



Executive – 8th June 2011

Agenda Item No.

4

Title	Dog Control Orders
For further information about this report please contact	Richard Hall (01926 456700) Grahame Helm (01926 456714)
Service Area	Environmental Services
Wards of the District directly affected	All
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006	No
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	24 th November 2010 Minute number: 96
Background Papers	Public consultation responses. On-line and postal petition. Photographs of damage to trees

Contrary to the policy framework:	No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No
Key Decision?	No
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	No

Officer/Councillor Approval

With regard to officer approval all reports must be approved by the report authors relevant director, Finance, Legal Services and the relevant Portfolio Holder(s).

Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive	13.05.2011	Chris Elliott
CMT	13.05.2011	
Deputy Chief Exec	13.05.2011	Bill Hunt
Section 151 Officer		Mike Snow
Legal	10.05.2011	John Gregory
Finance		Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)	16.05.2011	Michael Coker

Consultation Undertaken

In accordance with the Dog Control Orders (Procedures) Regulations 2006, following the decision of the Executive on 24th November 2010, the Council published a notice describing the Orders in the Courier Newspaper in December and also wrote to all the other Authorities specified in the Regulations, together with other interested parties, inviting their comments. The Orders were also published on the Council's website and the Portfolio Holder was interviewed on local radio. The closing date for comments was 26th January 2011 and this report invites the Executive to consider all the comments received.

Final Decision?	Yes
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1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 A report was submitted to the Executive on 24th November 2010 following which it was resolved to carry out a public consultation exercise on the proposed introduction of Dog Control Orders. Given the extent of representations received, it was agreed to postpone a final decision until June to allow officers sufficient time to collate and analyse all comments received in liaison with the Portfolio Holder.
- 1.2 This report therefore invites the Executive to consider the feedback from the consultation and the reasons for and against the introduction of Dog Control Orders. It also presents options for Members to decide on whether to implement the Orders and if so to what extent.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Council implements Dog Control Orders with some amended text from that originally proposed as summarised in paragraph 7.12 below and set out in Appendix 1(a-d), having considered the representations received from the consultation exercise.

3. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 provides a power to local authorities to make dog control orders. These orders replace the previous system of byelaws for the control of dogs, and also the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 which has been repealed.
- 3.2 Whilst the District has been subject to a 'blanket' designation under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act since August 1998, there is now a need to update this order.
- 3.3 It is also considered that enforcement of the current byelaws is ineffective and further controls on some specific areas of open spaces in the District will improve the Council's regulatory effectiveness and thus produce efficiencies. Given the limited nature of these areas, it is not considered that this will have a significant impact on the majority of responsible dog owners being able to exercise their dogs off lead.
- 3.4 Rather than byelaws, the Dogs on Leads by Direction Order is seen as the primary enforcement tool for the future to be applied as necessary when an owner regularly allows their dog to be out of control and a nuisance.
- 3.5 There are two main advantages to introducing Dog Control Orders:
 - The Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 allows enforcement to take place on all publicly accessible land but includes a large list of exemptions including land next to carriageways with speed limits in excess of 40 mph and certain common land. These exemptions do not apply to Dog Control Orders made under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005
 - Enforcement of Dog Control Orders can be undertaken more efficiently than Byelaws through the use of fixed penalty notices to avoid the lengthy process

of preparing a prosecution file and court appearances. If an offence is considered sufficiently serious to require prosecution, the maximum fine on summary conviction is £1000 which is significantly more than for Byelaws.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 The Council does not have to introduce any or all the proposed dog control orders. Although the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 has been repealed, the Order commencing the repeal provision has preserved the offence under the 1996 Act in respect of any designation orders made prior to the repeal. However, no additional land can now be designated under that Act.
- 4.2 The Council can implement the control orders as originally set out in the report to the Executive on 24th November 2010.
- 4.3 The Council can make additional changes to those set out in the recommendation at 2.1 above if Members wish more or less areas to be included.

5. BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK

- 5.1 An earmarked reserves request to the value of £6,300 has been made for the 2010/11 final accounts to cover implementation costs. This would include new signage, publicity and education, and a supply of dog waste bags. It is expected that future enforcement will become part of the Council's routine regulatory activity, primarily by the Council's Dog Warden but with support from other council officers and police community support officers. Efficiencies can be anticipated through more effective targeting of enforcement. Sponsorship of litter bins will also be explored further as a means of increasing numbers as suggested during the public consultation.

6. POLICY FRAMEWORK

- 6.1 The Council's purpose is to improve the quality of life for everyone who lives in, works in or visits Warwick District. With our partners, we aspire to build sustainable, safer, stronger and healthier communities.
- 6.2 Ensuring that effective steps are taken to promote responsible dog ownership will contribute to these aims.

7. BACKGROUND

- 7.1 In June 1977, Warwick District Council passed a set of Byelaws with respect to Pleasure Grounds in the district. These Byelaws included a clause that "a person shall not cause or suffer any dog belonging to him or in his charge to enter or remain in the pleasure ground, unless such dog be and continue to be under proper control, and be effectively restrained from causing annoyance to any person, and from worrying or disturbing any animal or waterfowl, and from entering any ornamental water". The maximum penalty on summary conviction was £20.
- 7.2 If the Council is minded to make a Dog Control Order in respect of an offence on a specified area of land, any byelaw dealing with the same offence on the same

land lapses. Other byelaws dealing with either the same offence on different land, or with different offences on the same land, are not affected.

7.3 The Dog Control Orders (Prescribed Offences and Penalties, etc) Regulations 2006 provide for five offences which may be prescribed in a dog control order:

- Failing to remove dog faeces
- Not keeping a dog on a lead
- Not putting, and keeping, a dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer
- Permitting a dog to enter land from which dogs are excluded
- Taking more than a specified number of dogs onto land.

7.4 Orders can be made in respect of any land which is open to the air and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access (with or without payment). The penalty for committing an offence contained in a dog control order is a maximum fine of level 3 on the standard scale (currently £1000) or the issue of a fixed penalty notice (£50).

7.5 The sites to be included in dog control orders were proposed by either members of the public, the Head of Cultural Services, and/or the Head of Environmental Services (Bereavement Services Manager). Government advice is that orders excluding dogs from specific sites should be restricted to highly sensitive areas which can clearly be defined such as fenced-off children's play areas. It is important for the Council to be able to show that any Order is a necessary and proportionate response to problems caused by the activities of dogs and those in charge of them. The Council also needs to balance the interests of those in charge of dogs against the interests of those affected by the activities of dogs, 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. A failure to give due consideration to these factors could make any Order vulnerable to challenge in the Courts. It is therefore proposed that most of the specified public land be controlled by an order where dogs should be kept on a lead only when directed to do so due to the nuisance they are causing. This will avoid responsible dog owners being penalised and ensure that enforcement is proportionate.

7.6 However there are a few, limited locations where it is considered necessary that dogs must always be kept on a lead or excluded permanently. There is also a need to make a new dog control order to cover the district in respect of failing to remove dog faeces. A designation originally made under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act becomes invalid when any new dog control order is made for the same land. Draft orders are attached to this report at Appendix 1(a-d) together with relevant site plans at Appendix 2.

With regard to dog exclusion zones, these are specified in Appendix 1d. The principle of excluding dogs from children's and other playing areas has valid health reasons and was supported by the majority of the consultation responses. Therefore similar areas not currently clearly demarcated and signed may be designated in the future if this can be reasonably achieved and the tests of need and proportionality are satisfied. For example play areas such as in Abbey Fields

and St Nicholas Park will be reviewed to determine if they can be clearly demarcated and signed and if considered appropriate for designation will be brought forward in a future report to Executive.

- 7.7 To evidence the need for these Orders, the Head of Cultural Services has provided photographic evidence of damage caused to trees by dogs especially in Jephson Gardens. The Council has also received 218 complaints classified as 'dangerous/ferocious dogs' in the past 3 years of which 23 related to incidents in parks with 11 of these at Newbold Comyn. In the same period, the Council also received 64 complaints of dogs straying in parks with 14 of these at Newbold Comyn. The managing director of Warwick Racecourse has made representations to the Council for several years to provide more effective control of dogs on the racetrack to reduce health and safety risks for his grounds maintenance staff and jockeys. Furthermore, the Council receives some 200 complaints about dog fouling from members of the public annually. In July this year, environmental health staff ran a 'Bag It and Bin It – It Only Takes a Minute' campaign to encourage responsible dog ownership. As part of this campaign, the public was asked to propose parks and open spaces which should be considered for additional dog control measures. During this exercise, representations were received from users of Newbold Common Golf Centre alleging dogs causing damage to the course and running off with golf balls. Jephson Gardens was also proposed given the formal nature of the park.
- 7.8 Enforcement of the orders will primarily be by the Council's dog warden supported by other Council officers but police community support officers can take evidence of an offence. The Council may also authorise other staff such as officers of other local authorities (county, town or parish) to act on its behalf. The dog warden service was previously out-sourced but is now provided in-house which has the added benefit of providing greater flexibility and information-sharing across departments.
- 7.9 During December and January, the Council undertook public consultation on the proposals. Whilst the statutory minimum period for public consultation is 28 days, the Council allowed a 47-day period in this instance. Some 550 responses (both for and against the orders) were received by the Council together with 700+ people signing a petition organised by a local resident. Given the number of responses, it was agreed that the Executive would consider this matter further at its June meeting. A summary of the statutory and other interested organisations responses is attached at Appendix 3. A summary of responses from the general public is attached at Appendix 4 and a complete set is available as background papers for reference.
- 7.10 The Portfolio Holder and Head of Service met some local dog owners on 17th February 2011 to discuss the respective positions and how they could become part of any solution. One of those present has asked that the Council's attention be drawn to a meeting which took place between a large group of dog walkers and the Manager of Newbold Comyn Golf Course on 24th March this year. This meeting is reported to have identified the following solutions:
- the introduction of a Fairway Code guiding walkers and their dogs safely around the course. It would highlight the best routes to take, show where the public

footpath is which goes straight across the course and contain warnings about where to be extremely careful when crossing.

- local companies, such as veterinary surgeons, producers of dog-related items and dog trainers, walkers and behaviourists could all be approached to sponsor dog bins on the basis that this is highly targeted messaging and relatively cheap advertising to potential customers.
- free dog bags and a dog bag dispenser sited near the clubhouse to encourage people to clear up after their dogs, every time.

A "Peaceful Protest" was also held in Leamington town centre on 23rd April following which a petition containing 392 signatures was submitted insisting that the Council drops the dog control orders.

7.11 The Council's solicitor has summarised the legal position in that the Council needs to be satisfied that there are problems caused by dogs or those in charge of them in each area where it is proposed to make an order. It must also be satisfied that an Order is necessary to deal with the problems and that it is a proportionate response to those problems. Provided that it is so satisfied, and can show that it has considered the consultation responses, then the decision is unlikely to be open to challenge. If it then decides to proceed with the order, it must decide when the order will come into force. This must be at least 14 days from the date on which it was made.

7.12 As a result of the representations, it is proposed that:

- i) the Dogs Exclusion (Warwick District Council) Order be amended to avoid public concern that the Council may in future designate any land without prior consultation; and to allow public use of the car parking areas at the Crematorium when directly accessing Oakley Wood.
- ii) at the request of the Warwick Racecourse Company Limited and The Jockey Club, that the main race circuit is included in the Dogs Exclusion (Warwick District Council) Order whilst still permitting dog owners to cross the track (at public access points) to exercise their dogs freely beyond. It must be noted that if Members are minded to accept this amendment, there will be the need for a further 28-day public consultation on the Dogs Exclusion Order.
- iii) at the request of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, an additional exemption to the Orders has been proposed to include guide and other assistance dogs during training.
- iv) at the request of Mack Golf, Newbold Comyn Golf Centre not be included in the Dogs on Leads Order except for the public footpath which crosses the course. This follows Mack Golf's own legal advice that the golf course is private property and their wish to use the private law of trespass to control the behaviour on the course.

