

Appendix I Public Spaces Protection Order – Control of Dogs Consultation 2020

Introduction

Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO) are control measures, created by the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, intended to deal with specific activities in a defined area that are:

- Detrimental to the local community's quality of life, and
- Persistent or continuing in nature, and
- Unreasonable

The Public Spaces Protection Order – Control of Dogs 2017 makes it an offence for dog owners/walkers not to pick up their dog's poo and details the areas where dogs are not allowed or must be on a lead. If dog owners/walkers do not comply with the Order, they face a Fixed Penalty Notice of £100 or prosecution.

Details can be found on the Council's [website](#).

The PSPO must be reviewed every 3 years. The purpose of this consultation is to seek views on the Council's intention to continue the existing Order and its proposal to introduce some changes to the areas and wording of the restrictions.

The parks and open spaces within Plymouth are not only used by dog walkers but also families, walkers, joggers, cyclists and those involved with sporting activities. The purpose of the Order is primarily to prevent dog fouling, but also to ensure that dogs are controlled at all times and especially in areas of mixed use.

The proposed Order is based on the controls that have been in place since 2008 (previously known as Dog Control Orders). It is centred on improving and protecting the local area for residents and visitors to the city and it links to other Council Strategies on improving the parks and open spaces for all users.

The new Order intends to keep the existing controls:

- Prohibiting dog fouling in all 'open air' areas
- Excluding dogs from certain areas
- Requiring dogs to be on a lead in certain areas
- Requiring dogs to be put on a lead when requested to do so by an Authorised Officer

The new proposals are:

- Requiring dog owners/walkers to always carry something to pick up their dog's poo, e.g. poo bags
- Extending the area of Central Park where dogs are required to be on a lead
- Restricting dogs on sports facilities all year round by either being on a lead or being excluded from these areas
- Requiring dogs to be on a lead at the new crematorium site when it is open

- Rewording when a dog owner/walker can be told to put their dog on a lead

The consultation is open from Friday 10 July 2020 to Sunday 2 August 2020.

Part A – Dog fouling

Dog owners/walkers are currently required to pick up dog faeces after their dog fouls. This applies to all open land to which the public are entitled and permitted to have access, with or without payment. Forestry commission land is excluded. Bins are provided in certain locations, but if there is no bin, you must take it home with you. Assistance dogs are exempt from this requirement.

It is intended to keep the existing controls relating to dog fouling:

- You must pick up your dog's faeces

1. Do you agree that dog owners/walkers should pick up their dog's poo?

Yes / No

The proposed PSPO includes a new requirement in relation to having the means to pick up dog faeces:

- You must always have something to pick up the faeces with, e.g. bags, and produce evidence of this if asked by an Authorised Officer

2. Do you agree that dog owners/walkers should carry something to pick up their dog's poo, e.g. poo bags?

Yes / No

If no – please give your reasons

Part B – Dogs exclusion

This is a control measure to protect the health and safety of people using some of our specific facilities in Plymouth, so dogs are currently excluded from them. It is intended to keep the existing controls relating to these facilities:

- You are not allowed to let your dog enter any children's play area, bowling green, croquet lawn, skate park, putting green, crazy golf or school grounds that are totally enclosed and have exclusion signs at the entrances.

3. Do you agree that dogs should be excluded from these areas?

Yes / No

Dogs are currently excluded from Efford Cemetery and Weston Mill Cemetery. It is intended to keep this restriction:

- You are not allowed to let your dog enter Efford Cemetery and Weston Mill Cemetery

4. Do you agree that dogs should be excluded from Efford and Weston Mill Cemeteries?

Yes / No

Part C – Dogs on leads

This is a control measure to assist with tackling dog fouling in specific areas. These areas are small, family orientated or ornamental parks, or are for sporting activities:

CI Parks

In the following parks, dogs are currently required to be on a lead. It is intended that this restriction remains in the proposed PSPO.

- Pounds Park
- West Hoe Park
- Moor View Park
- Stoke Damerell Park
- Houndiscombe Park
- Thorn Park

5. Do you agree that dogs should be on a lead within these parks?

Yes / No

If no – please give your reasons

In the area of Central Park (shown in Map below), dogs are required to be on a lead. This specific area and the surrounding area of Central Park have recently undergone significant development and improvement in line with our Council strategies relating to the use of open spaces, including Plymouth's Green Spaces Strategy.

Therefore, the dog controls in Central Park have been reviewed. It is proposed that the area where dogs are required to be on a lead is extended. Your views are being sought on 2 options:

Option 1 – the proposal is for dogs to be required to be kept on a lead in the car park and the fields between the current restricted area and the Life Centre known as the Central Area (Area A)

Option 2 – the proposal is for dogs to be required to be kept on a lead to include the fields to the south of the current restricted area known as the Southern Slopes Area (Area B)

6. Do you agree that dogs should be kept on a lead in Area A?
Yes / No

Please give your reasons

7. Do you agree that dogs should be kept on a lead in Area B?
Yes / No

Please give your reasons

C2 Sports Facilities

This section relates to all sports facilities in Plymouth that are owned or managed by the Council.

The requirement for dogs to be on a lead on sports pitches is a control measure to assist with tackling dog fouling in areas which are specifically designated for a sporting activity. These areas are used for formal matches within a league structure and by people making use of these sporting facilities informally at other times. Therefore, it is essential that these areas are clear from dog fouling to minimise the risk to health at all times.

Dogs are currently required to be on a lead on a marked sports pitch. Your views are being sought on the restrictions being in place all year round and on all sports facilities, including pitches and athletics tracks. You are also asked whether you think the restrictions should be changed to require dogs to be excluded from sports pitches.

8. Do you think this restriction should be in place all year round on all sports facilities?

Yes / No

Please give your reasons

9. Do you think dogs should be on a lead or excluded from sports facilities?

On a lead / Excluded / Neither

Please give your reasons

C3 New Crematorium Site

Plymouth City Council is developing a new crematorium at Haye Road, Plymouth. It is proposed that dogs should be required to be kept on a lead on this site when it is open to the public.

10. Do you think that dogs should be kept on a lead on the new crematorium site in Plymouth?

Yes / No

Please give your reasons

Part D – Dogs on leads by direction

Under the current PSPO, if your dog's behaviour is causing a nuisance, annoyance or disturbance to any person, animal or bird and it needs to be on a lead to prevent this, you may be asked to put your dog on a lead.

The Council want to clarify when dog owners or walkers must put their dog on a lead. The proposed PSPO will require a dog owner or dog walker to put their dog on a lead in order to prevent a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality and minimise the risk to the health and safety of other people or animals who are using the parks and open spaces. For example, you may be asked to put your dog on a lead to control its behaviour or to ensure it is under control during specific events being held in that area or to ensure social distancing, if required.

- You will be required to put your dog on a lead by an Authorised Officer if such restraint is reasonably necessary to prevent a nuisance or if its behaviour is likely to cause alarm, distress or disturbance to any other person or animal or bird

11. Do you agree that, in these circumstance, a dog should be put on a lead if requested to do so by an Authorised Officer in such circumstances?

Yes / No

If no - please give your reasons:

Part E – Additional questions

12. Do you have any alternative or additional proposals on dog control?

Yes / No

If yes – please give reasons

13. Are there any additional areas that you feel should be added or removed from the proposed PSPO?

Yes / No

If yes – please give reasons

14. Are there any adverse impacts to the proposals that you wish to highlight?

Yes / No

If yes – please give reasons

15. Do you own or walk dogs?

Yes / No

16. Do you walk dogs in Plymouth?

Yes / No

Ready to submit

Take a moment to review the details you have provided above. Once you are happy with this, click the 'Submit' button below to send your response to our Public Protection team

Your response will be used to inform the decision on whether to implement a new Public Spaces Protection Order and the precise restrictions in it.