



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Public Spaces Protection Orders Consultation

April 2024



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Introduction

1. Introduced as part of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2014, Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) are powers given to local councils. Designed to target a particular nuisance in a defined area, PSPOs work by prohibiting certain things or requiring that specific things should be done, by law. Failure to comply with a PSPO can result in a fine.
2. The orders are time limited – and can last for up to three years. They can be extended by the Council at any point prior to their expiry date by up to three years.
3. Unfortunately, due to an administrative oversight, the Public Spaces Protection Orders the Council had in place covering dog fouling, control of dogs, excluding dogs from enclosed play areas and alcohol control zones lapsed. Because they were not renewed within the time frame specified (which is three years), it has been necessary to consult on their implementation again, despite them being the subject of consultation during August and the early part of September last year.
4. This report outlines the results of that consultation. The Council was in purdah for all but two days of this consultation period.

Purpose of this consultation

5. Keen to correct this administrative oversight as soon as possible and renew these orders, if that is what is deemed appropriate, consultation was carried out by SKDC on the following proposed Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) during the Spring of 2024.:
 - **A Public Spaces Protection Order, for publicly accessible land within the District of South Kesteven, relating to dog fouling, for a 3-year period.**
 - **A Public Spaces Protection Order, for the District of South Kesteven, relating to the requirement for dogs to be placed on leads by order of an Officer, for a 3-year period.**
 - **A Public Spaces Protection Order, excluding dogs from enclosed play areas and enclosed recreational areas within the District of South Kesteven, for a 3-year period**
 - **A Public Spaces Protection Order, as specified in the Order, relating to alcohol control for a 3-year period.**
6. The results of that consultation are contained within this report. They will be considered by SKDC's Cabinet Member for People and Communities as well as the Council's Cabinet and will inform the decision they will take about whether to implement PSPOS for the areas listed above.

Scope

7. Because the focus of this consultation was to establish the extent of support for extending existing Public Spaces Protection Orders, it does not include any proposals relating to the approval of additional PSPOs or the amendment of existing orders as these were subject to a separate administrative process and have already been approved. It has however provided respondents with another opportunity to identify locations where dog fouling, control of dogs or another type of anti-social behaviour is a persistent problem.
8. Those who might be affected by any restrictions imposed as a result of a Public Spaces Protection Order being implemented, have also had their chance to comment.

Objectives

9. The primary objective of the consultation was to ensure that various stakeholders were included in the review of PSPO's across the district and given an opportunity to feedback. The secondary objectives of the consultation were to:
 - Demonstrate SKDC have met the requirements as set out in s72 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime, Policing Act 2014 to carry out the necessary consultation, publicity, and notification before making, varying or extending a PSPO
 - Inform the decision that will be taken by the council in respect of the proposed PSPO's
 - Measure the degree of support or otherwise for the proposal(s)
 - Understand and be aware of the impact taking this decision may have on specific stakeholders
 - Assess any potential impact of all PSPO's on the community including demonstrating that council has had due regard to compliance with the Equality Act 2010

Timelines

10. Preparatory work was undertaken during March 2024. The consultation was launched on 20 March 2023 for a period of four weeks. Analysis of results took place once the consultation closed on 17 April. The decision to renew the PSPOs will be discussed at Cabinet on 11 June 2024.

Stakeholders

11. The stakeholders were identified as follows:
 - Any individual or body from those who live in, work in or visit the restricted areas who wishes to make representation
 - The Police; including the Chief Officer of Lincolnshire Police and the local policing body. This included the Neighbourhood Policing Team for the district

- Lincolnshire Police and Crime Commissioner
- Parish, town, district and county councillors across the district
- Other community representatives. These include resident associations, local businesses, any commissioned service providers and other relevant interest groups