7.13 The orders have been subject to an equality impact assessment which is attached in Appendix 5.

Warwick District Council

THE CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 2005

The Dog Control Orders (Prescribed Offences and Penalties, etc) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/1059)

THE FOULING OF LAND BY DOGS (WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL) ORDER 2011

The Warwick District Council (in this Order called "the Council") makes the following Order:

1. This Order comes into force on [insert date].
2. This Order applies to land specified in the Schedule below.

Offence

3.1 If a dog defecates at any time on land to which this Order applies and a person who is in charge of the dog at that time fails to remove the faeces from the land forthwith, that person shall be guilty of an offence unless –

- (a) he has 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.

3.2 Nothing in this article applies to a person who –

- (a) is registered as a blind person in a register compiled under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948; or
- (b) has a disability which affects his 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 he relies for assistance; or
- (c) is training a guide or assistance dog in an official capacity.

3.3 For the purposes of this article –

- (a) a person who habitually has a dog in his 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;
- (b) placing the faeces in a receptacle on the land which is provided for the purpose, or for the disposal of waste, shall be a sufficient removal from the land;
- (c) 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;

(d) each of the following is a "prescribed charity" –

- (i) Dogs for the Disabled (registered charity number 700454)
- (ii) Support Dogs (registered charity number 1088281)
- (iii) Canine Partners for Independence (registered charity number 803680)

Penalty

- 4 A person who is guilty of an offence under article 3 shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

The COMMON SEAL of the)
WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL was)
hereunto affixed this [Insert Date]
in the presence of:-)

Chief Executive

SCHEDULE

1. Subject to the exception in paragraph 2 below, all land which is in the administrative area of the Council and which is
 - (i) open to the air (which includes land that is covered but open to the air on at least one side) and
 - (ii) to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access (with or without payment).
2. Excepted from the description in paragraph 1 above is land that is placed at the disposal of the Forestry Commission under section 39(1) of the Forestry Act 1967.

Warwick District Council

THE CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 2005

The Dog Control Orders (Prescribed Offences and Penalties, etc) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/1059)

THE DOGS ON LEADS (WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL) ORDER 2011

The Warwick District Council (in this Order called "the Council") makes the following Order:

1. This Order comes into force on [insert date].
2. This Order applies to land specified in the Schedule below.

Offence

- 3.1 A person in charge of a dog shall be guilty of an offence if, at any time, on any land to which this Order applies he does not keep the dog on a lead, unless –
 - (a) he has 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.
- 3.2 For the purposes of this article a person who habitually has a dog in his 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.

Penalty

- 4 A person who is guilty of an offence under article 3 shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

The COMMON SEAL of the)
WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL was)
hereunto affixed [Insert Date]
in the presence of:-)

Chief Executive

SCHEDULE

1. Jephson Gardens, Royal Leamington Spa; and
2. Mill Gardens, Royal Leamington Spa; and
3. The length of the public footpath (L9a) as it crosses Newbold Comyn Golf Course; and
4. All other sport grounds, fields and pitches not subject to the Dogs Exclusion (Warwick District Council) Order 2011, when in use for authorised sporting facilities.

Warwick District Council

THE CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 2005

The Dog Control Orders (Prescribed Offences and Penalties, etc) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/1059)

**THE DOGS ON LEADS BY DIRECTION (WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL) ORDER
2011**

The Warwick District Council (in this Order called "the Council") makes the following Order:

1. This Order comes into force on [insert date].
2. This Order applies to land specified in the Schedule below.
3. In this Order "an authorised officer of the Council" means an employee of the Council or any other person who is authorised in writing by the Council for the purpose of giving directions under this Order.

Offence

4.1A person in charge of a dog shall be guilty of an offence if, at any time, on any land to which this Order applies he does not comply with a direction given him by an authorised officer of the Council to put and keep a dog on a lead unless-

- (a) he has 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.

4.2 For the purposes of this article –

- (a) a person who habitually has a dog in his 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;
- (b) an authorised officer of the Council may only give a direction under this Order to put and keep a dog on a lead if such restraint is reasonably necessary to prevent a nuisance or behaviour by the dog likely to cause annoyance or disturbance to any other person or the worrying or disturbance of any animal or bird.

Penalty

- 5 A person who is guilty of an offence under article 4 shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

The COMMON SEAL of the)
WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL was)
hereunto affixed this [Insert Date]
in the presence of:-)

Chief Executive

SCHEDULE

1. Subject to the exception in paragraph 2 below, this order applies to all land which is within the administrative area of Warwick District Council and which is –
 - (i) open to the air (which includes land that is covered but open to the air on at least one side) and;
 - (ii) to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access with or without payment, and is not land for which dogs are required to be kept on leads by virtue of The Dogs on Leads (Warwick District Council) Order 2011.
2. Excepted from the description in paragraph 1 above is land that is placed at the disposal of the Forestry Commission under section 39(1) of the Forestry Act 1967.

Warwick District Council

THE CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 2005

The Dog Control Orders (Prescribed Offences and Penalties, etc) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/1059)

THE DOGS EXCLUSION (WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL) ORDER 2011

The Warwick District Council (in this Order called "the Council") makes the following Order:

1. This Order comes into force on [insert date].
2. This Order applies to land specified in the Schedule below.

Offence

- 3.1 A person in charge of a dog shall be guilty of an offence if, at any time, he takes the dog onto, or permits the dog to enter or to remain on, any land to which this Order applies unless-
 - (a) he 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 doing so.
- 3.2 Nothing in this article applies to a person who –
 - (a) is registered as a blind person in a register compiled under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948; or
 - (b) is deaf, in respect of a dog trained by Hearing Dogs for Deaf People (registered charity number 293358) and upon which he relies for assistance; or
 - (c) has a disability which affects his 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 he relies for assistance; or
 - (d) is training a guide or assistance dog in an official capacity.
- 3.3 For the purposes of this article –
 - (a) a person who habitually has a dog in his 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; and
 - (b) each of the following is a "prescribed" charity" –
 - (i) Dogs for the Disabled (registered charity number 700454)
 - (ii) Support Dogs (registered charity number 1088281)

- (iii) Canine Partners for Independence (registered charity number 803680)

Penalty

- 4 A person who is guilty of an offence under article 3 shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

The COMMON SEAL of the)
WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL was)
hereunto affixed this [Insert Date]
in the presence of:-)

Chief Executive

SCHEDULE

1. Any clearly demarcated children's play area, paddling pool, bowling green, multi use game area, tennis court, or putting green signed as a "dog exclusion zone" (whether the sign uses those particular words and/or symbols having like effect); and
2. The main racetrack surface at Warwick Racecourse except when directly crossing the track either way at the designated public access points (WB9, WB9a, WB12, WB13, WB14); and
3. Mid-Warwickshire Crematorium (excluding the car park areas when used to directly access Oakley Wood); and
4. Leamington Cemetery; and
5. Milverton Cemetery; and
6. Warwick Cemetery; and
7. Kenilworth Cemetery.



Colour versions of these maps can be found at www.warwickdc.gov.uk, search for Dog Control Orders or follow this [Link](#)



Dogs on Leads Zone - Mill Gardens, Leamington Spa

Environmental Services | Warwick District Council | Riverside House | Milverton Hill | Royal Leamington Spa | CV32 5QF
01926 410410 ehpollution@warwickdc.gov.uk

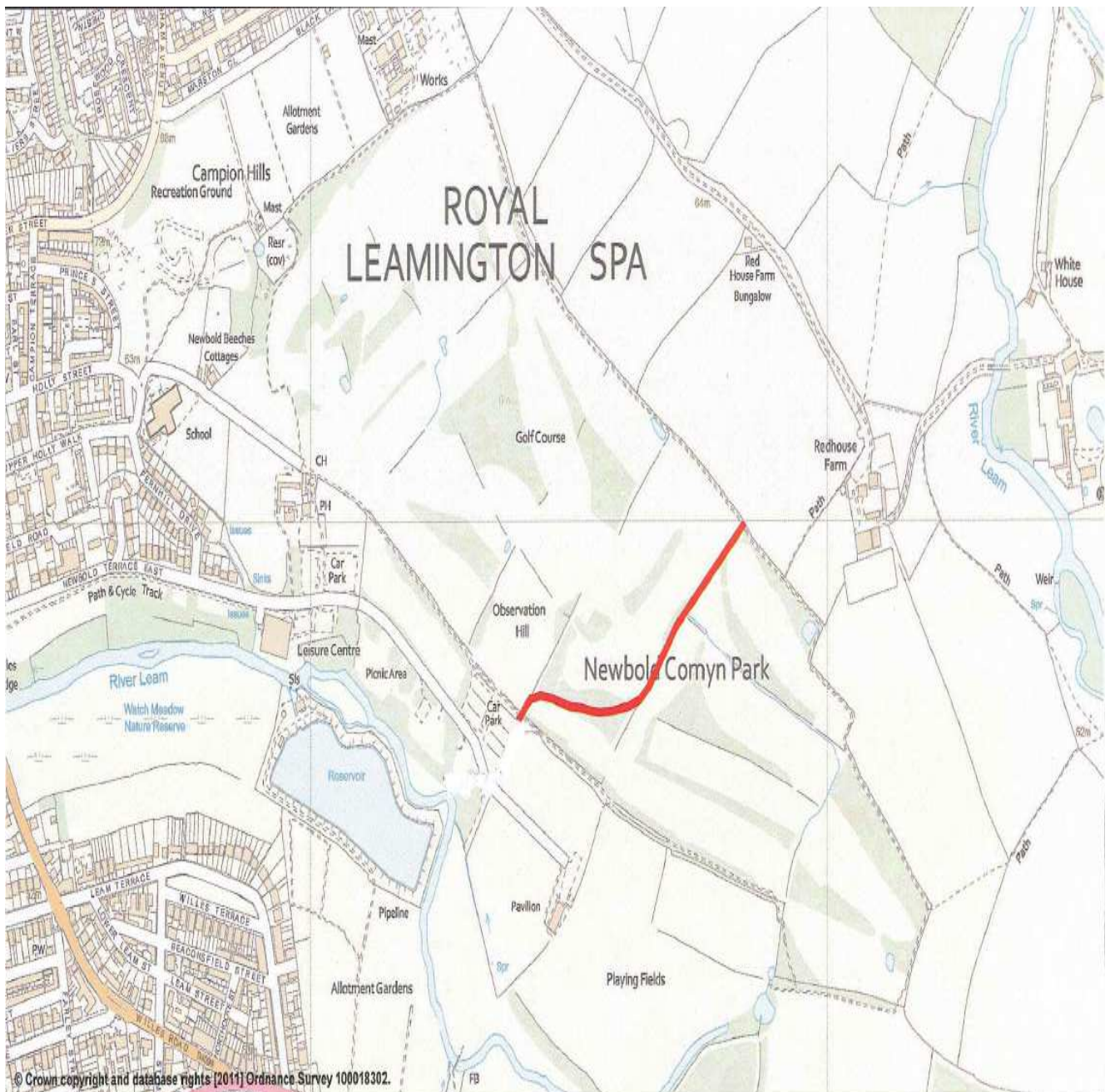
Date: 20th May 2011



Scale: 1:1500 @ A3

0 15 30 45 60 75 m

North





 <p>WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL</p>	<p align="center">Dogs on Leads Zone - Newbold Comyn Footpath</p> <hr/> <p>Environmental Services Warwick District Council Riverside House Milverton Hill Royal Leamington Spa CV32 5QF 01926 410410 ehpollution@warwickdc.gov.uk</p>	<p>Date: 20th May 2011</p> <p>Scale: 1:5000 @ A3</p> <p>0 50 100 150 200 250 m</p> <p align="right">North </p>
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Dog Exclusion Zone - Oaks Road Cemetary, Kenilworth

