Report to:	Licensing and Regulatory Committee	**Date of Meeting:**	15th March 2021
	Council		22nd April 2021
Subject:	Proposed Public Spaces Protection Order - Dog Control		
Report of:	Head of Highways and Public Protection	**Wards Affected:**	(All Wards);
Portfolio:			
Is this a Key Decision:	No	**Included in Forward Plan:**	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

To present for consideration the draft Public Spaces Protection Order – Dog Control, (PSPO) under the Anti–Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014.

To provide information concerning dog control and an overview of the public consultation on proposed additional dog control measures through a proposed new Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO).

Recommendations:

Licensing and Regulatory Committee is requested to recommend that Council gives its approval for the Proposed Public Spaces Protection Order as detailed in 1, below:

Council is requested to approve the Proposed Public Spaces Protection Order as detailed in 1 below:

1.That the requirements / restriction previously contained within the Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council Public Spaces Protection Order – Dog Control 2017 (PSPO – dog control 2017) are included within the proposed new Public Spaces Protection Order

i. Offence of not removing dog's fouling forthwith
ii. Restrict the number of dogs that can be walked by one person to a maximum of 6.
iii. Prohibit dogs from entering enclosed playgrounds
iv. Prohibit dogs from entering marked or fenced sports pitches during specified periods. (Football or Rugby pitches from 01 September to 31st May inclusive and Cricket pitches from 01 April to 30th September inclusive)
v. Dogs to be kept on a lead of not more than 2.0 metres in length within defined picnic sites and family areas

vi. Dogs to be kept on a lead of not more than 2.0 metres in length within all designated carriageways (A & B classified roads) and adjoining footways and verges
vii. Dogs to be kept on a lead of not more than 2.0 metres in length within all cemeteries and crematoria
viii. Dogs to be placed on a lead of not more than 2.0 metres in length when directed by an authorised officer to prevent a nuisance or behaviour likely to cause annoyance or disturbance to the public

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

The proposals are intended to provide enforcement powers to address irresponsible dog control and protect the public from anti-social behaviour that is having or likely to have a detrimental effect on the quality life of those in the locality.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

Members could take no action, following the PSPO consultation. In doing so, Members should note that the existing PSPO- Dog Control 2017 has expired resulting in only very limited powers to tackle irresponsible dog ownership. Existing Bye laws are dated in extent and coverage across the Borough. Crucially they fail to allow a Fixed penalty Notice (FPN) to be issued and for the offender to discharge their liability for prosecution by making payment. All offences would result in prosecution which is both costly in time and resources and would leave the offender with a criminal record.

Options considered as part of the public consultation included extending the defined areas for the prohibition of dogs or requiring dogs to be on a lead; amending the length restriction for dogs leads and the limit on dogs allowed to be walked. Members could choose to include these variations within the proposed PSPO, however they did receive less support.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

The consultation responses identified that a significant number of respondents identified that signage used during the PSPO – dog Control 2017 was not good enough. A review of signage provision has been undertaken and this will result in additional costs to ensure that relevant and adequate signage is provided and maintained. These costs are estimated at up to £10,000 and will be met from existing revenue budgets.

It is not anticipated that there will be any material change in the amount of monies received from fixed penalty notices. Indeed, it is hoped that changes to irresponsible dog owners' behaviour will mean fewer FPN's being issued. An additional contribution towards income is not anticipated.

(B) Capital Costs

None

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): There is an increased cost associated with improving signage of the requirements of the PSPO, but this can be accommodated within existing budgetary provision
Legal Implications: The consultation process had adhered to statutory requirements and guidance. The decision-making process, if members determine to proceed with the PSPO -Dog Control, will follow the necessary and appropriate decision making route.
Equality Implications: The equality Implications have been identified and mitigated. The proposed PSPO provides exemptions for assistance dogs.

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: The PSPO would ensure continued protection by ensuring that dogs are prohibited from entering enclosed playgrounds and certain sports facilities and effectively controlled on a lead in other locations such as picnic areas and cemeteries thereby ensuring children can play without disturbance in a secure environment and persons using sensitive locations are protected.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: This PSPO will continue to encourage responsible dog ownership by ensuring dogs are on a lead, prohibited from entering key areas, seeking to reduce the levels of dog fouling within the Borough, which all benefit communities.
Commission, broker and provide core services: The PSPO will ensure enforcement powers are available to require dog fouling to be picked up forthwith, this will impact upon dog walker's behaviour and the level of dog fouling and contribute to the delivery of cleaner neighbourhoods.
Place – leadership and influencer: This PSPO helps to set out expectations and enable enforcement of responsible dog ownership within Sefton.
Drivers of change and reform: This PSPO will continue to encourage responsible dog ownership by ensuring dogs are on a lead or prohibited from entering key areas to the benefit of the community and will seek to reduce the levels of dog fouling within the Borough

Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: The PSPO will ensure enforcement powers are available to require dog fouling to be picked up forthwith, this will impact upon dog walker's behaviour and the level of dog fouling and contribute to cleaner neighbourhoods, positively impacting on the appeal of those areas to businesses.
Greater income for social investment: Not applicable
Cleaner Greener. The PSPO will ensure enforcement powers are available to require dog fouling to be picked up forthwith, this will impact upon dog walker's behaviour and the level of dog fouling. Ability for officers to request dogs leashed on direction is helpful in diffusing situations and preventing adverse impacts on the wider natural environment.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.6324.21) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.4475/21) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

Following approval by the Public Engagement & Consultation Panel a public consultation began on 17th March 2020 but was interrupted by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was suspended on 1st April.

A second consultation was run for a 4-week period, commencing on 7th September 2020 and concluding on 5th October 2020.

The structure of the two consultations are the same. The phrasing of the consultation questions differed only in the tense that they were written in where this was necessary.

Details of the consultation engagement are outlined further in this report.

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee / Council meeting.

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Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

Appendix 1 – Draft Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council Public Spaces Protection Order (Dog Control) 2020

Appendix 2 – Correspondence received from the Dog's Trust

Appendix 3 – Correspondence received from the Kennel Club

Appendix 4 – Correspondence received from Freedom for Dogs -Sefton

Background Papers:

Local Government Association -PSPO Guidance for Councils
https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/10.21%20PSPO%20guidance_06_1.pdf
.
Home Office Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014: Anti-social behaviour powers- Statutory guidance for frontline professionals

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/823316/2019-08-05_ASB_Revised_Statutory_Guidance_V2.2.pdf

1. Introduction/Background

1.1. A public spaces protection order (PSPO) can be introduced by a Council under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, Part 4 (section 59) where:

- activities that have taken place have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, or it is likely that activities will take place and that they will have a detrimental effect

- the effect or likely effect of these activities:
  - is, or is likely to be, persistent or continuing in nature
  - is, or is likely to be, unreasonable

1.2. A public spaces protection order may not have effect for a period of more than 3 years, unless extended.

1.3. In establishing which restrictions or requirements should be included the Council should be satisfied that the measures are necessary to prevent or reduce the likelihood of the detrimental effect continuing, occurring or recurring.

1.4. Before introducing, extending, varying or discharging a PSPO, there are requirements under the Act regarding consultation, publicity and notification.

1.5. Local authorities are obliged to consult with the local chief officer of police; the police and crime commissioner; owners or occupiers of land within the affected area where reasonably practicable, and appropriate community

representatives. Any county councils (where the Order is being made by a district), parish or community councils that are in the proposed area covered by the PSPO must be notified.

1.6. The Act also requires that there is a consultation process before an Order can be made (and held again when an Order is extended, varied or discharged).

2. Sefton's previous PSPO for Dog Control

2.1. The PSPO for Dog Control came into force on the 14th July 2017 and came to an end on 13th July 2020.

2.2. The following requirements / restrictions summarised below are included within the Order

- Failure to remove your dog's fouling forthwith.
- Restrict the number of dogs that can be walked by one person to a maximum of 6 dogs on or off the lead.
- Prohibit dogs from entering enclosed playgrounds.
- Prohibit dogs from entering marked or fenced sports pitches during specified times.
- Dogs to be kept on a lead within defined picnic sites and family areas in parks.
- Dogs to be kept on a lead within all designated carriageways (A and B classified Road) and adjoining footways and verges.
- Dogs to be kept on a lead within all cemeteries and crematoria.
- Dogs to be placed on a lead when directed by an authorised officer to prevent a nuisance or behaviour by the dog likely to cause annoyance or disturbance to members of the public.
- Dog leads must be no greater than 2 metres in length when used in the locations specified above.

2.3. A £75 fixed penalty notice (£50 if paid within 10 days) can be issued if you fail to comply with the requirement / restrictions within the Order.

2.4. There are several bye laws that include reference to dog control including: banning dogs from cemeteries (contradicting previous PSPO); limitations on dogs within certain parts of the seashore; Dogs Fouling Footways/ Grass Verges only and restriction on dogs in public walks and pleasure grounds. These are limited to specific locations and crucially fail to allow a Fixed penalty notice (FPN) to be issued and for the offender to discharge their liability for prosecution by making payment. All offences would result in prosecution which is both costly in time and resources and would leave the offender with a criminal record.

3. Activity during previous PSPO

3.1. During the period of the previous PSPO- Dog Control 2017 enforcement of the restrictions has primarily been undertaken by Contractor NSL Ltd with FPN's issued for non compliance.

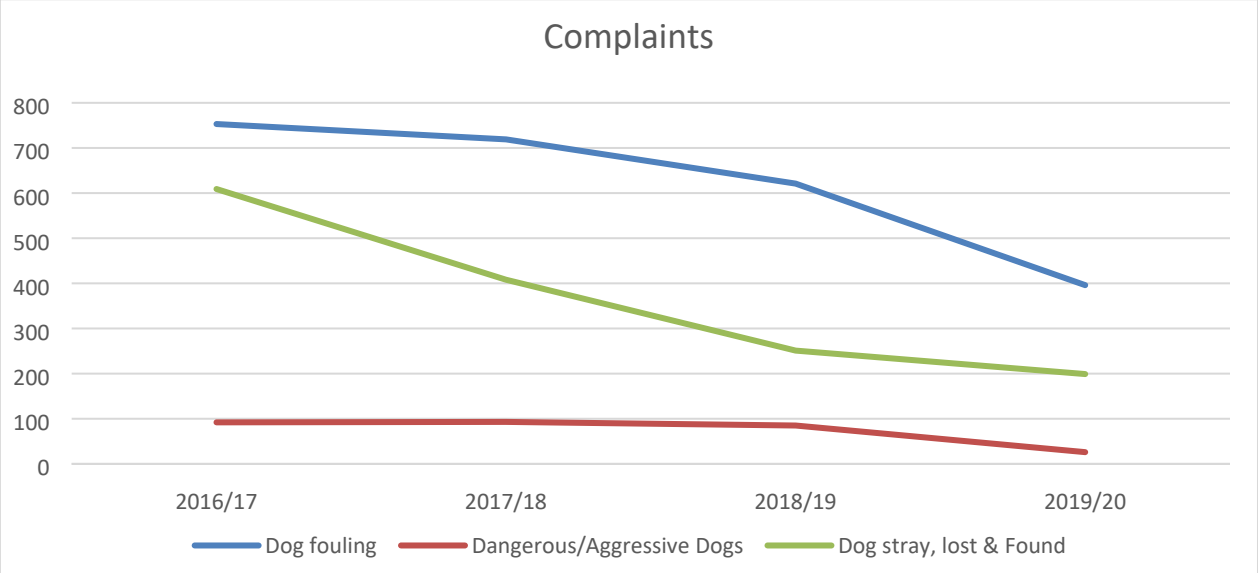
3.2. The Officers have undertaken high visibility patrols and engagement in key locations which provide a deterrent, particularly relevant for dog fouling offences. The knowledge of and ability to issue FPN's is key to their effectiveness.

3.3. FPN notices served by type:

(FPNs served by offence type	2017/18*	2018/19*	2019/20*	Grand Total
Allow dog to enter enclosed playground (PSPO)	2	44	40	86
Allow dog to enter sports pitches all year round (PSPO)		34	58	92
Dog Fouling (PSPO)	24	25	16	65
Dog not on lead cemeteries/crematoria (PSPO)		14	4	18
Dog not on lead public roads & footways (PSPO)	9	154	142	305
Dog not placed on lead when directed (PSPO)	1			1
Walking with more than 6 dogs (PSPO)			1	1
Grand Total	**36**	**271**	**261**	**568**

*Initial bedding in period followed by increase enforcement capacity 2018/19
* data / year is 13th July – 12th July (not calendar year)

3.4. The Council continues to receive a volume of complaints for dog fouling, these have reduced by 52.6% compared with the same period prior to the introduction of the PSPO- dog Control 2017 but remain significant. Enforcement officers continue to patrol to identify offenders and provide a deterrent.



3.5. Dog Fouling Complaints

Each year = 13/07 to 12/07	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	Grand Total
Dog fouling	753	719	621	396	2489

	1/7/2020 – 31/1/21
Dog Fouling	285

3.6. The level of report of Dangerous dog incidents reported to the Council

Each year = 13/7 to 12/7	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	Grand Total
Dangerous/Aggressive Dogs	92	93	85	26	296

3.7. Reports of stray Dog including lost, found and straying dogs have shown a significant decline since the introduction of the PSPO.

Each year = 13/07 to 12/07	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	Grand Total
Total Dog stray, lost & Found	609	408	251	199	1465

	1/7/2020 – 31/1/21
Total Dogs, stray, lost , found	58

4. Public Consultation

4.1. A consultation began on 17th March 2020 but was interrupted by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was suspended on 1st April 2020 having received 184 responses.

4.2. The interruption to the consultation prevented a decision being made on renewal, amendment or rescindment of the order and the PSPO for Dog Control expired on 13th July 2020.

4.3. A second consultation was run for a 4-week period, commencing on 7th September 2020 and concluding on 5th October 2020. 1,002 responses were received for the October/September consultation.

4.4. The structure of the two consultations are the same. The phrasing of the consultation questions differed only in the tense that they were written in where this was necessary.

4.5. The results of the two consultations have been combined in the analysis to ensure that all responses were taken into account. A search across all consultation responses was performed to check for duplicate responses. None were identified.

5. Consultation Engagement

5.1. Consultation questions were shared with key stakeholder Sefton Dogs and were agreed upon before being finalised for the public consultation to begin 17th March 2020.

5.2. Nineteen questions were agreed upon covering all elements of the current (as it was) PSPO as well as enforcement, impact, signage and publicity. Full details of the questions can be found in the results section of this report.

5.3. An easy read version was developed with the Improving Information Group, the wording of this was used for all versions of the consultation.

5.4. The consultation ran online through Your Sefton Your Say. Hard copies and audio versions were made available. Alternative language forms were available on request.

5.5. The Consultation was promoted through the Council website, My Sefton, social media local press, Green Sefton and all notice boards in Sefton Parks, recreational areas and cemeteries.

5.6. The following groups and individuals were all contacted via email to inform them of the consultation taking place and to identify any particular requests or requirements that group members may have.

- Councillors
- Parish Councils
- Ainsdale Beach Forum
- Beagle Group Waterloo Park
- Football managing pitch agent
- Sefton Young Advisors
- Sefton Older People's Forum
- ABILITY+ Network
- Sefton Embrace (LGBTQ+) Network
- Equal Voice (Black & Ethnic Minorities) Network
- Healthwatch Sefton
- Sefton Youth Service

- Sefton Carers Centre
- Strandbyme Health and Wellbeing Shop
- Sefton Visually Impaired Consultation Group
- People First Merseyside
- Health & Social Care Forum
- Friends of the Parks groups

5.7. Sefton Older People's Forum virtual meeting on 10th September 2020 was attended to discuss the public consultation and to answer any questions from group members.

6. Local chief officer of police:

6.1. Merseyside Chief Constable was consulted, and Superintendent Graeme Robson of Sefton Community Policing provided the following response:

"From a police perspective we recognise the impact that dogs can cause if they are not looked after responsibly and they to cause concern to people so having some restrictions that can be publicised and enforced not only gives us the opportunity to take action against people who breach the order but also give the public some reassurance about what we are doing to protect them.

We continue to support the proposed PSPO."

7. The police and crime commissioner:

7.1. The Police and Crime Commissioner for Merseyside was contacted and informed of the public consultation.

8. Parish Councils:

8.1. All parish councils across Sefton were contacted to inform them of the consultation taking place.

8.2. Aintree Village Parish Council provided a response:

"Could you please note that Aintree Village Parish Council is in favour of extending the PSPO."

9. Animal charities/welfare groups:

9.1. RSPCA, The Dog's Trust and The Kennel Club were all contacted regarding the Public Spaces Protection Order and the public consultation.

9.2. No response was received from the RSPCA. Responses from The Dog's Trust and The Kennel Club are at the end of the consultation.

9.3. A letter was received from Freedom for Dogs – Sefton, a group seeking to oppose the re-introduction of the PSPO. The letter signed by six people with a further thirty-six in support of the challenge. The letter listed 11 questions related to the PSPO and expressed their opinion that the order was unnecessary and heavy handed. A copy of the letter is shown in the appendix 4

Further Correspondence

9.4 Following an initial report to Licensing & Regulatory (Urgent referrals) Committee 4th November 2020, Ward Councillors expressed concern regarding a new proposal to include a requirement for dogs to be on leads within unfenced playgrounds. This has resulted in further consideration of this proposed restriction.

10. Public Consultation Results

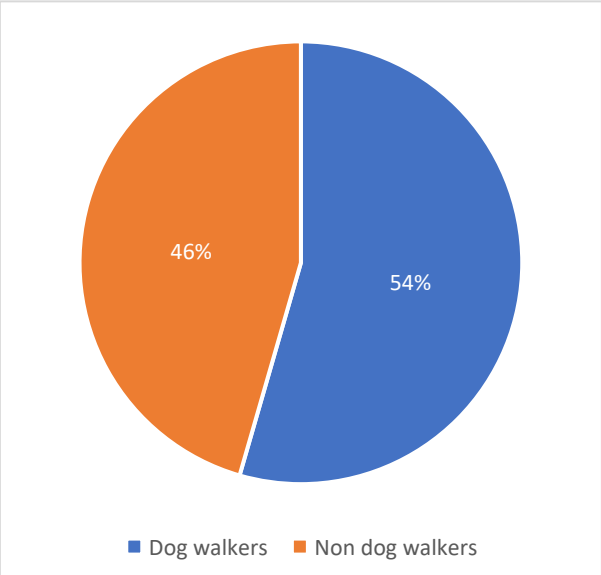
10.1. A combined total of 1,186 responses to the two consultations were received online.

10.2. The consultation asked respondents if they were 'dog walkers'. This was to identify if certain views on the PSPO were held by either dog walkers or non-dog walkers.

10.3. The results of the consultation questions below show the combined responses from consultations one and two, the responses are also presented to show the responses of both dog walkers and non-dog walkers.

10.4. Of the combined 1,186 responses 646 identified themselves as 'dog walkers' and 540 as 'non-dog walkers'.

Option	Total	Percentage
Dog walkers	646	54.47%
Non-dog walkers	540	45.53%



10.5. The results of the consultation can be seen in the following section.

11. Executive Summary

11.1. Irresponsible dog control has remained an issue during the life time of the previous PSPO – dog Control 2017 and this is reflected in the level of service requests, FPN's issued and comments made in response to this consultation.

11.2. This behaviour continues to have a detrimental effect and reintroduction of enforcement powers to control dogs will reduce the likelihood of the effect continuing or recurring.

11.3. The PSPO consultation has been broad ranging reaching out to relevant groups and residents alike. It has produced a significant number of responses. These have been broadly supportive of retaining restrictions / requirements that where contained within the previous PSPO – Dog Control 2017. This support is evenly spread between dog walkers and non-dog walkers.

11.4. Local Government Association guidance suggests that local authorities seeking to introduce dog control measures should consult dog law and welfare experts such as the Kennel Club. We have received responses from the Kennel Club and from the Dog's Trust both of which indicate support for the measures contained within Sefton's PSPO with some further recommendations regarding encouraging responsible dog ownership. Full copies of correspondence can be found in the appendix.

11.5. **Dog fouling:**

11.5.1. The public consultation results show strong support for PSPO measures to include the mechanism for the council to have the ability to fine dog walkers for not removing dog fouling forthwith.

11.5.2. 95.95% of respondents believed that the council should have this ability, and this was the supported by both dog walkers and non-dog walkers.

11.5.3. The Kennel Club and the Dog's Trust also responded in support of this element of the PSPO.

11.5.4. Kennel Club:

"The Kennel Club strongly promotes responsible dog ownership, and believes that dog owners should always pick up after their dogs wherever they are, including fields and woods in the wider countryside, and especially where farm animals graze to reduce the risk of passing Neospora and Sarcocystosis to cattle and sheep respectively."

11.5.5. Dog's Trust:

"Dogs Trust consider 'scooping the poop' to be an integral element of responsible dog ownership and would fully support a well-implemented order on fouling. We urge the Council to enforce any such order

rigorously. In order to maximise compliance we urge the Council to consider whether an adequate number of disposal points have been provided for responsible owners to use, to consider providing free disposal bags and to ensure that there is sufficient signage in place."

11.5.6. With regards to dog fouling a number of respondents recognised an issue with dog fouling across the borough:

"Dog poo is a massive problem in our area with owners not picking up. It is very frustrating when we try to be responsible owners- also dogs off lead can be an issue running over to our dog & child growling. It can be difficult to manage when I'm on my own and their owner doesn't care."

11.5.7. The response above is indicative of other responses on the matter. The public consultation also received a number of responses that raised the issue of the disposal of dog fouling. A particular problem with dog walkers disposing of poo bags in an inappropriate manner was identified.

11.5.8. This may indicate an issue with a lack of awareness and facilities for disposal across the borough and the Kennel Club and the Dog's Trust also reference the importance of having sufficient numbers of bins to allow dog walkers to dispose of dog fouling appropriately. The Kennel Club also suggest *"running responsible ownership and training events; or using poster campaigns to encourage dog owners to pick up after their dog."* This may be something for the council to review and consider, subject to resources.

11.6. **Dog exclusions:**

11.6.1. The results of the public consultation show a high degree of support of the need for areas in which dogs are excluded. As previously mentioned, there is a need for the council to balance the needs of all residents that use public spaces.

11.6.2. Only 6.58% of respondents felt that there should be no areas in which dogs should not be permitted.

11.6.3. Both the Kennel Club and the Dog's Trust also recognised the need for areas in which residents could use public spaces that were off limits to dogs.

11.6.4. The Kennel Club stated that they do *"not typically oppose Orders to exclude dogs from playgrounds or enclosed recreational grounds, such as skate parks or tennis courts, as long as alternative provisions are made for dog walkers in the vicinity."*

11.6.5. The Dog's Trust *"accepts that there are some areas where it is desirable that dogs should be excluded, such as children's play areas".*

11.6.6. The Dog's Trust expressed a concern regarding the enforcement of dog exclusion zones where there are no clear boundaries and argue that *"exclusion areas are kept to a minimum and that, for enforcement reasons, they are restricted to enclosed areas".*

11.6.7. 66.61% of consultation respondents were in favour of dog exclusion zones remaining for fenced playgrounds and marked or fenced sports pitches. The responses of non-dog walkers indicated a higher rate of support for this at 75.37%.

11.6.8. The consultation also asked residents if they felt that there were other locations that dogs should be excluded from. There is some support for the extension of exclusion zones to playgrounds without a fence, 47.64% of total respondents supported this extension. For non-dog walkers this increased to 57.41% whereas for dog walkers the level of support for this was 39.47%.