Methodology

12. The table below identifies the method(s) that were used to contact 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 web site</p>	<p>Potential respondents were referred to survey monkey to participate in the consultation. Alternatively, if they preferred, customer services staff would take their details and they will be contacted by a member of staff to complete a survey with them over the phone.</p> <p>Press Release prepared promoting the consultation. Release included the link to the survey and link to webpage promoting the consultation.</p> <p>Posts were prepared to promote the consultation on the Council's social media channels Facebook and Twitter. However, as the Council was in purdah during the consultation period, they weren't used.</p> <p>Webpage contained the information needed for the consultation including maps detailing the areas covered by each of the orders.</p> <p>Links to appropriate pages of website included in the survey.</p>
Members of the public	Poster to promote the consultation	<p>Poster included link to survey, QR code and also how to take part if no access to the internet.</p> <p>Poster available to Parish Councils on request.</p>
The Police – Chief Officer of Lincs Police and the Lincolnshire Police and Crime Commissioner	Chief Officer for Lincolnshire Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner contacted	<p>Neighbourhoods Team contacted the Chief Officer for Lincolnshire Police and also the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire</p> <p>Chief Constable Chris Haward</p> <p>mailto:lincolnshire-pcc@lincs.pnn.police.uk</p>

County/district and parish councillors	<p>Parish Clerks contacted.</p> <p>Postal contact details for parishes supplied by Democratic Services.</p> <p>County councillors informed of the consultation via email.</p>	<p>The following were contacted by KC:</p> <p>Parish Representatives are: All parishes- in respect of fouling of land and dogs on leads</p> <p>Around a third of parishes in respect of dog exclusion zones</p> <p>District Representatives were:</p> <p>South Kesteven District Council - Your Councillors</p> <p>County representatives were:</p> <p>Your Councillors (moderngov.co.uk) – those for the South Kesteven district area</p>
Lincolnshire County Council		Neighbourhoods Team contacted LCC
Those representing community groups/ other organisations	Community groups and organisations contacted and provided with a link to the survey	<p>The following community groups contacted by KC:</p> <p>Street Pastors</p> <p>stamford@streetpastors.org.uk</p> <p>grantham@streetpastors.org.uk</p> <p>Park Forums</p> <p>Wyndham Park</p> <p>Ian Simmons – Chairman</p> <p>iansimmons@icloud.com</p> <p>Elizabeth Bowskill – Secretary</p> <p>elizabeth_ab@btopenworld.com</p> <p>Friends of Queen Elizabeth Park</p> <p>Tim Metcalfe-Kemp – Chairman</p> <p>t1mvalmet@gmail.com</p> <p>Elizabeth Bowskill – Secretary</p> <p>elizabeth_ab@btopenworld.com</p> <p>Dysart Park Action Group:</p> <p>Lydia Gallaher</p> <p>lydia.dpag@gmail.com</p> <p>Bourne United Charities</p> <p>info@bourneunitedcharities.co.uk</p>

13. The Communications Team was unable to contact those on SKTODAY'S distribution list (who have given permission to be contacted about other matters) because the Council was in purdah. One of the purposes of the election was to elect a Police and Crime Commissioner and it was decided that because the subject matter of the consultation has very close links to Lincolnshire Police, and the

Police and Crime Commissioner, it was not appropriate to contact households directly and ask them to participate at this time.

14. The opportunity to participate in the consultation was promoted on the Council's website, and via a press release as these were made live before purdah commenced. It was not however promoted on SKDC's social media channels for the reasons cited above. This, together with the fact that a previous consultation on this subject only took place in August last year, may explain why the number of responses is noticeably lower.

Details

15. A number of actions were identified. These included:

- The preparation and approval of content for the survey
- The preparation and approval of content for the press release
- Setting up the survey
- Determining the content for webpage. This included all orders and maps identifying specific areas
- Preparation and approval of content for social media posts. These were prepared but then not used
- Drafting an email to stakeholders
- The design, printing and display of a poster to promote the consultation

16. The survey included the following sections:

- An introduction to the consultation, why the Council needed their help and how their feedback will be used to inform the decision(s) that will be taken
- Details of the proposals in respect of each of the proposed PSPOs including the draft Orders and associated map of restricted areas
- A question to identify the type of user (individual, community group or town/parish council)
- A question to ascertain the degree of support for the proposals
- A space for them to suggest any amendments to the proposed PSPOs
- A space for them to detail any negative impacts approving the proposals may have
- An option for them to ask questions or make further observations about the proposal(s)
- An opportunity for them to supply their details so that they can be contacted in relation to their query
- A statement on how any personal data they supply will be treated
- A question to identify their gender, age, and postcode- down to sector level.
- A thank you and closing date

17. A press release was sent to the local media on the first day of the consultation. It appears that unfortunately it was not included in any of the printed media during the consultation period. This