Environmental Services | Warwick District Council | Riverside House | Milverton Hill | Royal Leamington Spa | CV32 5QF
01926 410410 ehpollution@warwickdc.gov.uk

Date: 20th May 2011

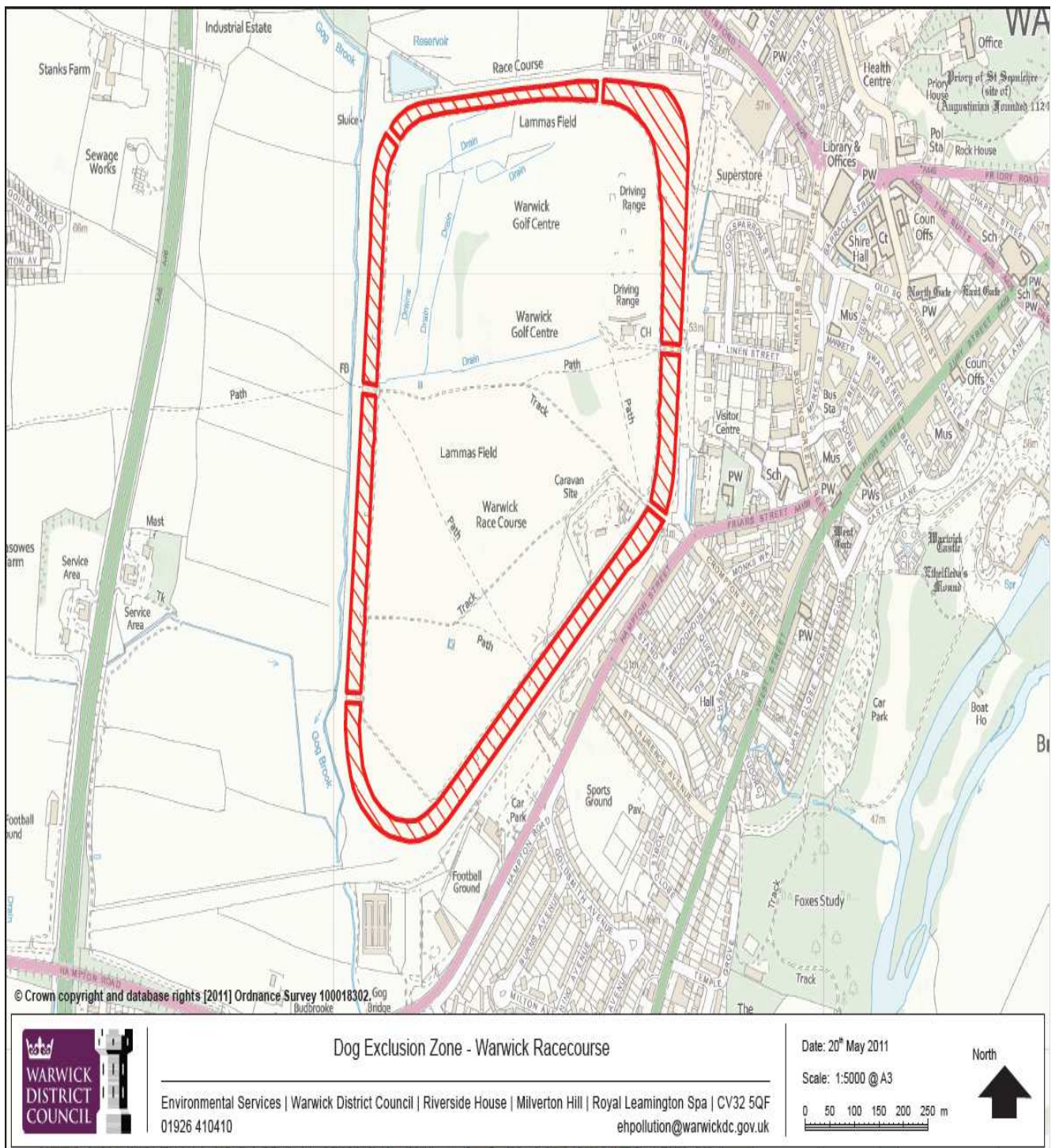
Scale: 1:1500

0 15 30 45 60 75 m

North







Statutory and other interested parties responses

Baginton Parish Council

Endorses the orders.

Beausale, Haseley, Honiley & Wroxall Parish Council

Consider that these Dog Control Orders are unnecessary and heavy handed. If the Countryside Code is followed about controlling dogs and the litter laws for putting dog mess in the bins already provided is abided by, then there is no need for further legislation.

Budbrooke Parish Council

Not opposed to the proposals but are sceptical as to how they will be enforced.

Norton Lindsey Parish Council

No comments.

Royal Leamington Spa Town Council

The proposed dog control orders are welcomed.

The Dogs on Leads Order should be amended to ensure that all the public and permitted footpaths at Newbold Comyn allow dogs to be exercised "off-lead" provided that they are under control.

Warwick Town Council

Entirely supportive of the proposed order relating to fouling but very much consider that additional resources by way of bins, collections, publicity and staff are essential. Suggest that 'voluntary' wardens might be appropriate. The Town Council cannot understand the logic of the areas of land selected or omitted from the Dogs on Leads Order. The greatest areas of concern raised by the Town Council are

- (a) the need for dogs to be kept on leads at the racecourse and perimeter road;
- (b) the exclusion of dogs from crematorium and cemeteries;
- (c) what additional resources the District Council will provide to enforce the Orders and the regular emptying of bins;
- (d) how the sites to be included in the orders were determined; and
- (e) the fact that the Orders on exclusion and dogs on leads act against responsible owners who do keep dogs under control.

Whitnash Town Council

Members agree in principle, but more dog wardens will be needed to enforce this Control Order.

Newbold Comyn Golf Club - Members

Members of the golf club strongly support the proposals on two accounts. Firstly, as golfers we pay a green fee and expect to play unimpeded by stray dogs and owners walking the fairways. Secondly, we feel there is a health and safety issue, it is only a matter of time before a dog owner is seriously injured, then who is liable? The membership do not object to dog walkers walking the perimeter pathways and any public footpaths over the course provided they are kept on a lead and under supervision.

Warwick Racecourse

Would prefer to see dogs being excluded from the racetrack surface except when the dog owner is crossing it on one of the public access paths.

The Kennel Club

The Kennel Club never opposes the use of Dog Fouling and Dogs on Leads by Direction Orders as these measures can serve as a sensible means to ensure dog owners act responsibly. We view the use of Dogs on Leads and Dog Exclusion Orders as a last resort and believe that any proposal should be countered by providing off-lead access elsewhere, in order that owners have the opportunity to fully exercise their dogs – as they are required to do under the Animal Welfare Act. We are particularly concerned about the wording of section 4a of the Dog Exclusion Order as the open-ended nature of this statement implies that the Council may decide to introduce future exclusion zones without further consultation.

Leamington Dog Training Club

We agree with the Dog Fouling Order and the keeping of dogs on leads in Jephson Gardens but we disagree with the rest of the orders. Our reasons are

- (a) dogs and people require exercise in order to maintain both good physical and mental health;
- (b) dogs require free exercise to express natural behaviour;
- (c) dogs are pack animals and therefore need to interact freely with other dogs in order to maintain good social manners; and
- (d) dogs that are constantly kept on a lead can become more aggressive both towards other dogs and people through frustration.

In summary we believe that training and education rather than imposing unworkable and unmanageable orders are the way forward.

Guide Dogs

We welcome the exemption for registered blind people and specified assistance dog owners and recommend they are clearly highlighted in any publicity when the orders are implemented and in any future consultations. We request that consideration be given to the exempting of guide and assistance dogs in training from dog exclusion zones. We also request that appropriate guidance and training on disability awareness be given to relevant officers.

Dogs Trust

We strongly support the concept of responsible dog ownership but draw your attention to the Animal Welfare Act 2006 which imposes a duty of care on all persons who have contact with animals. One of the requirements is to allow the animal "to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns". For dogs this will clearly include the ability to exercise off the lead in an appropriate place. We therefore consider it important that responsible owners should not be discouraged from keeping a dog by draconian dog control.

Summary extracts of general public responses

I am writing to express my horror at your council's proposal to deny dogs to be able to run freely in almost all parts of Warwickshire.

Once again you are penalising perfectly responsible owners and their dogs, due to your inadequacies in people who disregard what regulations are already in place.

Newbold Comyn in particular is an area enjoyed by many dog walkers and is one of very few areas where dogs can run free safely.

The restrictions are so draconian that owners will no longer have a place to exercise their dogs.

This is against the dogs welfare rights.

I feel you are discriminating against all responsible dog owners.

Many dogs remain uncontrolled whilst on a lead, particularly when the owner is using a flexi-lead.

I would like to support the proposed Dog Control Orders but suggest they do not go far enough. I would urge the Council to consider excluding dogs from Jephson Gardens.

All I have to say is that once again the vast majority must pay for the irresponsible and ignorant minority.

As responsible and regular users of Jephson Gardens, Mill Gardens, Victoria Park and Newbold Common to walk my dog off the lead but when necessary on the lead why do we need this mandatory use of leads.

Far more important than these dog orders is the care and upkeep of the park, including the control of drunks and their behaviour.

If dog owners comply with your wishes, they put themselves at risk of prosecution under the animal welfare act. How will agility clubs and local companion dog shows that include obedience competitions that are usually held on village greens cope?

As a responsible owner of two dogs who I exercise daily I feel it would be completely unfair to expect dogs to be kept on a leash in all open areas. Whilst I agree there are areas that should be kept either dog free or with dogs on a leash – Jephson Gardens being a good example, by imposing a blanket ban you will simply affect responsible owners.

I must protest at the proposed implementation of dogs in our area being forcibly kept on leads in all areas.

As a regular user of St Nicholas Park/Myton Fields and the Racecourse/St Marys Lands I would object to any prohibition or restriction on the exercising of my dog off the lead in the main body of the park or the racecourse area including the track itself at times other than when a race meeting is in progress.

It is against my dogs welfare rights as it restricts their ability to be exercised properly and to interact properly with their own kind.

Irresponsible dog owners should be dealt with, but not by penalising the responsible majority.

I wish to fully support all of these proposals, since they will help protect my toddler in the specified areas and also maximise the enjoyment of the local amenities. There is nothing worse than seeing a dog running loose when young children are about.

I support all measures outlined in the consultation document displayed on the WDC website. I have been seriously concerned by the lack of control exhibited by some dog owners exercising their animals in Victoria Park and Jephson Gardens.

Can we confidently assume that WDC will, in a similarly robust manner, address the problem of human waste in evidence throughout the Jephson and Mill Gardens including worryingly, discarded syringes and other evidence of drug and alcohol abuse. If passed, any fenced park, sporting, recreational or educational facility under WDC control, could be designated a 'dog exclusion zone' at any given point in the future.

