

Appendix 1: Consultation Feedback

Kennel Club Response to Warwick District Council Public Spaces Protection Order Consultation

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 responsible dog ownership throughout the local area in addition to introducing Orders in this respect. Proactive measures could 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.

Dogs on lead – cemeteries; sports grounds, fields and pitches not subject to Dogs Exclusion when in use for authorised sporting facilities; public footpaths crossing race course

The Kennel Club can support reasonable 'dogs on lead' orders which, when done in a proportionate and evidence-based way, can include areas such as cemeteries, public highways, car parks, or on pavements in proximity to cars and other road traffic.

The underlying principle which we seek to see applied is that dog control measures are the *least restrictive* to achieve a given and measurable outcome. This is the approach used by Natural England. We would also recommend local authorities make use of other more targeted and flexible measures at their disposal, such as Acceptable Behavioural Contracts and Community Protection Notices.

Dogs on lead by direction only

The Kennel Club strongly welcomes "dogs on lead by direction" orders, as these allow responsible dog owners to exercise their dogs off lead without restriction providing their dogs are under control whilst simultaneously providing the local authority powers to restrict dogs not under control. We would recommend that the authorised officer enforcing the order is familiar with dog behaviour in order to determine whether restraint is necessary. There is a danger that a dog, through no fault of its own, could be considered a 'nuisance' or 'annoyance' to another person who simply does not like dogs.

Kennel Club Good Citizen Training Clubs and our accredited trainers can also help owners whose dogs run out of control due to them not having the ability to train a reliable recall.

Dogs exclusion

The Kennel Club does not typically oppose orders to exclude dogs from children's play areas, recreational grounds, and racetracks, as long as alternative provisions are made for dog walkers in the vicinity. We would also highlight that children and dogs should be able to socialise together safely under adult supervision, with having a child in the home being the biggest predictor for a family owning a dog.

The Jockey Club/ Warwick Racecourse Response to Warwick District Council Public Spaces Protection Order Consultation.

Whilst we can't comment on any of the information relating to the wider area, we can report that we are comfortable with the current restrictions around our site (no dogs or pedestrians on the racing surface, out with approved crossing points), provided they are adequately policed.

District, Town & Parish Council Responses

- Given that the decision has been made not to consider including other areas, I agree that the existing Dog Control Orders should be extended for another 3 years or until a public consultation is undertaken.
- Fine to continue with current guidelines but would like to see more enforcement of these rules otherwise it is pointless having them as most dog owners seem completely oblivious or don't care about them.
- The Town Council support leaving the agreement as it is for the next 3 years.
- Please can Stoneleigh and Ashow Parish Council request that the playground at Stoneleigh Village Hall and the sports field could also be included in the list of rural dog exclusion areas. – **explained that no changes can be made at this time.**