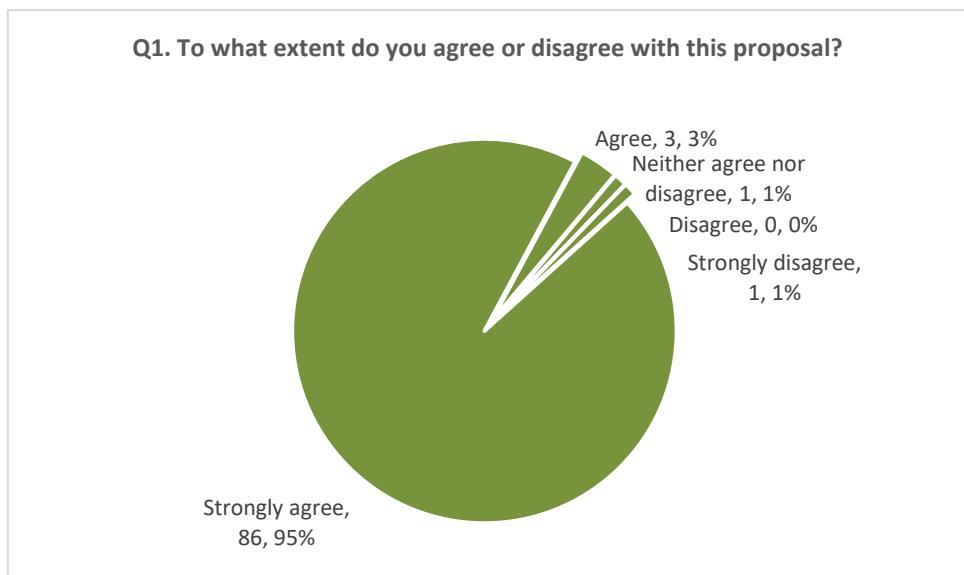
may be because of the short time frame between this and the previous consultation. It was however promoted online by Grantham Matters¹. It was also live on the Council's website during this time.

18. The consultation closed on 17 April 2024. 91 responses were received.

The results

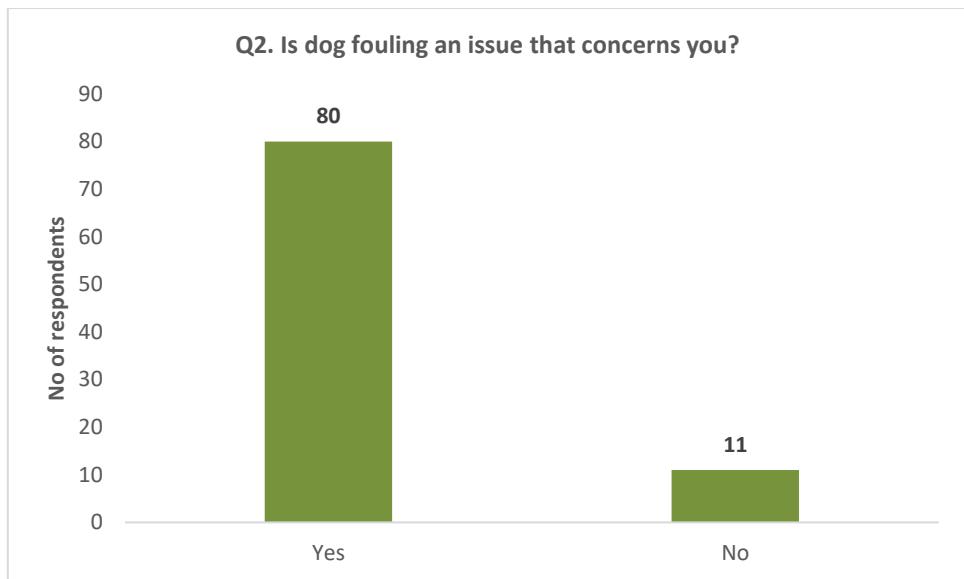
Dog Fouling

19. The first Public Spaces Protection Order respondents were asked for their opinion on was a PSPO which, if approved, would require dog owners to pick up their dog's waste. This order applies to publicly accessible land across the district.
20. An overwhelming majority of respondents (89 or 97.8%) supported this proposal, as illustrated below:



21. Dog fouling is an issue of concern for people, with nine out of ten respondents (80 or 87.9%) stating that it was important to them, as illustrated overleaf:

¹ [New look at anti-social behaviour powers \(granthammatters.co.uk\)](http://granthammatters.co.uk)



22. When asked to specify details of where and when dog fouling is a problem, respondents focused on locations where they thought there was an issue, rather than providing information on particular times. Various locations were identified. These included:

- Abbey Lawns, Bourne
- Billingborough
- Castle Bytham
- Great Gonerby
- Jubilee Park, Deeping St James
- Rippingale
- Riverside Walk, Grantham
- Sunningdale Estate, Grantham
- Swayfield
- Wyndham Park, Grantham

23. Respondents were then asked if they wanted to see this order amended in any way, or no longer apply. Rather than request amendments to the Public Spaces Protection Order, respondents used the opportunity to comment on why they had chosen to answer in the way that they did – reinforcing their position rather than requesting that it be amended.

The Dogs Trust supported the implementation of an order on fouling as shown here:

“The Dogs Trust consider ‘scooping the poop’ to be an integral element of responsible dog ownership and would fully support a well-implemented order on fouling. We urge the Council to enforce any such order rigorously....”

Respondents thought that the issue could be mitigated by keeping dogs on leads or by limiting the number of dogs one person could be responsible for, as illustrated in these quotes

“Off lead dogs are the main issue as no one polices where they foul should be kept on a lead”

“Limit the number of dogs an individual can control to 4”

Others referred to specific locations where dog fouling is a particular issue

“Dogs should not be allowed on the Abbey Lawn where sports are played.”

A couple of respondents were critical of the process. One used the opportunity to point out that the PSPO hadn't been used, and another thought that the Council should be focusing on other things.

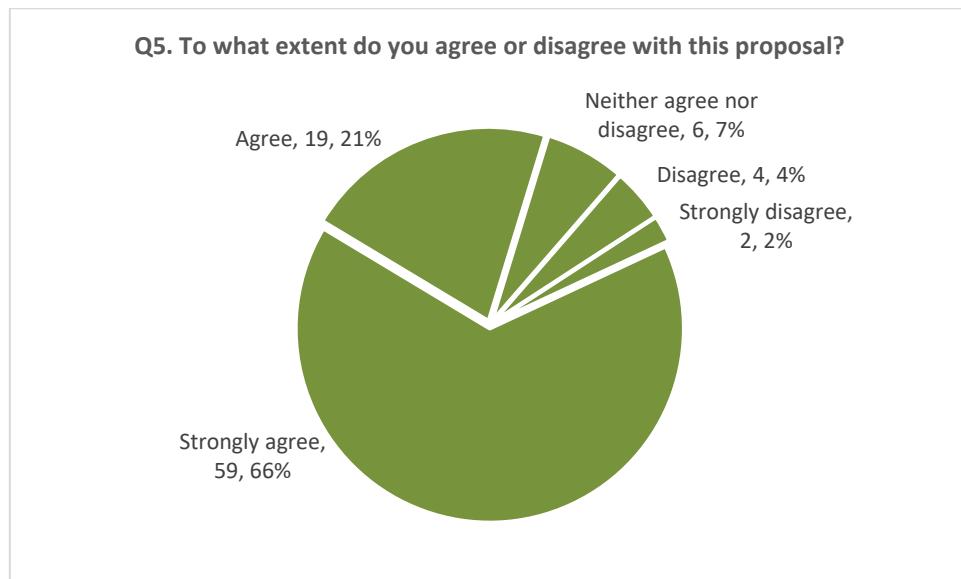
“The order hasn't been used before and seems pointless to have a PSPO if you are not going to use it.”

“I think time and effort could be better spent on something that benefits the community.”