11.6.9. A number of respondents expressed a concern regarding dogs around children and areas in which children play.

11.6.10. There was also some support for dog exclusion zones to be extended to beaches and golf courses, however this support is not considered strong enough to warrant inclusion in a reintroduced PSPO.

11.6.11. The Dog's Trust make explicit reference to beaches stating that exclusions can lead to animal welfare issues such as dogs being left in cars on hot days. They also argue that restrictions can *"lead to a decrease in dog friendly tourism for businesses along the coast, which in turn could have a negative impact on the local economy".*

11.6.12. The consultation responses show a clear divide between dog walkers and non-dog walkers when it comes to exclusion from beaches. Just 17.65% of dog walkers would support this restriction and given overall support for beach exclusions is 31.62% it is not recommended that beaches should be included in dog exclusion zones.

11.6.13. The Dog's Trust also highlight difficulties with exclusion zones in areas that lack clear boundaries. This could prove problematic for open playground areas and, whilst support for this extension is significant there is greater support for dogs on leads restrictions in open playgrounds that may be a more reasonable limitation. This is discussed further in the 'Dogs on leads' section below.

11.6.14. Regarding sports pitches, the Dog's Trust express reservation about orders *"excluding dogs from all sports pitches for long stretches of the year".* They feel that this is unnecessary and that *"sports pitches may account for a large part of the open space available in a public park, and therefore excluding dogs could significantly reduce available dog walking space for owners."* Rather than excluding dogs entirely they argue that

focus on reducing dog fouling in these areas *"with adequate provision of bins and provision of free disposal bags".*

11.6.15. Whilst there were a number of consultation respondents that felt the exclusion of dogs from sports pitches all year round was too severe, there were also a large number of responses explicitly requested that these measures stay in place and be more regularly enforced.

11.6.16. The overall responses to the consultation were supportive of the dog exclusions to remain in place for sports pitches, both amongst dog walkers and non-dog walkers. The comments of the Dog's Trust are recognised regarding the need areas in which dogs can be exercised and these areas should be publicised to dog walkers.

11.6.17. There is a need to ensure that there is sufficient space for both dog walkers to exercise their dogs and for places in which dog presence is not appropriate. The consultation results indicate that the exclusion of dogs from fenced playgrounds and marked or fenced sports pitches is supported and should remain.

11.7. **Dogs on leads:**

11.7.1. The previous PSPO designated three areas in which dogs must be kept on leads:

- Picnic sites and family areas in parks
- All designated carriageways (A and B classified Road) and footways
- In cemeteries and crematoria

11.7.2. The consultation results show support for all of these to remain in place and this support is consistent amongst both dog walkers and non-dog walkers. All three restrictions received over 70% support from both dog walkers and non-dog walkers.

11.7.3. The Kennel Club are supportive of "*proportionate*" dogs on leads restrictions in areas *"such as cemeteries, picnic areas, or on pavements in proximity to cars and other road traffic."*

11.7.4. The Dog's Trust *"accept that there are some areas where it is desirable that dogs should be kept on a lead."* They also reference the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and the *"need for sufficient exercise including the need to run off lead in appropriate areas".*

11.7.5. There is support for the extension of the dogs on leads restriction to include playgrounds without a fence. 54.89% of total respondents support this extension, 47.68% of dog walkers and 63.52% of non-dog walkers.

11.7.6. Many respondents expressed concern about the presence of dogs in areas in which children play and there was some support to extend dogs on leads restriction to unfenced open playgrounds. However, following

the consultation, work has been undertaken to assess the areas to which a new restriction might apply and it is felt that defining these areas with clarity for both dog walkers and enforcement officers would be difficult. It was also confirmed that some of the unfenced playgrounds are already situated within those existing picnic / family areas identified in the PSPO – Dog Control 2017. It is considered that an additional requirement for dogs on leads in unfenced open playgrounds is not a proportionate restriction given the level of support and the practicalities of implementing it.

11.7.7. Concerns that have been expressed relating to restrictions on areas where dogs can exercise, without being on a lead, are acknowledged. There are many areas throughout the Borough where dogs can be exercised off lead and steps will be taken to further improve communication and knowledge of these locations including publication of a full list for easy reference.

11.8. **Dogs on leads by direction:**

11.8.1. The support for the power to order a dog walker to put their dog on a lead is clear from the consultation, 93.7% of respondents agree that the council should have this power.

11.8.2. Both the Dog's Trust and the Kennel Club are highly supportive of these measures:

Dog's Trust:

"Dogs Trust enthusiastically support Dogs on Leads by Direction orders (for dogs that are considered to be out of control or causing alarm or distress to members of the public to be put on and kept on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised official)."

Kennel Club:

"The Kennel Club strongly welcomes 'dogs on lead by direction' Orders. These allow responsible dog owners to exercise their dogs off lead without restriction providing their dogs are under control, whilst simultaneously giving the local authority powers to restrict dogs not under control."

11.8.3. It is recommended that the dogs on leads by direction element of the PSPO remains the same.

11.9. **Dog walking limit of 6 dogs for an individual:**

11.9.1. The Kennel Club are not supportive of limits to the number of dogs an individual can walk. They argue that the *"maximum number of dogs a person can walk in a controlled manner is dependent on a number of*

other factors relating to the walker, the dogs being walked, whether leads are used, and the location where the walking is taking place."

11.9.2. This point was echoed by a number of consultation respondents with some arguing that the use of training leads should be permitted and an emphasis on control rather than lead length would be more appropriate.

11.9.3. The Dog's Trust do not argue against the use of powers limiting the number of dogs an individual can walk. They agree that the behaviour of the dog and the competency of the handler are important factors and also state research suggests that the number of dogs walked by an individual is unlikely to exceed four.

11.9.4. The points raised regarding the importance of dog behaviour and owner control is recognised. Consultation respondents were supportive of this element of the consultation. Only 12.98% felt that there should be no limit to the number of dogs an individual can walk, with 52.87% in favour of the 6 dog limit remaining in place.

11.9.5. For those that were in favour of a different limit, 11.97% felt this should be three dogs and 11.89% that the limit should be four.

11.9.6. The support for the 6 dog limit is clear and the research that the Dog's Trust refer to shows that 95% of dog owners have up to 3 dogs and so the 6 dog limit is unlikely to impact on the majority of dog owners. It is also felt that no matter how skilled a dog handler, handling any more than 6 dogs would prove to be too difficult a task for any walker.

11.9.7. It is recommended that the 6 dog restriction remains in place.

11.10. **Dogs leads no longer than 2 metres:**

11.10.1. Respondents to the consultation were supportive of the 2 metre restriction for dog leads, 55.23% of people stated that this should remain as a component of the PSPO.

11.10.2. The level of support for this element of the PSPO was reduced amongst dog walkers, 46.75% of dog walkers were in favour of the 2 metre rule and 43.81% were not in favour of the rule.

11.10.3. Amongst those not supportive of the rule a significant number felt that the 2 metre rule is arbitrary and that control of a dog was more important than the length of the lead.

"I think that 'appropriate length' depends on the dog and the situation."

11.10.4. The use of training leads was referenced by some respondents with these often extending much further than 2 metres. It is felt that the use of training leads is not prohibited by the PSPO in its current form. Dogs

may be trained, and training leads can used in locations in which the lead restrictions are not in place. For example, a dog can be trained in a location where dogs are allowed off lead and it would be inappropriate to train a dog in a cemetery, picnic site or public road.

11.10.5. Extendable leads were another point of contention in the consultation. Some dog walkers would like to see extendable leads permitted whereas others argue that these leads can be dangerous.

"Extendable dog leads, the sort that wind in and out should be banned altogether as they present a danger to the public. When fully extended the dog owner does not have full control of the dog as it can move in any direction at will. This is dangerous to the dog (as it could easily run into the road and traffic) and the fully extended lead can be a hazard to other dogs, leads can easily become entangled causing a dog to panic. They are trip hazards as well."

11.10.6. Given the majority of respondents were supportive of the 2 metre lead limit remaining in place it is recommended that this remain in the PSPO.

11.11. **Signage:**

The consultation identified that a significant number of respondents did not think that signage used during the PSPO – dog Control 2017 was good enough. As a result, a review of signage provision has taken place and taken onboard issues raised through, complaint, elected members, feedback from resident and visitors and enforcement officers. Where necessary signage will be upgraded to ensure that it is relevant and adequate. This will include; information signs at each entrance to parks and greenspaces setting out the PSPO requirements and providing details of where further information can be obtained; refreshed maps in 17 parks and additional maps in locations where greater definition is required i.e. those containing family / picnic areas; production of a full list and where practicable digital maps of parks and green spaces to which schedule 2 and 3 of the proposed order applies and a comprehensive list of areas where dogs can be exercised off the lead.

11.12. **Awareness and Enforcement:**

It is recognised that some time has elapsed since the PSPO Dog Control 2017 expired. If the new order is approved, it is proposed that a period of grace will be allowed before recommencement of enforcement. This will allow for awareness to be raised through appropriate channels

11.13. **Conclusion:**

11.13.1. The proposed PSPO seeks to maintain a balance between necessary controls to address unreasonable anti-social behaviour that is or is likely to have a continuing, recurring detrimental effect on the quality of life of

those in the locality and takes into consideration the outcome of the consultation and views expressed by respondents.

11.13.2. The Council has sought to balance the interests of those in charge of dogs against the interests of those affected by the activities of dogs, including dog fouling, bearing in mind the need for people, in particular children, to have access to dog-free areas and areas where dogs are kept under strict control, and the need for those in charge of dogs to have access to areas where they can exercise their dogs without undue restrictions.

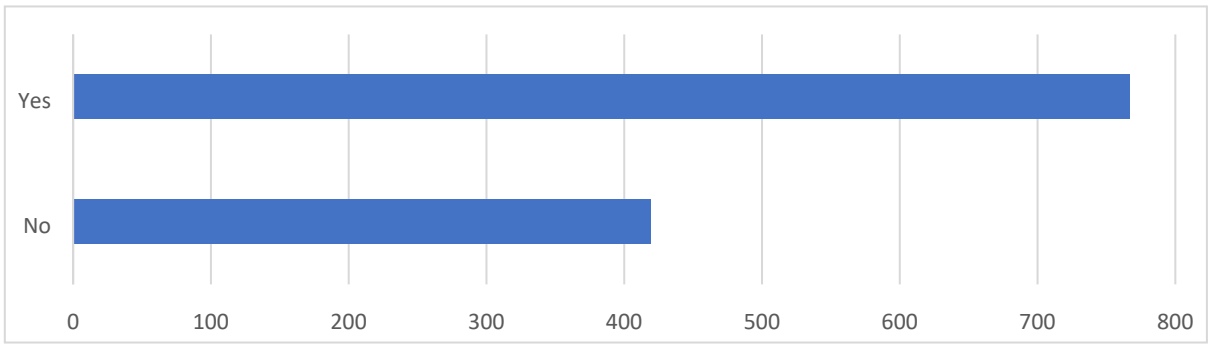
11.13.3. The proposed PSPO build on the previous PSPO -dog control 2017 and will ensure a continuation of enforcement powers available to the Council to address irresponsible dog control. Not proceeding will see a reliance on very limited bye laws, an inability to tackle dog fouling in all areas or to issue any dog related fixed penalty notices.

11.13.4. It is proposed that the following requirements / restrictions summarised below are included within the proposed PSPO- Dog Control

i. Offence of not removing dog's fouling forthwith
ii. Restrict the number of dogs that can be walked by one person to a maximum of 6.
iii. Prohibit dogs from entering enclosed playgrounds
iv. Prohibit dogs from entering marked or fenced sports pitches during specified periods.(Football or Rugby pitches from 01 September to 31st May inclusive and Cricket pitches from 01 April to 30th September inclusive)
v. Dogs to be kept on a lead of not more than 2.0 metres in length within defined picnic sites and family areas
vi. Dogs to be kept on a lead of not more than 2.0 metres in length within designated carriageways (A & B classified roads) and adjoining footways and verges
vii. Dogs to be kept on a lead of not more than 2.0 metres in length within all cemeteries and crematoria
viii. Dogs to be placed on a lead w of not more than 2.0 metres in length when directed by an authorised officer to prevent a nuisance or behaviour likely to cause annoyance or disturbance to the public

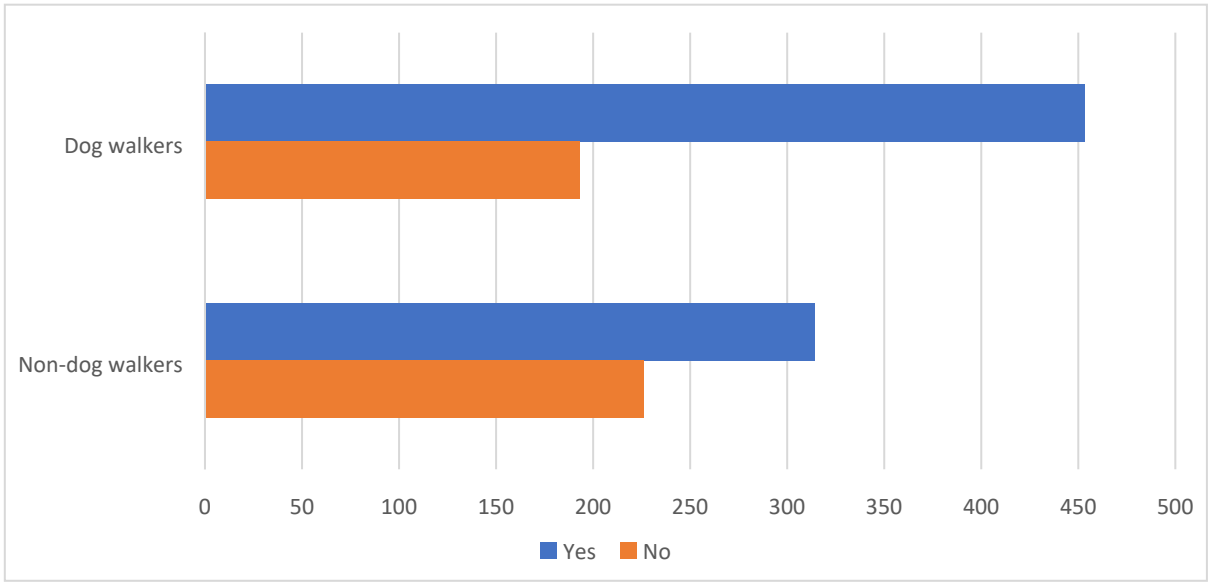
Question 1: Were you aware of the PSPO for Dog Control?

PSPO aware – 1,186 respondents



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	767	64.67%
No	419	35.33%

Dog walkers and Non-dog walkers



Dog walker responses

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	453	70.12%
No	193	29.88%

Non-dog walker responses

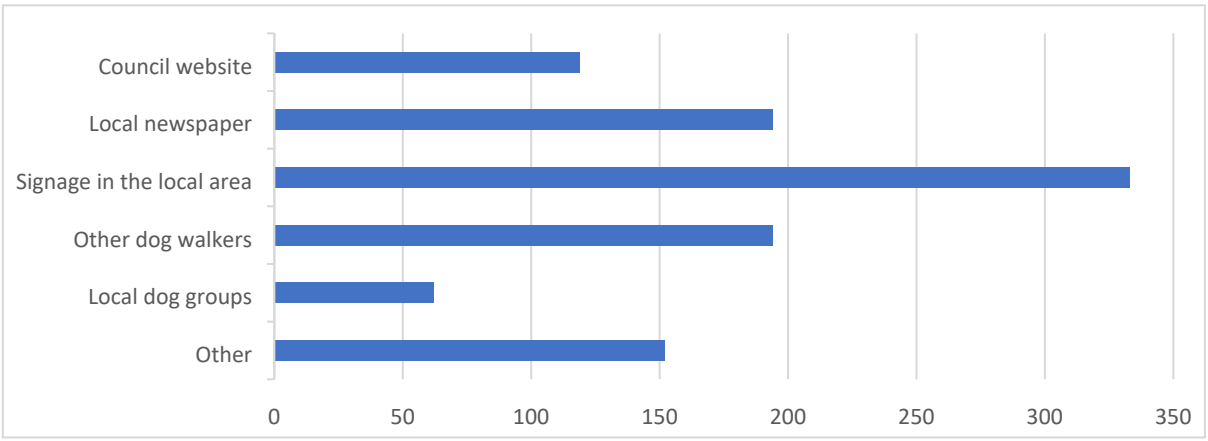
Option	Total	Percent
Yes	314	58.15%
No	226	41.85%

Question 2: How did you find out about the previous Order?

(You can choose more than one)

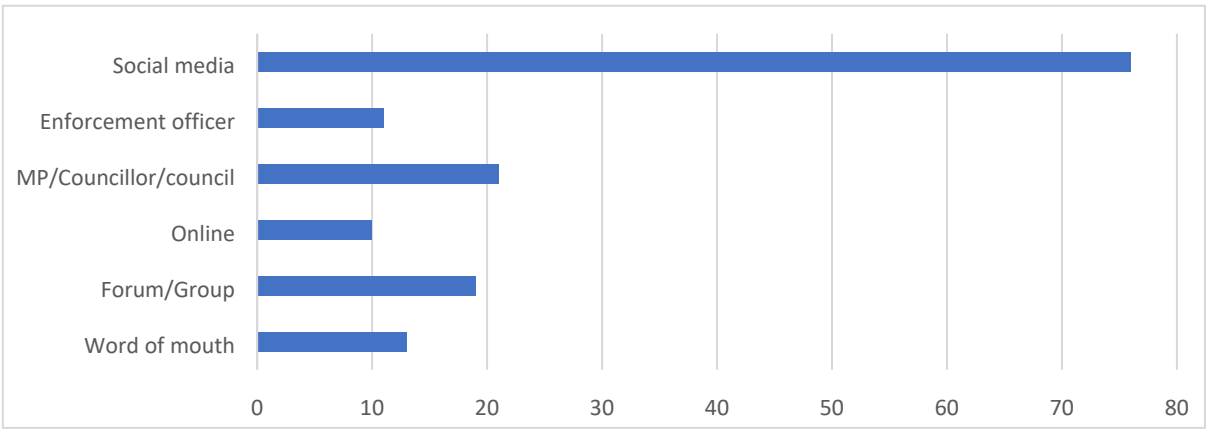
PSPO publicity – 767 respondents

Option	Total	Percent
Council website	119	15.51%
Local newspaper	194	25.29%
Signage in the local area	333	43.42%
Other dog walkers	194	25.29%
Local dog groups	62	8.08%
Other	152	19.82%



Other options

Option	Total	Percent
Social media	76	9.91%
Enforcement officer	11	1.43%
MP/Councillor/council	21	2.74%
Online	10	1.30%
Forums/Groups	19	2.48%
Word of mouth	13	1.69%

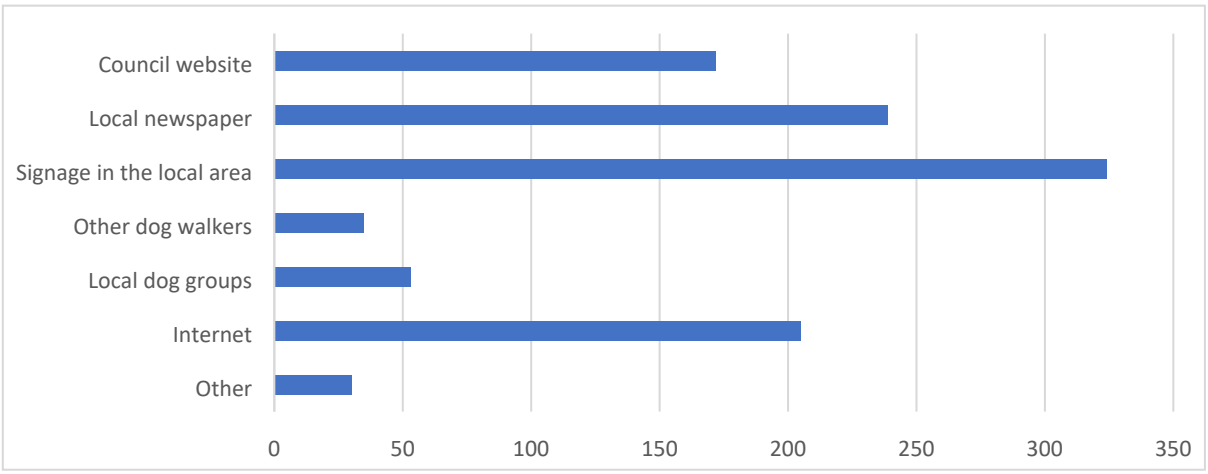


Question 3: How would you like to hear about the PSPO?

(You can choose more than one)

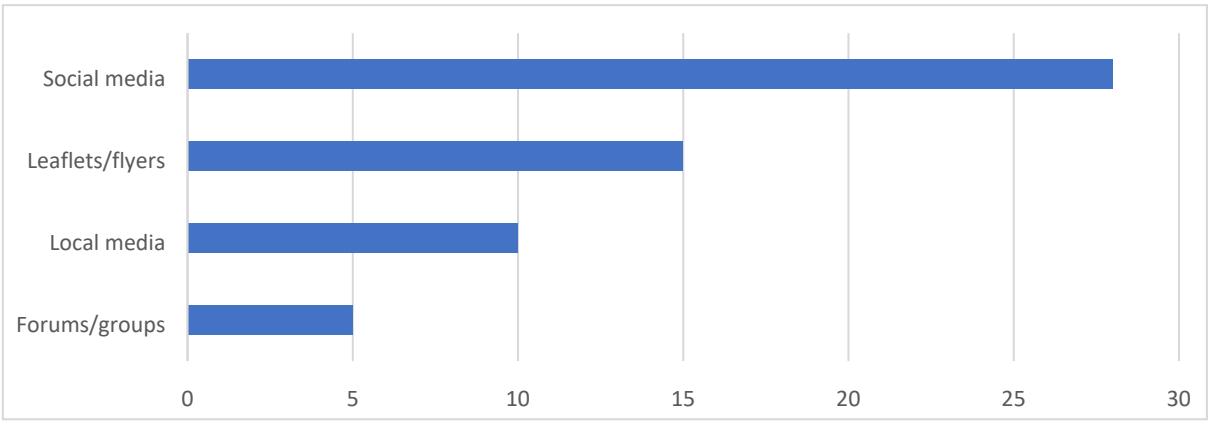
Contact preference – 419 respondents

Option	Total	Percent
Council website	172	41.05%
Local newspaper	239	57.04%
Signage in the local area	324	77.33%
Other dog walkers	35	8.35%
Local dog groups	53	12.65%
Internet	205	48.93%
Other	30	7.16%



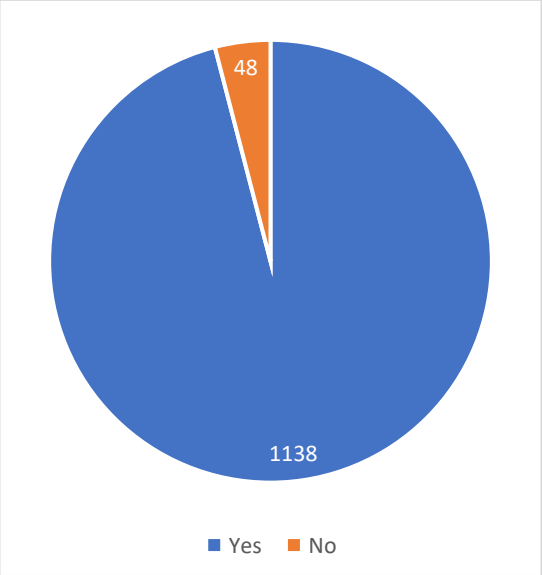
Other options

Option	Total	Percent
Social media	28	6.68%
Leaflets/flyers	15	3.58%
Local media	10	2.39%
Forums/groups	5	1.19%



Question 4: Should the council be able to fine someone for not picking up dog poo?