I wish to protest strongly about proposals to restrict dog walking at Warwick Racecourse and other public areas. Just one prosecution would get the message across so why are there no wardens to police these areas.

I would like to support and endorse what you are trying to achieve.

I walk every morning and evening with my dogs at Newbold Comyn, and the thought of having to keep them on the lead is ridiculous.

I have just heard about the Warwick District Council proposed dog control order requiring that all dogs be forcibly kept on leads in all areas within Warwickshire. Surely this is an attempt at sarcastic humour by someone who is both an animal hater and non English.

There is precious little space in Warwick to free run dogs which is a vital part of their health and well-being.

If the Racecourse is not available to let dogs off a lead, where do you propose we go? I urge the Council to remove Warwick Racecourse from being included.

You are penalising the owners like myself for the sake of a few.

How about spending this money on educating thoughtless dog owners about the possible impact on children's health if dog waste is not picked up rather than taking the easy option of banning loose dogs.

We strongly support the making of all these Orders – it is high time that dogs were kept on leads and under control in all these areas.

As a daily user of Newbold Comyn I am appalled by the prospects of these proposals, and yet again a few irresponsible dog owners spoil it for the majority of responsible ones. I can't see how putting a dog on a lead will stop those owners from NOT picking up their dog waste.

I would like to register my displeasure at the prospect of banning dogs off leads in public areas in the Warwick region.

I walk my dog through the Pump Room Gardens and into Jephson Gardens every day. As a responsible dog owner I always ensure he is on the lead in areas where appropriate, but it is vital for me to be able to let him off the lead at some point if he is to receive sufficient exercise.

I feel the Council does not do enough to provide bins.

I can understand the desire to prevent dog fouling on areas where children play, but the vast majority of dog owners in Leamington are responsible and will clean up their own mess. Besides, most children's play areas are now fenced to protect the children. Similarly I also agree with the other Dog Control Orders proposed. My prime concern is the prevention of dog owners from letting their dogs play freely in Jephson and Mill Gardens.

I can understand why dogs should be kept on leads in certain places, such as sports grounds, but in an open space like the Racecourse, it simply does not make sense, and sounds like a knee jerk reaction to a few complaints.

This proposal is I'm afraid long overdue, as the irresponsible owners would allow their dogs to go completely out of sight.

Owning a dog is one of the great pleasures for many older people. If these animals are forced to be kept on leads, they will lead very unhappy lives.

Warwick District Council should take its responsibility of clearly fencing off all children's play areas away from the rest of the parks it maintains. Set out clearly marked areas within its parks for dog walkers.

Do something about litter louts and vandal youths if you wish to improve our public areas.

I do not believe that dogs should be forced to be on leads in such large open areas as Newbold Comyn and Warwick Racecourse. For years I have been complaining about litter particularly at Newbold Comyn – need more bins, notices emphasising fines for not clearing, and rigorous implementation of fines.

The council should not waste any more time or my money on this knee jerk, ill thought out issue and address the waste, litter, debris, empty cans and bottles left by irresponsible so called football supporters most weekends throughout the year at Newbold Comyn.

I would pose the question of where dogs are to be exercised. I raise the point of Newbold Comyn, there is nothing there except the golf course and there are more people exercising their dogs than play golf! For the cultured Jephson Gardens I quite agree that dogs should be on a lead but for all others please think again as this proposal is sheer madness

I do agree that around children's play areas and family parks such as the Jephson Gardens control is essential but a total ban everywhere just isn't fair. Areas such as

Newbold Comyn and Warwick Racecourse are big open fields with room for everybody (and their dogs) to have control exercise off lead.

I believe the council would be better spending the money educating those dog owners who cause problems, to behave responsibly.

The fact that the Dog Training Professionals in this area are highly concerned as are the Kennel Club is beginning to lead me to the conclusion that this legislation has not, in fact, been drawn up by someone with qualified Canine knowledge, but an office person who has no knowledge of canine behaviour and the mental and physical repercussions on dogs welfare has not even been considered.

It appears to us that you need to educate your irresponsible dog owners before you start blaming and targeting responsible dog owners. Perhaps actually enforcing existing dog fouling orders would make an impact. Also the provision of additional dog wardens, supporting local dog training clubs, poster campaign and extra dog poo bins would help.

I can understand the need for control in areas highly frequented by members of the public such as Jephson Gardens, but areas such as Newbold Comyn (where there are NO doggy bins), with so much open countryside, is just ridiculous. I suggest you review your strategy around the amount of available doggy bins for owners in the impacted areas.

I would strongly oppose a blanket order or one that permits extensions without further consultation and debate.

I realise problems have arisen over the last year and indeed my sheepdog has been attacked by 2 lurcher dogs who tormented her and the owner just walked away but I would regret very much not being able to let my dog off the lead in the large field and woodlands at Newbold Comyn.

The people who do not pick up after their dogs are usually those who just open their doors and let them run free so why should the responsible majority of owners suffer for the sake of the minority.

Whilst I fully agree in Parks Sporting Areas (excluding Newbold Comyn) and Children Areas dogs should be on a lead, it is ridiculous to extend the Order to other open areas (whatever that may be).

General education of dog owners as to their responsibilities will have far greater effect than a blanket ban on dogs off-lead in public areas of Warwickshire.

To enforce a dog wearing a lead etc won't make any difference whatsoever to an irresponsible owner. Fine them yes, educate them yes, but NO to enforced regulations.

I think that it is totally wrong to make dog owners keep their animals on a lead on Warwick racecourse. This is open land and has been used for the exercise of pets for generations. I can understand Newbold Comyn Golf Course, as long as the rule does not apply to the rest of Newbold Comyn, for the same reasons as above.

There are some owners who, if this order goes ahead will exercise their pets in the countryside, but many, such as those less able, will simply be unable to exercise their pets in this way and will find that their dogs' health will suffer as a consequence.

Over the years I have witnessed other dog walkers just allowing their dogs to run off the lead into children's play areas [Abbey Fields and Bates Memorial Fields in Kenilworth]. Partly this is because WDC have not fenced these areas off, I would like to know why not? Warwick District Council has a duty to outline fully whereabouts dog walkers can and cannot take dogs in all their maintained parks.

I am confused as to where I can actually walk my dogs off lead following the ban, as all open spaces could be labelled as areas or recreation. Is it the Council's intention to prevent any off lead walking? I assume that a ban on football playing will also be put in place at Newbold Comyn as there is frequently large amounts of non biodegradable packaging left on the Comyn after a football match.

I fully support the Council's plans to introduce these orders. Many people like myself are disappointed how thoughtless many dog owners are and these orders are quite justified and appropriate and not excessive.

I think Council money would be better spent targeting binge drinking and drug taking in public places along with gangs of yobbos who may or may not have dogs.

Having just returned from Newbold Comyn, I felt so sad that my dog will be unable to have a proper run around the lovely fields, woodlands and larger field shortly. Lead walking should be done in Jephson Gardens.

Whilst I wholeheartedly agree that dogs should be under proper control, there is no excuse whatsoever for banning them from walking off lead. The Council would do well to actually enforce the no fouling rule instead of bringing in unnecessary extra prohibitions.

I am reliably informed that WDC has one dog warden who patrols the whole district alone and it is plainly obvious that to enforce such orders you (WDC) would need to employ more staff.

I support the Council proposals for four Dog Control Orders. I hope these proposals all go through satisfactorily and get extended to cover the whole of Warwickshire.

In my opinion a more rigid enforcement of control of dog fouling would be far more effective with signs and prosecutions as necessary.

The requirement to keep dogs on leads in Newbold Comyn Park amongst other areas is unreasonable and not necessary. I know of no one who would allow their dog to run free in a cemetery. My proposal is to cancel the orders, save the budget and use it towards the (necessary) Fire Station for Warwick.

I frequently walk along public footpaths and bridleways around Warwick and Warwick racecourse. I am often troubled by dogs that are not under control and have twice been bitten by dogs off the lead. I would fully support any extension of the requirements for owners to keep their dogs under control.

Maybe if more suitable bins were provided then people would be more inclined to clean up after their pets or discarding the bag of mess into nearby undergrowth. I can walk from near the Heathcote for about half an hour before finding a bin on the Tachbrook Road.

I would recommend that the Council do not put this order in place in Jephson Gardens, or at least allows certain hours on a daily basis that well behaved dogs can be let off their leads in these parks.

Relating to Dogs on Leads Order, we consider that this is in breach of the Animal Welfare Act as it prevents dog owners from exercising their dogs. Warwick Racecourse and Newbold Comyn are unacceptably restrictive. Regarding Dogs on Leads by Direction Order, this is totally unacceptable as it is far too open-ended.

I have a small dog which I exercise occasionally in Oakley Woods and was very disappointed to hear you propose to stop dogs being exercised there.

I walk my dogs in Leamington Spa Cemetery to visit my family graves. I would not go in there if I do not have them with me, you just need someone in there to tell the people who let their dog off leads to keep them on.

I am one of many people who take their dogs on regular walks around Newbold Comyn. I feel this is drastic action towards dog owners, as there is no signage currently requiring dog fouling and no patrolling.

You should try harder to enforce the laws currently in place before introducing draconian measures.

I too often take my dogs when going to tend my family's graves but once again this has been taken away from me.

Whilst I agree with the other suggested control orders I am strongly opposed to restrictions at Newbold Comyn and appalled at the lack of information provided to the regular users of this area to allow objections to these changes.

I am against dog exclusion zones on Warwick Racecourse (the centre open ground) and Newbold Comyn.

Please will you install more rubbish bins, there are insufficient bins within the WDC area.

I fully support the premise dogs should not go in fenced play areas, etc. Again I fully support that dogs ought not to go on the golf course at Newbold Comyn but only if people are playing golf. However, I do not support the requirement to keep dogs on leads on the remainder of Newbold Comyn or Warwick Racecourse when it is not being used. If you are going to enact these Dog Control Orders, then equally it is incumbent upon yourselves to activate rules in relation to litter also.

Dogs on leads in parks sounds good. Do you have a problem with dogs running loose and bothering folk/damaging planting? If so, I could accept leads in formal parks. Cemeteries – I am troubled by this proposal although not directly affected.

I am very disappointed that the council is even considering this at the present time. Why is there suddenly discrimination against dogs?

Newbold Comyn is the only place where it is practical for us to walk our dog off lead and it will be a major constraint to our freedom (and our dog's) if it is no longer possible to do this.

If we are to keep dogs on leads in these areas is there anywhere else where dogs can run free?

The schedule proposed essentially gives Warwick District Council the powers to restrict dog walkers as and when they see fit, without any further consultation. Could an area like Shottery Fields in Stratford be affected?

I would like to object to the order of no dogs allowed in cemeteries.

I would like to oppose the ban in response to the proposals to exclude dogs from exercising freely in parks and outdoor spaces. The majority of time especially within winter time, owners with their dogs are the main people to be seen walking around!

As a regular dog walker on Newbold Comyn, I wish to add my voice to those other dog walkers. Vile though it is, dog mess is not the only problem at Newbold Comyn and it would be good if the council did something about what is, I think, an easier matter to deal with – that of the rubbish left after football matches.

Why chose dog walkers, whilst you are considering this, what about all the people using playing fields leaving bottles, tins, plastic lying about?

Do not punish the majority for the failings of the minority.

Perhaps more investment in waste bins would be a step in the right direction. For example, an area where my dogs are frequently exercised (Harbury Lane Recreation Park in Whitnash) is void of any waste bins.

