

## Appendix 5

## Public Spaces Protection Order – Control of Dogs Consultation 2020

## Results of Consultation

1454 responses were received

## 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.

Question	Response	Summary of Comments
<p>It is intended to keep the existing controls relating to dog fouling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You must pick up your dog's faeces</li> </ul> <p>I. Do you agree that dog owners/walkers should pick up their dog's poo?</p>	<p><b>Yes – 99.8%</b> <b>No – 0.2%</b></p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>The proposed PSPO includes a new requirement in relation to having the means to pick up dog faeces:</p>	<p><b>Yes – 95.1%</b> <b>No – 4.9%</b></p>	<p>No: Dog walker may have forgotten to take bags Dog walker may have already used bags</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> </ul> <p>2. Do you agree that dog owners/walkers should carry something to pick up their dog's poo, e.g. poo bags? If no – please give your reasons</p>		<p>Don't agree with being asked to produce bags if asked</p>
--	--	--

**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.

<b>Question</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>Summary of Comments</b>
<p>It is intended to keep the existing controls relating to these facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Yes – 86.9%</b> <b>No – 13.1%</b></p>	<p>N/A</p>

3. Do you agree that dogs should be excluded from these areas?		
<p>Dogs are currently excluded from Efford Cemetery and Weston Mill Cemetery. It is intended to keep this restriction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You are not allowed to let your dog enter Efford Cemetery and Weston Mill Cemetery</li> </ul> <p>4. Do you agree that dogs should be excluded from Efford and Weston Mill Cemeteries?</p>	<p><b>Yes – 63.5%</b> <b>No – 36.5%</b></p>	N/A

### 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

Question	Response	Summary of Comments
<p>In the following parks, dogs are currently required to be on a lead. It is intended that this restriction remains in the proposed PSPO.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pounds Park</li> <li>• West Hoe Park</li> </ul>	<p><b>Yes – 69.8%</b> <b>No – 30.2%</b></p>	<p>No: Well-controlled dog should not be on a lead Dogs need to exercise off a lead Dogs should be under control but not on a lead</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moor View Park</li> <li>• Stoke Damerell Park</li> <li>• Houndiscombe Park</li> <li>• Thorn Park</li> </ul> <p>5. Do you agree that dogs should be on a lead within these parks? If no – please give your reasons</p>		<p>Dog fouling and uncontrolled dogs are more important Parks are for dogs as well as people There are too many areas with restrictions People may not have transport to take dogs elsewhere</p>
--	--	--

**Central Park:**

In the area of Central Park (shown in map), 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:

Question	Response	Summary of Comments
<p>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)</p> <p>6. Do you agreed that dogs should be kept on a lead in Area A? Please give your reasons</p>	<p><b>Yes – 55.3%</b> <b>No – 44.7%</b></p>	<p>Yes: Busy area in the car park and outside the Life Centre High footfall Used by families with children Used by sports people, runners, cyclists Danger of traffic</p>

		<p>Dog owners don't always have control of their dogs          Safety reasons          Some dogs are nervous          Reduce fouling</p> <p>No:          Well-controlled dogs do not need to be on a lead          Dogs need exercise off a lead          Agree to for dogs on leads in the car park and outside the Life Centre, but not the 2 fields          No need to change things          Increases the density of dogs in other areas          Too many restrictions all ready          Cyclists speeding and children running around</p>
<p>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)</p> <p>7. Do you agree that dogs should be kept on a lead in Area B?          Please give your reasons</p>	<p><b>Yes – 23.8%</b>  <b>No – 76.2%</b></p>	<p>Yes:          Dogs are a potential nuisance and can be annoying          Families should be able to relax and enjoy the park          Not all dogs are under control          For safety of people, especially children          Some people are scared of dogs          These fields are used for sport          Prevent fouling</p> <p>No:          This area is popular with dog walkers          Responsible owners keep their dogs under control</p>

		<p>Families need areas for dogs and children  Not enough space for dogs to run freely  It's a large area that doesn't need restrictions  Current restrictions are adequate  Unreasonable  Some people can't walk to other parts of the park,  e.g. those in wheelchairs, with pushchairs  Those that don't pick up are the minority  Don't punish all dog walkers  Leaves too little space with no restrictions  Too large an area  Disadvantages those without a car  Dog owners support the local café  Dog owners use the park in all weathers throughout  the year  Sports facilities are hardly used</p>
--	--	---

