

MEETING REPORT

Meeting: Parks & Open Spaces, 13th November 2023
Agenda item: PA23-022
Report subject: Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) Consultation - Dog Control
Report author: K Elliott-Turner, Town Clerk

South Hams District Council is currently reviewing their Dog Control Public Space Protection Order (PSPO).

PSPOs are a tool available to councils under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. They are intended to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a specific area that's causing a detrimental effect on the local community.

They work by imposing conditions on the use of that area that will apply to everyone.

Currently, South Hams District Council has a PSPO in place relating to the control of dogs. It covers things like:

- Dog Fouling
- Where you must have your dog on a lead
- Penalties for not putting a dog on a lead if you are asked to do so by an authorised officer of the Council
- Where dogs are not permitted at any time
- Which beaches you can take your dog on and when

For more information on dog control, please visit

<https://www.southhams.gov.uk/environmental-health-and-nuisance/dogs>. A copy of the current Public Space Protection Order – Dog Control is attached for information.

The consultation period closes on 14th November 2023. Responses may be submitted via <https://shdc-dogcontrol.commonplace.is/> or by post to Environmental Protection Team, South Hams District Council, Follaton House, Plymouth Road, Devon, TQ9 5NE.

PROPOSAL: To consider making a response to the South Hams District Council consultation on Public Space Protection Order – Dog Control.

Copy of consultation questions overleaf ...

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1. Do you think we should continue enforcing that dog walkers must have a bag (or similar) to pick up their dog waste?

2. Do you think we should continue to enforce this?

Select one option

Yes

No

Don't know

Please explain your reasons below

3. It is currently necessary for owners to keep dogs on leads in certain areas, or to put their dogs on leads when asked to by one of our authorised officers.

- This article applies to all areas covered by Rule 56 of the Highway Code i.e., on the road, or on the pavement, or on a path shared with cyclists or horse riders, within 30 mph speed zones.
- Areas with retail premises designated as zone 1 under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 i.e., where there are 2 or more commercial / shop premises
- Car Parks
- Cemeteries and Churchyards
- Any fenced, hedged or walled pond, area of water or nature reserve
- Marked sports fields while organised sport is in progress
- Areas stated as formal gardens, and
- Specifically the site known as Courtenay Park, Salcombe.

Looking at the existing powers listed above, are you in support of continuing with the existing arrangements for placing a dog on a lead?

Select one option

Yes

No

Don't know

Which places do you think it would be better to keep dogs on leads?

Please explain why dogs should be on leads in these areas.

4. It is currently an offence to allow a dog into all land within our Council's control including:

- Any fenced, hedged or walled children's play area
- Any fenced, hedged or walled bowling green
- Any fenced, hedged or walled tennis court
- Any fenced, hedged or walled skateboard or BMX park
- Any fenced, hedged or walled putting green
- Any sporting or recreational facility pitch when sport is in play
- South Sands Beach – Salcombe (seasonal)
- Mouthwell Sands – Hope Cove (seasonal)
- Bigbury Beach – (seasonal)

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Do you support continuing these existing powers on council land?

Select one option

Yes

No

Don't know

Do you have any suggestions to places where you think dogs should not be allowed?

Please say if you think any if these areas should be seasonal

What are your reasons for your suggested places where dogs should be stopped from going.

5. How do you feel about the current PSPO guidelines?

Happy

Satisfied

Neutral

Dissatisfied

Unhappy

6. Any other information you would like to add?