It is recommended by the Kennel Club that dogs should be allowed to play with other dogs, which is possible on the common land on Newbold Comyn, so why is there going to be a law to stop this? I personally would prefer it if you concentrated on removing the litter dropped by many people in this area.

Council operatives would be better employed picking up bottles, cans, fast food wrappings, broken furniture, tyres and the regular detritus regularly deposited within its parks and gardens which shamefully spoil our amenities.

In Newbold Comyn in particular you might like to review how many bins are provided.

Where I have no objection at all to keeping my dog on a lead at children's play areas or formal gardens, open areas such as St Nicholas Meadow, Warwick Racecourse, Newbold Comyn, etc, dogs should be allowed off the lead under proper supervision.

I am very much in favour of greater control over dogs in public places and parks. As a cyclist, I am often bothered by barking snapping dogs not on a lead whilst using the designated cycle track between the swimming pool and Radford Road on Newbold Comyn.

I write to express my concern about the possibility of forcing dog owners to keep their dogs on leads at all times, quite particularly Newbold Comyn and Warwick Racecourse. I have some sympathy for the idea that dogs should be on leads in ornamental parks, for example Jephson Gardens.

As a resident of Leamington Spa I should have the right to exercise my dog on land that was given to the Council for the use and enjoyment of the residents.

I implore you to think again at targeting irresponsible dog owners and not introducing blanket measures.

The Order seeks to make owners keep their dogs on leads in the main race circuit of Warwick Racecourse. Presumably dogs will still be able to run unleashed on other parts of St Marys Lands. If this is so, the Order is not unreasonable.

As Warwick Racecourse is common land is this not an erosion of the rights of people?

I do understand the need to restrict dogs to leads only especially in Jephson Gardens and Victoria Park but not Newbold Comyn. There are not enough bins provided especially in the far end of Newbold there are very few bins, and I personally think that the footballers leave considerably more mess behind them than any dog.

Our dog is walked regularly around Newbold Comyn and I am yet to see any policing of those exercising dogs there.

The laws would make it less fun and viable for people to have dogs and would end up in people giving up dogs to, or not taking dogs from dog homes which are already full due to the credit crunch.

The ability to maintain current WDC enforcement orders regarding alcohol and litter fail dismally. Why add to the failures of this local authority?

It would be ridiculous to enforce dog owners to keep their dogs on the lead, especially around Newbold Comyn as it is mainly dog owners that use this area to exercise their animals anyway. If you want to do something positive in that area to reduce nuisance, why not ban the radio controlled helicopter enthusiasts.

I only hope the Council will consider that some areas of Newbold Comyn and Warwick Racecourse will be designated as dog friendly areas.

I was outraged to learn today that the council are trying to introduce a dog control order in almost all the parks and open spaces in Warwick.

I am not sure if St Nicholas Park is included in your dogs on leads but I sometimes feel intimidated by dogs not on a lead when walking along the footpath from Leamington direction to the leisure centre.

Dogs should not be punished for the rare few owners that ruin it for everyone else.

I certainly do not agree that dogs should be off leads in and around the town, neither in children's play areas or on sports fields. I think that in open areas such as Newbold Comyn dogs should be allowed off leads.

I have no objection to the idea that dogs should be kept on a lead in areas which are designated to children playing but I do object to two proposed areas: Warwick Racecourse and the area on Newbold Comyn around the golf course.

What would make more sense and in my opinion is the logical solution is to enforce stronger penalties for people who show no respect to others when out with their dog.

What an absolute disgrace that you think you can keep dogs on leads in such areas as Newbold Comyn.

If you feel action is needed you should consider to prescribe dog training courses to all dog owners. To the best of my knowledge the UK is one of the few, if not the only country, where you can't take your dog into a restaurant, shopping centres, airports, nursing homes just to name a few locations.

The requirement to keep dogs on leads in Newbold Comyn and other public areas is unreasonable.

There is hardly any mess left by dogs and dog owners. However, there is considerably more litter and mess left by footballers.

For heavens sake don't nationally embarrass the Warwick District Council by implementing crazy dog control orders which could result in all dogs being kept on leads in our local parks.

There are a lot of elderly people who have dogs as soul companions and drive to places like Newbold Comyn to be able to walk, sometimes with the aid of sticks, the short distance to access fields. For these people it would be impossible to exercise their dogs by walking them on leads. I think about 90% of people using Oakley Woods, Newbold Comyn and Warwick Racecourse are dog walkers, where are we supposed to go if you impose these draconian restrictions?

I wish to lodge an objection to the Dogs on Leads Order for Warwick Racecourse. I can understand the council's wish for owners to maintain their dogs on leads in more public parks, such as Jephson Gardens, as these attract visitors.

Although I agree that dogs should be kept on a lead in a public area, you must remember that you do not own the Park. It was left to the people of Leamington by Dr Jephson. I would also like to point out that the middle of Warwick Racecourse is common land.

I think it fair enough to ask for dogs to be on a lead in certain areas, or parks such as Jephson Gardens, but it is a basic need for dogs to have off lead exercise at Newbold Comyn. If this goes ahead will the Council provide a suitable fenced safe dog park where the dogs can have off lead exercise?

I agree that certain areas should be restricted such as Jephson Gardens, children's play areas, etc but as there are many dog owners in the town, could possible designated 'off lead' exercise areas be considered?

I am totally against the proposed banning of allowing the freedom of dog walkers to allow their dogs off the lead. I do agree with not allowing dogs in cemeteries and also more formal parks, eg Jephson Gardens.

As I understand it, it is already obligatory to keep a dog on a lead in Jephson Gardens. I am happy to comply with this because of the formal nature and I have no objection to this being extended to Mill Gardens. But I do not understand the rationale behind

applying the orders to Newbold Comyn and Warwick Racecourse. Both of these areas are large open spaces which belong to the people of the district.

The current wording of the Order to keep dogs on leads on the Race Circuit [Warwick Racecourse] will also preclude dogs off lead on the adjacent gravel perimeter track and prevent disabled and pushchair owners from walking their dogs.

Actually Dog Control Orders are working against Animal Welfare and there are other ways of enforcing badly behaved dog walkers/owners and re-educating them.

I protest and think dogs have the right to walk off the lead in public park areas.

I cannot see why there should be an issue for the need to introduce any further Directions and I think they would in any case be virtually unenforceable and would involve significant cost.

In regards to the Dogs on Leads Order, I would support this in area such as Jephson Gardens and also in areas where there are children's play areas. However, in relation to the sports field and the nature reserves within the Newbold Comyn for example, this seems too harsh and not necessary.

When dogs are with their responsible owners, time off the lead is critical to develop their social interaction and reaction with other dogs which hugely improves their behaviour and all round well being.

If this is supposed to address the dog fouling issue, let me tell you irresponsible dog owners will not pick up after their dog whether on a lead or not!

Surely you cannot be considering on the lead orders in Crackley Woods or the Common or the environs of Kenilworth Castle? There have to be 'free' areas for the majority of responsible and respectable owners.

I feel this matter should not only be reconsidered but publicised more widely so that other local dog owners are aware of this preposterous idea.

One couple stated to me that if this order succeeds, then they will not move to Leamington as planned. The order could well have far reaching negative financial implications on both the Leamington housing market and the local economy.

The proposal to exclude dogs from public areas shows a complete disregard to the needs of the elderly, disabled and lonely people to exercise their companion within a reasonable distance from their homes.

I am writing to say how utterly appalled I am to learn that the Council are trying to enforce that dog owners keep dogs on leads whilst walking on the racecourse. I was under the impression that the land within the racecourse was common land.

I am outraged that it is proposed that we shall not be able to let our dogs run off the lead in Warwick parks and on the racecourse common. What possible harm does it do?

I feel that you will be putting my dogs' health and their natural state of being at risk and also my own safety making me walk in unsafe areas, etc

We are formally protesting against the decision to stop dog walking in Oakley Woods, a pastime we have done for many years when it was privately owned. What about the horse riding that takes place there?

I have not seen any notices highlighting the proposals and I regularly use St Nicholas Park and the Racecourse and have only been advised by word of mouth. These proposals are entirely unfair and discriminate against dog owners who contribute through council tax to ensure these open spaces are available to everyone.

I am an elderly person and would like to walk along public footpaths and nature reserves without dogs rushing up to me, often causing me to stumble. I am not asking for dogs to be kept on leads everywhere which some owners think will happen, but they should be so on public footpaths, local nature reserves, and garden parks.

My dog struggles to understand he can walk this side of the trees but not the other (golf course side) of the path along the meadow. Will it be fenced?

I am interested in the consultation which in principle I am very much in favour of as I believe it will reduce dog on dog and dog on human attacks. I would ask that St Nicholas Park be included as there are a number of dog attacks each year.

We strongly oppose the Order especially to Warwick Racecourse and Mill Gardens. I express my annoyance about the disruption caused to golfers at Newbold Comyn by the inconsiderate behaviour of dog walkers. My golfing partners and I appear to be in the minority regarding expressing our viewpoint on the subject.

I ask you to consider the other users of these areas that continuously leave rubbish that is both a danger to adults, children and dogs.

I particularly enjoy the walk over Newbold Comyn with my dogs running freely and I never let them on the golf course. It has come to my attention by residents about there being new dog walking orders enforced. I am outraged about restrictions on where I can go for my daily walk.

We wish to express our disagreement with the proposal that dogs should be kept on leads in all public places.

Living next door to Victoria Park, we were very concerned to see the Council's new proposals for so-called dog control. Why does the Council not instead focus its efforts on those who litter the park rather than on these draconian new byelaws?

The vast majority of dog owners are totally responsible, if this is a reason for the proposed ruling then please go for the negligent few.

I object to your proposal for dogs having to be kept on a lead in Jephson and Mill Gardens because it is an important part of a dog's daily exercise to run around and play, there is limited space in Leamington to do this, the parks are for everyone to use and enjoy, and the parks are empty until at least 10am daily with the exception of dog owners and their pets.

I am writing to register my absolute objection to the proposal by WDC to forcibly keep dogs on leads across our county.

I object to the order applying to Newbold Comyn. It is a multi use site big enough for all purposes.

I wish to register my opposition to the Orders particularly at Newbold Comyn and Warwick Racecourse. Warwickshire County Council has at Ryton Pools Country Park introduced a scheme with clearly defined areas where dogs must or need not be on a lead. This approach seems to work very well and I object to the proposed WDC blanket ban.

I understand the need to keep dogs on leads in the parks specified and the crematorium and cemeteries. It is entirely right that dogs should be excluded from the Crematorium site but surely walking in the fenced wooded area is acceptable?

Most of the areas you target do not have sufficient dog bins. There are certainly not enough in the CV8 area where I live.

I am a Warwick council tax payer and a responsible dog owner. I have as much right as anyone else to use public parkland that I pay for.

Whilst I have to agree that some of the proposed rules do make sense, after all nobody should be walking their dog on the Golf Course or football pitch, I am concerned that dog owners will be left with nowhere to properly exercise our dogs.

A dog ban or off lead restrictions would unfairly penalise the majority of responsible dog owners.

What a complete waste of time and money for dogs only to be walked on leads around our local parks and Newbold Comyn.

I regularly walk my dog around Newbold Comyn and would be extremely distressed if forced to keep him on a lead. We need more dog/litter bins at Newbold Comyn and Campion Hills.

As a founder member of The Friends of Oakley Wood, I did not campaign to save this ancient woodland to the exclusion of dogs and horses.