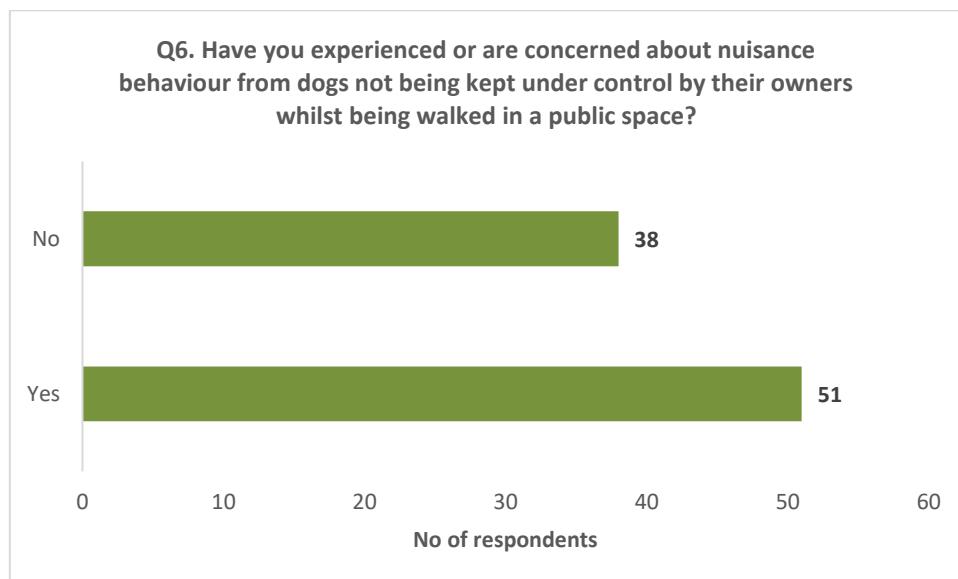
Dogs on leads

24. The second proposed Public Spaces Protection Order SKDC sought opinion on was one which, if approved, would require a person in charge of a dog to put (and keep) the dog on a lead of no more than 1 metre in length when requested to do so by an authorised officer, if such restraint is considered necessary. This order applies to publicly accessible land across the district.

25. When asked if they supported the introduction of a PSPO which would require a person to put a dog on a lead if asked to do so, most people responding said that they did. 78 (86.7%) either agreed or strongly agreed with this proposal, as illustrated in the pie chart below:



26. Slightly over half of those taking part in this consultation (51 or 57.3%) had experienced or were concerned about nuisance behaviour from dogs not being kept under control by their owners whilst being walked in a public space. This is shown in the graph below:



27. When asked to identify particular areas and specific times where control of dogs is an issue, the following areas were identified by respondents:

- Abbey Lawns Bourne
- Wyndham Park, Queen Elizabeth Park and the Commemorative Orchard, Grantham
- Folkingham Playing Field
- Rippingale
- Stamford Meadows

Others used the opportunity to raise other issues of concern relating to control of dogs. These included the importance of controlling dogs around livestock, dogs attacking other dogs and dogs attacking people:

“General concern about lack of dog control in farmland where there is livestock, especially sheep.”

“I live in Castle Bytham and have had my dog attacked when on and off the lead”

“I was bitten by a dog out of control on Range Road.”

28. The eighth question on the survey asked respondents if they would like to see this order amended in any way, or no longer apply. Consultees suggestions included excluding those dogs that are well trained and walk to heel from the requirement, to limiting the number of dogs the person is responsible for. One respondent asked for a total ban on dogs being off the lead in public areas:

“A total ban please.”

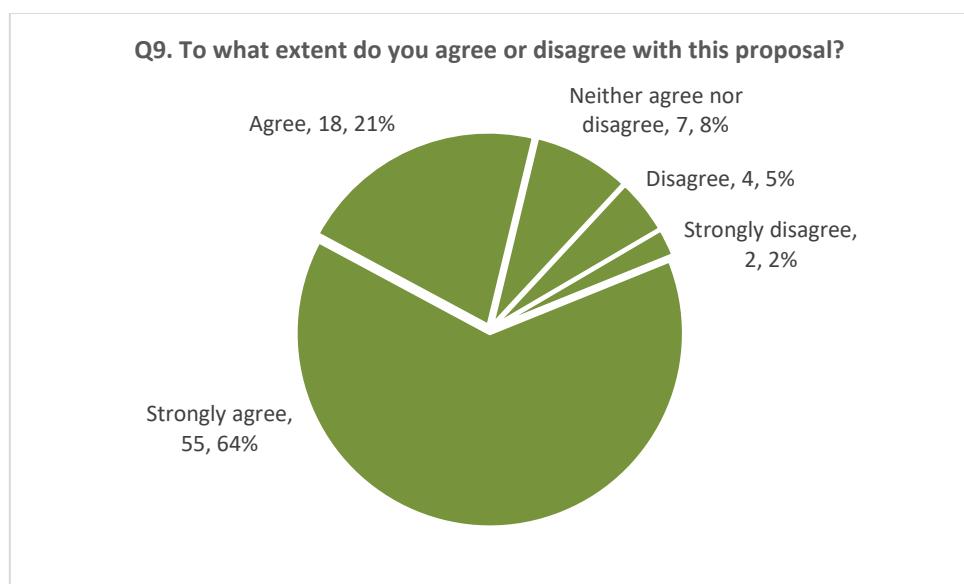
Another said that ensuring dogs were appropriately trained was more important, as shown here:

