



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Public Space Protection Order Consultation Results



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Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to update members of South Kesteven District Council's Environment Cabinet with the results of the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) consultation.

Scope

2. This consultation was designed to gather feedback on extending the existing public space protection orders as well as stakeholders views on the introduction of another public space protection order for a specific location in Market Deeping. Designed to ensure that the thoughts of those who might be affected by the proposed restrictions were reflected in the responses, as well as capturing the feedback from those who might want to see them amended and/or renewed, as required under section 72 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, the consultation was promoted in a variety of different ways to various stakeholders.

Objectives

3. The objectives of the consultation were identified as follows:
 - To illustrate that stakeholders had been involved in reviewing the PSPO's already in situ
 - To show that stakeholders have been involved in the determination of any proposed amendments to the existing PSPO's -should these be required
 - To illustrate that stakeholders were included in the process **prior** to the decision to extend, not renew or approve being taken
 - To inform the decision that will be taken by the council in respect of the existing PSPO's
 - To inform the decision that will be taken by the council in respect of the proposal to introduce a new PSPO in an area known as the Spinney- located within the cemetery in Market Deeping
 - To measure the degree of support or otherwise for the proposal(s)
 - To understand and be aware of any impact taking this decision may have on specific stakeholders
 - To enable respondents to suggest appropriate alternatives and amendments

Timescales

4. Preparatory work was undertaken during July and the early part of August 2020. The consultation was open for four weeks – from 14 August till 11 September 2020. Analysis of the results took place during the third week of September with a report containing the results of the consultation available for a meeting of the Cabinet on 13 October 2020.

Stakeholders

5. The stakeholders were identified as follows:
 - Members of the public
 - The Police
 - Parish, town, district and county councillors across the district

- Other community representatives. These included street pastors and park forum groups

Methodology

6. Methodologies that reduced or negated the need for face to face contact were used in preference to those that required a greater degree of human interaction. This was a deliberate decision taken in light of the current Covid- 19 pandemic. Different methods were also used for different types of stakeholder. The table below identifies the method(s) used for each of the stakeholder types:

Stakeholders	Method(s)	Details
Members of the public - general	<p>Members of the public were made aware of the consultation through the following channels:</p> <p>Press release - to the local press</p> <p>SKDC Social Media Channels</p> <p>SKDC website</p>	<p>Potential respondents referred to survey monkey to participate in the consultation. Alternatively, if they preferred (or had no internet access), customer services staff were briefed to take their details. They could then be contacted and asked to complete a survey over the phone.</p> <p>Press Officer prepared a press release promoting the consultation. The release included the link to the survey.</p> <p>Social Media Officer promoted the consultation on social media channels by posting on Facebook and tweeting on Twitter. Posts included a link to the survey.</p> <p>A webpage dedicated to PSPO's contained the information needed as part of the consultation including maps detailing the areas covered by each of the orders – particularly relevant to dog exclusion zones, alcohol control zones and the Spinney area of the cemetery in Market Deeping. Links to appropriate pages of website included in the survey.</p>
Members of the public – specific. Those who walk their dogs through the Spinney – an area of the cemetery in Market Deeping	<p>Poster displayed at both ends of the Spinney in Market Deeping Cemetery promoting the opportunity to take part in the consultation.</p>	<p>Poster included link to survey, QR code and how to take part if no access to the internet.</p> <p>Poster put up by Market Deeping Town Council.</p>
The Police – Chief Officer of Lincs Police and the Lincolnshire Police and	<p>Chief officer for Lincolnshire Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner contacted.</p>	<p>Neighbourhoods Team contacted the chief officer for Lincolnshire Police and also the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire</p>

Crime Commissioner		
County/district and parish councillors	<p>All parishes contacted. Clerks asked to request members of the parish council complete the survey on current PSPO's. All parishes received at least one copy of a poster to display on their noticeboard. MDTC received more as they needed to display two at each end of the Spinney in the cemetery in Market Deeping.</p> <p>District Councillors informed of the consultation via the weekly members email</p>	<p>Neighbourhoods team contacted parishes by email and provided printed copies of the poster to each parish.</p> <p>Councillors informed of consultation in weekly members email w/c 17 August 2020</p>
Those representing community groups/ other organisations	Community groups emailed with a link to the survey	Street Pastors and Park Forum representatives contacted individually