I am a member of the Golf Club and am in support of the control order proposed for Newbold Comyn. It is not uncommon for dogs to run across greens and through bunkers whilst we are trying to play not only spoiling our game but also causing damage to the course. I have also witnessed dogs not on a lead jumping up at children who have been terrified by this.

I wish to object to the proposals as being too stringent. Surely it would be better to limit your proposals to certain areas within some parks, eg where children have play areas, the Jephson Gardens in the formal area rather than the whole.

I wouldn't propose that all teenagers are banned from all the parks in Warwickshire for dropping litter, which is the equivalent to what you are proposing by banning dogs or forcing them to be kept on leads in all public parks/areas.

These measures are an unwarranted infringement of my rights as a citizen and are out of all proportion to the alleged concern of WDC about dog fouling.

I would like to voice my objection to the idea that dogs can't be exercised off the lead in Newbold Comyn park and Warwick Racecourse. These are wide open spaces, mostly populated by dog walkers. Even in Jephson and Mill Gardens, I cannot see what the Council is trying to achieve.

This process is a complete waste of taxpayer's money and would be better spent providing more bins for owners and tackling general litter issues rather than just discriminating particular users.

There are better ways of dealing with the problems of dog mess and unruly behaviour by dogs, but restricting ALL dogs to a lead in these public areas is not one of them.

We object very strongly to the proposed restrictions at Warwick Racecourse.

Yes, stop all dogs in parks and common ground.

I would like to register my disapproval of the proposed orders in the Warwickshire area. Many dog owners, especially the elderly and physically incapacitated, rely on 'off lead running' for daily exercise.

Newbold Comyn is the one place I feel safe to let my puppy off lead as there are no immediate busy roads. I was shocked at my first visit last year to find a dreadful sight of overflowing bins. Also there seems a distinct lack of bins which is also true of Warwick Gates.

I support the new Dogs on Leads Order. Too many times now I have been scared by dogs off leads as they come racing toward me, my dog and child in our local parks. My dog has been attacked by another dog twice now.

Please do not pass this byelaw for the Racecourse. There are little places that one can walk a dog as it is – let alone loose.

A blanket ban such as this is unnecessary and many public open spaces can be shared by all sections of the community if a little common sense is used. Dog owners are taxpayers and should be permitted to use facilities they have paid for in the same way as others do.

Dogs require exercise – being on a lead, or having restricted exercise is close to animal cruelty. To suddenly minimise the number of places they can go is unfair on careful owners.

I think this is a preposterous idea and will cause far more harm than it prevents.

Unfortunately we must take the owners to task and insist on dogs on leads and then a review in 12 months' time. Meanwhile please can we have an extra bin on Woodloes – the litter is piled high as one walks from Coventry Road to Volvo.

Areas such as Newbold Comyn are the only open areas that dog owners can let their dogs off the lead to allow them to run free.

I am in huge favour of dogs being on leads in WDC parks, especially around the play areas. Recently my children sat at the top of the slide for 10 minutes in St Nicholas Park whilst a rather large dog ran amok around the play area.

Most of the orders seem very sensible but will the Dogs on Lead by Direction Order lead to a blanket ban on all exercising of dogs without leads?

Whilst I have no objection to introducing dog exclusion zones, I do worry that the wording implies that the Council will have power to designate any open space. I wholly object to the Dogs on Leads proposal and consider that the Dogs on Lead by Direction seems slightly more appropriate.

There is a plethora of notices posted by the river asking for support for dogs to freely roam. Have the eminent email names listed to contact authorised what appears to be illegal billposting? My wife is wheelchair bound and larger dogs can be intimidating when they come right up to her. You will therefore appreciate why we fully support all the proposed measures and if they succeed, look forward to even more relaxed walks throughout the town and parks.

My strongest objection to the Dogs on Leads Order would be Warwick Racecourse which is a large open space enjoyed by many responsible dog owners. I also object to the Dogs Exclusion Order being applied to cemeteries as the companionship of a dog can be very important at times of distress.

If the intention of the Dogs Exclusion Order is to allow parks such as Abbey Fields to still permit dogs then please ensure the wording of the order does not unintentionally exclude them.

I am aware that some dog owners are concerned about the order being mis-applied. However it seems balanced and sensible to me and I support it.

If you think by ordering people to have their dog on a lead, that you will get them to pick up the mess, you are mistaken. A better suggestion is to invest in more bins and maybe even provide free (or chargeable) bags.

I greatly welcome the introduction of controls. For too long dog owners have allowed their dogs to foul and annoy people in public spaces. I wish the controls would go further to ban dogs from Abbey Fields in Kenilworth.

To demand that all dogs are on a lead around Warwick Racecourse and Newbold Comyn is nonsensical. These are large open spaces where dogs can run freely.

How can you justify stopping all dogs from running around in all areas? If there are to be dog-free areas, should there not also be areas specifically for dogs?

Dogs are a source of joy, comfort, companionship and therapy, and should not be excluded from cemeteries.

I strongly object to the order to keep my dog on a lead in open spaces.

Jockeys ride racehorses along the racecourse and each hoof could push up a clod of earth. For every dropping of dog faeces there is a four to one chance that a clod of earth could hit the following jockey in the face and he/she gets a mouthful of earth/faeces. It is a powerful argument for dogs not to be allowed on the actual race course unless on a lead but only on the common land in the centre.

I am writing to object to the dog control orders. I walk my dog at Warwickshire Golf Course and surrounding areas on a daily basis and I make sure I clean up.

It is not clear where dogs will be allowed off the lead, owners should be informed, this needs to be local, not everyone has access to transport.

We feel that the Dogs on Leads Order should be removed and the content put into the Dogs on Leads by Direction Order.

While we welcome the sensible measures to keep roaming dogs out of children's play areas, sport amenities and cemeteries, we are concerned that the wording of parts of the order could be interpreted too strictly by officials.

I fully support having dogs on leads but I would also like to see them on leads in all parks and public spaces. It is not possible to predict how every single dog off a lead would behave in the presence of members of the public.

I play golf at Newbold Comyn 2-3 times a week and I find that the majority of dog walkers are totally irresponsible and let their dogs race all over the course and do not clean up the dog mess. All we get is abuse saying it is common land and they can do what they want so I and other members would fully endorse the new order.

The bins that are provided at Newbold Comyn are always full.

I oppose the proposal to restrict areas where dogs can exercise off lead – or at all – on publicly owned land. Resources such as Newbold Comyn, Warwick Racecourse and other open spaces are an essential resource for responsible dog owners.

It discriminates against normal law abiding dog owners who practice cleaning up after their dogs.

Instead of restricting more and more places, you should be encouraging more places to accept dogs and also pubs, etc to let them in.

I am sick and horrified that the rights of dog owners to freely walk their dogs in various public areas will be forcefully taken from us.

I am unaware of any evidence that implementation of such orders will have any health gain to the population.

I would object in the strongest possible terms to such draconian action of prohibiting dogs from being exercised off the lead in all public areas of Warwickshire.

Excluding dogs from children's play areas makes sense but to prevent people from walking their dogs on Warwick Racecourse and around the golf course at Newbold Comyn will have a disastrous effect since there are very few other places near our towns where one can walk a dog off lead.

Once again the proposals suggest targeting the majority of responsible dog owners instead of dealing with the minority who flout existing laws.

I despair at the thought of not being able to walk my dogs off the lead at Newbold Comyn. Why don't you employ a few wardens and provide more bins? To pay for these

increases in resources, I would not mind paying a small parking fee each day or preferably purchase a permit.

We have met our local dog warden and she is very dedicated, but the area she has to cover is massive. Perhaps in wasting money on new regulations an extra dog warden to help enforce current regulations would be more useful.

As a responsible dog owner it is concerning that in numerous open public spaces that I currently exercise my dog will no longer be open to me and my family.

The public consultation has been extremely limited and the period of consultation should be extended and better advertised.

The new order allows the Council to not only impose restrictions on specified sites but subsequently increase these restrictions without further consultation.

I wish to object very strongly to the act that will force dogs to be kept on a lead on Warwick race course common.

Why not phase things in over a longer period, perhaps starting with zoned areas? For instance, Warwick Racecourse is quite large. Why not have one area for free exercise?

I frequently exercise my dogs in Victoria Park in Leamington Spa and would find it totally unjust if it was made a dog exclusion zone.

We agree with dogs being kept on leads around children's play areas but the right to be free on all walks must be able to continue. Elderly citizens are going to be very vulnerable with council employees spoiling their social gatherings by continually enforcing the dogs on lead.

I am writing in support of the proposed dog control orders. I think that parks should be places for people to enjoy. If someone has a dog, then that dog should be allowed there on a lead, but dogs are not the primary users of town centre parks.

I fail to see how making an owner keep their dog on a lead at all times will make them pick up their dog's mess.

It seems grossly unfair that the litter louts are still allowed to drop their litter yet a miserable few irresponsible dog owners cause the whole of Warwick/Leamington and surrounding areas to be subjected to a ridiculous order. Give dog owners more litter bins.

I exercise my dogs off lead every day at Newbold Comyn. These open spaces are supposed to be for the use of all and not the chosen few.

Given the rest of the rubbish that the general public leave at Newbold Comyn, I collect up water bottles and sandwich wrappers with regular monotony – are the council workers going to be patrolling to stop that as well?

The proposed restrictions are not needed and they are, in any event, not enforceable.

I regularly use the Oakley Wood Crematorium car park before 8am and at weekends.

Unless you are willing to provide a car park in the woods, you would be preventing most walkers in the woods to have access.

One of the key reasons for my move to Hatton Park was the immediate availability of wide open spaces where my dogs could enjoy a free run off the lead. I find it totally unacceptable that WDC should attempt to take that freedom and pleasure away from me and my dogs.

Why don't you just provide more dog foul bins and empty them. There is an inadequate supply of these bins and they do not get emptied on a regular basis. I have walked my dogs on Warwick Racecourse (common land) and Oakley Woods for the last 14 years, you are now going to deny us this pleasure because of an ill thought out hasty and very expensive idea.

Whilst I am in agreement dogs should be kept on leads at play areas and sports facilities, I cannot see the reason for Warwick Racecourse to be included.

What training is to be given to an authorised officer to tell people to keep a dog on a lead? Who will take notice? How often is an officer going to be in Pedley Wood for instance to discover any infringements?

Authorised officers having power to insist dogs are not allowed in certain places would encourage pettiness and abuse of power.

I agree with three of the orders but not the Dogs on Leads Order. This order is extremely harsh and unfair. The areas where dogs can run free are few and far between.

I am writing to register my opposition to WDC imposing a blanket Control Order for dogs on all council land in the county. The Animal Welfare Act makes allowing animals to "exhibit normal behaviour patterns" mandatory and for dogs this includes the freedom to run.

We wish to tender our strong objections to the proposals which could severely limit the freedom of responsible dog owners to exercise their dogs off lead in this county.

It seems clear that first and foremost, the Newbold Comyn Golf Centre is designed for golf and it is only right that golfers should have priority on using it. But to forbid the exercising of dogs under close supervision on one of the few pieces of land left in Leamington is grossly unjust. Therefore I would like to put forward the proposal that the Golf Centre be re-classified under the Dogs on Leads by Direction Order.

I am amazed at what started with picking up dog muck has somehow escalated to establishing dog exclusion zones. What is needed is to exercise the existing measures more rigorously.

We strongly object to this Order being introduced. It is deemed as an intrusion on our civil liberties.

Please do not bring in draconian measures against the majority because of a few. Some vandalism in Abbey Fields needs control – a park warden would be a good idea or CCTV by the swimming baths.

I am pleased to read that someone has taken the initiative to put a restriction on dogs in certain areas. My son had a remote control car for his birthday and unfortunately he couldn't enjoy this because a dog kept chasing it trying to chew it and the owner was laughing. I would love to take my children out in a responsible, clean environment but unfortunately dog owners do not allow this, so I am all for action being taken.

I would like to congratulate you on realizing that humans have more rights than dogs!

Your move to restrict dogs in certain areas is something I and many others have been hoping for a long time.

Defra indicates that an authority considering dog control orders must be able to show that it is a necessary and proportionate response. In addition the authority should be able to enforce any orders in place and in this climate of financial restraint, I question the availability of resources to do this effectively

Yes I think all dogs should be kept on leads in parks.

I am writing to protest about the barbaric proposal to keep all dogs on leads in Warwickshire in public places. I do agree dogs need to be kept under control but the idea of being restricted to a lead is ludicrous.

Unless people can see benefits coming from these orders they are meaningless and will be seen as just another box ticking exercise by the council.

I agree with the Orders in respect of fouling and areas specifically reserved for children or concise recreational use, but I categorically disagree and object to the Order relating to dogs on leads.

I am secretary of Friends of Oakley Wood (150+ members). We would insist that no constraint be placed on people walking their dogs off lead in Oakley Wood. Also in respect of the proposed order affecting car parking at the Crematorium, we would request that people be allowed to park their cars at weekends and evenings in Oakley Wood Crematorium providing dogs are led directly from the car to the Wood.

I agree that there should be some parks where dogs are not allowed to walk unless on a lead. What I do not support is a total ban on dogs being able to walk freely in enclosed open areas such as the Racecourse.

I totally understand and accept that there are certain areas in certain parks which should be looked at. I do however take issue with a number of inclusions in the orders – in particular, Warwick Racecourse (main race circuit, whatever that means?!) and Oakley Wood.

I hope you will consider increasing the amount of bins in parks as a way of encouraging owners to pick up.

I write to express my full support for the proposed orders. Dogs running loose can be very intimidating and thus spoil the enjoyment of Leamington's parks and open spaces.

Most users of the parks are not walking dogs.

I fully agree that certain areas should be dog control zones and support the protection of places such as children's play areas, formal gardens and sports pitches, as all responsible dog owners would agree. However I particularly feel that Warwick Racecourse should be open to dog owners to exercise their pets freely.

Whilst we agree that dogs should be kept on a lead near children's play areas, we feel that any restrictions in other areas of Newbold Comyn would impede on a dogs exercise regime.

I cannot express strongly enough how removal of the normal freedom in all areas specified in your Dogs On Leads Order affects the rights of individuals and will be harmful to the animals they care for.

I attended the recent Council Meeting in Leamington and one of the councillors clearly stated that to his knowledge no-one had ever been fined. So how on earth will these new rules make a difference?

As users and residents were not given an equal opportunity to give their feedback, the decision to propose the orders did not go through a democratic and fair process.

As a dog owner that uses Warwick Racecourse on a regular basis, I feel the need to voice my concern about what alternatives are there to exercise and socialise our dogs.

This DCO is a disgrace as once again decent people and their pets will be the losers.

I am extremely concerned and dissatisfied with the underhand manner the Council has employed in order to sneak the dog control orders through, with the minimum of publicity, and if it had not been for certain individuals and the Kennel Club intervening then I am sure that the Council's intention was just to blanket ban dogs from all parks with no consultation.

I support the Council's plans to ensure that owners keep dogs on leads in public places as well as plans to exclude dogs from certain areas, in particular from children's play areas.

I am writing, as a responsible dog owner, to tell you that not all dog owners are opposed to the principles underling the new dog legislation. Frequently at places like Newbold Comyn, many owners irresponsibly let their dogs run free and wild, allowing them to be a nuisance to sportsmen, walkers and other dog owners without attempting to call them back or control them.

I use the Newbold Comyn every day to exercise my dog and I object to the Council bringing in such a ban. Please concentrate on keeping the Comyn litter free – the mess is appalling after football events and fine summer evenings.

Excluding dogs form children's play areas makes sense, as does keeping dogs off recreation and sporting fields when they are in authorised use, but to prevent people from walking their dogs on Warwick Racecourse and around the golf course at Newbold Comyn will have a disastrous effect. Female dog owners need somewhere safe and well populated to walk their dogs in the winter.

It does not follow that all dogs are safe and not a problem – however a blanket ban would be grossly unfair, undemocratic and a denial of enjoyment and a fundamental freedom.

I have concerns that the proposed legislation seeks to make dog fouling an absolute offence and disregards any circumstances in which the dog owner might legitimately not be aware their animal fouled land.

I cannot express strongly enough how removal of this normal public freedom affects the rights of individuals in the district and will be harmful to the animals they care for as they will no longer be able to let their dogs exercise properly.

I am fully against the order to ban dogs off leads in all public places. I am also concerned about the amount of people that actually don't know about this new proposal.

I understand there is a proposed new byelaw which will insist on all dogs being kept on a lead whilst being walked on Warwick parks and this includes the racecourse. I think this is a preposterous idea and will cause far more harm than it prevents.

As a veterinary surgeon and dog owner, I feel that the Orders are too sweeping and far reaching.

So we can let the alcoholics sit in Jephson's and other parks – throw their empty cans and glass bottles into the pond – abuse visitors to the park – but hey that's fine as long as no dog goes off the leash.

I cannot believe what you are proposing to do to a section of the community re banning dog owners. Newbold Comyn was meant for all of us to enjoy not just certain people.

As a responsible dog owner it is concerning that in numerous open public spaces that I currently exercise my dog will no longer be open to me and my family.

I cannot understand why dog owners should be penalised whilst vandalism is so uncontrolled, eg youths on small motorbikes causing a nuisance.

We are immensely disappointed not to see Abbey Fields listed as an area which will require all dogs to be on a lead at all times. This is, we feel, a missed opportunity to protect the public, whilst enabling us all to enjoy the beautiful, historic Abbey Fields.

I hope you do introduce the ban on dogs being off the lead in Jephson Gardens but if a compromise has to be reached is it not possible to segregate areas?

I agree for Jephson Gardens but no, no, no for the Comyn.

I assume this does not include the large grassed area of the Mill Gardens as I cannot see why anyone should object to dogs running freely there.

Large areas are covered by commercial leisure activities and I hope vested interests are not behind these arcane plans.

I have had my own problems with unruly dogs that have left me shaken, but again it is the irresponsible owners that are to blame and frankly, they are the ones who will still have their dogs off the lead because they do not care about rules in the first place.

I have no problem about putting my dog on a lead when we walk around Jephson Gardens or Mill Gardens but I do object to restrictions in open green space where there are hardly any people, like Newbold Comyn, Welshes Meadow, Priory Park, the Racecourse, etc.

I am dismayed that you intend to implement more control orders against dog owners.

We all pay Council Tax to WDC, surely our rights should be considered too.

Generally speaking, exclusion from cemeteries is understandable but one would hope provision for a dispensation on written application could be made for visiting a late partner's grave.

I accept dogs should be kept on a lead in restricted public spaces such as cemeteries or Jephson Gardens. However to impose the same conditions on areas such as Newbold Comyn defies belief.

We specifically object to the detail that a Council employee or anyone given written permission by the Council may demand that a dog is placed on a lead.

Increase informative notices where they can easily be seen by everyone and provide more bins.

I consider that dogs must be kept on leads at all times when in parks. I fully support you in this matter.

None of your proposals will address the issue of dog fouling in public spaces.

I write to express my deep concern at the proposal to restrict the free running of dogs on the fields at Newbold Comyn. While I can appreciate the Golf Course area needs dogs to be closely controlled, the fields are quite different.

Other golf courses in the area allow people to walk their dogs off the lead. As regular dog walkers on Newbold Comyn golf course we do not see there is any problem with dogs hindering the golfers.

Why are you wasting time and money on this ludicrous and petty bit of legislation, particularly at a time when money is so tight?

The Council should address the problem with more, high profile wardens who are visibly tackling irresponsible dog owners and leave responsible owners alone.

I object that the consultation process has not proceeded with due vigour. I have spoken to an admittedly random selection of about 20 dog walkers, not one of whom was aware of it. I object to the supposition that the only way of controlling a dog is to put it on a lead – well trained dogs can be controlled by command from the owner. The Council's website advises "when visiting....one of our nature reserves dogs should be kept on a lead at all times". I want your specific assurance that this proposed order will never be used to enforce the advice to keep dogs on leads at all times in these areas.

What is mystifying is the proposal to exclude dogs from Oakley Wood.

As a fee-paying member of Newbold Comyn Golf Course (and a dog owner), I constantly witness damage to the greens and bunkers by dogs continually defecating over areas of play. I have personally been verbally abused by dog walkers who refuse to keep their dogs under control around the play area where children are present. I have to ask the question, is the Comyn for the sole purpose of dogs and their owners or the wider public?

I support the proposed order on Newbold Comyn which I believe is long overdue. Some owners seem to believe that they have a right for their dogs to cause damage to the golf course. I have been pestered by dogs not under control when playing golf and also when cycling or walking.

Adjacent to Newbold Comyn golf course are football pitches, would dog owners walk across these pitches allowing their dogs to run free whilst matches are in progress? I doubt it. I strongly support the Council's proposals.

I would like to add my support to the proposal that dogs should be kept on a lead when walked on Newbold Comyn. If all dog walkers were responsible this would not be an issue, but sadly this is not the case.

Only today a gentleman with whom I was playing golf at Newbold Comyn had his ball taken by a dog, luckily it was returned when we shouted to the owner, a ball being taken is a regular occurrence.

There seems to be a complete misconception by many of the dog walkers, judging by the recent letters to the press. There is not, as I understand it, a blanket ban on the exercising of dogs at Newbold Comyn, just the golf course. This leaves a vast area in which dogs can be exercised.

Rather than just say I disagree with this draconian idea of restricting dogs in certain parts of Newbold Comyn, I would like to suggest

- (a) using a local newspaper to publicise a campaign to ask dog walkers where the best places for dog bins could be sited
- (b) by siting bins around the periphery of the fields, you will encourage walkers to avoid walking across the middle of the football pitches
- (c) have you thought about sponsorship for extra bins?
- (d) form dog walker groups who could be encouraged to keep the park clean of dog waste or hold communal dog walks
- (e) dog walker notice boards to promote "all things doggy"

Maybe the maximum length of lead should be specified. A dog on a long flexi lead can cause as many or more problems as one off lead. The conditions under which the Dogs on Lead by Direction can be given are rather subjective and open to various interpretations, eg is my dog causing a nuisance when he rushes at gulls sitting on the race track rails?

I would like to register my complete objection to the Order. Nothing that I have read or you have provided, provides any justification for it. The Order is draconian in its nature, in as much that it covers and can be applied to any open space in Warwickshire.

The other great nuisance in our parks is the vast amount of litter, some of it dangerous, that is deposited every day. The problem far outweighs any caused by irresponsible dog owners and is an issue on which the Council should concentrate its attention first.

I wish to strongly object to the proposal to prevent dog owners exercising their dogs off lead on Warwick Common. Open spaces are at a premium in this area and Warwick Common is gradually being taken over by Warwick Racecourse.

The proposed restrictions to Newbold Comyn seem to show that the council has little respect for the original remit of the Willes family, for the people of Leamington and others to enjoy some unspoilt countryside.

There is a public right of way across the Golf Course which I and other dog owners use all the time and there have never been any problems with dogs running free. Dogs like children need exercise. I can see no reason at all for not allowing dogs on Warwick Racecourse. The horses cause damage not dogs. Is it a coincidence that both these areas are leased?

Whilst WDC has obliterated these ancient paths on Newbold Comyn by creating a golf course and playing fields over them, they do however exist and thankfully are well signposted. Therefore, that gives us a legal right to stop, rest and admire the view across the golf course or playing field, despite someone else who may actually be playing a game!

Whilst I can understand that dogs may occasionally stray off the paths surrounding the Golf Course and possibly cause some disruption to golfers, there are times in the later evening or during inclement weather, when it is neither practical nor suitable for golf but does afford dog owners the chance to enjoy the benefits of this open space. Why cannot there be a 'not before....' time limit?

The authorities, including the police, should demonstrate equality by challenging the littering, bottle smashing yobs along with negligent dog owners in Abbey Fields. I would formally ask and expect that this important set of changes be prominently advertised in the affected areas and the consultation extended to allow all those affected to respond.

I understand that animals must be kept on the lead in parks such as Jephson Gardens as they are formal public areas, but to keep animals restrained in areas such as Newbold Comyn and Warwick Racecourse makes no sense.

Surely more, bigger and better bins could be provided at Newbold Comyn. The bin in the Radford Road car park is not even the size of a household dustbin and has no lid. In summer it is over full and is raided by foxes, magpies and squirrels.

The Executive Report suggests the initiative originates from "some 200" complaints received annually relating to fouling. There is no mention of any complaints regarding dogs causing any other form of nuisance. It is worth comparing this number of complaints with the number of signatures on the current "Let Dogs Play" petition.

If the Order is to prevent dogs interfering with the use of the Golf Course, I have never seen golfers prevented from playing by dogs on the course. It is extremely discriminatory to rule against one group of local residents just to ensure that golfers cannot even see a dog. The golf course as it is remains unprofitable and limiting our liberty to further subsidise a failing business is wholly unfair.

Demonstrable evidence of dog control problems is needed, and this does NOT include fouling. If this evidence cannot be produced, then an Order may be challenged in court. Are the proposals proportionate to the problems?

I wish the Council to consider the recruitment of voluntary Community Dog Wardens.

Whilst all responsible owners do their utmost to prevent their animals straying from common land on to race circuits/golf courses, occasionally accidents do happen, especially with young dogs which are still learning. The threat of fines for such unintended misdemeanours will result in owners being effectively unable to train their dogs.

If dogs have to be walked on leads, more people will walk their dogs through the town's streets rather than take them to open spaces. All other animals – cats, wild animals, horses are all given a right of passage and all defecate at leisure. Surely a dog deserves the same right.

The list of proposed parks and areas where dogs cannot be exercised off leads is so exhaustive that for those living in Leamington or Warwick there are precious few places left. The proposal makes no differentiation between times when parks are busy and the vast majority of the time when they are virtually unused.

I object to the Dogs Exclusion Order because it is too far reaching. Many small parks have a children's play area which is completely unfenced. These areas should have a fence around them. There can be no problem about keeping dogs out if they are fenced. Do what you should have been doing all along – employ adequate staff to enforce the current byelaws.

I would accept restrictions on areas used as football pitches and similar, provided they are clearly identified and fenced off, but the concept of banning dogs from Warwick Racecourse and the rest of Newbold Comyn is very different – if implemented logically horses should also be banned from the racecourse.

Specific areas should be given greater protection by warning signs and proper fencing off, subject to an independent risk assessment. This is the responsibility of WDC and should already have been done.

The Fouling of Land Order is inflexible and removes the option to use common sense. It is not always necessary to remove dog mess; on rough land it is often sufficient just to move it somewhere unobtrusive. The unnecessary use of plastic bags is environmentally a bad idea.

There has been little warning and publicity regarding this impending decision. Surely it is only fair to warn the public in advance and not leave the communication to interested parties. In addition if the Council imposes these Orders, then what rebate on our council taxes can we expect? I don't have children, am not in education, receive no benefits and cannot make use of public transport as it is very poor in my area. I would be greatly upset at losing access to public areas in which I can walk my dog.

The council should not waste any more time or my money on this knee jerk, ill thought out issue and address the waste and litter left by irresponsible so called football supporters most weekends throughout the year at Newbold Comyn.

I read with concern that you are proposing to restrict off lead access to dogs in parks, fields and other 'enclosed' areas in the county and wonder what you expect to achieve by doing this? Dog owners are paying just as much tax as other people including those with children so, unless you intend to restrict where people can allow their children to play, how can you justify this for people and their dogs?

These new control orders are being brought in by stealth tactics, the majority of responsible dog owners would be appalled if they knew what was being proposed in many areas now. If you really want to know dog owner's opinions, take out a full page advertisement in the local papers, voice it on local television and local radio.

My walking in Warwick Cemetery is nowadays frequently disturbed by people driving cars through the actual cemetery grounds. I completely fail to see how walking my dog through the cemetery to pay my respects to my family can be at all disruptive whereas driving cars sometimes at reckless speeds is apparently not. I am also particularly concerned about Warwick Racecourse. In recent years it appears that WDC has permitted the Racecourse Company to remove signs showing rights of way and to harass members of the public walking perfectly legitimately across the land.

Newbold Comyn and the Golf Course are both wide open spaces that are extremely beneficial for dogs and their owners to exercise on and if I, as a dog walker, walk on the golf course, I fully understand that the golfers have priority. However it is a public space, funded by our council tax and surrounded by a footpath and therefore, I have every right to use it.

One wonders quite how this fits with the District Council's Mission Statement – "Building on Excellence, to become World Class by 2012" and their vision "To make Warwick District a Great Place to Live, Work and Visit". Or is this the starting point?

Appendix 5

INITIAL SCREENING FOR STRATEGIES/POLICIES/FUNCTIONS FOR EQUALITIES RELEVANCE TO ELIMINATE DISCRIMINATION AND PROMOTE EQUALITY

 High relevance/priority
 Medium relevance/p
 Low or no

Note:

1. Tick coloured boxes appropriately, and depending on degree of relevance to each of the equality strands
2. Summaries of the legislation/guidance should be used to assist this screening process

DEPARTMENT:	Relevance/Risk to Equalities																							
State the Function/Policy /Service/Strategy being assessed:	Gender			Race			Disability			Sexual Orientation			Religion/Belief			Age			Socio-economic			Priority status For EIA		
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The Dogs on Leads Order	<div></div>	<div></div>	X	<div></div>	<div></div>	X	X	<div></div>	<div></div>	X	<div></div>	<div></div>	X	<div></div>	X	<div></div>	X	<div></div>	X	<div></div>	<div></div>			
The Dogs on Leads by Direction Order	<div></div>	<div></div>	X	<div></div>	<div></div>	X	X	<div></div>	<div></div>	X	<div></div>	<div></div>	X	<div></div>	X	<div></div>	X	<div></div>	X	<div></div>	<div></div>			
The Dogs Exclusion Order	<div></div>	<div></div>	X	<div></div>	<div></div>	X		<div></div>	X	<div></div>	X	<div></div>	X	<div></div>	X	<div></div>	X	<div></div>	X	<div></div>	<div></div>			
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Form A2

Equality Impact Assessment

Please Explain

<u>Stage 1 – Scoping and Defining</u>			
(1) What are the aims and objectives of policy/service?	To extend the current fouling of land controls to all land in the open air. To introduce control orders on specified land and/or to replace existing byelaws		
(2) How does the policy/service fit with the council's wider objectives?	Supports the Council's purpose to improve the quality of life for everyone who lives in, works in or visits Warwick District.		
(3) What are the expected outcomes of the policy/service?	Increased responsible dog ownership and fewer complaints to the Council		
Who is intended to benefit from the policy/service and in what way?	The general public will benefit from cleaner streets and parks and also less intimidation from irresponsible dog owners.		
(4) Does this policy/service have the potential to directly or indirectly discriminate against any particular group?	<p>RACE NO</p> <p>Enforcement of the orders will be applied fairly and in accordance with the Enforcement Policy</p>	<p>AGE YES</p> <p>There is the potential that elderly dog owners will be restricted in where they can let their dogs off the lead</p>	<p>GENDER NO</p> <p>Enforcement of the orders will be applied fairly and in accordance with the Enforcement Policy</p>

Please identify all groups that are affected and briefly explain why	<p>RELIGION/BELIEF NO</p> <p>Enforcement of the orders will be applied fairly and in accordance with the Enforcement Policy</p>	<p>DISABILITY YES</p> <p>There is the potential that dog owners with a mobility impairment will be restricted in areas they can access and let their dogs off the lead</p>	<p>SEXUAL ORIENTATION NO</p> <p>Enforcement of the orders will be applied fairly and in accordance with the Enforcement Policy</p>
(5) Are there any obvious barriers to accessing the service?	N/A		
(6) How does the policy/service contribute to promotion of equality?	All groups will be treated fairly and equitably.		
(7) Does the policy/service have the potential to promote good relations between groups?	N/A		
<u>Stage 2 - Information Gathering</u>			

<p>(1) What type and range of evidence or information have you used to help you make a judgement about the policy or service?</p>	<p>Representations were received from members of the public, interested parties, and local councils both for and against the policy.</p>
<p>(2) What consultation/ information has been used?</p> <p>What new consultation, if any, do you need to undertake?</p>	<p>There is a prescribed public consultation process laid down in the Dog Control Orders (Procedures) Regulations 2006. The policy was advertised in local newspapers and through the Council's website.</p>
<p><u>Stage 3 – Making a Judgement</u></p>	

<p>(1) From your data and consultations is there any adverse or negative impact identified for any particular group?</p> <p>Is there any evidence of needs not being met? e.g. language or physical access barriers; lack of appropriate resources or facilities</p>	<p>(a) The consultations have identified a potential negative impact for people with mobility impairments in restricting where they can park their cars to exercise their dogs</p> <p>(b) The consultations have identified a potential negative impact for older people in restricting where they can let their dogs off the lead.</p> <p>(a) There is no evidence to support reduced availability of car parking</p> <p>(b) The areas on which dogs must be kept on a lead will be kept to a minimum</p>
<p>(2) If there is an adverse impact, can this be justified?</p>	
<p>(3) What actions are going to be taken to reduce or eliminate negative or adverse impact?</p>	<p>Training of dog warden and other enforcement officers to be sensitive to the needs of a diverse community.</p>
<p>(4) Is there any positive impact? Does it promote equality of opportunity between different groups and actively address discrimination?</p>	
<p><u>Stage 4 – Action Planning, Review & Monitoring</u></p>	

<p>If No Further Action is required then go to – Review & Monitoring</p> <p>(1)Action Planning – Specify any changes or improvements which can be made to the service or policy to mitigate or eradicate negative or adverse impact on specific groups, including resource implications.</p>	<p>EIA Action Plan</p> <table><tr><th>Action</th><th>Lead Officer</th><th>Date for completion</th><th>Resource requirements</th><th>Comments</th></tr><tr><td>E&D training for relevant staff</td><td>Grahame Helm</td><td>31.07.11</td><td>Time</td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>	Action	Lead Officer	Date for completion	Resource requirements	Comments	E&D training for relevant staff	Grahame Helm	31.07.11	Time																
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<p>(2) Review and Monitoring</p> <p>State how and when you will monitor policy and EIA Action Plan</p>	<p>On-going monitoring before enforcement action is taken</p>																									