"It's not off lead dogs that is a problem, but blatantly untrained dogs that are a nuisance"

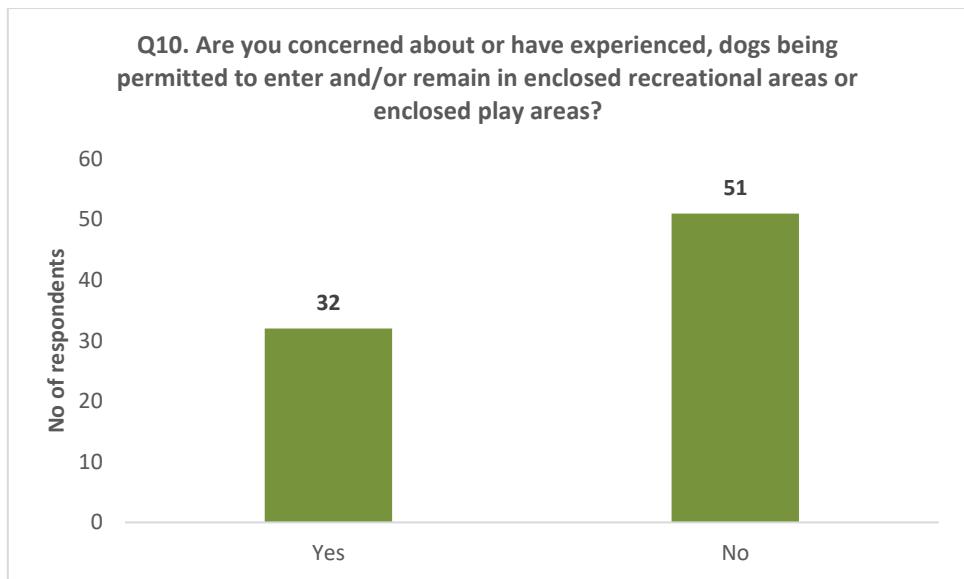
Exclusion of dogs from enclosed recreational or enclosed play areas

29. The next set of questions on the survey asked respondents if they supported a proposal to introduce a Public Spaces Protection Order which, if introduced, would require a person in charge of a dog not to enter or permit the dog to enter or remain in an area that has been designated as an enclosed recreational or an enclosed play area. This order applies to specific areas across the district.

30. There was strong support for this proposal. Eight out of ten respondents (73 or 84.9%) agreed with its introduction, as illustrated in the pie chart below:



31. When asked if they had experienced or were concerned about dogs being permitted to enter and/or remain in enclosed recreational areas or enclosed play areas, it was less of an issue for respondents than dog fouling and control of dogs. Four out of ten (32 or 38.6%) said that they had experienced or were concerned about this type of anti-social behaviour. This is illustrated overleaf:



32. Respondents were then asked to supply details of locations where dogs are being allowed by their owners to enter and/or remain in an enclosed recreational area or enclosed play area. A number of locations were identified. These included:

- Abbey Lawns, Bourne
- Folkingham Playing Field
- Jubilee Park, Deeping St James
- Jubilee Playing Field, Rippingale
- Swayfield Recreation Ground
- Wyndham Park, Grantham

33. When given the opportunity to request that the order be amended in any way, or no longer apply, the comments received ranged from those who thought that this wasn't a problem, to those who were requesting a total ban. There were a couple of respondents who thought dogs should be allowed to enter but only if on a lead.

“Is this really a problem?”

“There should be no dogs in a recreational area where sports are played by children and adults.”

