

Public Space protection Order (PSPO) Dog Control Powers

Results of Consultation Undertaken

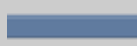


Harborough District council has undertaken a consultation regarding proposals to increase its powers to promote responsible dog ownership across the district. The consultation period run between the 16th November 2015 to the 29th December 2015. 355 responses to the survey were received. 78% of the respondents were dog owners.

The consultation was promoted via:

- Press releases at the beginning of the consultation
- On the Council website and via the Council's social media sites
- Copies of the questionnaire were made available at the Council's offices, and an on-line questionnaire was made available on the Council's website.
- Emails along with posters promoting the consultation were sent to Parish Councils,
- Emails were sent to the Chief Officer of Police for Leicestershire, the Kennel Club, veterinary surgeries and the Leicestershire County Council seeking their views on the Council's proposed enhanced dog control powers.

A summary of the survey responses

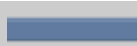


1. **Would you like to see the continuation of the existing power which makes it an offence if a person in charge of a dog fails to clean up its faeces?**

Yes	344	96%	
No	9	2%	
	2	0%	
TOTAL	355	100%	

Summary: An overwhelming majority of 96% of responses agreed with the proposal to continue this power

Recommendation: Offence to be included in the new PSPO


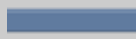
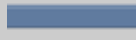
2. **Would you like to see the introduction of a new offence under the Public Space Protection Order which would require dog walkers to carry a poop bag or other means for clearing up after their pet?**

Yes	296	83%	
No	56	15%	
	3	0%	
TOTAL	355	100%	

Summary: A majority of 83% of responses agreed with the proposal to include this as a new offence in the PSPO.

Recommendation: Offence to be included in the new PSPO. When enforcing, enforcement officers will be consistent in their approach when enforcing the new power but also reasonable when considering any explanation offered.















3. Would you like to see the introduction of a new offence under the Public Space Protection Order that makes it an offence to fail to put a dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer?



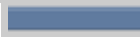

Yes	225	63%	
No	127	35%	
	3	0%	
TOTAL	355	100%	

Summary: A majority of 63% of responses agreed with the proposal to include this as a new offence in the PSPO.

Recommendation: Offence to be included in the new PSPO.

4. Would you like to see the introduction of a new offence under the Public Space Protection Order requiring dogs to be kept on leads at all times in any of the following designated areas?

Wadkins Sports Ground, Thurnby	32	3%	
Great Bowden Recreation Ground, Great Bowden	37	4%	
Clarksdale Recreation Ground, Great Easton	29	3%	
Crescent Road Recreation Ground, Lutterworth	32	3%	
Dunley Way Sports Facilities, Lutterworth	34	3%	
Glebe Road Recreation Ground, Market Harborough	37	4%	
Burford Green Recreation Ground, Market Harborough	37	4%	
Little Bowden Recreation Ground, Market Harborough	43	4%	
Logan Street Recreation Ground, Market Harborough	41	4%	
Northampton Road Recreation Ground, Market Harborough	36	3%	
Roman Way Recreation Ground, Market Harborough	38	4%	
Sherrard Road Recreation Ground, Market Harborough	38	4%	
Symington Recreation Ground, Market Harborough	40	4%	
The Headlands, Market Harborough	38	4%	

Welland Park, Market Harborough	52	5%	
Manor Field, Thurnby	30	3%	
Please specify	89	9%	
	222	24%	
TOTAL	905	101%	

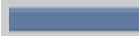
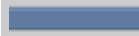
Summary: There was overwhelming opposition to the proposal to introduce an order requiring that dogs be kept on a lead in the above specified areas.

General comments from respondents:

- Reference to the Animal Welfare Act 2006 stating that introducing such an offence would be contrary to the Act as an animal requires freedom to exercise in an open area.
- The measure is too draconian
- Until HDC provide adequate, safe dog runs they have no right to demand dogs stay on leads in these areas
- The proposed restrictions relating to dogs on leads in these areas is unreasonable and will only frustrate dogs if they can't exercise
- Unless a dog is aggressive or uncontrollable it should not be on a lead
- No need for a dog to be on a lead if it is well trained
- Dog owners should not be punished for the mindless irresponsible few
- Dogs should be kept on a lead at all times in any public space where children are around or on school runs

Recommendation: Offence not to be included in the new PSPO.

5. Do you support the council's proposal to increase the level of fine for committing an offence under the new Public Space Protection Order from £50 to the maximum fine of £100?

Yes	197	55%	
No	153	43%	
	5	1%	
TOTAL	355	100%	

Summary: A majority of 55% of the responses were in favour of the Council increasing the level of fine to £100

Recommendation: It is proposed that this new level of fine be applied.