Fouling – 1,186 respondents



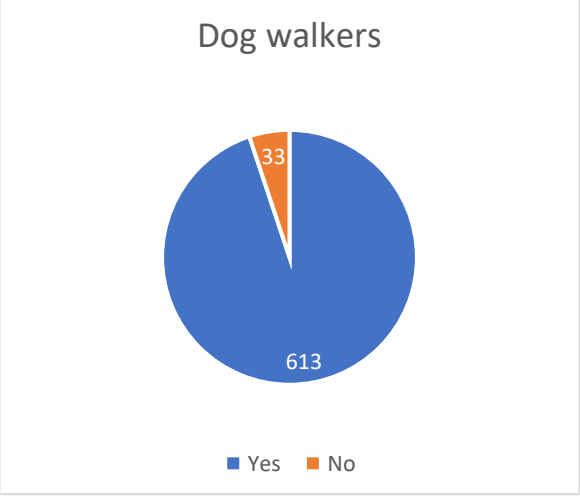
Option	Total	Percent
Yes	1138	95.95%
No	48	4.05%

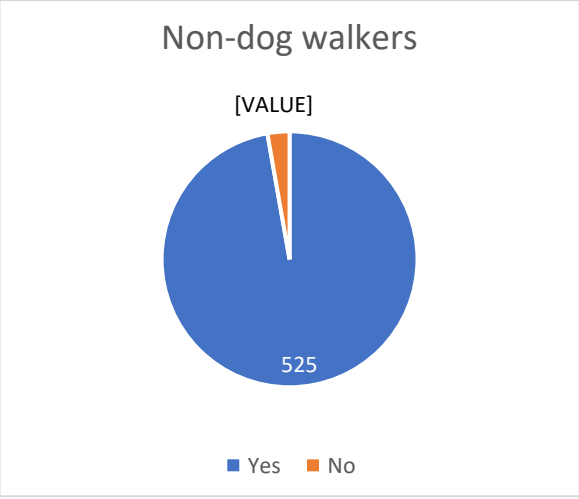
Dog walker responses

Yes	**613**	**94.89%**
No	33	5.11%

Non-dog walker responses

Yes	**525**	**97.22%**
No	15	2.78%

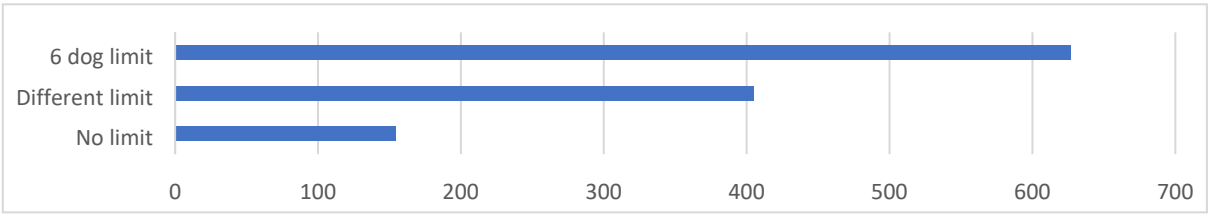




Question 5: Dog walkers limited to a maximum of 6 dogs.

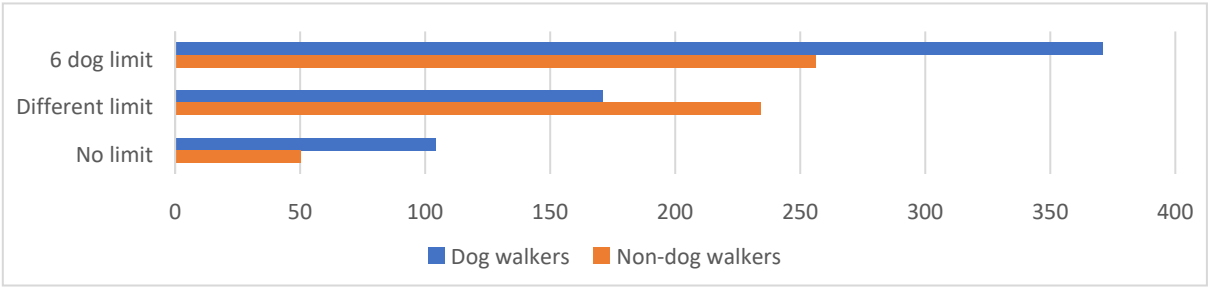
Do you think that:

No. of dogs – 1,186 respondents



Option	Total	Percent
Dog walkers should be limited to 6 dogs at one time	627	52.87%
Dog walkers should be limited to a different number of dogs	405	34.15%
There should be no limit for dog walkers	154	12.98%

Dog walkers and Non-dog walkers



Dog walker responses

Option	Total	Percent
Dog walkers should be limited to 6 dogs at one time	371	57.43%
Dog walkers should be limited to a different number of dogs	171	26.47%
There should be no limit for dog walkers	104	16.10%

Non-dog walker responses

Option	Total	Percent
Dog walkers should be limited to 6 dogs at one time	256	47.41%
Dog walkers should be limited to a different number of dogs	234	43.33%
There should be no limit for dog walkers	50	9.26%

Question 6: (If answered 'Dog walkers should be limited to a different number of dogs')

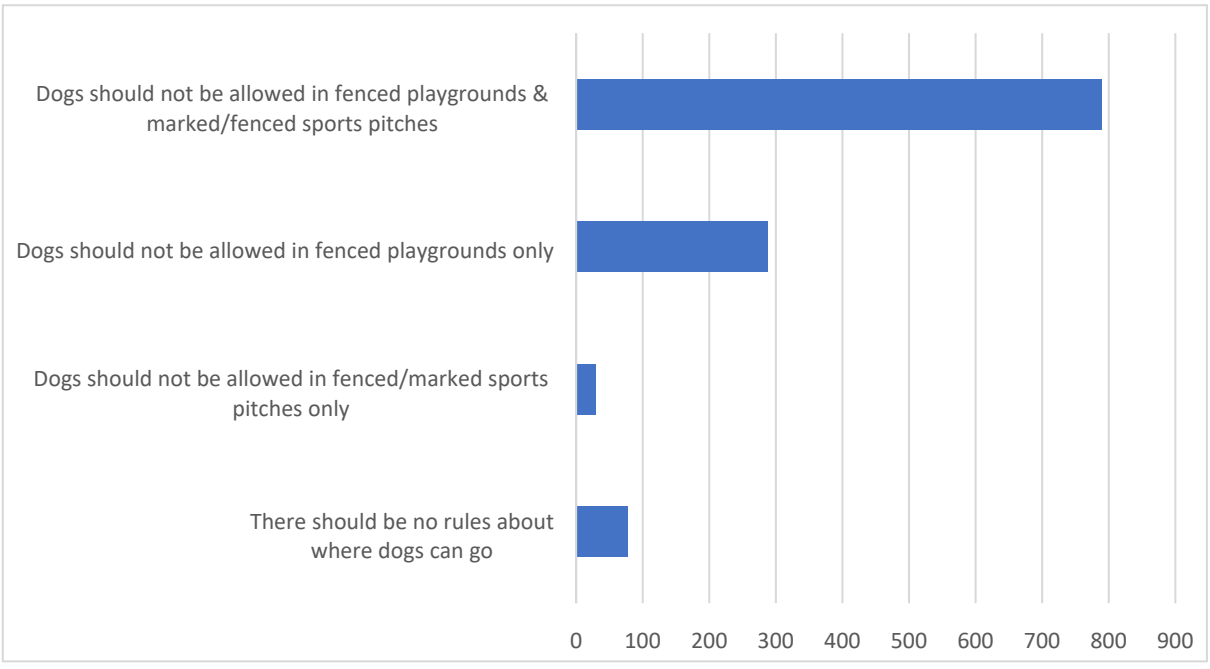
How many dogs should a person be allowed to walk?

Different walking limit – 405 respondents

Option	Total	Percent
1 dog	10	0.84%
2 dogs	99	8.35%
3 dogs	142	11.97%
4 dogs	141	11.89%
5 dogs	1	0.08%
8 dogs	3	0.25%
10 dogs	1	0.08%
Cannot state/dependent on other factors	8	0.67%

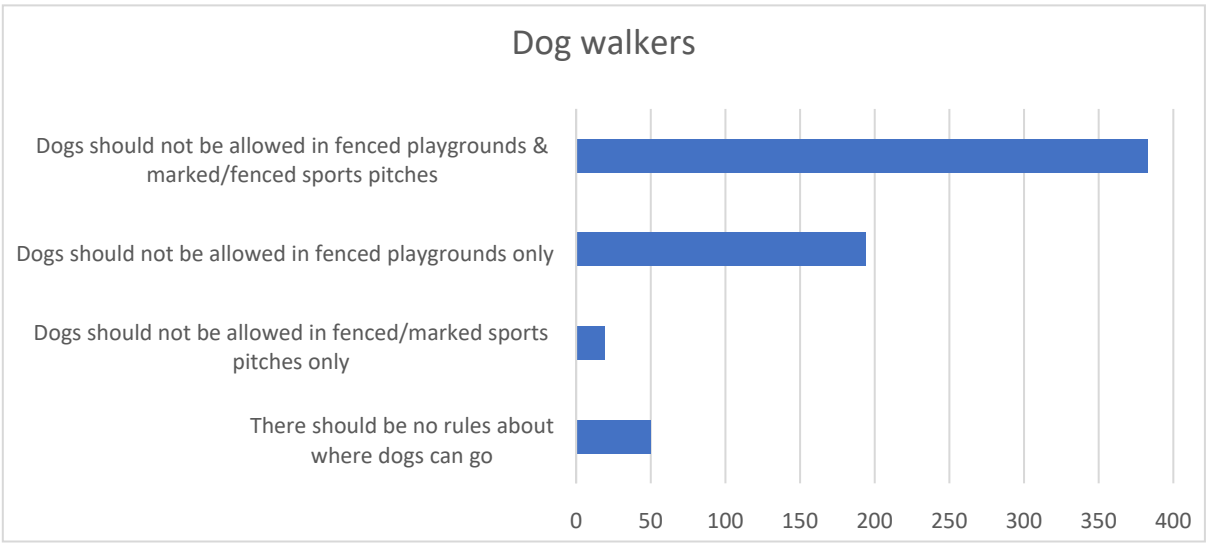
Question 7: Which of the rules below do you most agree with?

Dog exclusion zones – 1,186 respondents



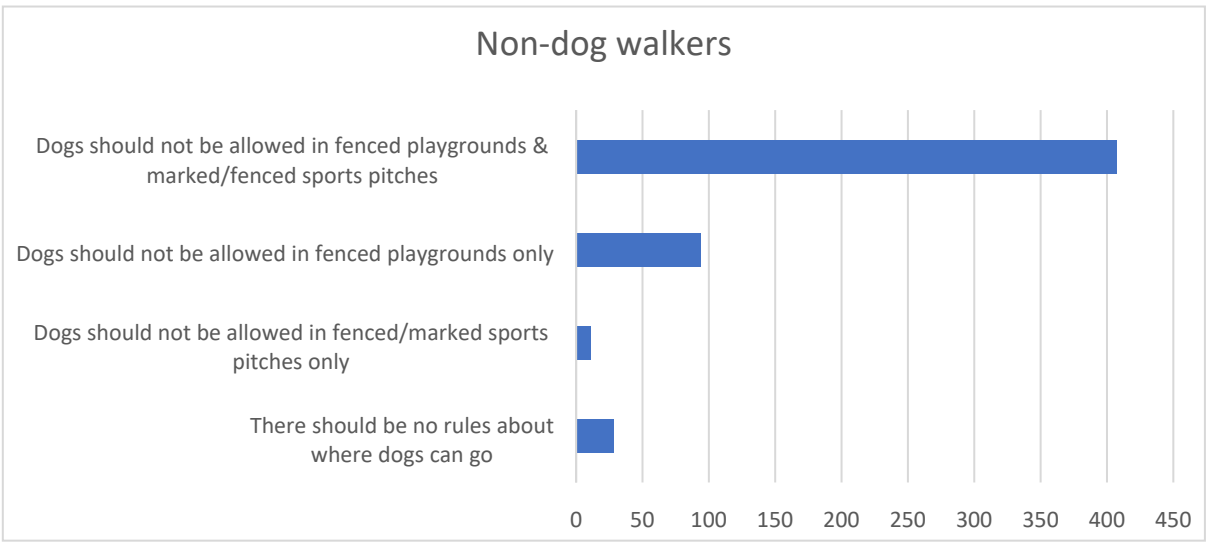
Option	Total	Percent
Fenced playgrounds and marked or fenced sports pitches	790	66.61%
Fenced playgrounds only	288	24.28%
Marked or fenced sports pitches only	30	2.53%
There should be no rules about where dogs can go	78	6.58%

Dog walker responses



Option	Total	Percent
Fenced playgrounds and marked or fenced sports pitches	383	59.29%
Fenced playgrounds only	194	30.03%
Marked or fenced sports pitches only	19	2.94%
There should be no rules about where dogs can go	50	7.74%

Non-dog walker responses



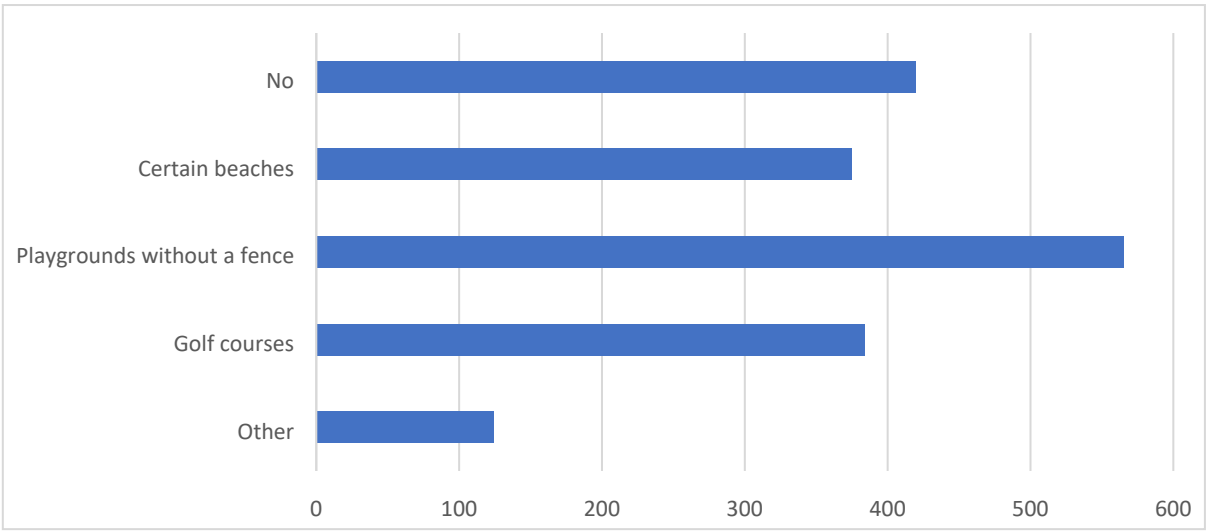
Option	Total	Percent
Fenced playgrounds and marked or fenced sports pitches	407	75.37%
Fenced playgrounds only	94	17.41%
Marked or fenced sports pitches only	11	2.04%
There should be no rules about where dogs can go	28	5.19%

Question 8: Do you think that there are other places where dogs should not be allowed?

(You can choose more than one)

Restrictions extended – 1,186 respondents

Option	Total	Percent
No	420	35.41%
Certain beaches	375	31.62%
Playgrounds without a fence	565	47.64%
Golf courses	384	32.38%
Other	124	10.46%

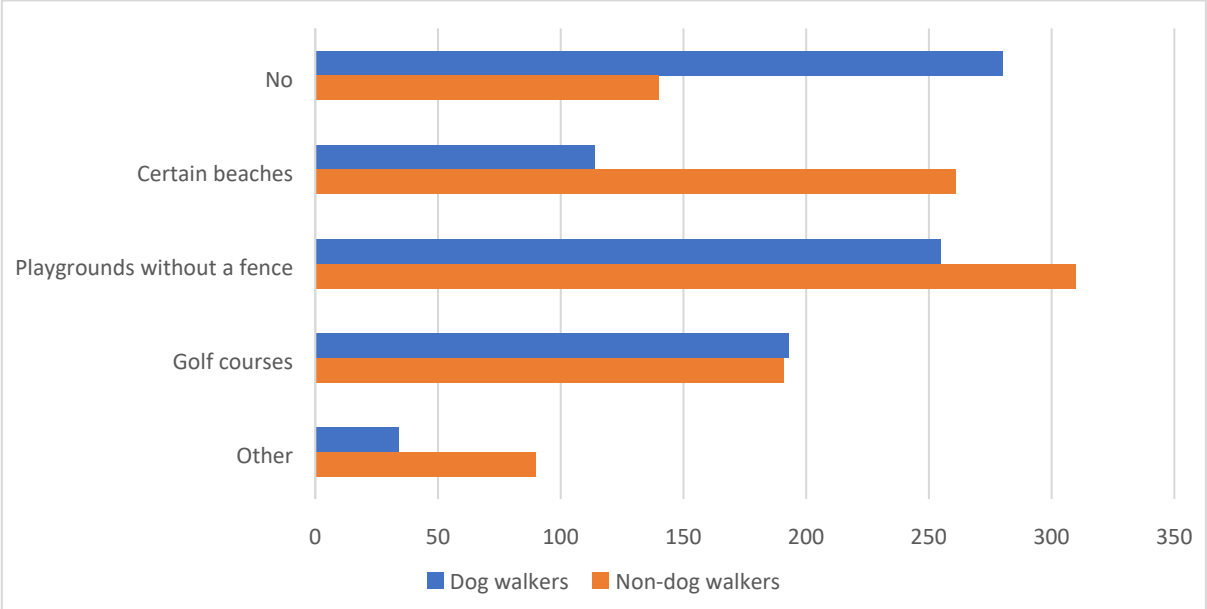


Dog walker responses

Option	Total	Percent
No	280	43.34%
Certain beaches	114	17.65%
Playgrounds without a fence	255	39.47%
Golf courses	193	29.88%
Other	34	5.26%

Non-dog walker responses

Option	Total	Percent
No	140	25.93%
Certain beaches	261	48.33%
Playgrounds without a fence	310	57.41%
Golf courses	191	35.37%
Other	90	16.67%



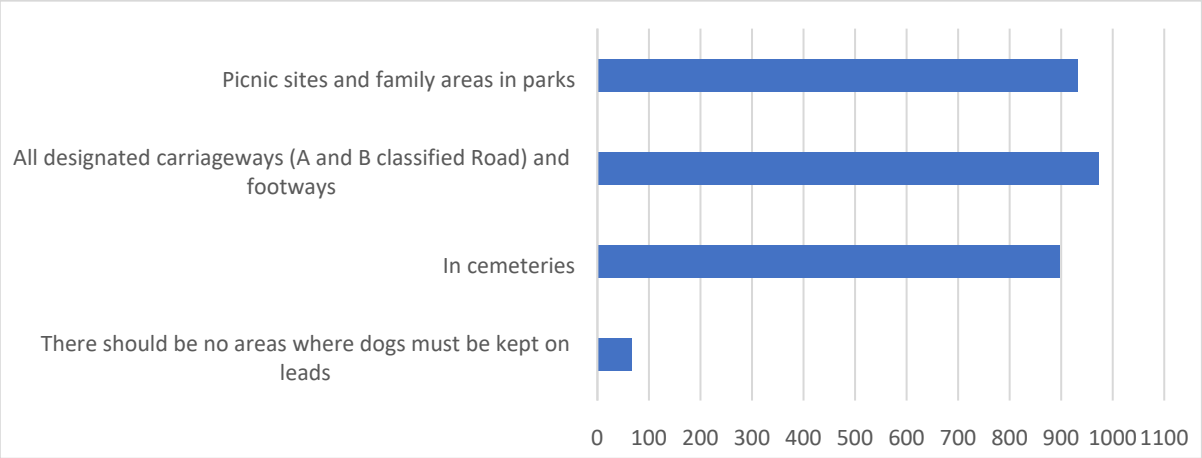
Other responses

Option	Total	Percent
Shopping areas	7	0.59%
Cemeteries	7	0.59%
Near roads	6	0.51%
Nature Reserves	19	1.60%
Beaches	15	1.26%
Certain parks	11	0.93%
Public transport	2	0.17%
Areas used by children	10	0.84%
Sports pitches	7	0.59%

Question 9: Which of the following places do you think that dogs should be kept on leads?

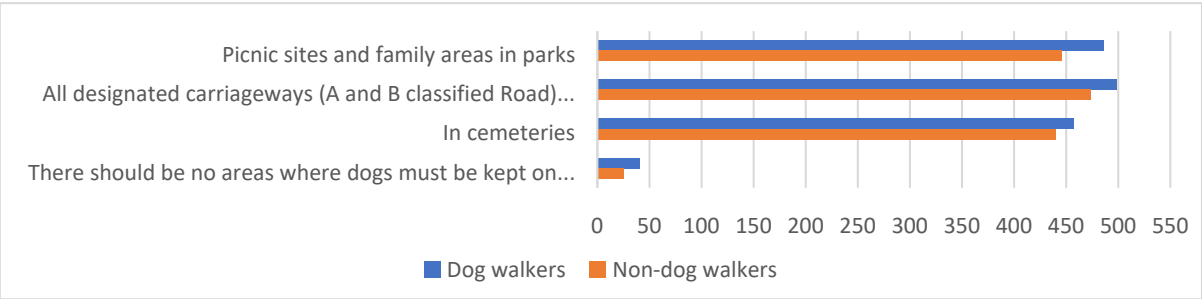
(You can choose more than one)

Dogs on leads – 1,186 respondents



Option	Total	Percent
Picnic sites and family areas in parks	932	78.58%
All designated carriageways (A and B classified Road) and footways	973	82.04%
In cemeteries	897	75.63%
There should be no areas where dogs must be kept on leads	66	5.56%

Dog walkers and Non-dog walkers



Dog walker responses

Option	Total	Percent
Picnic sites and family areas in parks	486	75.23%
All designated carriageways (A and B classified Road) and footways	499	77.24%
In cemeteries	457	70.74%
There should be no areas where dogs must be kept on leads	41	6.35%

Non-dog walker responses

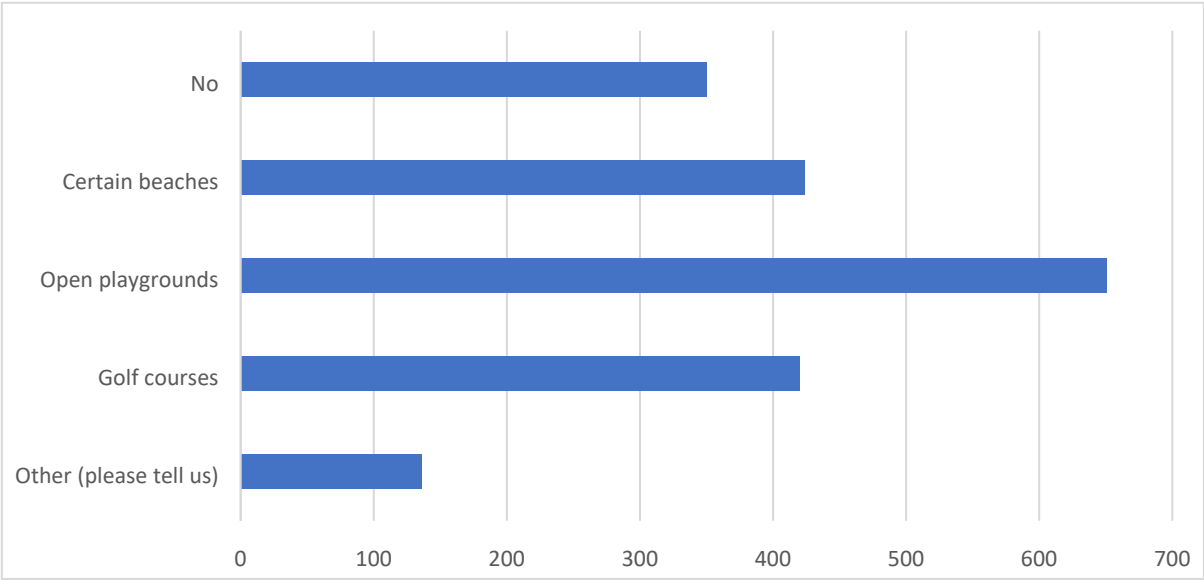
Option	Total	Percent
Picnic sites and family areas in parks	446	82.59%
All designated carriageways (A and B classified Road) and footways	474	87.78%
In cemeteries	440	81.48%
There should be no areas where dogs must be kept on leads	25	4.63%

Question 10: Do you think that there are other places that dogs should also be kept on leads?

