

## **Public Space Protection Order Consultation relating to the control of dogs across Cheshire West and Chester**

**1 February to 28 April 2018.**

Residents are being invited to have their say on Cheshire West and Chester Council's proposals in relation to responsible dog ownership.

The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced new powers to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour. Existing control orders that were made under previous legislation can now be replaced by Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs). PSPOs can be used to regulate activities in particular public places that can have a detrimental effect on the local community.

In September 2017, the Council reviewed a number of existing Dog Control Orders and transferred them into PSPOs. The Dog Fouling Order will now remain in place for the maximum three year period before review is required again.

At the same time, the Dog Control Orders in Chester City were transferred into PSPOs for a period of 12 months. The former Vale Royal Council and Ellesmere Port and Neston Council areas are still covered by Byelaws which were not affected by the change in legislation detailed above.

There have been many changes and improvements to our greenspaces since the original Chester City Council Dog Control Orders and the Vale Royal and Ellesmere Port & Neston Byelaws were introduced. There are now a number of new parks and play areas and many examples where the landscape of an area has changed and the old legislation provisions are no longer practically enforceable.

The consultation asks for views on a range of suggested control methods in relation to responsible dog ownership which could become subject to FPN enforcement. These include:

- Dogs to be excluded from fully-enclosed children's play areas that contain play equipment
- Dogs to be excluded from marked and maintained sports areas
- Dogs on leads at the request of an authorised officer – all public spaces except forestry commission land
- Dogs on leads in cemeteries and the crematorium
- Dog walkers to be restricted as to the number of dogs walked at any one time

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- Dog walkers to carry sufficient means to pick up their dog foul

There are also questions regarding the possible use of DNA registration as an alternative to FPN issue and extending the number of authorised officers able to issue an FPN by the delegation of authorisation to town and parish councils in relation to land which they own or manage.

These measures, if agreed, would apply across the whole of the Borough and would act alongside the current legislation requiring people to clean up their dog foul and encourage responsible ownership.

The public consultation started on 1 February 2018 and lasts for 12 weeks.

## **How to share your views**

The consultation period closes on 28 April 2018.

The survey can be complete online (see link below) or by printing off the questionnaire and returning it by post.

Parish and town councils will be invited to submit their views and an officer will be available to attend meetings during the consultation period.

### **Other ways to take part:**

On-line: <http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/DogControlOrderReview>

Email: [dogorders@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:dogorders@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

Telephone: 0300 123 8 123

Write to: Research and Intelligence Team, Cheshire West and Chester Council, 4 Civic Way, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BE

The outcome of the public consultation will be considered by Cabinet in Autumn 2018.

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