

Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council (BDBC) summary of comments following public consultation on implementing a borough-wide Public Spaces Protection Order for dog fouling

Summary of key themes from comments	Officer response
<p>1. Enforcement – 96 responders raised concern regarding how the PSPO would be enforced; responders raised concerns regarding whether or not there would be sufficient enforcement officers to enforce the requirements of the PSPO. Some responders also suggested early morning and late evening/night patrols would be the best time to catch people not clearing up after their dogs.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Residents are encouraged to report problems with dog fouling in specific locations by completing the web form on the BDBC website. 2. Enforcement patrols are targeted in areas where reports of problems with dog fouling are received. 3. BDBC's Community Safety Patrolling Officer (CSPO) Team, and the Council's Dog Warden carry out dog fouling enforcement. Two additional posts have recently been created within the CSPO team, which will assist with carrying out more routine patrols. 4. The CSPO team have carried out several campaigns to address dog fouling problems raised by residents. 5. BDBC is currently reviewing other enforcement options available.
<p>2. More bins – 53 responders suggested that better bin provision throughout the borough would help address the problem of dog fouling. There was some confusion around the fact that general waste bins can be used to dispose of dog poo bags with some misconception that dedicated dog poo bins are required.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There are approximately 2000 public bins located at strategic locations throughout the borough. 2. Bagged dog faeces can be placed in these bins. 3. We would encourage residents to report problems with bin provision in specific locations by completing the web form on the BDBC website. 4. If there are no bins in a certain area, it is important to take responsibility for your own waste, i.e. bag it and take it home.
<p>3. Dogs on leads – 43 responders suggested that there was a need for a requirement for dogs to be on leads in public spaces; some responders suggesting specific locations such as children's play areas or schools, but a notable number of people referring to the problem of dogs off leads running up to people in parks and either tripping them up or intimidating them and/or their children.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BDBC owns 150 children's play areas and parish councils in the borough own 50 children's play areas between them. 2. Approximately 90% of these are fenced off to prevent dogs gaining access and have signage indicating these are dog free areas. 3. Where there are problems with areas not being fenced, with insufficient signage, or with particular dogs being out of control in public spaces we would encourage residents to report

Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council (BDBC) summary of comments following public consultation on implementing a borough-wide Public Spaces Protection Order for dog fouling

	<p>this by completing the web form on the BDBC website.</p>
<p>4. Leaving full bags (e.g. hanging from bushes) – 28 responders wanted to ensure that the requirements would cover the problem of people leaving full poo bags in public spaces, in particular hanging from bushes/trees.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This is a littering offence for which enforcement officers can issue Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) 2. We would encourage residents to report particular problems with this in specific areas by completing the web form on the BDBC website.
<p>5. Licensing and registering – 21 responders suggested licensing dog owners and registering dogs would help deal with the problem of dog fouling in the borough.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is a legal requirement for dogs to be microchipped but there is no legal requirement for dog ownership to be licensed. 2. Enforcement officers carrying microchipped scanners is currently under consideration.
<p>6. The requirement for dog walkers to have something to pick up dog fouling – 20 responders disagreed that this should be a requirement.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The inherent difficulties posed by enforcing the failure to remove faeces from land are referred to by a significant number of people who responded to the consultation. 2. Requiring dog walkers to demonstrate they have the means will be a preventative measure to ensure dog walkers remove the faeces from public spaces. 3. 814 responders, many of whom are dog owners themselves, agree that this should be a requirement.
<p>7. Signage – 14 responders suggested more signage is required.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Enforcement officers will review signage whilst patrolling. 5. Signage will be deployed in dog walking hotspots and areas where particular problems are being reported.
<p>8. Public involvement – 14 responders queried how they could report matters and provide evidence themselves.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Residents are encouraged to report problems with dog fouling in specific locations by completing the web form on the BDBC website. 2. We would not encourage residents to try and gather their own evidence as they would potentially be putting themselves at risk by doing so.
<p>9. DNA testing – linked to the suggestion to licence dog owners and register dogs was the suggestion from 11 responders</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is no legal requirement for dog owners to hold a licence or provide the DNA of their dog.

Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council (BDBC) summary of comments following public consultation on implementing a borough-wide Public Spaces Protection Order for dog fouling

<p>to take the DNA of dogs in the borough so that DNA tests of dog poo left in public spaces could be used to determine the dog owner responsible for leaving the dog poo in a public space.</p>	<p>2. It is a legal requirement for dogs to be microchipped but there is no legal requirement for dog ownership to be licensed. 3. Enforcement officers carrying microchipped scanners is currently under consideration.</p>
<p>10. Banning dogs from areas – 11 responders suggested dogs should be banned from public spaces particularly children’s play areas which it is suggested should all be fenced off.</p>	<p>See the officer response to key theme 3 (dogs on leads).</p>
<p>11. Poo bag dispensers – 10 responders suggested dispensers providing free bags or vending machines where bags could be purchased.</p>	<p>It is the responsibility of dog owners to clear up after their dog and carry their own supply of poo bags.</p>
<p>12. Higher fines – 11 responders suggested higher fines were necessary, including suggestions for fines higher than permitted under a PSPO fixed penalty notice.</p>	<p>Where a PSPO is made, a breach of the specified controls is a criminal offence and can be dealt with by way of Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) up to a maximum of £100 or by prosecution with a maximum fine of £1,000. Both the local authority and police are authorised to enforce breaches of PSPOs.</p>
<p>13. Professional dog walkers/limiting numbers – 7 responders raised concern regarding professional dog walkers, suggesting that they often walk more dogs than they can control. One responder suggested they should be required to pay a fee to use public spaces, and another responder suggested fines they may be subjected to should be doubled.</p>	<p>1. We would encourage residents to report particular problems with this in specific areas by completing the web form on the BDBC website. 2. We liaise with dog walking businesses where reports are received.</p>
<p>14. Cameras (CCTV) – 6 responders suggested the use of CCTV to catch people not disposing of dog poo.</p>	<p>The use of CCTV is not currently being considered, but other enforced options are currently under consideration.</p>
<p>15. Communication – 7 responders highlighted the need for effective communication.</p>	<p>We will work with our Communications Team to devise a strategy if the new PSPO is implemented.</p>
<p>16. Other animals – 4 responders requested controls relating to cat poo and 3 requested controls relating to horse manure.</p>	<p>Evidence obtained does not justify controls to deal with cats or horses defecating in public spaces.</p>

**Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council (BDBC) summary of comments
following public consultation on implementing a borough-wide Public
Spaces Protection Order for dog fouling**

17. Designated dog areas – 2 responders suggested a requirement for dedicated dog areas.	Evidence obtained does not justify the provision of dedicated dog areas.