(You can choose more than one)

Lead restriction extended – 1,143 respondents

Option	Total	Percent
No	350	29.51%
Certain beaches	424	35.75%
Open playgrounds	651	54.89%
Golf courses	420	35.41%
Other (please tell us)	136	11.47%



Dog walkers

Option	Total	Percent
No	236	36.53%
Certain beaches	152	23.53%
Open playgrounds	308	47.68%
Golf courses	201	31.11%
Other (please tell us)	65	10.06%

Non-dog walkers

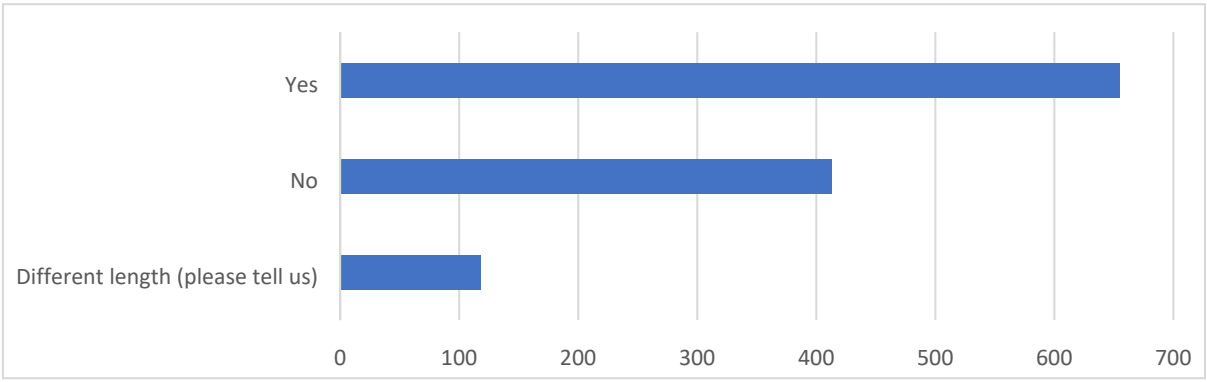
Option	Total	Percent
No	114	21.11%
Certain beaches	272	50.37%
Open playgrounds	343	63.52%
Golf courses	219	40.56%
Other (please tell us)	71	13.15%

Other responses

Option	Total	Percent
Only of lead in designated areas	21	1.77%
Parks/Botanical Gardens	22	1.85%
All public spaces	38	3.20%
All roads	10	0.84%
Nature reserves	14	1.18%
Cycle/foot/canal paths	10	0.84%
Beaches	12	1.01%

Question 11: Do you think that dog leads should be no more than 2 metres in length?

Lead length – 1,186 respondents

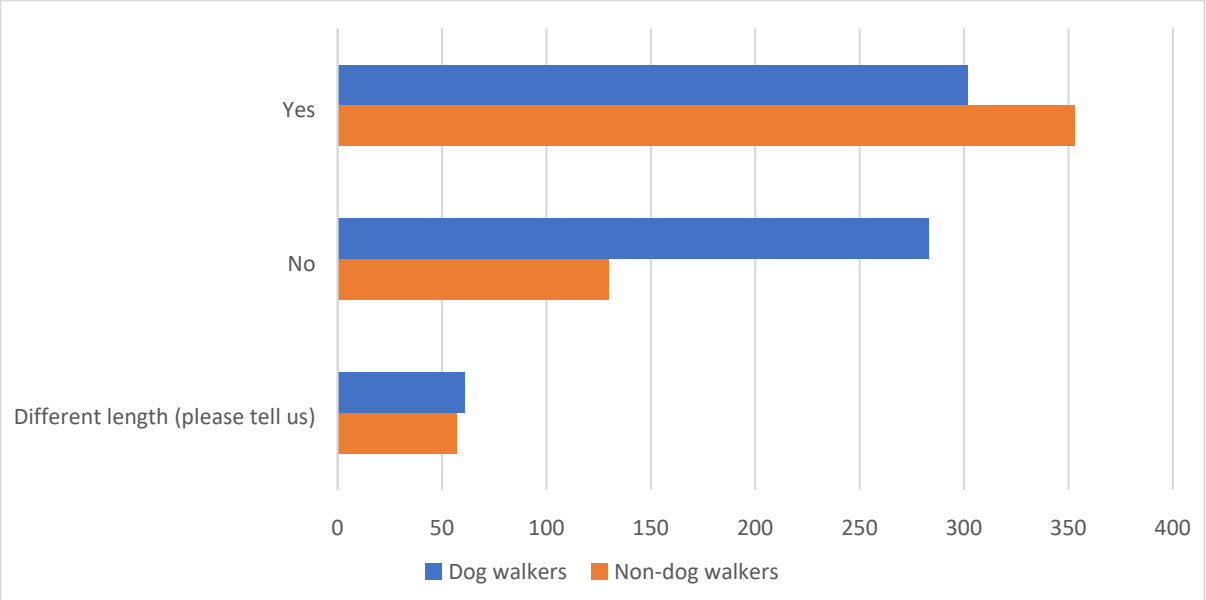


Option	Total	Percent
Yes	655	55.23%
No	413	34.82%
Different length (please tell us)	118	9.95%

Different Length

Option	Total	Percent
1 metre	24	2.02%
3 metres	12	1.01%
5 metres	11	0.93%
Length of lead does not matter	8	0.67%

Dog walker and Non-dog walkers



Dog walker responses

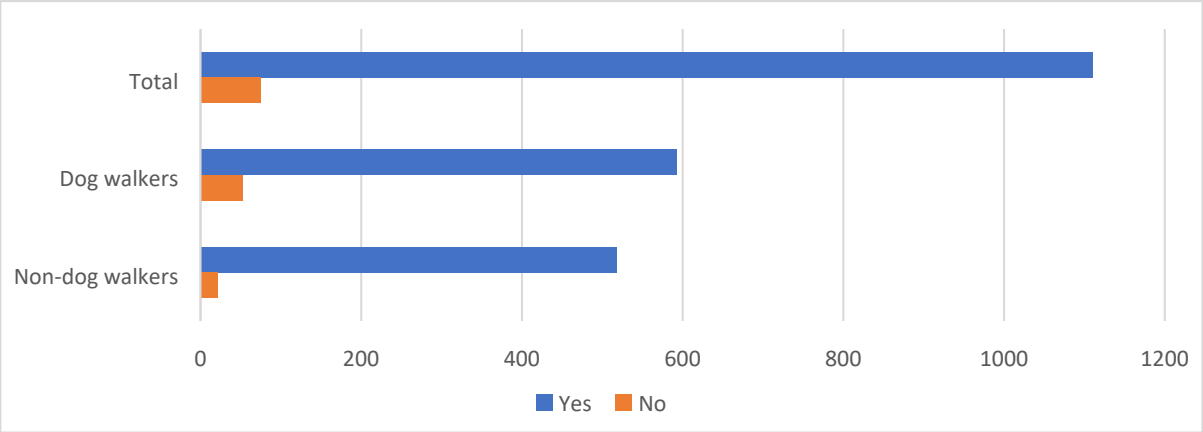
Option	Total	Percent
Yes	302	46.75%
No	283	43.81%
Different length (please tell us)	61	9.44%

Non-dog walker responses

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	353	65.37%
No	130	24.07%
Different length (please tell us)	57	10.56%

Question 12: Should an officer be able to tell a person to put their dog on a lead?

Request to place on lead – 1,186 respondents



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	1111	93.7%
No	75	6.3%

Dog walkers

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	593	91.80%
No	53	8.20%

Non-dog walkers

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	518	95.93%
No	22	4.07%

Question 13: Are you a dog walker?

Dog walkers – 1,186 respondents

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	646	54.47%
No	540	45.53%

Question 14: (If answered 'Yes' to 'Are you a dog walker?')

Did the PSPO make you a more responsible dog walker?

PSPO impact dog walkers – 646 respondents

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	129	19.97%
No	517	80.03%

Of the 517 respondents that answered "No", 281 stated that they were already responsible dog owners and that the PSPO did not have an impact on this.

Of those responding "Yes", 19 felt they were already responsible dog owners but 19 also felt that having the rules laid out was helpful and 10 respondents stated that the PSPO had led to an improvement in the awareness of their responsibilities as a dog owner.

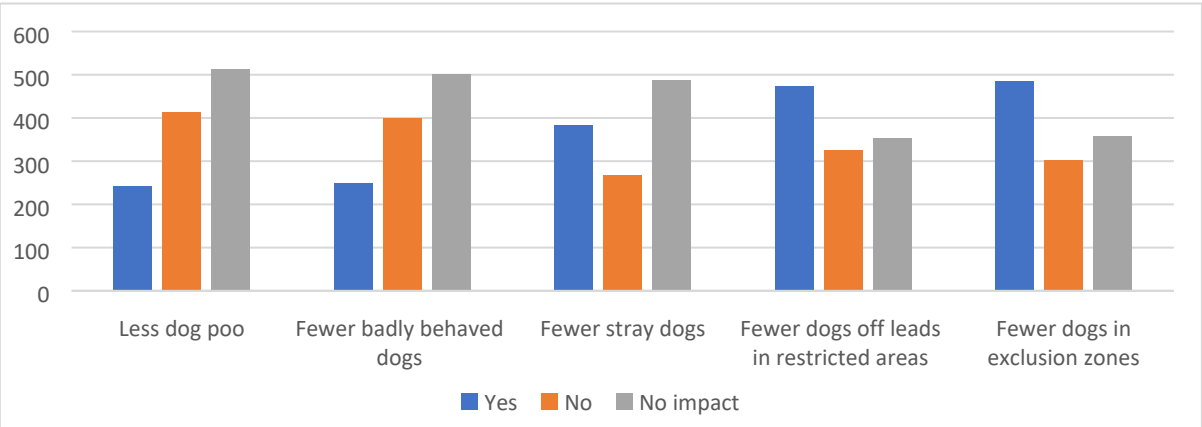
Question 15: Did you notice that the PSPO had an impact on any of the following:

- **dog fouling**
- **badly behaved dogs**
- **stray dogs**
- **dogs off leads in restricted areas**
- **dogs in dog exclusion zones**

PSPO impact general public – 1,186 respondents

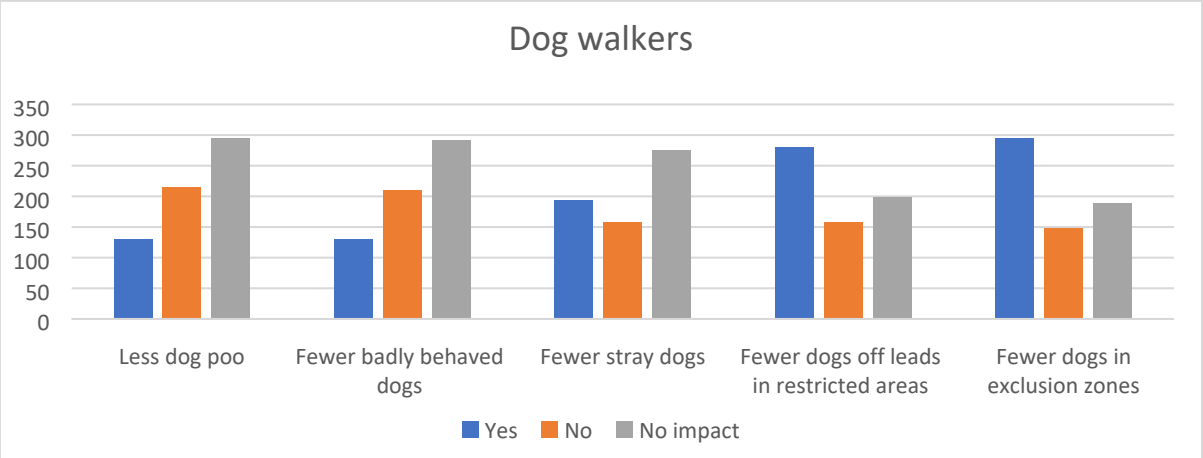
Less dog poo

Total



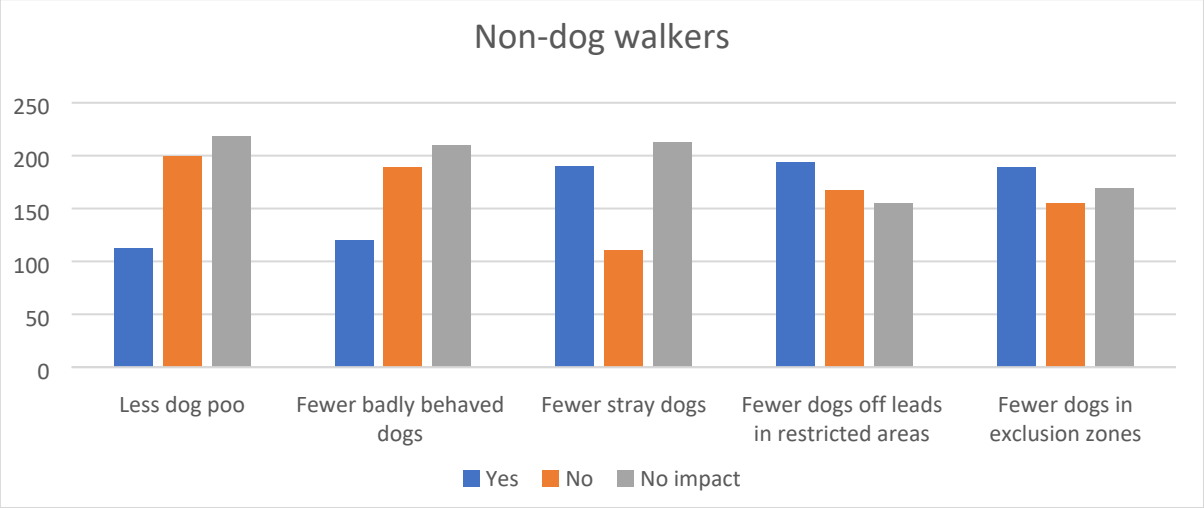
Option	Yes		No		No impact	
Less dog poo	242	20.40%	413	34.82%	513	43.25%
Fewer badly behaved dogs	249	20.99%	399	33.64%	501	42.24%
Fewer stray dogs	384	32.38%	268	22.60%	488	41.15%
Fewer dogs off leads in restricted areas	474	39.97%	324	27.32%	354	29.85%
Fewer dogs in exclusion zones	484	40.81%	303	25.55%	358	30.19%

Dog walkers



Option	Yes		No		No impact	
Less dog poo	130	20.12%	214	33.13%	295	45.67%
Fewer badly behaved dogs	129	19.97%	210	32.51%	291	45.05%
Fewer stray dogs	194	30.03%	158	24.46%	275	42.57%
Fewer dogs off leads in restricted areas	280	43.34%	157	24.30%	199	30.80%
Fewer dogs in exclusion zones	295	45.67%	148	22.91%	189	29.26%

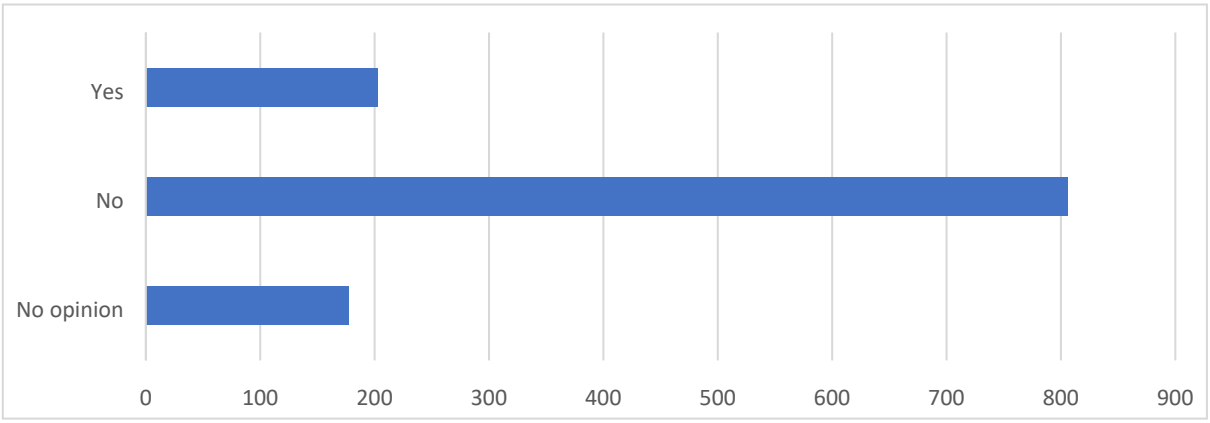
Non-dog walkers



Option	Yes		No		No impact	
Less dog poo	112	20.74%	199	36.85%	218	40.37%
Fewer badly behaved dogs	120	22.22%	189	35.00%	210	38.89%
Fewer stray dogs	190	35.19%	110	20.37%	213	39.44%
Fewer dogs off leads in restricted areas	194	35.93%	167	30.93%	155	28.70%
Fewer dogs in exclusion zones	189	35.00%	155	28.70%	169	31.30%

Question 16: Did you feel that the signage of the order was good enough?

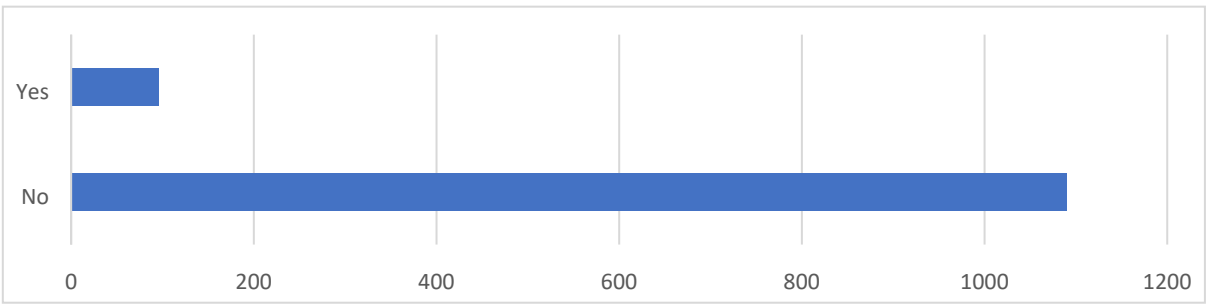
Signage – 1,186 respondents



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	203	17.12%
No	806	67.96%
No opinion	177	14.92%

Question 17: Have you have any contact with a Public Space Protection Order enforcement officer?

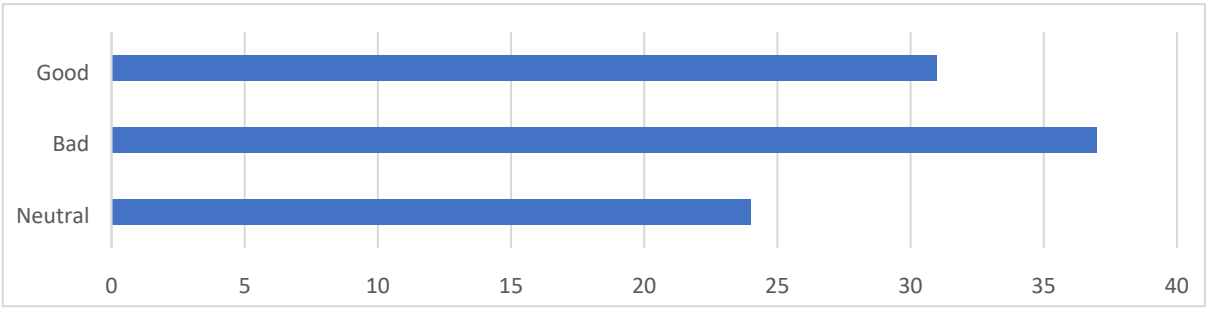
Contact with enforcement officer – 1,186 respondents



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	96	8.09%
No	1090	91.91%

Question 18: How was the interaction with the enforcement officer?

Enforcement officer experience – 92 respondents



Option	Total	Percent
Good	31	33.70%
Bad	37	40.22%
Neutral	24	26.09%

Question 19: Do you have any ideas that you would like to share regarding the dog control PSPO?

Please state – 673 respondents (full list of response can be found https://www.sefton.gov.uk/media/4294/pspo-consultation-written-responses.pdf)

Summary:

Of the total 1,186 respondents 673 left a comment on question 19. There were some key themes that qualitative analysis of this question highlighted, these will be presented here.

Dog Fouling

The majority of comments to question 19 received related to dog fouling. Many respondents felt that dog fouling had a major negative impact in the borough:

"Dog poo is a massive problem in our area with owners not picking up. It is very frustrating when we try to be responsible owners- also dogs off lead can be an issue running over to our dog & child growling. It can be difficult to manage when I'm on my own and their owner doesn't care."

Many of these comments relate to an issue with dog walkers disposing of poo bags inappropriately with many suggesting that more bins should be provided across the borough to assist in tackling this issue:

"Just that dog owners should not only bag poo should dispose of correctly. Not leave it on pavement or hanging from bushes and railings."

Respondent comments that many dog walkers would pick up dog fouling but then would frequently not dispose of this appropriately. It may also be the case that a campaign to highlight the issue and to educate owners may be necessary to try to combat this issue.

Enforcement

Numerous comments received related to the enforcement of the PSPO. Many of these respondents would like to see further enforcement of the of the PSPO and feel that this has previously been lacking.