Details

7. To help inform the decision due to be taken in respect of the public space protection orders currently in situ across South Kesteven, as well as the additional one planned for a specific area in Market Deeping, the consultation officer was asked to consult various stakeholders during August and September 2020. Actions undertaken by the consultation officer and the neighbourhood teams team leader included:
 - Preparing, designing and setting up the on- line survey
 - Inputting and analysing feedback from 242 respondents
 - Preparing a report
 - Contacting all parish councils, the Police, street pastors and park forums individually by email

8. The survey¹ included the following sections:

¹ Copy of survey attached at appendix one

- An introduction. This included the purpose of the consultation, why their help was needed and how their feedback will be used to inform the decision that will take place with respect to existing PSPO's and a potential additional PSPO
 - An overview of the PSPO's currently in situ across South Kesteven – where they apply, how long they last for, and when they need to be renewed
 - A section on the PSPO in place in respect of dog fouling
 - A section on the PSPO in situ in respect of dogs on leads
 - A section on the PSPO in place in respect of excluding dogs from enclosed play areas
 - A section on the PSPO in situ in respect of drinking alcohol in public places (only to apply when individuals are behaving anti-socially as a result of drinking)
 - A section allowing people to comment on the introduction of an additional PSPO in respect of an area within the cemetery in Market Deeping
 - Demographic information
 - A section asking if respondents had any questions
 - A thank you and closing date for the consultation
9. The consultation was promoted in the local media and on the Council's social media channels during the consultation period. Individual stakeholders including parish councils were contacted during the second week of August. Parish Councils were also sent a copy of a poster promoting the consultation which they were asked to display in the area they thought was the most appropriate. The poster contained both the link to the survey as well as a QR code which people could scan using their mobile phone to access the survey.
10. The consultation closed on 11 September 2020. 242 responses were received. No respondents chose to complete the survey over the phone despite this being an option available to them. Some stakeholders chose to feedback independently instead of or as well as completing a survey. Their anonymised responses are attached at appendix two.²

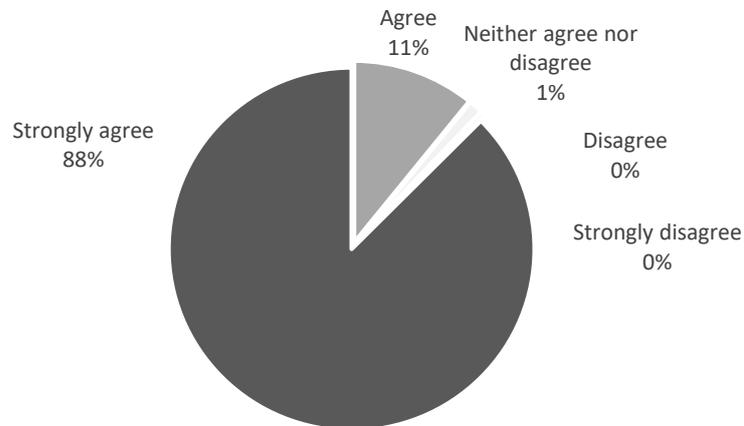
The results

Dog Fouling

11. The first question on the survey asked respondents to state the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with the proposal to extend the public space protection order currently in place across South Kesteven which requires dog owners to pick up their dog's waste. An overwhelming majority of respondents agreed with this proposal as illustrated in the pie chart overleaf:

² Copy of anonymised responses received attached at appendix two

The percentage of respondents who agreed or disagreed with the proposal to renew the existing PSPO in respect of dog fouling



12. Respondents were then asked if they would like to see the order amended in any way, or for it to no longer apply. The comments made were various and have been grouped into the following themes:

- Extending the order so that it includes other groups and organisations (including the Belvoir Hunt)
- Ensuring that people know that they are required to dispose of their dog's waste, not just put it in a bag
- Undertaking more enforcement
- Increasing the amounts that individuals are fined for contravening the order
- Amending the order so that it includes specific areas of open space including the heroes commemorative orchard and the rectory paddock in Grantham

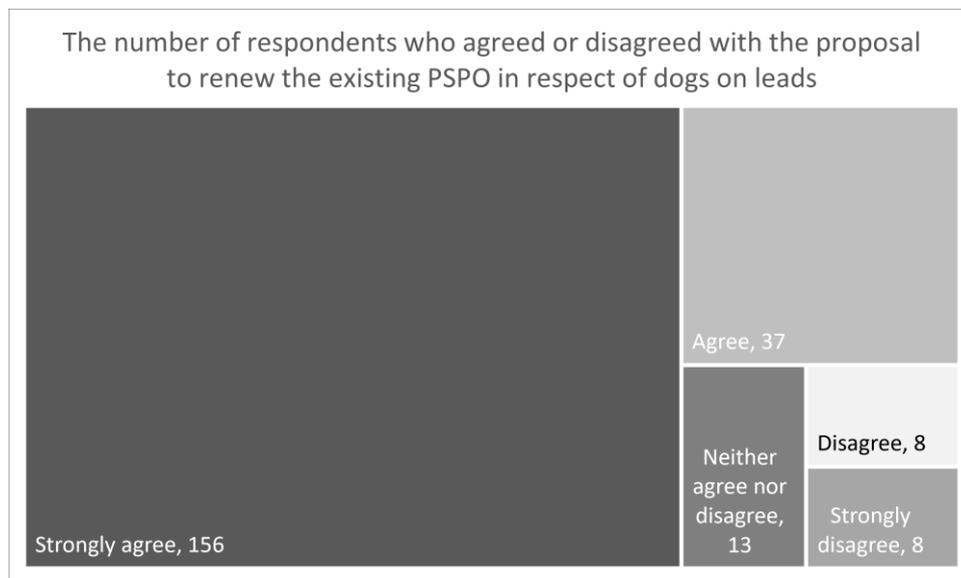
13. When asked if dog fouling was an issue that concerned them, four out of five respondents (82.7%) said that it was. When asked why, just under 150 respondents replied. Their responses have been grouped into the following themes:

- Being unable to walk (either on a public footpath or in a residential area) without encountering dog waste
- Respondents mentioning specific areas where fouling is a problem. These include Elsea Park in Bourne, Dysart Park in Grantham and the Meadows in Stamford
- Responsible dog owners who are shocked by the amount of dog waste not being picked up by other irresponsible dog walkers
- Respondents who cannot understand why people do not dispose of the bag, having picked up the dog's waste
- Problems on some playing fields and children's play areas

The responses to this set of questions illustrates the strength of feeling that the issue of dog fouling elicits. It appears to be a problem across the district, with responses received from all areas. Support for extending the public space protection order currently in situ is a theme running through the responses, as is having the appropriate resources in place to enforce it. There are also some specific areas where dog fouling appears to be a significant problem. Further investigation should be undertaken to determine the most appropriate course of action for these sites.

Dogs on leads

14. Support to renew the existing public space protection order which requires a person in charge of a dog to put (and keep) that dog on a lead of no more than 1 metre in length when requested to do so by an authorised officer was also high, with 87% of respondents agreeing with the proposal. Just over 7% disagreed, with the remainder choosing to neither agree nor disagree. This is illustrated in the graphic below:



15. Respondents were again asked if they would like to see the order amended in any way, or for it to no longer apply. The comments made by 40 respondents were various and have been grouped into the following themes:
- Amending the order to state that dogs should always be on leads in public places, not just when requested to do so by a responsible officer
 - Certain spaces should be available where dogs can be let off the lead, provided they are under control
 - The order should include preventing the use of retractable leads
16. When asked if they had experienced or been concerned about nuisance behaviour from dogs not being kept under control by their owners whilst being walked, just over half of respondents said that they were concerned or had experienced nuisance behaviour from dogs. Just under half hadn't.
17. When asked to provide details, the following themes became apparent:
- Owners not being in control of their dogs when they are off the lead (in general)
 - Specific locations where owners are not in control of their dogs whilst they are off the lead
 - Children and adults who are frightened of dogs and don't like it when dogs approach if off the lead

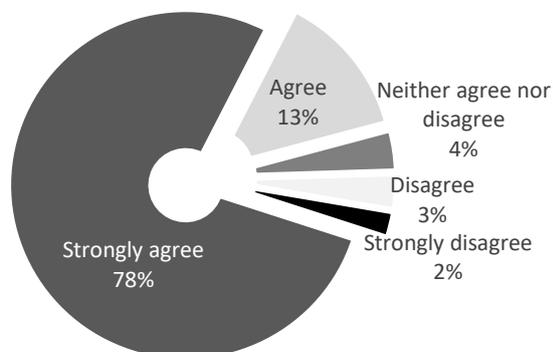
- Owners of nervous dogs who don't react well when approached by other dogs that are off the lead
- Owners dogs being attacked by other dogs when off the lead

There was strong support for renewing the existing public space protection order which requires a person in charge of a dog keeps that dog on a lead when requested to do so. Dogs who weren't being kept under control appeared to be less of an issue for respondents than dog fouling. A lower proportion of respondents had experienced or were concerned by this issue. For those who had experienced it though, it remains an area of concern.

Exclusion of dogs from enclosed play areas

18. Respondents were then asked for their opinion on a public space protection order currently in place in South Kesteven which requires that a person in charge of a dog cannot allow the dog to enter or remain in an enclosed area that has been designated as an enclosed play area. This applies to 29 play areas across the district. Support to renew this PSPO was very high, with over 90% of respondents agreeing to the proposal, as illustrated below:

The percentage of respondents who agreed or disagreed with the proposal to renew the existing PSPO in respect of dog exclusion zones



19. When given the opportunity to comment, there were a mix of responses. Grouping them into themes revealed the following:

- Support for renewing the existing public space protection order. Dogs should not be allowed to enter or remain in a children's enclosed play area under any circumstances
- A couple of respondents thought that dogs should be allowed in, but on a very short lead
- Others thought that signage should be improved and that the requirement to prevent dogs from entering or remaining in an enclosed children's play area should be enforced

20. Asked if they were concerned about, or had experienced dogs being permitted to enter or remain in enclosed play areas, just under a third of respondents said that they had. Just over two thirds had not. This seems quite high and further investigation as to why this might be the case should be undertaken.

Support for renewing the existing public space protection order which requires a person in charge of a dog to not allow the dog to either enter or remain in a children's' enclosed play area was high. Whilst the proportion of respondents experiencing this issue was not quite as high as dog fouling or having dogs under control, a significant minority still viewed it as being a problem. This merits further investigation.

Alcohol Control Zones

21. Respondents were then asked for their views on the final type of public space protection order currently active in South Kesteven. This relates to the drinking of alcohol in public places when the drinking becomes problematic and a nuisance to others. There are currently 4 alcohol control zones in South Kesteven- one for each of the main town centres. When asked if they supported this PSPO being renewed, support was nearly unanimous (95.2%). This is illustrated overleaf:

The number of respondents who agreed or disagreed with the proposal to renew the PSPO in respect of alcohol control zones



22. When asked if they would like to see the order amended or changed in any way, or no longer apply, some asked if the order could be extended to include recreational drugs, which appear to be an issue in some places. Respondents also mentioned specific areas which may benefit from the introduction of PSPO's - including Elsea Park in Bourne, Wyndham Park (including the Heroes Orchard) and Queen Elizabeth Park in Grantham, Lawrence Park in Thurlby, Godsey Lane Park in Market Deeping and Stamford Meadows.

23. Just under half of respondents said that they were concerned about or had experienced problematic behaviour associated with drinking in public spaces. Just over half hadn't. When asked to provide details, the following themes became apparent:

- It appears to be a problem in specific locations across the district not covered by the existing order. These include Elsea Park in Bourne, the Meadows in Stamford, Lawrence Park in Thurlby and Dysart Park, Wyndham Park and Queen Elizabeth Park in Grantham
- The litter that is left behind from when people have been drinking alcohol in public places
- Respondents feeling intimidated by large groups of people drinking

There is strong support for the PSPO which covers anti-social behaviour which may arise as a result of drinking alcohol in public spaces. The existing order covers alcohol control zones in the four main town centres. There does however appear to be an issue with some of the other areas in the district, particularly in relation to some of the parks. This merits further investigation.

Existing Public Space Protection Orders

24. In accordance with the requirements of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 respondents were asked to detail any impacts extending or not renewing the existing public space protection orders may have on them, so the Council could understand and be aware of what these might be. Responses fell into the following broad themes:

- Strong support for renewing existing PSPO's
- The importance of protecting and maintaining public open space for everyone
- Some would like to extend the remit of the existing PSPO to include other areas and other anti-social behaviours such as urinating in the street and recreational drug use

Potential New Public Space Protection Order

25. Respondents were then asked for their views on the Council's proposal to introduce a new public space protection order which will require a person in charge of a dog to put (and keep) the dog on a lead of less than 1 metre when walking through a specific location within Market Deeping Cemetery known as the Spinney. This was put forward as a proposal following a specific request from Market Deeping Town Council.

26. Nearly three quarters of respondents (71.4%) said that they agreed with the proposal to introduce a PSPO to apply to the area in Market Deeping Cemetery known as the Spinney. Whilst this level of support may not appear to be as strong as support shown for other PSPO's, it is important to acknowledge that this may be due in part to the specificity of this order. Other orders apply across the district, or in areas where people are likely to visit e.g. play areas, whereas this order is focused on one specific location. Perhaps not surprisingly, there is a much higher level of support from those answering this question with a PE6 postcode, with 94.1% of respondents agreeing with the proposal. This is shown in the table below:

All respondents			Respondents in PE6		
	Number	%		Number	%
Strongly agree	106	56.1	Strongly agree	16	94.1
Agree	29	15.3	Agree	0	0
Neither agree nor disagree	46	24.3	Neither agree nor disagree	0	0
Disagree	4	2.1	Disagree	1	5.9
Strongly disagree	4	2.1	Strongly disagree	0	0
Total	189	100.0	Total	17	100.0

27. When asked if they were concerned about or had experienced issues with dogs being off their leads whilst walking through the Spinney in Market Deeping Cemetery, most respondents hadn't. (86%). This is again perhaps not surprising, given that the majority of respondents do not live in this area. Just under half (43.8%) of the respondents from the PE6 area stated that they were concerned or had experienced issues with dogs off leads in the Spinney.
28. Those who had said that they had experienced issues stated that they thought dogs should be on a lead in an area such as the Spinney and that cemeteries were sacred places where dogs should not be allowed to wander at will. One respondent from the Deepings area has the ashes of their relative scattered in the area and another had been upset by someone not clearing up after their dog.
29. The responses suggest that introducing a public space protection order for the Spinney will not have a significant negative impact on most people. Nearly all those who responded to the survey (97%) said that introducing a PSPO for the specific area in Market Deeping Cemetery would not have a significant negative impact on them. Looking at the responses from those in the PE6 area, the percentage of respondents stating that it would have a negative effect on them was - although higher than the whole sample at 11.8% - still low.
30. The council then asked respondents to consider if there were any other options that could be considered. Although the purpose of this question was to establish if there were any alternative solutions for the area in Market Deeping, it is clear from the answers that respondents interpreted this question with a much wider remit. Just over 20 respondents commented. Most took the opportunity to re-iterate their point of view. Themes included:
- Keeping all dogs on leads at all times in parks
 - Specific areas where anti-social behaviour is a problem
 - Increasing the amount of enforcement undertaken

Nearly half of the respondents from the Deepings area had experienced or were concerned about dogs being off their leads in an area known as the Spinney in Market Deeping Cemetery. Whilst the number of individuals taking part from the PE6 area is quite small, there does appear to be an issue with the cemetery which the introduction of a PSPO could help to address.

