

Take action

Councillor James Monaghan has called for Leeds Met students to make their views known over the proposed drinking ban on Woodhouse Moor.

Speaking to The Met, Monaghan, one of four councillors to vote against proposals to make Woodhouse Moor a DPPO said: “Although Headingley was made a DPPO two years ago, mainly to try and stop problems caused by the Otley run, I do not think the same thing should happen to the park.”

Monaghan also raised concerns about the motives of some residents who are pushing for a drinking ban on the moor. While the majority have said they want Woodhouse Moor included in the DPPO to help combat the problem of street drinkers and anti-social behaviour, Monaghan is concerned that there may be an agenda from some members of the community to use the ban as a way to stop students using the park.

His apprehension follows the lack of consultation with students over the proposed DPPO. While a number of action groups in the local area have sent out questionnaires to residents asking for their views, it seems the majority of students have been excluded from this process.

According to James this may be because, despite having a powerful voice in the community, students do not use it when it comes to matters on the political agenda. He said, “I hope this is an issue students will feel strongly about and be able to get involved in.”

Alice Cudsworth, AP Welfare of Leeds Met Students’ Union agrees: “If students feel strongly about the proposed DPPO on Woodhouse Moor, then we as the students union are here to support those views and would encourage and facilitate students to take action. This is a prime example of how local politics do affect students.”

The Met wants to hear your views. Email: newseditor_leedsmet@hotmail.co.uk