"I would like to see the rules enforced more than what they appear to be now. I live facing the park and see people bringing dogs into the fenced area where they are not allowed early in mornings. I also have never witnessed anyone receive fines although there is plenty of dog muck evident in the park."

There was a call for an increase in the number of enforcement officers across the borough and from some for a more targeted approach to enforcement patrols.

"I would like to see more officers enforcing the order especially in no dog zones"

"Would like to see more 'spot' visits to check. Have seen non compliance in local parks."

Others stated that they believed that there should be an increase to the FPN amount.

"I think the FPN should be more than £75, I think it should also be an offence under the PSPO failing to have the means to clean up after your dog ie you must always carry poo bags"

There were some complaints about the approach taken by enforcement officers. Some felt that officers targeted particular vulnerable groups for minor infractions of the PSPO. More discretion and the ability to issue a warning for minor or first time offences was suggested by some respondents.

"I would like the PSPO officers to be more understanding with dog owners. Rather than just run up and give them a ticket, it would be good if they could explain the area dogs must be on a lead, especially to the walkers who use the security gate entrance. A warning would be appreciated, if it happened again they deserve a ticket."

Signage

The responses to question 16 indicate the lack of satisfaction with the signage in the borough and written responses to question 19 echo this. The general feeling was that signs were not always clear and visible, and that permanent signs in a greater number of locations would be welcome.

"Make sure signage is clear and visible in all entrances"

"Ensure signage is clear and people understand the rules"

"Better signage, with large notifications in local papers including free ones with coloured maps showing the areas including the order."

Complaints/ Reporting

Suggestions were made regarding the complaints process for reporting transgressions of the PSPO rules. These included a clear and easy process on how to report PSPO infractions and ways to contact enforcement officers to allow targeting of patrols.

"Information on how to contact officers for support"

"Please make the PSPO Officer available by publishing the name and contact number"

"Members of the public should be able to quickly and easily report an offence"

Education

Some respondents stated that they would like to see a more understanding approach taken to enforcement with a focus on encouraging good behaviour rather than simply fining dog walkers for infractions.

"Go back to educating people. The enforcement was difficult and most of the provisions are covered in existing law. All you did was alienate good dog owners."

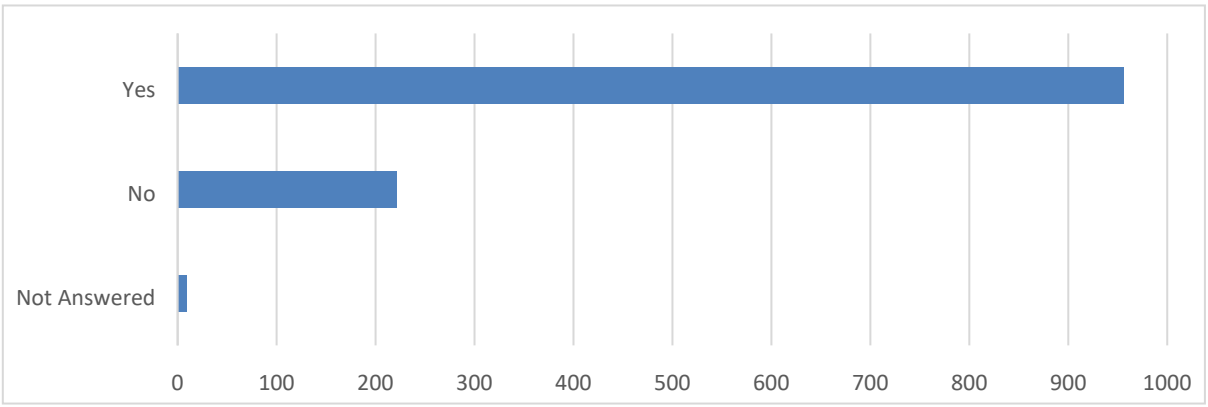
"Perhaps mandatory attendance at dog training should be required as well as fines"

*All written responses received to the consultation can be provided upon request.

Equalities Monitoring

Question 20: Do you agree for us to use your personal data in this way?

personal data agreement



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	956	80.61%
No	221	18.63%
Not Answered	9	0.76%

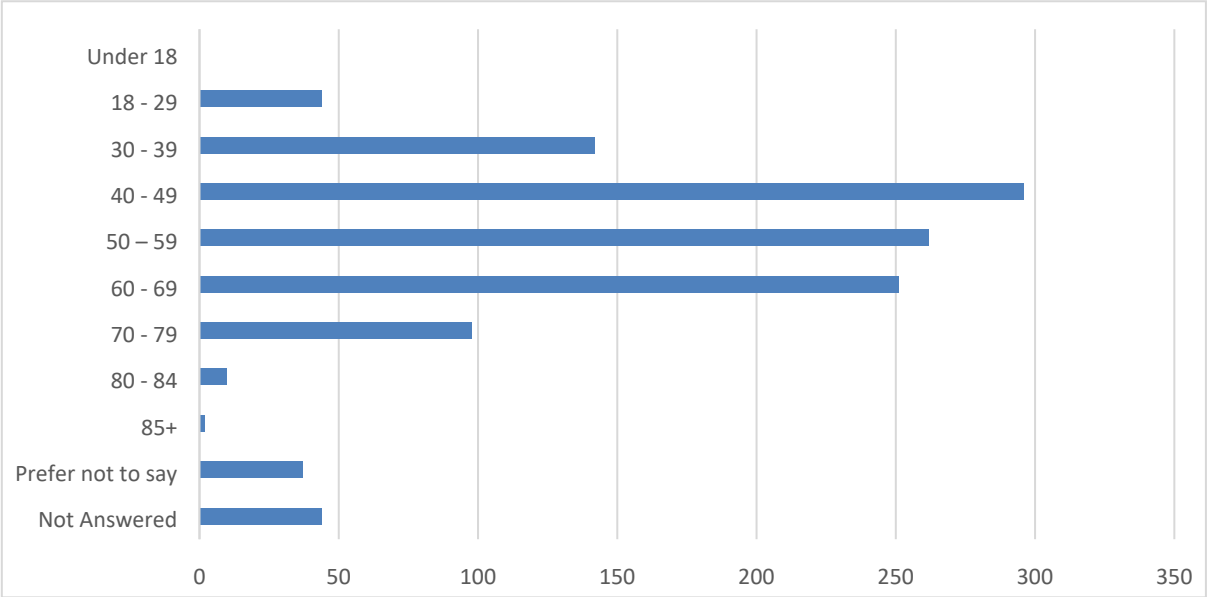
Question 21: Please tell us the first part of your postcode (the first 3 or 4 letters and numbers)

Postcode

There were 1,107 responses to this part of the question.

Question 22: How old are you?

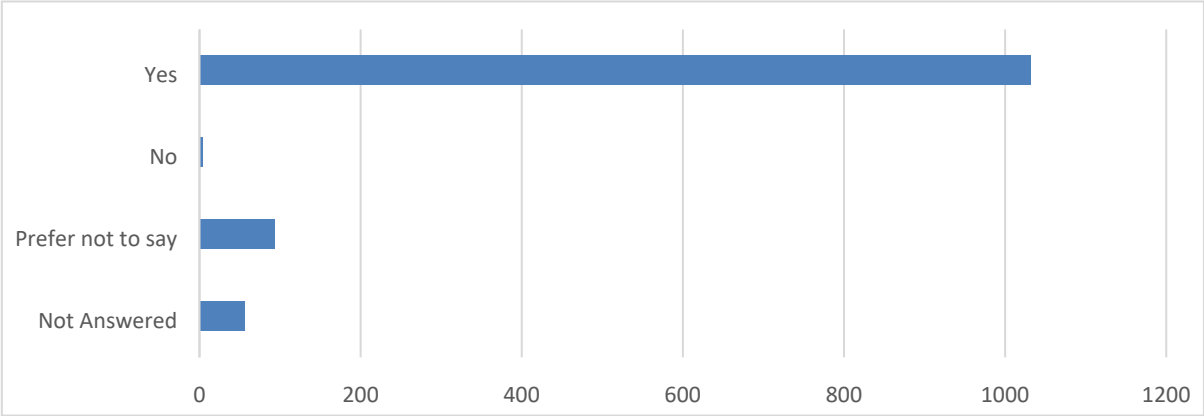
Age



Option	Total	Percent
Under 18	0	0.00%
18 - 29	44	3.71%
30 - 39	142	11.97%
40 - 49	296	24.96%
50 – 59	262	22.09%
60 - 69	251	21.16%
70 - 79	98	8.26%
80 - 84	10	0.84%
85+	2	0.17%
Prefer not to say	37	3.12%
Not Answered	44	3.71%

Question 23: Do you live in the gender you were given at birth?

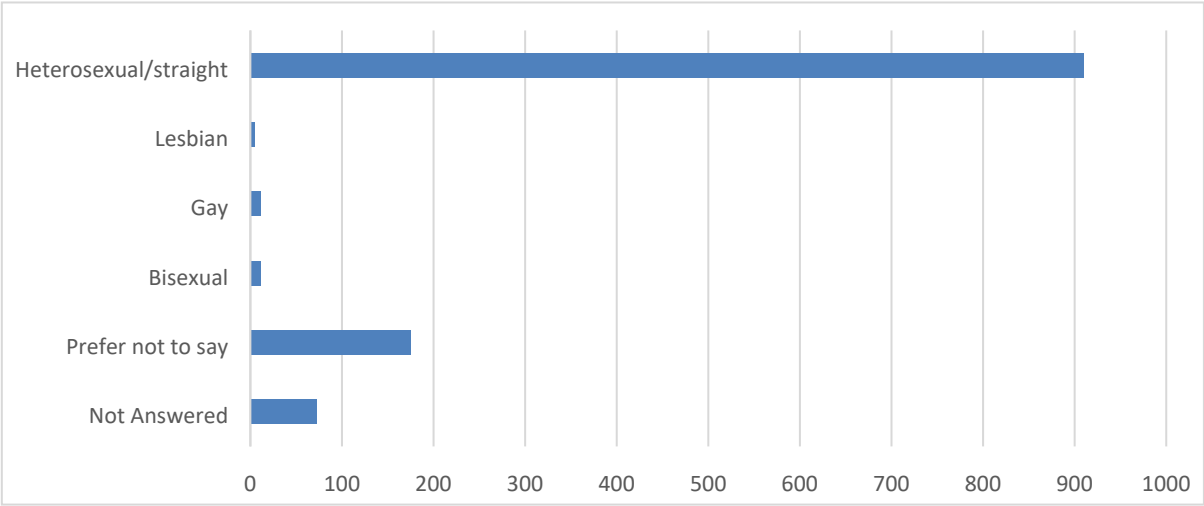
Gender



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	1032	87.02%
No	4	0.34%
Prefer not to say	94	7.93%
Not Answered	56	4.72%

Question 24: How would you describe your sexual orientation?

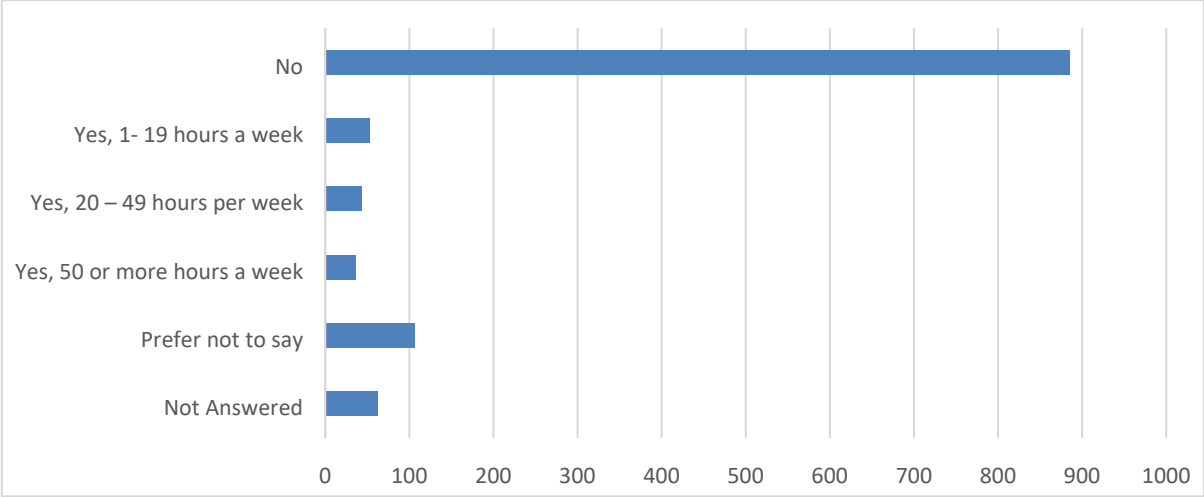
Sexual orientation



Option	Total	Percent
Heterosexual/straight	910	76.73%
Lesbian	5	0.42%
Gay	11	0.93%
Bisexual	12	1.01%
Prefer not to say	175	14.76%
Not Answered	73	6.16%

Question 25: A carer is someone who provides unpaid support/care for a family member, friend etc who needs help with their day-to-day life; because they are disabled, have a long-term illness or they are elderly. Are you a carer?

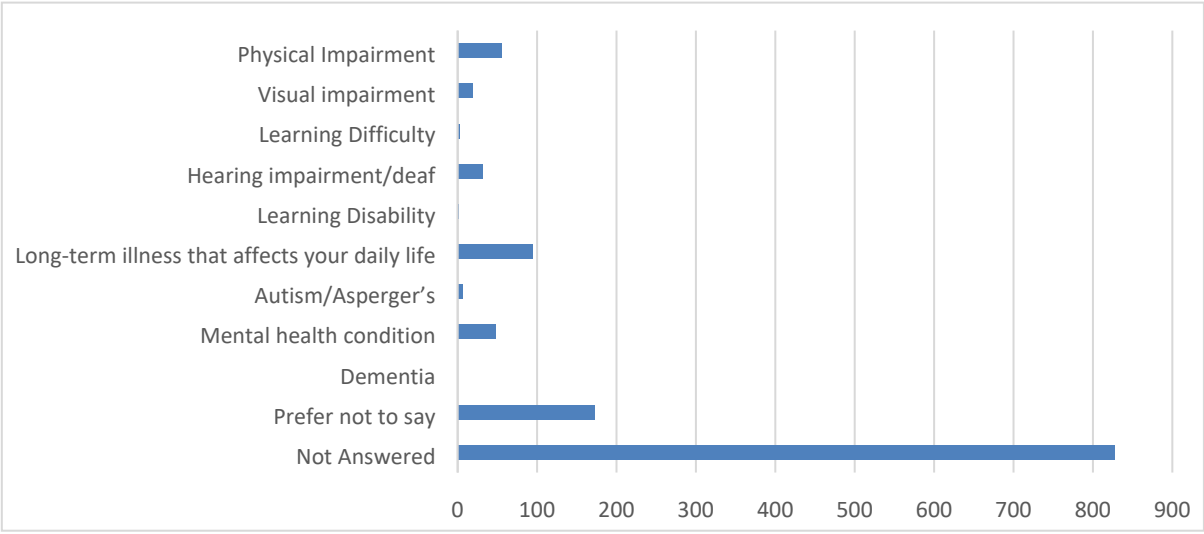
Carer



Option	Total	Percent
No	885	74.62%
Yes, 20 – 49 hours per week	53	4.47%
Yes, 1- 19 hours a week	43	3.63%
Yes, 50 or more hours a week	36	3.04%
Prefer not to say	106	8.94%
Not Answered	63	5.31%

Question 26: Disability: Do you have any of the following (please tick all that apply):

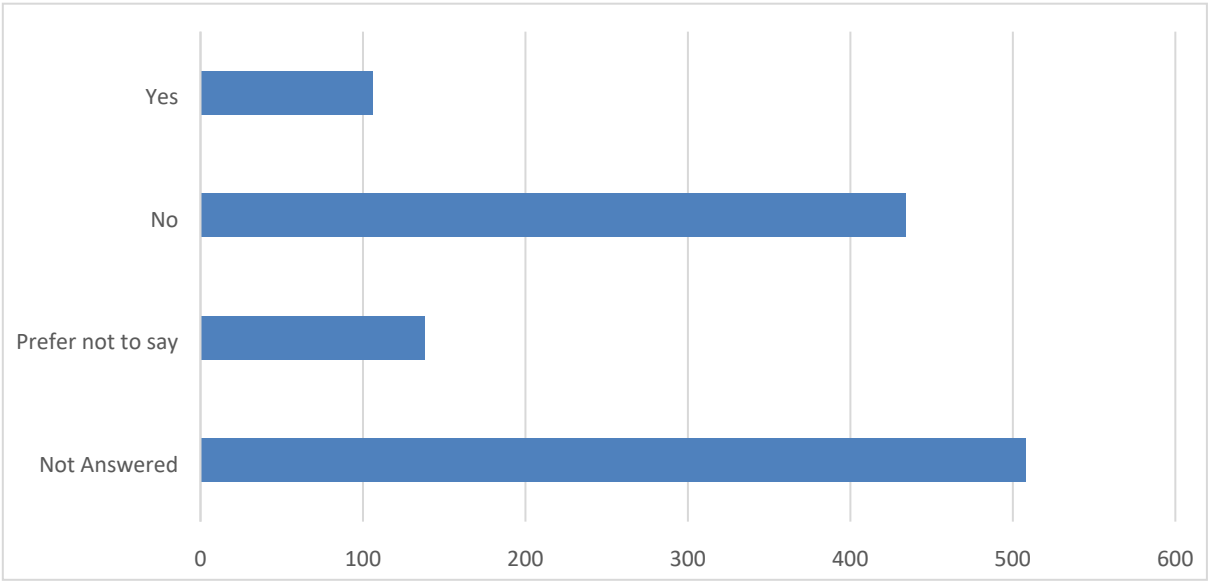
Disability?



Option	Total	Percent
Physical Impairment	56	4.72%
Visual impairment	19	1.60%
Learning Difficulty	3	0.25%
Hearing impairment/deaf	32	2.70%
Learning Disability	2	0.17%
Long-term illness that affects your daily life	95	8.01%
Autism/Asperger's	7	0.59%
Mental health condition	48	4.05%
Dementia	0	0.00%
Prefer not to say	173	14.59%
Not Answered	828	69.81%

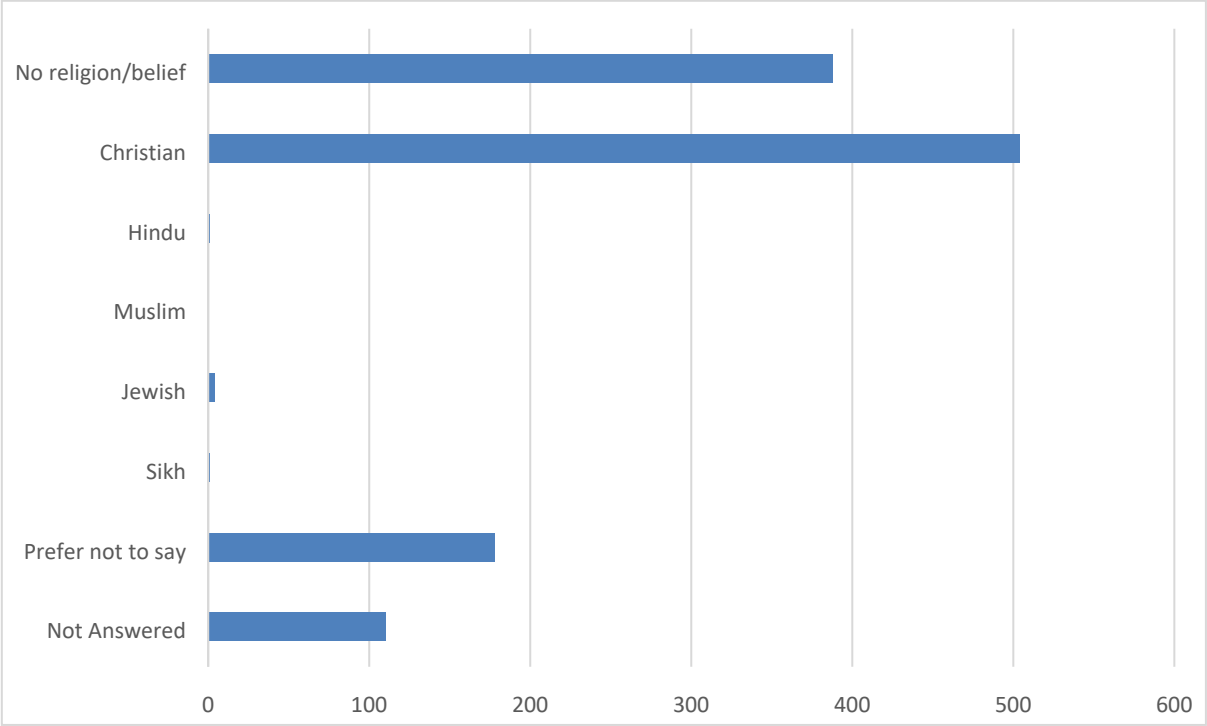
Question 27: If you have ticked any of the boxes above, or you have cancer, diabetes or HIV this would be classed as 'disability' under the legislation. Do you consider yourself to be 'disabled'?

Consider disabled?



