaine-heroin/> - Five men have been jailed for a total of more than 20 years after flooding Bournemouth with approximately £100,000 worth of crack cocaine and heroin. The drug gang operated a 'county line' from southeast London, using couriers to transport drugs to Bournemouth via train. The operation ran from May to August 2021, with the drugs sold in the Dorset town. The investigation, conducted by Dorset Police and the Metropolitan Police, led to the arrest and conviction of the individuals involved.
6. <https://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/5373805.yardies-are-in-town-shock-report-reveals/> - A confidential report has revealed that Jamaican-led 'Yardie' gangs have established a presence in Bournemouth, dealing in crack cocaine and heroin. The report highlights the spread of such organised crime into southern counties, including Dorset, over the past three years. The gangs are known for their willingness to use firearms and have been linked to various criminal activities. Local authorities are taking the issue seriously, with the head of Bournemouth police emphasizing proactive targeting of drug-related crime and associated gun crime.
7. <https://news.sky.com/story/nitrous-oxide-to-be-banned-under-plans-to-clamp-down-on-anti-social-behaviour-12842786> - The UK government plans to ban nitrous oxide, commonly known as laughing gas, as part of efforts to tackle antisocial behaviour. Levelling Up Secretary Michael Gove announced the move, citing concerns over public littering and the psychological effects of the substance. Nitrous oxide is the second most commonly used drug among 16 to 24-year-olds in England, and its recreational use has been linked to various health risks. The ban aims to reduce antisocial behaviour associated with the substance in public spaces.