Demographics

31. To see how representative those who responded to this consultation were of all individuals living in our area, respondents were asked to supply some demographic information. Most respondents were residents (187) and some were also parish, district or county councillors (15). Five responses were received from those representing other organisations and thirty five did not specify.

Gender

The table below shows the percentage of respondents choosing each option compared to the gender characteristics of the district. Male respondents are slightly under-represented when compared to district level statistics. Female respondents are however, adequately represented.

Gender	Sample %	District %
Male	37.5	48.3
Female	59.4	51.7
Prefer not to say	2.6	
Other	0.5	
Total	100.0	100.0

Age Band

The table below shows the percentage of respondents choosing each option compared to the age characteristics of the district. It shows that the sample is representative of those aged between 25 and 34 and those aged 65 and over, but under- representative of those less than 24 years old. Those aged between 35 and 64 are over-represented in the sample.

Age Band	Sample %	District %
Under 18	0.5	20.6
18 to 24	1.6	5.9
25 to 34	8.9	10.1
35 to 44	16.7	11.4
45 to 54	24.5	14.7
55 to 64	24.5	14.1
65 and over	19.8	23.2
Prefer not to say	3.6	
Total	100.0	100

Disability

The table below illustrates that those with a disability are under-represented in the sample, those without are not.

Do you consider yourself to have a disability	Sample %	Nationwide %
Yes	6.8	21.0
No	87.4	79.0
Prefer not to say	5.8	
Total	100.0	100.0

Postcode

The table below shows that responses to this consultation were received from residents and parish councillors across the district. This is important not only because all areas should be represented in the responses so that the sample is representative geographically, but also because of the characteristics of the public space protection orders that are currently in place. Some are designed to apply to all areas of land outside where the public have access- for example dog fouling and dogs on leads - and some relate to specific locations – for example excluding dogs from enclosed play areas and alcohol control zones.

Postcode	Number	%
NG23	5	2.7
NG31	50	26.9
NG32	28	15.1
NG33	11	5.9
NG34	2	1.1
PE6	17	9.1
PE9	23	12.4
PE10	49	26.3
Other (NG14*)	1	0.5
Total	186	100

*Presume this is a response from a visitor to the district

Anything else

32. The final question on the survey asked respondents if they had any queries or would like to comment on anything that had been included within the survey. The enquiries received were wide-ranging in nature and included requests for additional public space protection orders for specific locations, requests for additional litter bins so that people are able to dispose of their dog's waste more easily, and what happens in respect of monitoring and enforcing the various orders that are in place. As part of the consultation process, each enquiry will be responded to as soon as possible by the consultation officer.

Conclusion

33. One of the main objectives of this consultation was to inform the decision that will be taken by members of the Cabinet on 13 October 2020 in respect of existing public space protection orders and whether an additional one should be introduced for an area in the cemetery in Market Deeping. By:

- Involving the stakeholders in the process of reviewing the PSPO's already in situ
- Allowing them to suggest amendments
- Obtaining a measure of the degree of support or otherwise for the proposals
- Gathering feedback on any specific impacts the PSPO's may have on those responding

the council can be confident that the views that have been collected will inform both the possible extension to the PSPO's already in situ and the introduction of an additional order. By allowing respondents to comment on public space protection orders already in situ and also identify any additional areas of concern, it is fulfilling the requirements as set out in section 72 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014³.

34. There is strong support to renew the public space protection orders already in situ in respect of dog fouling, dogs on leads, excluding dogs from specific enclosed play areas and alcohol control zones in each of the district's four towns. There is also support for the introduction of a new public space protection order for the area in Market Deeping Cemetery known as the Spinney, although the number of respondents living in this area and responding to the survey is quite small. Throughout the survey, respondents have used the opportunity to raise areas of concern in their locality. To maintain confidence in the consultation process, the issues that have been raised by respondents should now probably be investigated to address any problems that there may be in these areas.

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³ Please see Chapter 2 - point 72 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/12/section/72/enacted>