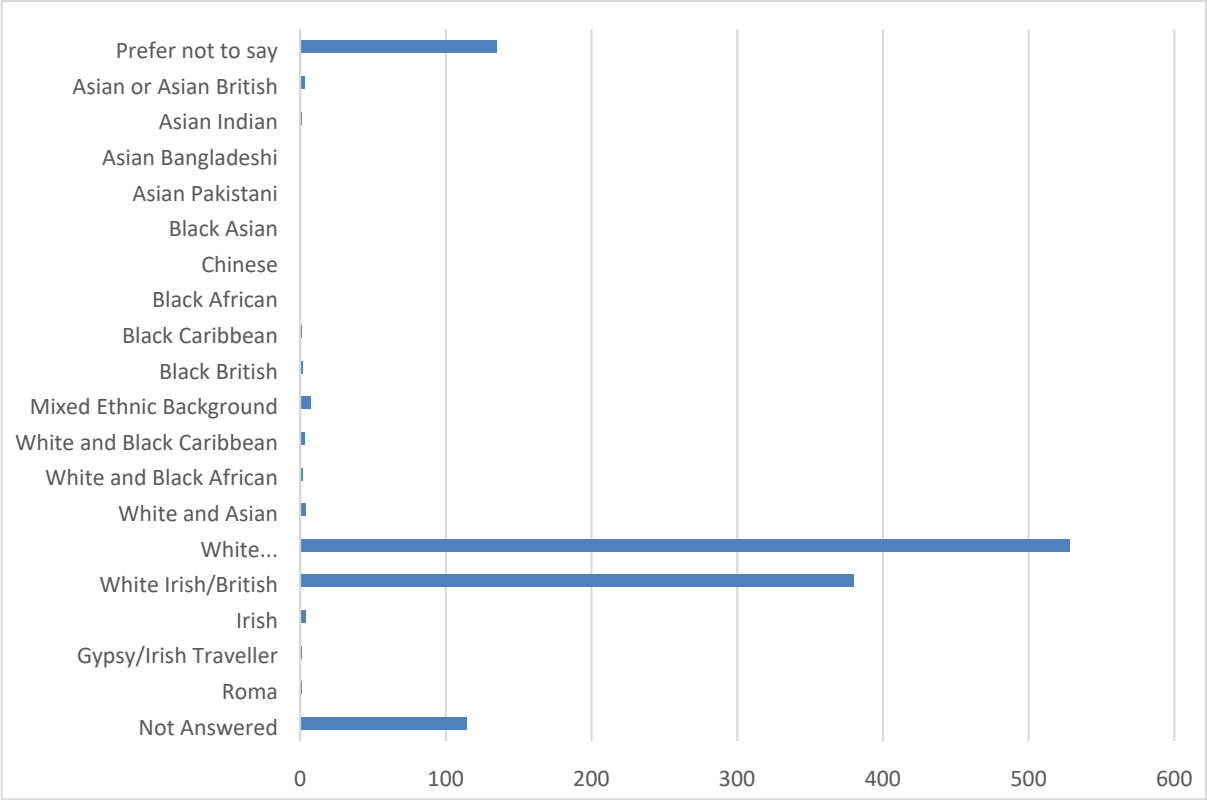
Option	Total	Percent
Yes	106	8.94%
No	434	36.59%
Prefer not to say	138	11.64%
Not Answered	508	42.83%

Question 28: What is your religion/belief? Religion or belief



Option	Total	Percent
No religion/belief	388	32.72%
Christian	504	42.50%
Hindu	1	0.08%
Muslim	0	0.00%
Jewish	4	0.34%
Sikh	1	0.08%
Prefer not to say	178	15.01%
Not Answered	110	9.27%

Question 29: Ethnicity – do you identify as:Ethnicity



Option	Total	Percent
Prefer not to say	135	11.38%
Asian or Asian British	3	0.25%
Asian Indian	1	0.08%
Asian Bangladeshi	0	0.00%
Asian Pakistani	0	0.00%
Black Asian	0	0.00%
Chinese	0	0.00%
Black African	0	0.00%
Black Caribbean	1	0.08%
Black British	2	0.17%
Mixed Ethnic Background	7	0.59%
White and Black Caribbean	3	0.25%
White and Black African	2	0.17%
White and Asian	4	0.34%
White Welsh/English/Scottish/Northern	528	44.52%
White Irish/British	380	32.04%
Irish	4	0.34%
Gypsy/Irish Traveller	1	0.08%
Roma	1	0.08%
Not Answered	114	9.61%

Appendix 1 Proposed Public Spaces Protection Order – Dog Control

Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Spaces Protection Order

Dog Control

Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, Part 4

Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Section 59 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 makes the following Order —

1. Citation

This Order may be cited as the **Sefton MBC Public Spaces Protection Order [Dog Control]** and for the purposes of any enforcement proceedings, Notices, documents or correspondence the short title **Dog Control Order** may be given.

2. Interpretation

(1) In this Order the expressions "the Authority" or "the Council" shall mean

Sefton MBC whose principal offices are Magdalen House, 30 Trinity Road, Bootle, L20 3NJ.

(2) In this Order any reference to a numbered section is a reference to the section so numbered in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 ("the Act").

(3) For the purposes of this Order a person who habitually has a dog in his/her possession shall be taken to be in charge of the dog at any time unless at that time some other person is in charge of the dog.

(4) Any reference in the Schedules to this Order to "prescribed charity" shall mean any of the following charities —

(a) **Dogs for the Disabled** (registered charity number 1092960);

(b) **Support Dogs** (registered charity number 1088281);

(c) **Canine Partners for Independence** (registered charity number 803680);

(d) **Dog A.I.D**. (registered charity number 1098619);

(e) **Dogs for Good** (registered charity number 1092960);

(f) **Guide Dogs** (registered charity number 209617); and

(g) **Hearing Dogs for Deaf People** (registered charity number 293358).

3. Effect

(1) This Order shall come into force on **xxxxxxx**

(2) This Order is made as the Council is satisfied on reasonable grounds that the two conditions prescribed by section 59(2) and (3) of the Act have been met, namely:

(a) **The first condition:**

(i) Activities carried on in a public place within the Authority's area have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality ("the Activities"); or

[ii] It is likely that activities will be carried on in a public place within the Authority's area ('the Activities") and that they will have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality;

and such Activities are set out in the respective Schedules to this Order

(b) **The second condition:**

The effect, or likely effect, of the Activities —

(i) is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature,

(ii) is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable, and

(iii) justifies the restrictions imposed by this Order.

(3) This Order relates to each public place referred to in **Schedules 1, 2, 3 4 and 5** to this Order ("the Restricted Areas") together with such other Schedules as may be included under any variation of the Order from time to time and —

(a) prohibits specified things from being done in the Restricted Area ("the Restrictions") as may be set out in the Schedules,

(b) requires specified things to be done by persons carrying on the Activities in the Restricted Area ("the Requirements"), or

(c) does both of those things.

4. Requirement to provide name and address

(1) For the purposes of enforcing the provisions of this Order any person who appears to a duly authorised officer of the Authority or to a Police Officer to be in charge of any dog to which the provisions of this Order apply shall confirm their full name, address and date of birth upon any request having been made in that respect whether verbally or in writing by any such officer and within such time as may be stipulated by that officer.

5. Offence of failing to comply with this Order

(1) It is an offence for a person without reasonable excuse—

(a) to do anything that a person is prohibited from doing by a public spaces protection order, or

(b) to fail to comply with a requirement to which a person is subject under a public spaces protection order.

(2) A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

(3) A constable or an authorised person may issue a fixed penalty notice to anyone he or she has reason to believe has committed an offence under section 67 of the Act in relation to the Order,

(4) A fixed penalty notice is a notice offering the person to whom it is issued the opportunity of discharging any liability to conviction for the offence by payment of a fixed penalty to the Council.

6. Duration of Order

(1) This Order will remain in force for the period of **3 years** from the date that it comes into force specified in paragraph 3(1).

(2) Before the time when this Order is due to expire, the Council may extend the period for which it has effect if satisfied on reasonable grounds that doing so is necessary to prevent —

(a) an occurrence or recurrence after that time of the Activities, or

(b) an increase in the frequency or seriousness of the Activities after that time.

(3) The Order may be so extended more than once.

6. Variation and discharge of the Order

(1) The Council may vary this Order —

(a) by increasing or reducing the Restricted Areas;

(b) by altering or removing a prohibition or requirement included in the Order or adding a new one.

(2) Where the Council considers it appropriate to do so the Order may be discharged by the Council before the end of the period that the Order may remain in force specified in paragraph 5(1).

7. Challenging the validity of the Order

(1) Under the provisions of section 66 of the Act an interested person may within 6 weeks of the making of this Order apply to the High Court to question its validity or the validity of any variation of this Order on the grounds specified in section 66(2) of the Act, namely –

(a) that the Council did not have power to make the Order or variation, or to include particular prohibitions or requirements imposed by the Order (or by the Order as varied);

(b) that a requirement under Chapter 2 of Part 4 of the Act was not complied with in relation to the Order of variation.

Dated this day of

The Common Seal of the **Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council**

was hereunto affixed in the presence of -

……..

Duly Authorised Officer

SCHEDULE 1

The fouling of land by dogs

1. The Restricted Areas

(1) Any land within the Metropolitan Borough of Sefton which is open to the air and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access to (with or without payment) including any land which is covered but which is open to the air on at least one side.

2. The Requirements

(1) If a dog defecates at any time on land to which this Schedule applies a person who is in charge of that dog shall remove the faeces from the land forthwith **unless —**

(a) that person has a reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or

(b) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land **has consented (generally or specifically) to his/her failing to do so.**

3 Exemptions

(a) is registered as a blind person in a register compiled under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1949; or

(b) has a disability which affects his/her mobility, manual dexterity, physical coordination, or ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects, in respect of a dog trained by a prescribed charity and upon which that person relies for assistance.

For the purposes of this Schedule —

(a) placing faeces in a receptacle on the land which is provided for that purpose, or for the disposal of waste, shall be sufficient removal from the land;

(b) being unaware of the defecation (whether by reason of not being in the vicinity or otherwise), or not having a device for or other suitable means of removing the faeces shall not be a reasonable excuse for failing to remove the faeces;

SCHEDULE 2

The exclusion of dogs from land

1. The Restricted Areas

(1) All enclosed children's playgrounds and all fenced sports pitches including multi use game sports facilities including bowling greens within the Metropolitan Borough of Sefton which is open to the air and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access to (with or without payment) including any land which is covered but which is open to the air on at least one side.

(2) All marked sports pitches within the Metropolitan Borough of Sefton within defined dates which is open to the air and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access to (with or without payment) including any land which is covered but which is open to the air on at least one side.

2. The Restrictions

(1) A person in charge of a dog shall not take the dog, nor shall allow the dog to enter and to remain, on any land described in paragraph 1(1) of this Schedule at any time;

(2) A person in charge of a dog shall not take the dog, nor shall allow the dog to enter and to remain, on any land described in paragraphs 1(2) of this Schedule at any time from

Football or Rugby pitches from **01 September** to **31st May** inclusive

Cricket pitches from **01 April to 30th September** inclusive

unless in the case of either of the restrictions described under paragraphs 2(1) and (2)[2] respectively of this Schedule —

(a) that person has a reasonable excuse for doing so; or

(b) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to his/her doing so.

3. Exemptions

The offence does not apply to a person who

(a) is registered as a blind person in a register compiled under section of the National Assistance Act 1949; or

(b) is deaf, in respect of a dog trained by **Hearing Dogs for Deaf People** (registered charity number 293358) and upon which that person relies for assistance; or

(c) has a disability which affects his/her mobility, manual dexterity, physical coordination, or ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects, in respect of a dog trained by a prescribed charity and upon which that person relies for assistance.

SCHEDULE 3

Dogs on leads

1. The Restricted Areas

(1) Any land within the Metropolitan Borough of Sefton which is used as a memorial, burial ground, cemetery or garden of remembrance together with any forecourt, terrace, yard or walkway providing access, and together with adjoining verges, landscaped areas and gardens.

(2) Any land within the Metropolitan Borough of Sefton which is a designated carriageway (A or B classified roads) together with the adjoining footpaths and verges of such carriageways.

(3) Any Land with the Metropolitan Borough of Sefton which is a designated Picnic Area or Family Area

2. The Requirements

(1) A person in charge of a dog shall at all times keep the dog on a lead of not more than 2.0 metres in length unless:

(a) that person has a reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or

(b) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to his/her failing to do so.

3. Exemptions

The offence does not apply to a person who –

(a) is registered as a blind person in a register compiled under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1949; or

(b) is deaf, in respect of a dog trained by **Hearing Dogs for Deaf People** (registered charity number 293358) and upon which that person relies for assistance; or

(c) has a disability which affects his/her mobility, manual dexterity, physical coordination, or ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects, in respect of a dog trained by a prescribed charity and upon which that person relies for assistance.

4. Definition of a lead

For the purposes of this Schedule the definition of a lead is

Any rope, cord, leash, or similar items used to tether control or restrain a dog but does not include any such item which is not actively used as a means of restraint so that the dog remains under a persons close control.

SCHEDULE 4

Dogs on leads by direction

1. The Restricted Areas

(1) Any land within the Metropolitan Borough of Sefton which is open to the air and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access to (with or without payment) including any land which is covered but which is open to the air on at least one side.

2. The Requirements

(1) A person in charge of a dog shall comply with a direction given to him by an authorised officer or agent of the Council or by a police officer to put and keep the dog on a lead of not more than 2.0 metres in length unless —

(a) that person has a reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or

(b) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to his/her failing to do so.

(2) For the purposes of this Schedule an authorised person may only give a direction under this Schedule to put and keep a dog on a lead if such restraint is necessary to prevent a nuisance or behaviour by the dog likely to cause annoyance or disturbance to the public on any land to which this Schedule applies and the behaviour would have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of the public.

3. Exemptions

The offence does not apply to a person who –

(a) is registered as a blind person in a register compiled under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1949; or

(b) is deaf, in respect of a dog trained by **Hearing Dogs for Deaf People** (registered charity number 293358) and upon which that person relies for assistance; or

(c) has a disability which affects his/her mobility, manual dexterity, physical coordination, or ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects, in respect of a dog trained by a prescribed charity and upon which that person relies for assistance.

5. Definition of a lead

For the purposes of this Schedule the definition of a lead is

Any rope, cord, leash, or similar items used to tether control or restrain a dog but does not include any such item which is not actively used as a means of restraint so that the dog remains under a persons close control.

SCHEDULE 5

Number of dogs walked by an individual

1. The Restricted Areas

(1) Any land within the Metropolitan Borough of Sefton which is open to the air and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access to (with or without payment) including any land which is covered but which is open to the air on at least one side.

2. The Requirements

(1) A person in charge of a dog on land to which this order applies must restrict the number of dogs that can be walked by a single individual to six dogs unless

(a) they have reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or

(b) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to his failing to do so.

3. Exemptions

The offence does not apply to a person who –

(a) is registered as a blind person in a register compiled under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1949; or

(b) is deaf, in respect of a dog trained by **Hearing Dogs for Deaf People** (registered charity number 293358) and upon which that person relies for assistance; or

(c) has a disability which affects his/her mobility, manual dexterity, physical coordination, or ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects, in respect of a dog trained by a prescribed charity and upon which that person relies for assistance.

SCHEDULE 6

Locations to which schedule 2 and 3 apply

1. List of Locations

Location	Post code	Marked sports pitches (within defined dates) - Dog exclusion	Bowling Greens (playing surface only) - Dog exclusion	enclosed children's playgrounds, fenced sports pitches including multi use game sports facilities (MUGA's) - Dog Exclusion	designated Picnic or family area - Dog on Lead
Abbeyfield Park	L30 1PF			Playground	
Ainsdale Village Park	PR8 3BQ			Playground	south/west end of site and contains fenced children's playground.
Ballswood	L31 3EB		*		
Barkfield Lane	L37 3JW			Playground	
Bedford Park	PR8 4HU	Football		Playground	Community garden bounded by footpaths and fenced playground. (towards longford Road)
Bootle Stadium	L20 9PQ	Football, Baseball			
Botanic Gardens	PR9 7NB		*	Playground	aviary, cafe/museum exterior, fernery and formal flowers beds south of water feature/

					up to the two bridges
Bowersdale Park	L21 3TX			Playground,MUGA	family area -is the area adjacent to cafe and children playground.
Brook Vale Playing Fields	L22 3YB	Football			
Buckley Hill	L29 1YB	Football			
Canning Road	PR9 7SP			Playground	
Carr Lane Rec	PR8 3EF	Football			
Compton Road	PR8 4HA			Playground	
Copy Farm	L30 7RN			Playground	family area - surrounds enclosed playground up to dog exercise area and woodland
Coronation Park, Crosby	L23 5RD		*	Playground, Ball Court (tennis), MUGA	
Crescent Bowls Moss Lane	L20 0EA		*		
Crosby Coastal Park	L22 5SR			Playground	
Crossens Recreation ground	PR9 8HT	Cricket	*	Playground, MUGA	
Deansgate Lane	L37 7EP	Football		MUGA	
Derby Park, Bootle	L20 9AA		*	MUGA, Playground	
Devonshire Rd Park	PR9 7BZ	Football		Playground	
Dodds Park	L31 9AB			MUGA	

Duke St Park, Formby	L37 4AN	Football	*	Playground, Ball courts (tennis) MUGA	Pavillion and picnic area adjacent to childrens playground and tennis courts. Bounded by footpath from Dukes Street to Phillips Lane.
Fernbank Drive	L30 7RH			Playground	
Ferryside Lane Rec	PR9 9YL	Football			
Fleetwood Road	PR9 7QN			Playground	
Glenn Park	L31 6DA			Playground, MUGA	
Hall Lane Playing Field	L31 3DY	Football & Cricket			
Hapsford Road Park	L21 6NP			Playground	
Harrow Drive, Aintree Village	L10 8LD	Football	*	Playground, MUGA, Ball Court (Tennis)	
Hatton Hill Park, Litherland	L21 9JN		*	Playground MUGA	Picnic and family "Rose garden" area bounded by park pavilion and bowling greens.
Hesketh Park	PR9 9LB			Playground	lakeside path and the bands of lawn between the cafe/childrens playground and the lake - inner part of the site.
Hightown Childrens Park	L38 9EX			Playground	Whole site is family area

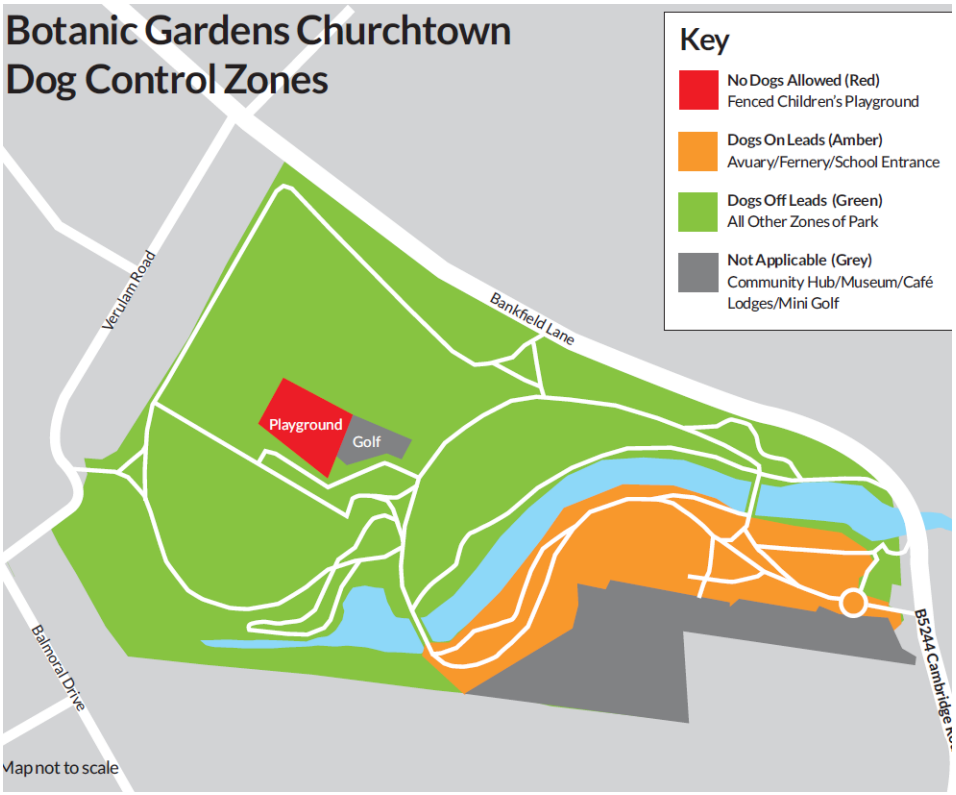
					apart from fenced playground
Kenyons Lane	L31 9PU			Playground	
Killen Green	L30 0PF			Playground	Family picnic area fenced (former) bowling green.
Kings Gardens, Southport	PR8 1PQ		*	Playground	2 family areas - "sunken " Community Garden towards South of site and the area surrounding play builder next to fenced playground
King George V playing fields , Maghull Town hall	L31 7BB		**	Playground, Ball Court (Tennis)	
Kirkstone Park	L21 7NT			Playground	
Litherland Sports Park	L21 7QZ	Football & Rugby		MUGA, Athletics	
Lathom Gardens Park	L31 9PF			Playground	
Lonsdale Road	L21 0DS			Playground	
Marian Gardens	L30 3SW			Playground	Picnic / family "Rose Garden" area defined within a triangle of footpaths and contains the childrens playground.

Menai Road Park	L20 6PG			Playground	
Meols Park Rec	PR8 5HL	Football		Playground	
Mersey Avenue Park	L31 9PJ			Playground	
Moorhey Play area	L31 5NH			Playground	
Moss Park	L31 9PA			Playground	
Moorside Park, Crosby	L23 2RT		*	Playground, MUGA	Picnic / family " rose garden" area with lawns and seating. contained within one corner of park (Moorside Road)
Netherton Activity Centre	L30 3TL	Football		MUGA (football)	
North Park	L20 5BY			Playground, Skate park	north east corner of park and is defined by low kick-rail fence.
Oakhill Park	L31 2LX		*		
Old Hall Park	L31 3DY			Playground	
Ollery Green/Deerbarn	L30 8RU			Playground	
Orrell Mount Park	L20 6DX	Football		Playground, MUGA	north end of park and encompasses fenced childrens playground and grassed area

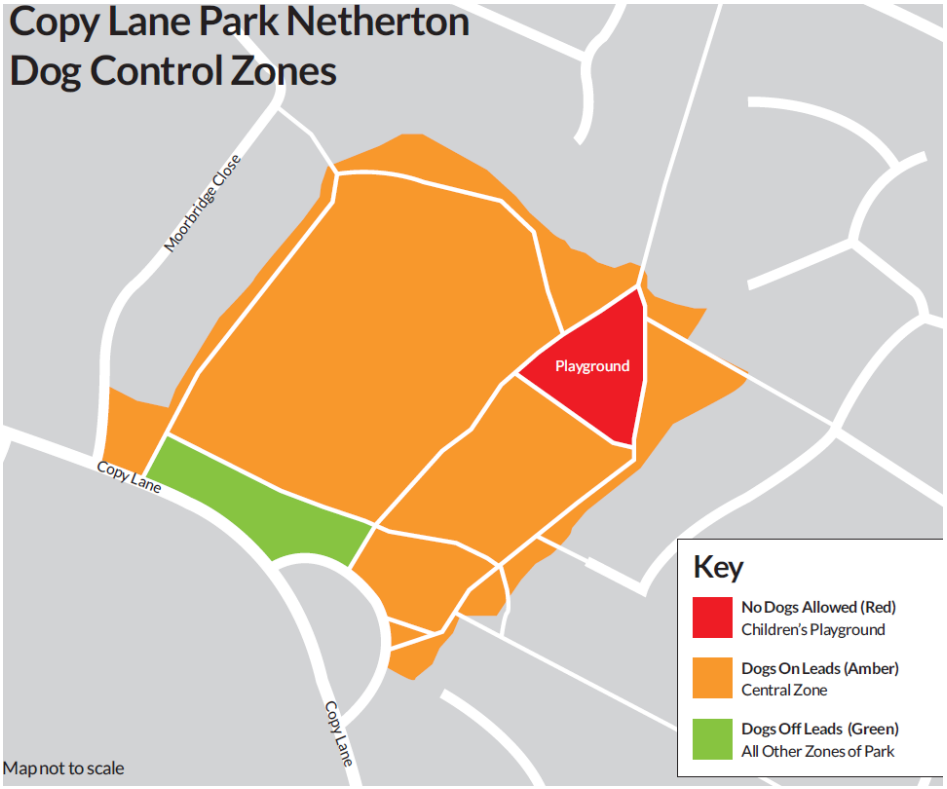
Ovington Drive	PR8 6JW			Playground	
Pimbley Playing Field	L31 5NB	Football			
Pinfold Lane	PR8 3QH			Playground	
Poets Park	L20 4SE			Playgrounds, MUGA	
Portland St Playing Fields	PR8 6LX	Football			
Potters Barn Park	L22 1RO			Skate Park/MUGA	
Preston New Road	PR9 8PR	Football			
Rainbow Drive Park	L31 1BW			Playground	
Ridgeway Park	L31 0BZ			Playground, Ball Court (basketball)	
Round Meade	L31 8DY			Playground	
Runnells Lane	L23 1UH			MUGA	
Russell Road Rec	PR9 7RF	football			
Sandbrook Road	PR8 3RQ	Football	*	Playground, MUGA	
Sandy Lane Park	L31 2LA	Football		Playground,Ball Courts (Tennis, basketball)	
Smithy Green	L37 3JZ	Football		Playground	
South Park	L20 7DA			Playground, MUGA	Family / picnic area around park hub pavillion with picnic benches.
Tarleton Road Rec	PR9 7QW	Football			
Victoria Park, Southport	PR8 2BZ		*	Playground	
Victoria Park, Crosby	L22 2AP			Playground, Ball Court(tennis) MUGA	Central zone of park - adjacent to fenced playgrounds and ball courts.