## 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.

Question	Response	Summary of Comments
<p>8. Do you think this restriction should be in place all year round on all sports facilities? Please give your reasons</p>	<p><b>Yes – 41.7%</b> <b>No – 58.3%</b></p>	<p>Yes: Sport pitches should be clean and safe Dogs can be dangerous and can interfere with the game, chase the balls Plenty of other areas to exercise dogs Keeps sport and dogs separate To reduce fouling Health and safety and hygiene reasons</p> <p>No: Pitches not in use all year, hardly used Restrictions should be in the sports season Too restrictive Shouldn't be a blanket restriction Should be available to dog walkers when not used for sport Restricting the area for dog walking Responsible dog owners pick up poo</p>

<p>9. Do you think dogs should be on a lead or excluded from sports facilities? Please give your reasons</p>	<p><b>On a lead – 47.5%</b> <b>Excluded – 20.2%</b> <b>Neither – 32.3%</b></p>	<p>On a lead: When sports facilities are being used Owners can deal with fouling Families watch sports and take dogs Keep them under control during matches Dog fouling will be picked up</p> <p>Excluded: Keep area clean, reduce fouling So they don't disrupt the game Areas are for sport Health and safety Other areas are available</p> <p>Neither: Majority of dog owners are responsible Parks are used by everyone Other mess is left by people, nappies, litter, etc.</p>
--	--	---



**C3 New Crematorium Site**

Question	Response	Summary of Comments
<p>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.</p> <p>10. Do you think that dogs should be kept on a lead on the new crematorium site in Plymouth? Please give your reasons</p>	<p><b>Yes – 88.5%</b> <b>No – 11.5%</b></p>	<p>Yes: Out of respect Health and safety reasons To stop fouling Keep area clean Appropriate, reasonable restriction</p> <p>No: Dogs should be under control Dog fouling is the issue</p>

**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.

Question	Response	Summary of Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> </ul> <p>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? If no - please give your reasons</p>	<p><b>Yes – 87.1%</b> <b>No – 12.9%</b></p>	<p>No: Need clear reasons, currently not clear Vague definition of nuisance or distress Responsible owners will have their dog on a lead Should be a Police power Dogs should be under control</p>

### Part E – Additional questions

Question	Response	Summary of Comments
<p>12. Do you have any alternative or additional proposals on dog control? If yes – please give reasons</p>	<p><b>Yes – 35%</b> <b>No – 65%</b></p>	<p>Yes: Concentrate on fouling Educate not fine Clear signage Clear markings More dog poo bins Dogs only areas</p>

		<p>Concentrate on litter, cyclists, anti-social behaviour, fly tipping, fireworks, motorbikes          Checks on owners, licensing          Dog behaviour test          Provide dog poo bag stations          Harsher penalty for fouling, increase the fine          Enforce what exits          Promote reporting with evidence          Publicise the number of people fined          Licensing could find enforcement          Control the number of people meeting with their dogs          Dogs on leads in town, roads          Family area should be dog free          Deal with individuals not everyone          Dog owners should have insurance          Restrictions in parks could be seasonal          Restrictions could be timed          Enforcement by plain clothed officers          Increase enforcement for fouling in all areas, not just parks          Fence off the whole family area          Increase patrols, especially early mornings and evenings</p>
<p>13. Are there any additional areas that you feel should be added or removed from the proposed PSPO?          If yes – please give reasons</p>	<p><b>Yes – 23.9%</b>  <b>No – 76.1%</b></p>	<p>Yes:          Only 346 answered yes, most were very general comments relating to issues mentioned in previous questions.</p>

		<p>Very few (4 or less) suggested including restrictions in additional specific area:</p> <p>The Hoe  Devonport Park  Mountwise  Tothill Park  Frogmore Field  City centre  Victoria Park  Freedom fields Park  Collings Park  Astor Park  Ham Woods  King George V  Beeches  Devils Point  Jennycliffe</p> <p>Very few (2 or less) suggested removing restrictions from:</p> <p>Pounds Park  King George V</p>
<p>14. Are there any adverse impacts to the proposals that you wish to highlight?  If yes – please give reasons</p>	<p><b>Yes – 39.6%</b>  <b>No – 60.4%</b></p>	<p>Impact on environment – increased use of cars to take dogs elsewhere will increase traffic, increase in litter and vandalism, increased use of nature reserves</p>

		<p>Impact on economy – dog walkers use local cafes, dog walkers and families may not support new facilitates</p> <p>Impact on mental health – people will exercise less, impact on disabled and elderly</p> <p>Impact on health of dog – lack of exercise, increase in noise if left at home</p> <p>Impact on park community – more conflict between users, e.g. dog walkers and cyclists</p> <p>£100 fine is excessive</p> <p>Discrimination against dog owners</p>
15. Do you own or walk dogs?	<p><b>Yes – 81.3%</b></p> <p><b>No – 18.7%</b></p>	N/A
16. Do you walk dogs in Plymouth?	<p><b>Yes – 80.7%</b></p> <p><b>No – 19.3%</b></p>	N/A