# Bournemouth’s beachfront plagued by rising antisocial behaviour and lawlessness



In recent months, Bournemouth has faced mounting challenges that have transformed its beachfront from a bustling hub of enjoyment to a site marred by antisocial behaviour and lawlessness. Longtime residents paint a troubling picture of their community, claiming that they are increasingly fearful of venturing out, particularly at night, due to the actions of a group of feral youths who have turned to illegal activities, including drug use and vandalism.

The recent rise in antisocial behaviour has become a concerning trend for locals, who report incidents of theft, public urination, and drug use unabated by law enforcement. The explosion of e-scooters on the streets has only exacerbated the situation. Although e-scooters have been branded as a convenient mode of transport, their illegal use in public spaces has prompted police intervention. In the past year alone, Dorset Police seized over 220 illegal e-scooters, with a significant spike noted in 2023/24, suggesting an urgent need for regulation and public safety measures.

Amidst these challenges, local businesses are feeling the impact. Store owners lament the constant pilfering and vandalism, with shops turning into targets rather than community pillars. One shop owner expressed frustration over patrons treating her establishment like a "self-service buffet," highlighting the broader sense of lawlessness that has gripped the area. Even promising newcomers like the Ivy restaurant, which attracted substantial advance bookings, are overshadowed by the distressing realities just steps away, where public hygiene issues and drug use take place in full view of families and tourists.

Residents have voiced their concerns about the degradation of civic pride and investment in the community, particularly following the lockdown period. Chris Shelter, a 74-year-old resident, noted that Bournemouth has changed dramatically, lamenting the loss of independent businesses that once defined the town's charm. This erosion of local commerce contributes to a sense of abandonment, leaving behind a multitude of boarded-up storefronts highlighting a stagnating economy.

Deputy Mayor Anne Filer also pointed to the need for a substantial clean-up, having witnessed first-hand the increasing disrepair of park benches, dilapidated signage, and graffiti that tarnishes the areas of natural beauty. She urged for investment to reinvigorate the community, expressing a desire to restore Bournemouth to its former glory as a beloved seaside destination.

The police have stepped up their efforts to combat the surge in crime and antisocial behaviour, conducting targeted operations and increasing patrols in response to community reports. Chief Superintendent Heather Dixey assured the public that safety remains a priority, noting that police are committed to addressing rising concerns. However, some residents remain sceptical about the effectiveness of these measures, suggesting that even enhanced policing may not penetrate the deeply entrenched issues faced by Bournemouth.

Furthermore, the proximity of rehabilitation centres in the area has been cited as a catalyst for some of the problems, as individuals may filter into the surrounding community. This has added complexity to the discussions regarding the town’s future.

Despite these challenges, there remains a glimmer of hope among some residents and business owners, who believe that targeted actions toward improving the streets could restore Bournemouth’s reputation as a desirable place to live and visit. Suggestions have included enhancing community engagement and reinforcing the sense of responsibility in protecting public spaces. As one resident put it, "We have to show it off—Bournemouth can still be a wonderful place."

As Bournemouth grapples with these multifaceted challenges, the path forward necessitates a concerted effort from both the community and law enforcement to reclaim the vibrancy of this once-picturesque seaside town, transforming it once more into a haven for both locals and visitors alike.

### Reference Map

1. Insights on the change in Bournemouth's community dynamics and antisocial behaviour.
2. Details on police enforcement regarding e-scooters and drug-related issues.
3. Statistics on e-scooter seizures and their legal implications.
4. Police operations addressing crime in the town centre.
5. Concerns over illegal e-scooter usage and related injuries.
6. Police activities related to drug offences in the area.
7. Community reports on dangerous e-scooter use and police interventions.

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/24033133.three-people-searched-drug-offences-bournemouth/> - On January 5, 2023, Bournemouth police conducted a night of action in Knyveton Gardens following reports of drug-related activity. Three individuals were searched under the Misuse of Drugs Act, and another is under investigation for a drug-related offence. During the patrols, officers also discovered a stolen moped, which was returned to its rightful owner. Additionally, a person was found committing a traffic offence by using an e-scooter in a public area. E-scooters remain illegal to use on public roads or footpaths, with exceptions for registered and insured Beryl scooters. In the year leading to January 2023, Dorset Police seized 85 e-scooters from the county’s roads. The Department for Transport recorded 20 injuries involving e-scooters in Dorset last year, with nearly 1,500 casualties nationwide. Police emphasized the importance of community reports in addressing drug-related activity and anti-social behaviour. ([bournemouthecho.co.uk](https://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/24033133.three-people-searched-drug-offences-bournemouth/?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/24578257.e-scooters-seized-dorset-police-reaches-record-high/> - In the 2023/24 financial year, Dorset Police seized 78 illegal e-scooters, marking a 25% increase from the previous year. This brings the total number of e-scooters seized over the past three years to 220. Dorset’s police and crime commissioner, David Sidwick, expressed concerns over the irresponsible use of e-scooters, noting that they are subject to the same legal requirements as cars, including MOT, licensing, and insurance. While acknowledging the potential of e-scooters as a transformative form of personal transport, Sidwick emphasized the dangers posed by their illegal and dangerous use. ([bournemouthecho.co.uk](https://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/24578257.e-scooters-seized-dorset-police-reaches-record-high/?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/24570976.serious-assaults-drugs-one-night-bournemouth-town-centre/> - On September 7, 2023, Bournemouth police responded to various emergency calls in the town centre, addressing incidents such as low-level assaults, drunk and disorderly behaviour, assault on emergency workers, and serious assaults. Officers conducted three stop and searches under the Misuse of Drugs Act, issued multiple section 35 dispersal orders due to anti-social behaviour, and made an arrest on suspicion of handling stolen goods. The operation aimed to ensure the safety of the town's night-time economy and address anti-social behaviour hot spots. ([bournemouthecho.co.uk](https://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/24570976.serious-assaults-drugs-one-night-bournemouth-town-centre/?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/23563736.illegal-e-scooter-usage-bournemouth-poole-raises-concern/> - Concerns have been raised over the illegal use of e-scooters in Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole. Figures from the Department for Transport show 20 people were recorded as injured by Dorset Police last year, with nearly 1,500 casualties involving e-scooters nationwide. Dorset’s police and crime commissioner, David Sidwick, criticized irresponsible retailers selling e-scooters and emphasized that they cannot be legally used on public land outside of the Beryl rental scheme. E-scooters are subject to the same legal requirements as cars, including MOT, licensing, and insurance. ([bournemouthecho.co.uk](https://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/23563736.illegal-e-scooter-usage-bournemouth-poole-raises-concern/?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://news.dorset.police.uk/news-article/eb4cfda1-8842-ee11-9d5a-6045bdd24049> - On August 23, 2023, Dorset Police made seven arrests as part of proactive disruption activity to tackle suspected drug dealing in Bournemouth. Officers executed two warrants in the West Howe area, locating a quantity of suspected class A and class B drugs. The arrested individuals included a 14-year-old boy from Poole, a 15-year-old boy from Bournemouth, and four Bournemouth men aged 18, 20, 41, and 42. The operation aimed to address concerns raised by the community regarding drug-related activity. ([news.dorset.police.uk](https://news.dorset.police.uk/news-article/eb4cfda1-8842-ee11-9d5a-6045bdd24049?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/24648892.police-seize-significantly-dangerous-e-scooters-bournemouth/> - Dorset Police seized several e-scooters in Bournemouth that were being operated illegally and posed significant dangers to both drivers and the public. The community had raised concerns about e-scooters racing in pedestrian areas, prompting police action. Officers emphasized that driving uninsured vehicles can lead to serious consequences, including accidents resulting in injuries or property damage. The operation aimed to ensure the safety and well-being of the community by enforcing regulations against illegal e-scooter use. ([bournemouthecho.co.uk](https://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/24648892.police-seize-significantly-dangerous-e-scooters-bournemouth/?utm_source=openai))