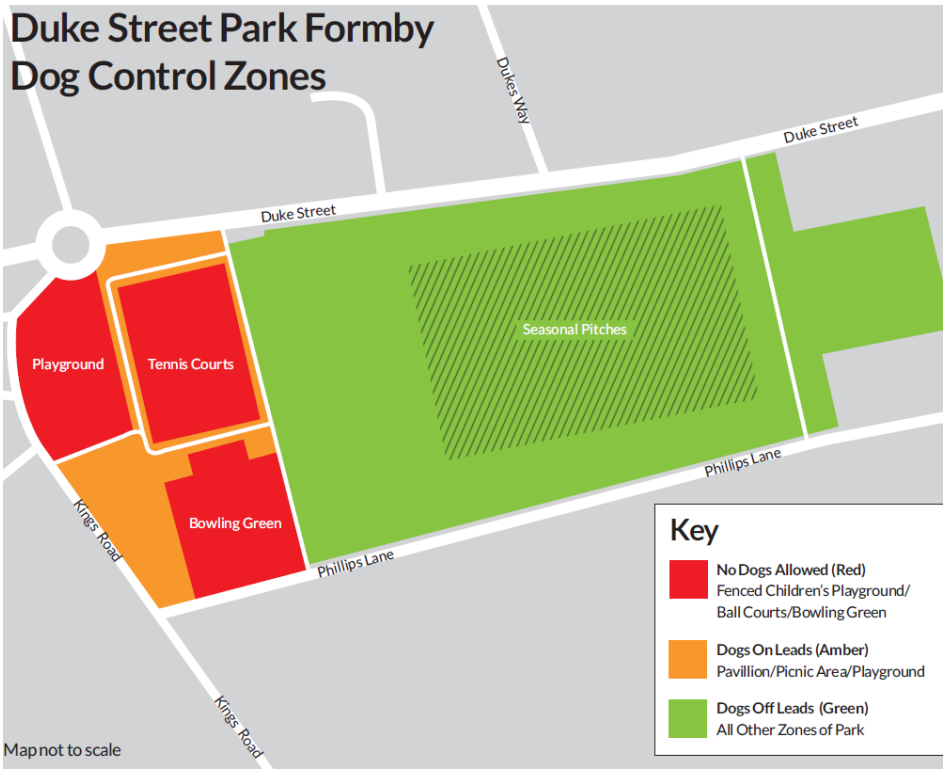
Waterloo Rd recreational ground	PR8 4QW	Rugby			
Cemeteries & Crematoria					
Bootle, Linacre lane	L20 6 ES				
Duke Street Southport	PR8 5EL				
Liverpool Road, Birkdale	PR8 3DB				
Thornton, Lydiate Lane	L23 1TP				

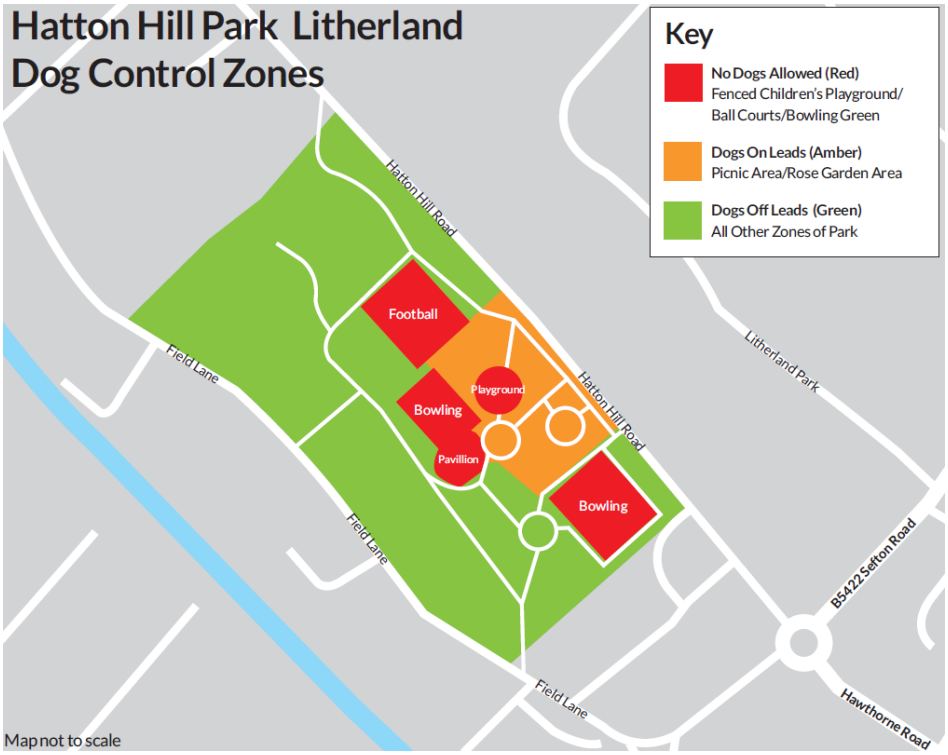
2 Location of Picnic / Family Areas (highlighted orange)

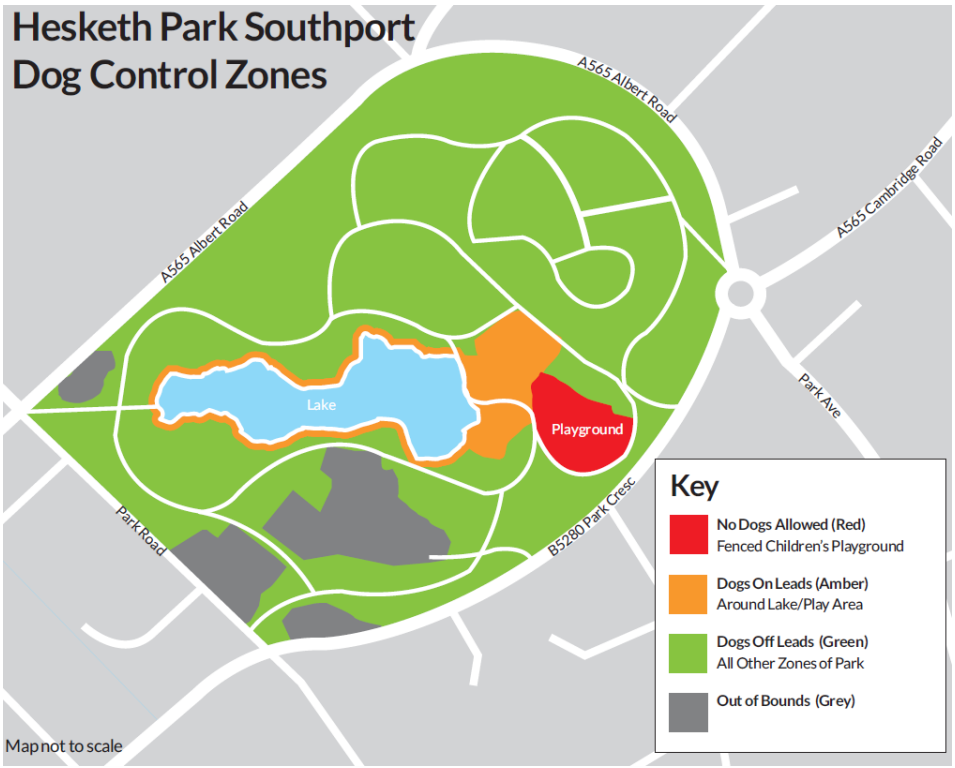

Botanic Gardens Churchtown
Dog Control Zones
Key
No Dogs Allowed (Red)
Fenced Children's Playground
Dogs On Leads (Amber)
Avuary/Fernery/School Entrance
Dogs Off Leads (Green)
All Other Zones of Park
Not Applicable (Grey)
Community Hub/Museum/Café
Lodges/Mini Golf
Verulam Road
Bankfield Lane
Playground
Golf
Balmoral Drive
B5244 Cambridge
Map not to scale


Bowersdale Park Seaforth
Dog Control Zones
Elm Road
Crescent Road
All Weather
Pitch
Seaforth Vale W
Seaforth Road
Playground
Hawarden Grove
Crescent Road
Seaforth Road
Key
No Dogs Allowed (Red)
Children's Playground/Ball Courts
Dogs On Leads (Amber)
Family Picnic Area
Dogs Off Leads (Green)
All Other Zones of Park
Map not to scale

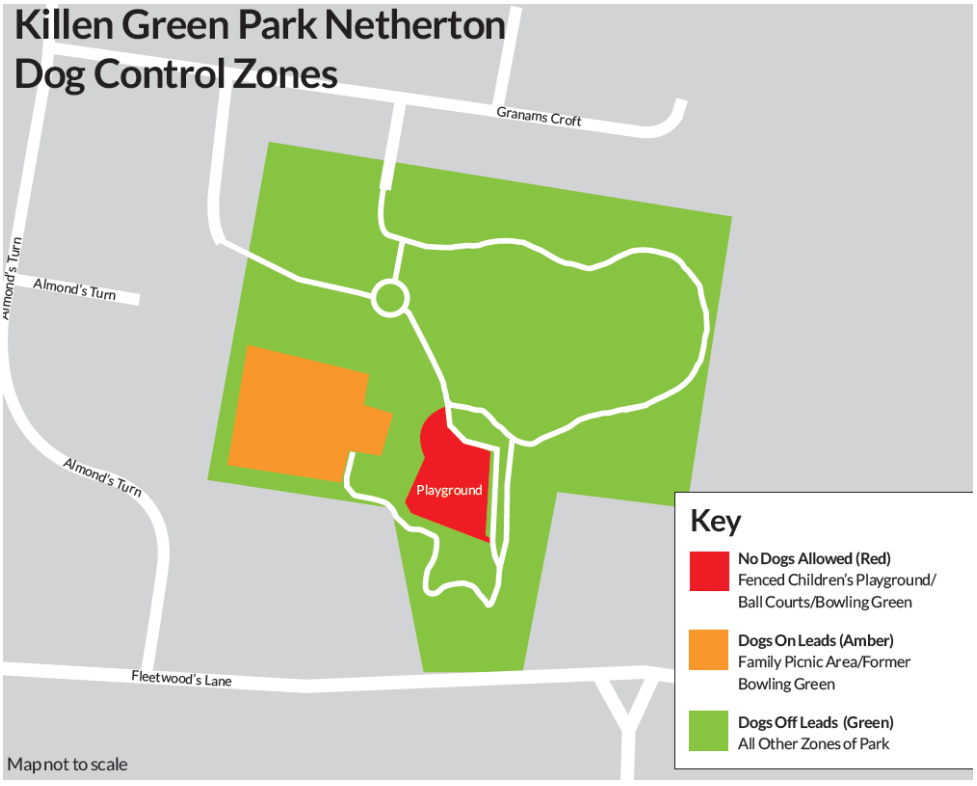

Copy Lane Park Netherton
Dog Control Zones
Moorbridge Close
Playground
Copy Lane
Copy Lane
Map not to scale
Key
No Dogs Allowed (Red)
Children's Playground
Dogs On Leads (Amber)
Central Zone
Dogs Off Leads (Green)
All Other Zones of Park

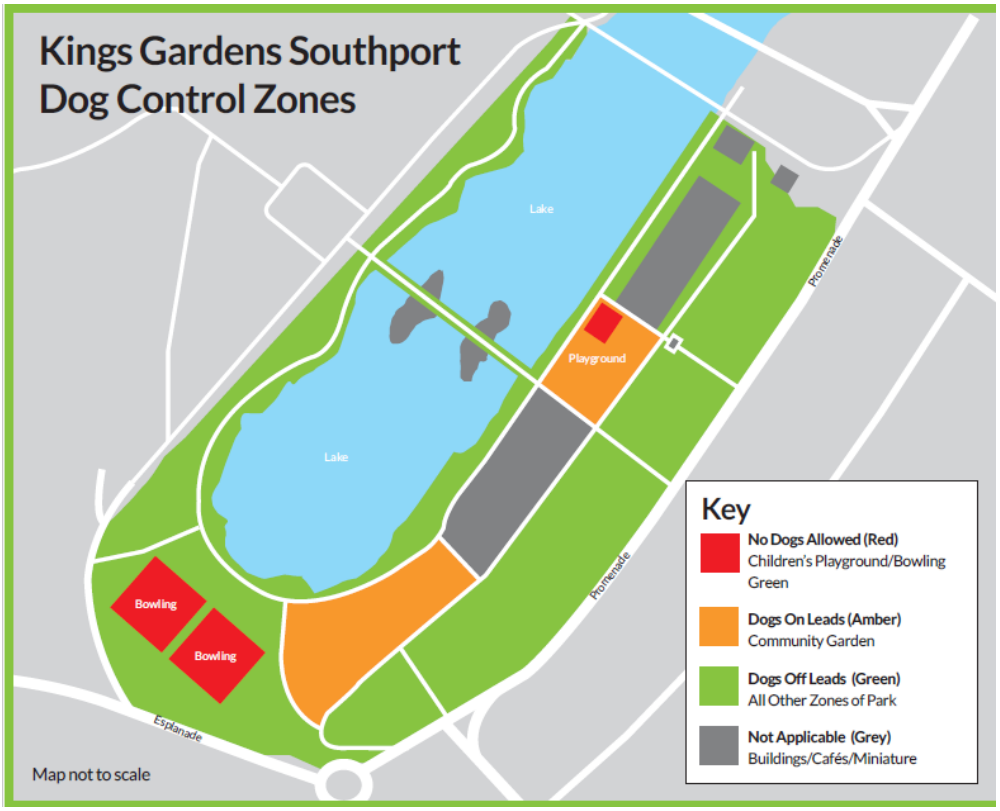

Duke Street Park Formby
Dog Control Zones
Dukes Way
Duke Street
Duke Street
Seasonal Pitches
Playground
Tennis Courts
Bowling Green
Kings Road
Phillips Lane
Phillips Lane
Kings Road
Map not to scale
Key
No Dogs Allowed (Red)
Fenced Children's Playground/
Ball Courts/Bowling Green
Dogs On Leads (Amber)
Pavillion/Picnic Area/Playground
Dogs Off Leads (Green)
All Other Zones of Park

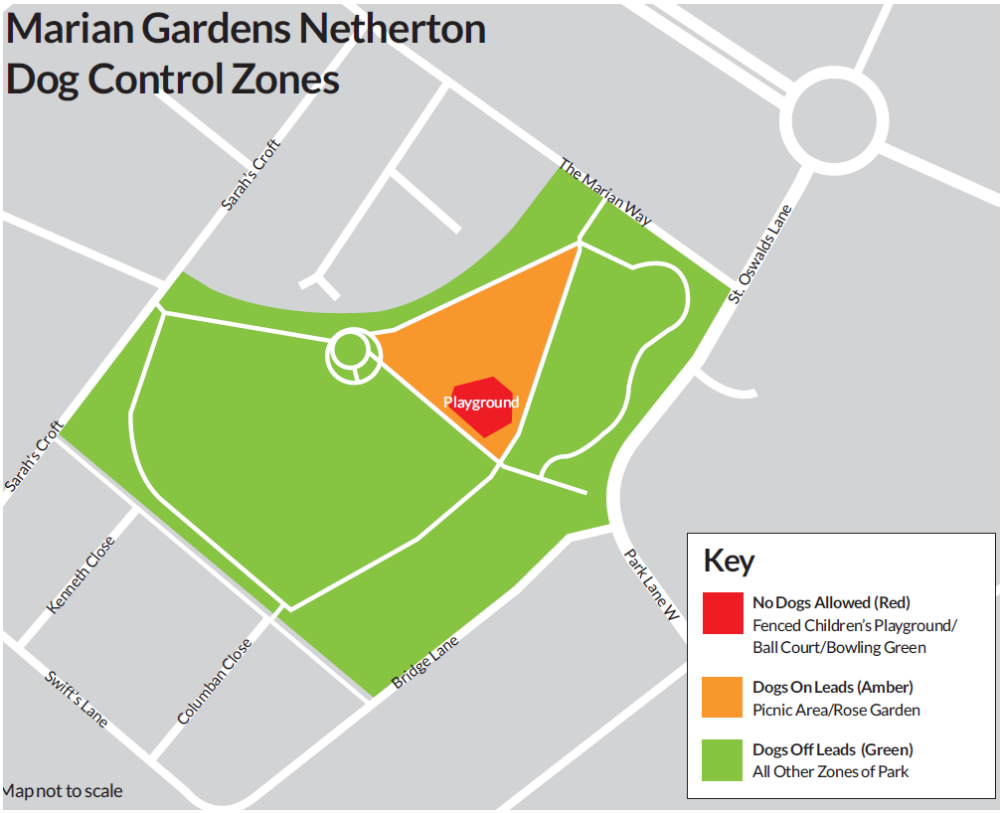

Hatton Hill Park Litherland
Dog Control Zones
Key
No Dogs Allowed (Red)
Fenced Children's Playground/
Ball Courts/Bowling Green
Dogs On Leads (Amber)
Picnic Area/Rose Garden Area
Dogs Off Leads (Green)
All Other Zones of Park
Hatton Hill Road
Football
Playground
Bowling
Pavillion
Bowling
Field Lane
Litherland Park
B5422 Sefton Road
Hawthorne Road
Map not to scale


Hesketh Park Southport
Dog Control Zones
A565 Albert Road
A565 Cambridge Road
Lake
Playground
Park Ave
Park Road
B5280 Park Cresc
Key
No Dogs Allowed (Red)
Fenced Children's Playground
Dogs On Leads (Amber)
Around Lake/Play Area
Dogs Off Leads (Green)
All Other Zones of Park
Out of Bounds (Grey)
Map not to scale

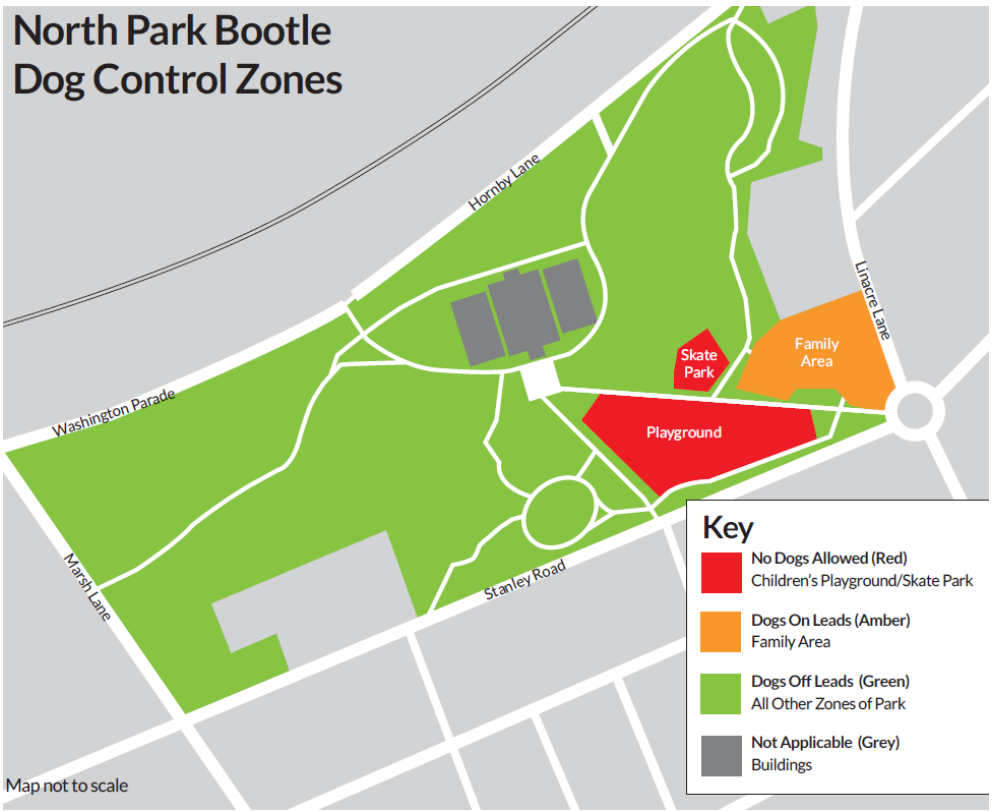

Hightown Childrens Park
Dog Control Zones
Blundell Grove
Withins Field
Blundell Road
Thornbeck Avenue
Key
No Dogs Allowed (Red)
Children's Playground/Ball Courts
Dogs On Leads (Amber)
Central zone
Dogs Off Leads (Green)
All Other Zones of Park
Not Applicable (Grey)
Pavillion/Buildings
Map not to scale

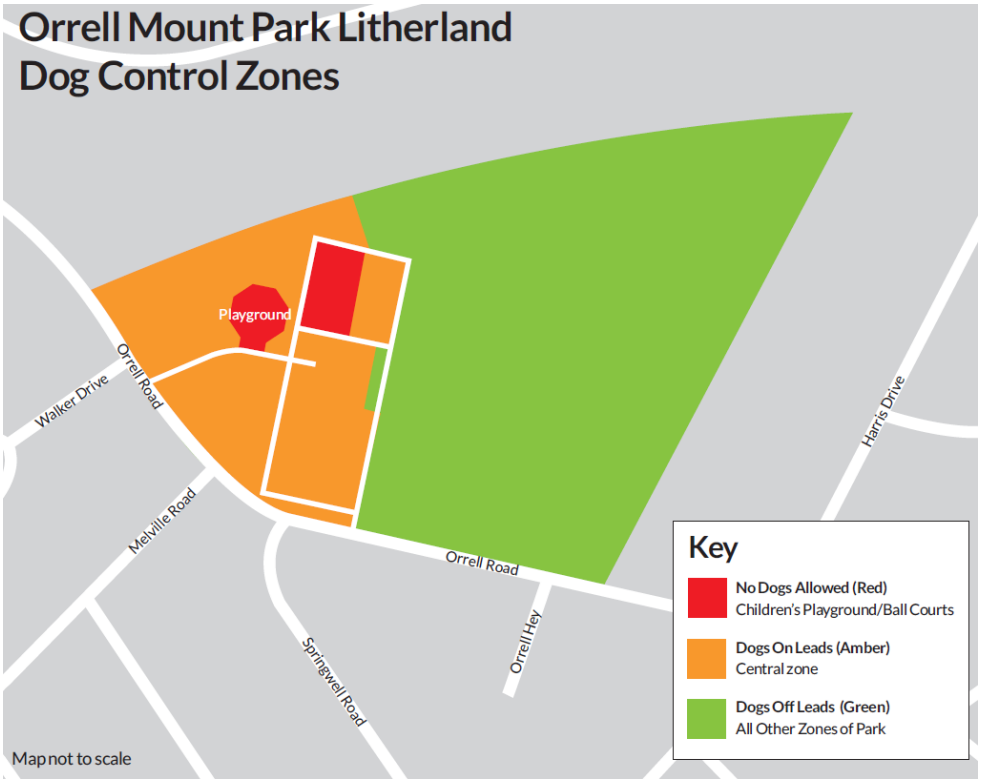

Killen Green Park Netherton
Dog Control Zones
Granams Croft
Almond's Turn
Almond's Turn
Almond's Turn
Playground
Fleetwood's Lane
Key
No Dogs Allowed (Red)
Fenced Children's Playground/
Ball Courts/Bowling Green
Dogs On Leads (Amber)
Family Picnic Area/Former
Bowling Green
Dogs Off Leads (Green)
All Other Zones of Park
Map not to scale