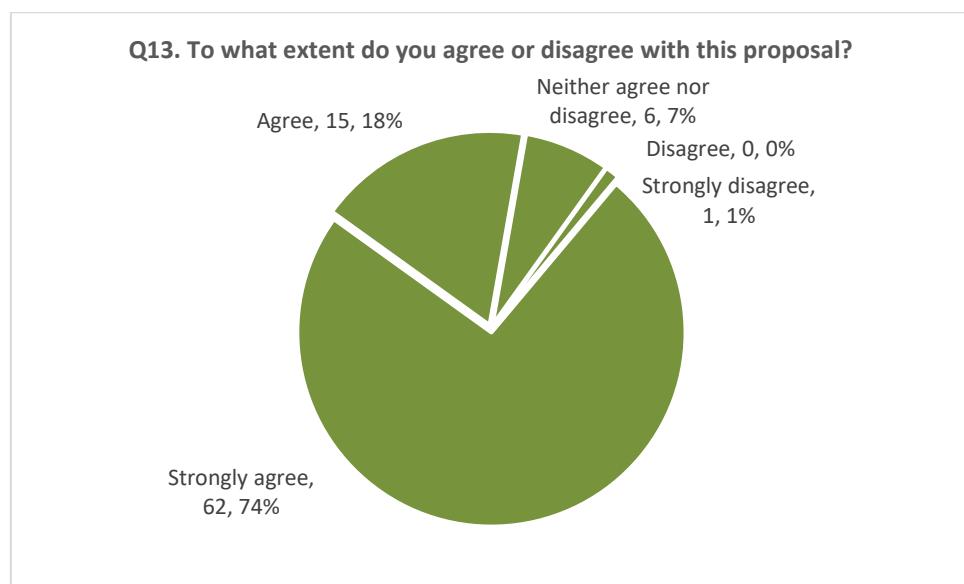
“Family dogs with a family should be permitted if kept on leads.”

Alcohol Control Zones

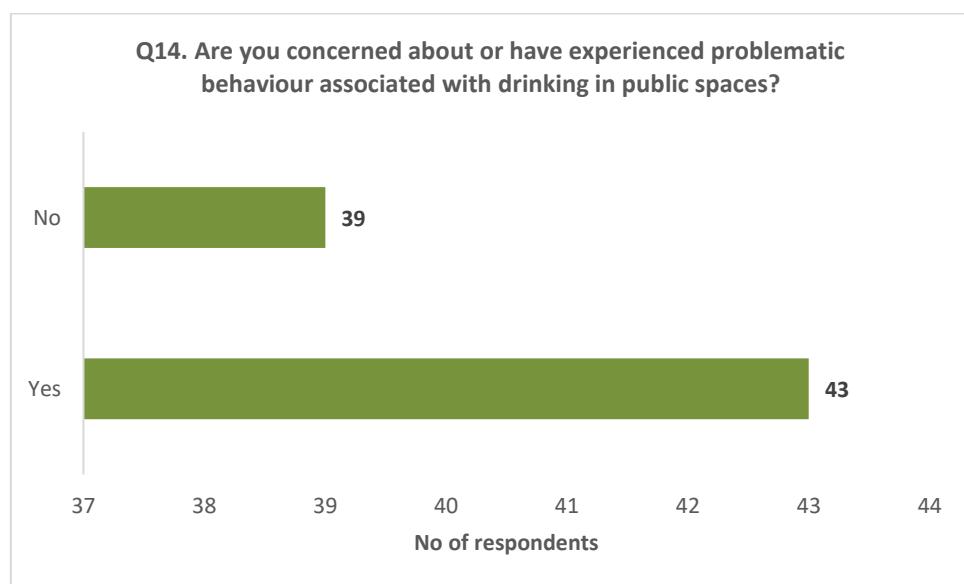
34. The final Public Spaces Protection Order the Council asked stakeholders to comment on is one centred on alcohol control zones. SKDC is proposing to introduce a PSPO which requires a person or persons to stop drinking alcohol in a specified area if asked to do so by an authorised officer or

police officer. They are also required to surrender any opened alcohol containers, if asked to do so. The PSPO does not prohibit responsible drinking in public spaces, only problematic drinking which is causing a nuisance to others. The order, if introduced, would apply to specific areas across the district.

35. There was strong support for this proposal. 77 respondents (91.7%) were in favour – choosing to answer either strongly agree or agree, as illustrated on the pie chart below:



36. Slightly more than half (43 or 52.4%) of respondents said that they were concerned about or had experienced problematic behaviour associated with drinking in public spaces, as illustrated here:



37. When asked to identify the locations where this type of behaviour is taking place, the following areas were identified by respondents:

- Abbey Lawns, Bourne
- Near the Duck Pond, Billingborough
- Jubilee Playing Field, Rippingale
- The Meadows, Stamford
- St Peters Hill, Grantham
- Wyndham Park and Queen Elizabeth Park, Grantham
- The Wellhead Park, Bourne

38. Respondents were then asked if they wanted to see this order amended in any way, or no longer apply. A couple of respondents thought that the order should be amended to prohibit any drinking of alcohol in public areas, another used the opportunity to point out that an order has no value if the areas covered by it are not officially patrolled.

“Drinking alcohol should be completely banned from public spaces.”

“The current specific areas controlled hold no value. The areas are not patrolled and officiated.”

39. When given the opportunity to comment on the introduction of the proposed public spaces protection orders, most respondents thought that they would feel safer, or that their introduction would contribute towards a more pleasant environment, as shown here:

“I would feel more reassured of being safe in a public place if these rules were implemented.”

“It will make me, and my family feel safer, and we would use the parks more often.”

“Would hopefully make the recreational area more pleasant as not having to step over and avoid dog excrement.”

One respondent was concerned at the lack of implementation:

“The lack of implementation concerns me greatly...”

Their comments are summarised in the word cloud overleaf:



Demographics

40. Responses were received from various stakeholders including residents (72 or 86.7%), parish and town councils (21 or 25.3%), and other organisations including the Police, The Dogs Trust, Bourne Cricket Club and the Rotary Club of the Deepings. (15 or 18.1%)²

41. Slightly more females than males took part in the consultation. 35 responses (42.7%) were from males, with 40 responses (48.8%) from females.

42. No responses were received from those aged under 25, as shown in the table below. All other ages were represented:

	No	%
Under 18	0	0.0
18 to 24	0	0.0
25 to 34	3	3.7
35 to 44	7	8.5
45 to 54	16	19.5
55 to 64	29	35.4

² Please note respondents could choose more than one option. 83 respondents answered this question.

65 and over	23	28.0
Prefer not to say	4	4.9
Total	82	100.0

43. Responses were received from across the district, with most coming from the Grantham area (35 or 43.8%). Stamford, Bourne and the Deepings were also represented.

44. The final question asked respondents if they had any questions or wanted to comment on anything included in this survey. They used the opportunity to re-iterate their main concerns, as illustrated here:

“Anti-social behaviour in and around car parks”

“I find it astonishing that dogs are allowed onto a recreational area where sport is played by children and adults. Why are they not prohibited from the Abbey Lawn?”

Some welcomed the chance to raise problems

“We are delighted that this consultation is taking place and at last an opportunity to formally feedback on this which has been a problem for some time.”

Others thought SKDC should do more to tackle anti-social behaviour, and were critical about the lack of enforcement action in this area:

“Vandalism, anti-social behaviour, alcohol usage and dogs off leads/fouling are issues never properly tackled by SKDC over many years.”

“Members of the parish have reported numerous issues with dogs and control of dogs within this village and have supplied evidence... but nothing happens, and it continues”

Conclusion

45. Members are asked to note the results of this consultation. Just under 100 individuals took part, and responses were also received from both statutory and voluntary organisations, ensuring the legislative requirements as set out in s72 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime, Policing Act 2014 were fulfilled.

46. The opportunity to participate was not as widely promoted as the previous consultation, as the Council was in purdah during the consultation period. Actions undertaken to promote the consultation included posters being available to parish councils on request, and the consultation on SKDC’s website.

The consultation was not promoted on the Council's social media channels, and those on the SKToday database were not contacted - unlike the PSPO consultation which took place in August last year.

47. The results should now be used to inform the decisions that are required by law, to be taken with respect to each of the proposals. The information supplied by respondents should also be used to underpin the patrols undertaken by the Neighbourhoods Team. The consultation has revealed that there are certain "hotspots" which exist in respect of each of the different types of behaviour. These areas should now be the focus of targeted attention.
48. Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

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7 May 2024