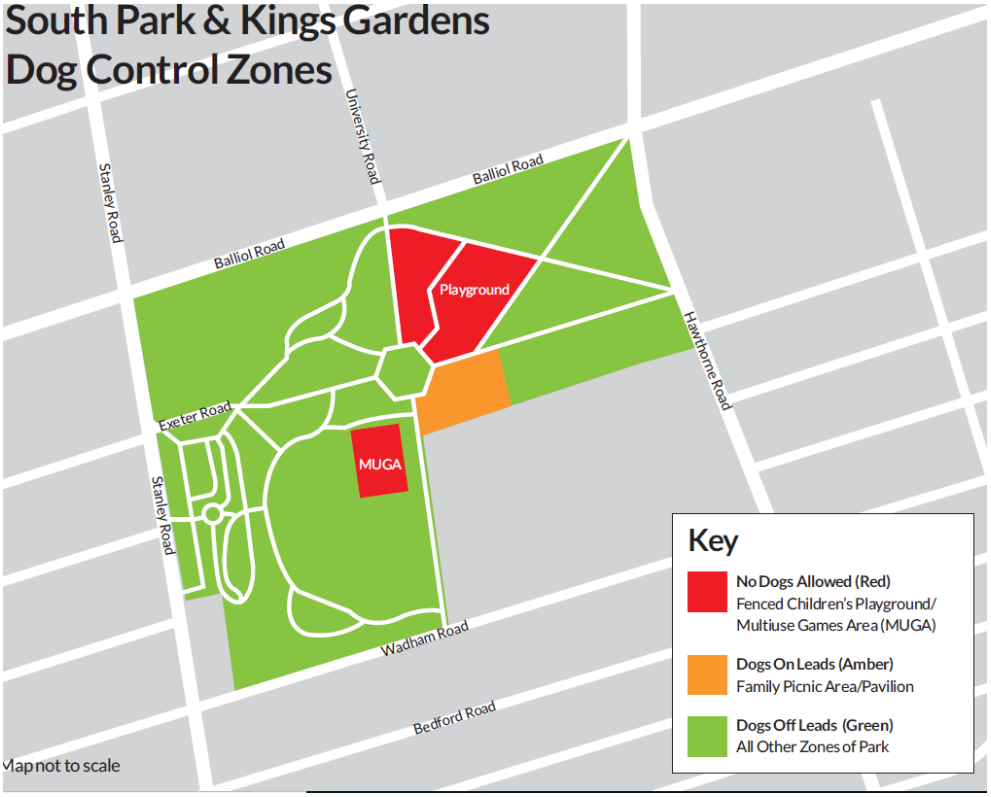

Kings Gardens Southport
Dog Control Zones
Lake
Lake
Playground
Promenade
Promenade
Bowling
Bowling
Esplanade
Map not to scale
Key
No Dogs Allowed (Red)
Children's Playground/Bowling Green
Dogs On Leads (Amber)
Community Garden
Dogs Off Leads (Green)
All Other Zones of Park
Not Applicable (Grey)
Buildings/Cafés/Miniature


Marian Gardens Netherton
Dog Control Zones
Sarah's Croft
The Marian Way
St. Oswalds Lane
Playground
Sarah's Croft
Kenneth Close
Park Lane W
Swift's Lane
Columban Close
Bridge Lane
Map not to scale
Key
No Dogs Allowed (Red)
Fenced Children's Playground/ Ball Court/Bowling Green
Dogs On Leads (Amber)
Picnic Area/Rose Garden
Dogs Off Leads (Green)
All Other Zones of Park


Moorside Park Crosby
Dog Control Zones
Moorside Road
Moorside Close
Forefield Lane
Bowling Green
Moorside Road
Orchard Dale
MUGA
Forefield Lane
The Northern Road
Playground
Trevor Drive
Map not to scale
Key
No Dogs Allowed (Red)
Children's Playground/Ball Courts
Multiuse Games Area (MUGA)
Dogs On Leads (Amber)
Central zone
Dogs Off Leads (Green)
All Other Zones of Park
Not Applicable (Grey)
Pavillion/Buildings


North Park Bootle
Dog Control Zones
Hornby Lane
Linacre Lane
Skate Park
Family Area
Washington Parade
Playground
Marsh Lane
Stanley Road
Map not to scale
Key
No Dogs Allowed (Red)
Children's Playground/Skate Park
Dogs On Leads (Amber)
Family Area
Dogs Off Leads (Green)
All Other Zones of Park
Not Applicable (Grey)
Buildings


Orrell Mount Park Litherland
Dog Control Zones
Playground
Walker Drive
Orrell Road
Melville Road
Orrell Road
Harris Drive
Springwell Road
Orrell Hey
Key
No Dogs Allowed (Red)
Children's Playground/Ball Courts
Dogs On Leads (Amber)
Central zone
Dogs Off Leads (Green)
All Other Zones of Park
Map not to scale


South Park & Kings Gardens
Dog Control Zones
University Road
Stanley Road
Balliol Road
Balliol Road
Playground
Hawthorne Road
Exeter Road
MUGA
Stanley Road
Wadham Road
Bedford Road
Key
No Dogs Allowed (Red)
Fenced Children's Playground/
Multiuse Games Area (MUGA)
Dogs On Leads (Amber)
Family Picnic Area/Pavilion
Dogs Off Leads (Green)
All Other Zones of Park
Map not to scale


Victoria Park Waterloo
Dog Control Zones
College Road
Park Avenue
Playground
Football Area
Tennis Courts
Lawton Road
Somerville Road
Map not to scale
Key
No Dogs Allowed (Red)
Children's Playground/Ball Courts
Dogs On Leads (Amber)
Central zone
Dogs Off Leads (Green)
All Other Zones of Park
Not Applicable (Grey)
Pavillion/Buildings

Appendix 2 Correspondence – Dog's Trust

I respond on behalf of the Dogs Trust Campaigns team and the wider organisation. Please find our comments on the orders below:

Thank you for making us aware that Sefton Council is planning to renew a series of Public Space Protection Orders. As the UK's largest dog welfare charity, we would like to make some comments for consideration.

Dogs Trust's Comments

1. Re; Fouling of Land by Dogs Order:

- Dogs Trust consider 'scooping the poop' to be an integral element of responsible dog ownership and would fully support a well-implemented order on fouling. We urge the Council to enforce any such order rigorously. In order to maximise compliance we urge the Council to consider whether an adequate number of disposal points have been provided for responsible owners to use, to consider providing free disposal bags and to ensure that there is sufficient signage in place.

2. Re; Dog Exclusion Order:

- Dogs Trust accepts that there are some areas where it is desirable that dogs should be excluded, such as children's play areas, however we would recommend that exclusion areas are kept to a minimum and that, for enforcement reasons, they are restricted to enclosed areas. We would consider it more difficult to enforce an exclusion order in areas that lack clear boundaries.
- Dogs Trust would highlight the need to provide plenty of signage to direct owners to alternative areas nearby in which to exercise dogs.

3. Re; Dog Exclusion Order and beaches:

- With phone calls often being made to the RSPCA and Police alerting to dogs being left in hot cars in coastal areas, we would urge you to consider the danger animals may be put in, and the difficult decisions owners have to make, by not being allowed to take their dogs onto the beach.
- If the Council does choose to implement this order, Dogs Trust would encourage looking into a compromise between beach goers and dog owners, e.g. allowing dogs onto the beach in the evenings or early mornings, or having dog friendly sections on the beaches.
- Strict dog exclusion restrictions can also lead to a decrease in dog friendly tourism for businesses along the coast, which in turn could have a negative impact on the local economy.

4. Re; Dog Exclusion and sport pitches

- Excluding dogs from areas that are not enclosed could pose enforcement problems - we would consider it more difficult to enforce an exclusion order in areas that lack clear boundaries.
- We feel that exclusion zones should be kept to a minimum, and that excluding dogs from all sports pitches for long stretches of the year is unnecessary. In some cases sports pitches may account for a large part of the open space available in a public park, and therefore excluding dogs could significantly reduce available dog walking space for owners.

- We would urge the Council to consider focusing its efforts on reducing dog fouling in these areas, rather than excluding dogs entirely, with adequate provision of bins and provision of free disposal bags

5. Re; Dogs on Leads Order:
- Dogs Trust accept that there are some areas where it is desirable that dogs should be kept on a lead.
- Dogs Trust would urge the Council to consider the Animal Welfare Act 2006 section 9 requirements (the 'duty of care') that include the dog's need to exhibit normal behaviour patterns – this includes the need for sufficient exercise including the need to run off lead in appropriate areas. Dog Control Orders should not restrict the ability of dog keepers to comply with the requirements of this Act.
- The Council should ensure that there is an adequate number, and a variety of, well sign-posted areas locally for owners to exercise their dog off-lead.

6. Re; Dogs on Lead by Direction Order:
- Dogs Trust enthusiastically support Dogs on Leads by Direction orders (for dogs that are considered to be out of control or causing alarm or distress to members of the public to be put on and kept on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised official).
- We consider that this order is by far the most useful, other than the fouling order, because it allows enforcement officers to target the owners of dogs that are allowing them to cause a nuisance without restricting the responsible owner and their dog. As none of the other orders, less fouling, are likely to be effective without proper enforcement we would be content if the others were dropped in favour of this order.

7. Re; Taking more than a specified number of dogs onto a land:
- The behaviour of the dogs and the competency of the handler need to be taken into consideration if considering this order. Research from 2010 shows that 95% of dog owners have up to 3 dogs. Therefore the number of dogs taken out on to land by one individual would not normally be expected to exceed four dogs.

The PDSA's 'Paw Report 2018' found that 89% of veterinary professionals believe that the welfare of dogs will suffer if owners are banned from walking their dogs in public spaces such as parks and beaches, or if dogs are required to be kept on leads in these spaces. Their report also states that 78% of owners rely on these types of spaces to walk their dog.

I would also like to bring your attention to the similar recommendations stated in the Government's 'Anti-social behaviour powers -Statutory guidance for frontline professionals' document, pages 52/53.

We believe that the vast majority of dog owners are responsible, and that the majority of dogs are well behaved. In recognition of this, we would encourage local authorities to exercise its power to issue Community Protection Notices, targeting irresponsible owners and proactively addressing anti-social behaviours.

Dogs Trust works with local authorities across the UK to help promote responsible dog ownership. If you are interested, I can send you a copy of our Services Guide, a document listing the ways in which we may be able to help with promoting responsible dog ownership in your community. Please do not hesitate to contact should you wish to discuss this matter.

Appendix 3 Correspondence – Kennel Club

Kennel Club Response to Sefton Borough Council Public Spaces Protection Order Consultation

Submitted on 16th of October 2020 by: The Kennel Club, Clarges Street, Piccadilly, London W1J 8AB, email: kcdog@thekennelclub.org.uk

The Kennel Club is the largest organisation in the UK devoted to dog health, welfare and training, whose main objective is to ensure that dogs live healthy, happy lives with responsible owners. As part of its External Affairs activities, the Kennel Club runs KC Dog, which was established to monitor and keep dog owners up to date about dog related issues, including Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) being introduced across the country.

As a general principle, we would like to highlight the importance for all PSPOs to be necessary and proportionate responses to problems caused by dogs and irresponsible owners. It is also important that authorities balance the interests of dog owners with the interests of other access users.

Response to proposed measures

Dog fouling

The Kennel Club strongly promotes responsible dog ownership, and believes that dog owners should always pick up after their dogs wherever they are, including fields and woods in the wider countryside, and especially where farm animals graze to reduce the risk of passing Neospora and Sarcocystosis to cattle and sheep respectively.

We would like to take this opportunity to encourage the local authority to employ further proactive measures to help promote responsible dog ownership throughout the local area in addition to introducing Orders in this respect.

These proactive measures can include: increasing the number of bins available for dog owners to use; communicating to local dog owners that bagged dog faeces can be disposed of in normal litter bins; running responsible ownership and training events; or using poster campaigns to encourage dog owners to pick up after their dog.

Exclusion from children's play areas, sports pitches, and cemeteries

The Kennel Club does not typically oppose Orders to exclude dogs from playgrounds or enclosed recreational grounds, such as skate parks or tennis courts, as long as alternative provisions are made for dog walkers in the vicinity. Children and dogs should be able to socialise together quite safely under adult supervision, with having a child in the home the biggest predictor for a family owning a dog.

'Dogs on lead'

We can support reasonable 'dogs on lead' Orders which can, when used in a proportionate and evidence-based way, include areas such as cemeteries, picnic areas, or on pavements in proximity to cars and other road traffic.

Dogs on lead by direction

The Kennel Club strongly welcomes ‘dogs on lead by direction’ Orders. These allow responsible dog owners to exercise their dogs off lead without restriction providing their dogs are under control, whilst simultaneously giving the local authority powers to restrict dogs not under control.

We recommend that the authorised officer enforcing the Order is familiar with dog behaviour in order to determine whether restraint is necessary. There exists the possibility that a dog, through no fault of its own, could be considered a ‘nuisance’ or ‘annoyance’ to someone who simply does not like dogs.

We encourage local authorities to make use of more flexible and targeted measures at their disposal, including Acceptable Behavioural Contracts and Community Protection Notices. Kennel Club Good Citizen Training Clubs and our accredited trainers can assist owners whose dogs run out of control due to them not having the ability to train a reliable recall.

Maximum number of dogs a person can walk

We feel that an arbitrary maximum number of dogs a person can walk is an inappropriate approach to dog control that can result in displacement and subsequently intensify problems in other areas. The maximum number of dogs a person can walk in a controlled manner is dependent on a number of other factors relating to the walker, the dogs being walked, whether leads are used, and the location where the walking is taking place.

An arbitrary maximum number can also legitimise and encourage people to walk dogs up to the specified limit, even if at a given time or circumstance they cannot control that number of dogs.

We thus suggest instead that defined outcomes are used to influence people walking one or more dogs – domestically or commercially – such as dogs always being under control or on lead in certain areas. An experienced dog walker, for example, may be able to keep a large number of dogs under control during a walk whist an inexperienced private dog owner may struggle to keep one dog under control. Equally, the size and training of dogs are key factors, hence why an arbitrary maximum number is inappropriate. The Kennel Club would recommend the local authority instead uses the ‘dogs on lead by direction’ measures and other targeted approaches – including Acceptable Behaviour Contracts and Community Protection Orders – to address those who do not have control of the dogs that they are walking.

A further limitation of this proposed measure is that it does not prevent people with multiple dogs walking together at a given time, while not exceeding the maximum number of dogs per person. Limits may also encourage some commercial dog walkers to leave excess dogs in their vehicles, causing severe animal welfare concerns.

If the proposed measure is being considered as a result of issues arising from commercial dog walkers, we suggest councils instead look at accreditation schemes that have worked successfully in places like East Lothian. These can be far more effective than numerical limits as they can promote good practice rather than simply curbing the excesses of just one aspect of dog walking. Accreditation can also ensure dog walkers are properly insured and act as advocates for good behaviour by other dog owners.

Assistance dogs

The Kennel Club welcomes the exemptions proposed in this Order for assistance dogs. We urge the Council to review the Equality and Human Rights Commission's guidance for businesses and service providers when providing any exemptions for those who rely on assistance dogs. The guidance can be viewed here: https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/assistance-dogs-a-guide-for-all-businesses.pdf

However, we would suggest further consideration of the wording contained within the Order, specifically with reference to 'prescribed charity'. While a proportion of assistance dogs relied upon by disabled people are trained by charities, many are not. A number of reputable assistance dog providers are members of Assistance Dogs UK. This umbrella group currently has eight member organisations, which can be viewed here: http://www.assistancedogs.org.uk/. It is important to note that the membership of Assistance Dogs UK is not a definitive list of all UK assistance dog organisations and may change during the currency of the PSPO. It also does not provide for owner trained assistance dogs.

We would therefore encourage the Council to allow for some flexibility when considering whether a disabled person's dog is acting as an assistance dog. The Council could consider adopting the definitions of assistance dogs used by Mole Valley District Council, which can be found here:

https://www.molevalley.gov.uk/media/pdf/1/b/83072_-_Completed_PSPO.pdf

or that of Northumberland County Council:
"(4) The term "Assistance Dog" shall mean a dog which has been trained to assist a person with a disability.

(5) The expression "disability" shall have the meaning prescribed in section 6 of the Equality Act 2010 or as may be defined in any subsequent amendment or re-enactment of that legislation".

Appropriate signage

It is important to note that in relation to PSPOs, The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (Publication of Public Spaces Protection Orders) Regulations 2014 make it a legal requirement for local authorities to –

"cause to be erected on or adjacent to the public place to which the order relates such notice (or notices) as it considers sufficient to draw the attention of any member of the public using that place to –

(i) the fact that the order has been made, extended or varied (as the case may be); and

(ii) the effect of that order being made, extended or varied (as the case may be)."

With relation to dog access restrictions,

Regarding dog access restrictions, such as a 'dogs on lead' Order, on-site signage should clearly state where such restrictions begin and end. This can be achieved with

signs that say on one side, for example, ‘You are entering [type of area]’ and ‘You are leaving [type of area]’ on the reverse.

While all dog walkers should be aware of their requirement to pick up after their dog, signage must be erected for the PSPO to be compliant with the legislation.

Appendix 4 – Correspondence received from Freedom for Dogs -Sefton

Correspondence Address:
Freedom for Dogs - Sefton
[redacted]

15th September 2020

Mr Dwayne Johnson
Chief Executive Officer
Bootle Town Hall
Oriel Road
Bootle
L20 7AE

Dear Mr Johnson

Public Space Protection Order for Dog Control

We are writing with regard to your ongoing PSPO consultation for dogs. Here: https://www.sefton.gov.uk/environmental-protection/pests,-poilution-and-food-hygiene/dogs/consultation-pspo-for-dog-control.aspx

Although we acknowledge that the last PSPO did not implement the most draconian measures of the original proposal, we question the need for a PSPO at all as laws already exist to cover the most common issues regarding dogs and dog ownership.

Below are some specific questions with regard to the rationale for the PSPO renewal that we would like answered:

1. **Evidence**
    a. What is the evidence that issues such as dog fouling and dog attacks exist and what is the scale of these issues within the area under consideration for the PSPO?
    b. What are the trends/impact since the introduction of the last PSPO – is the trend up or down?
    c. What evidence has there been with regard to enforcement of the PSPO and its impacts on relations between residents and the Council?
    d. Is there any other substantial evidence that the previous PSPO made a difference to these issues?
    e. If not, why has this evidence not been compiled in order to support the renewal of the PSPO?

2. **Alternate enforcement/education options**
    a. What other options has Sefton Council considered rather then implementing the PSPO e.g. the introduction of dog parks or fenced off areas within parks for dogs to exercise off lead, education and publicity of responsible dog ownership through local media?

b. If these options have been discounted, could you please explain the rationale for this?
c. If no other options have been considered, can you please explain why this process has not been undertaken?

3. **Other authorities**
   a. What do other authorities do regarding responsible dog ownership?
   b. Have alternative approaches adopted outside Sefton been explored/considered/ learned from?
   c. If not, why not?

4. **Active engagement with stakeholders (excluding the survey)**
   a. Have groups such as the RSPCA, Friends of the Earth, environmental groups, The Kennel Club, The Dogs Trust, local veterinarian professionals etc been approached within the area to seek their views?
   b. Does the Council intend to hold any public meetings for people to express their views?
   c. If not, why not?

5. **Costs**
   a. What are the costs associated with development and management the PSPO, including procurement and management of an outside contractor?
   b. What has it cost Sefton Council to outsource the enforcement of the PSPO to a private company?
   c. There is much anecdotal evidence amongst the dog owning community that the enforcement officers are heavy handed, bullying and intimidating. Do contractors have perverse incentives to meet targets/ secure income?
   d. If the costs have not been calculated, why not? If the answer to point 5(c) is "I don't know", why is the Council not aware of the basis on which their sub-contractor is conducting itself within the community?

6. **Fines/Appeals**
   a. How much money has been collected in fines while the previous PSPO has been in place?
   b. How has the money raised by fines been spent?
   c. How many appeals have been logged, and how many of those resulted in fines being withdrawn?
   d. If none of this information has been collated, why not?

7. **Public Sector Equality Duty**
   a. Has the Council undertaken research to understand the demographic of dog owners within the community, ie what are the characteristics of the dog owning community most likely to be impacted by the PSPO (primarily age/gender)?
   b. Has an impact assessment on this community been prepared for elected members and other stakeholders to consider when making any decisions on this issue? Could you please supply us with a copy of any assessment.
   c. Has the Council considered that the PSPO may set different communities against each other, e.g. dog walkers and sports groups?
   d. If not, why not to all these questions?

8. **Awareness**
    a. How does the Council intend to ensure that tourists and people without access to the internet can not only be made aware of any PSPO and its terms, but also contribute to the consultation process?
    b. If there are no arrangements in place, why not?

9. **Beach**
    a. It is suggested that the beach is available for off lead dog walking. However, palm oil is still present in significant quantities which is toxic to dogs. What are the Council's proposals to clean this up?
    b. Does the Council intend to provide an area on the beach to be sectioned off to enable dogs to exercise in safety and not be endangered by cars?
    c. Finally, does the Council intend to provide year-round access to the beach for cars? At the moment there is no winter access for cars meaning walkers have to walk quite a distance from either road parking or the car park, or alternatively walk over sand dunes to reach the beach. This excludes many people who are disabled from this area.

10. **Council's Working Group on PSPOs**
    a. We request minutes of any meetings held within the Council relating to the PSPO for Dog Control.
    b. If not immediately available, we shall request this information by way of a Freedom of Information Request.

11. Finally, we ask the Council to consider and advise on the scale of the issue. Has this been quantified? If not, why not?

When laws already exist to promote and manage responsible dog ownership, is the PSPO a sledgehammer to crack a nut?

We argue that the PSPO actually targets and criminalises dog owners who are already responsible, while does not even begin to tackle those who do not observe basic consideration for their wider community. The PSPO's aim is to tackle anti-social behaviour but fails to do so. It is not fit for purpose. The outsourcing of management of the PSPO to a private company also creates perverse incentives for that company to demonstrate a need for its existence and to generate income through potentially overzealous enforcement.

Dogs play a hugely positive role within our communities. They alleviate loneliness among the older generation and are good, loyal companions, supporting mental health in situations where people may otherwise suffer from depression, as well as obviously providing invaluable support to the disabled and as therapy dogs. Under the PSPO we feel that dogs are being marginalised and criminalised because of the behaviour of a minority of the community who should be dealt with through pre-existing laws supported by education and enforcement actions that are entirely fit for purpose.

We look forward to receiving your written response with detailed answers to our questions, and copies of all relevant documents pertaining to this matter.

This letter is also being copied to Steve Smith (Environmental Health & Trading Standards Officer) and Robert Monks (Principal Environmental Health Officer).

Yours ~~faithfully~~ Sincerely

Signed:

For correspondence purposes please reply: