

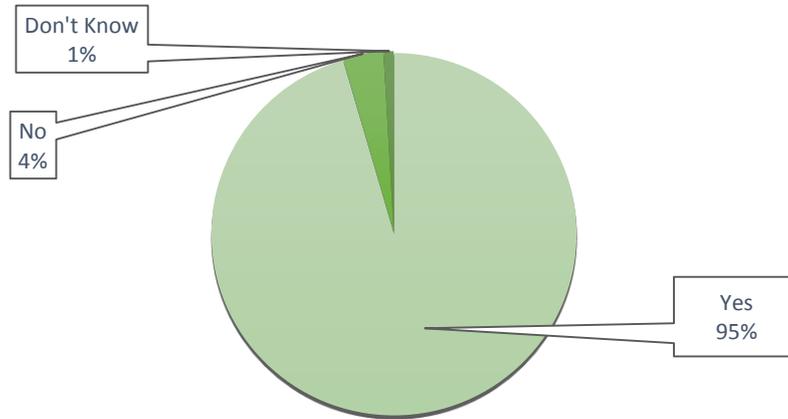
Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) Enhanced Dog Control Powers

Consultation Feedback - Survey Response Summary

Daventry District Council has undertaken a consultation regarding proposals to extend and increase its powers to promote responsible dog ownership across the district. The consultation period ran between 1st June 2015 and 10th August 2015. 834 responses to the survey were received. The Consultation was promoted via a wide range of media:

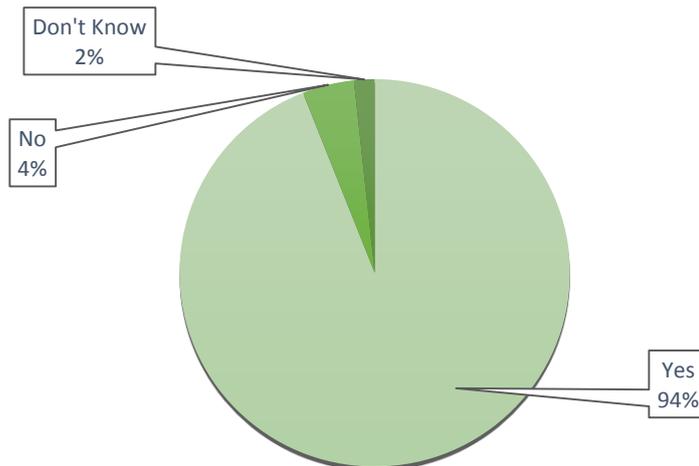
- Issuing press releases, at the beginning of the consultation and midway through.
- On the Council website (www.daventrydc.gov.uk) and via the Council's social media sites. The consultation was also promoted on the County Council website and via the staff newsletter, 'The Informer.'
- Copies of the questionnaire were made available at the Council offices, local libraries, and an on-line questionnaire was made available on the Council's website.
- Letters were sent or emailed to organisations and individuals, along with a copy of the questionnaire and poster promoting the consultation, asking for them to promote the consultation via websites, social media and newsletters and giving details of how to respond. These included The Chief Officer of Police for Northamptonshire, the Chief Executive of the County Council, Parish Councils, District Councillors, Neighbouring Local Authorities, Northamptonshire County Council Country Parks, pet shops, veterinary surgeries, kennels, The Ramblers Association, Neighbourhood Watch, schools and housing associations.
- Consultation events were held in and around the five libraries within the district (Daventry, Woodford Halse, Brixworth, Long Buckby and Moulton) and at Daventry Country Park.

Q1. Would you like to see the continuation of the existing power which makes it an offence if a person in charge of a dog fails to clean up its faeces?



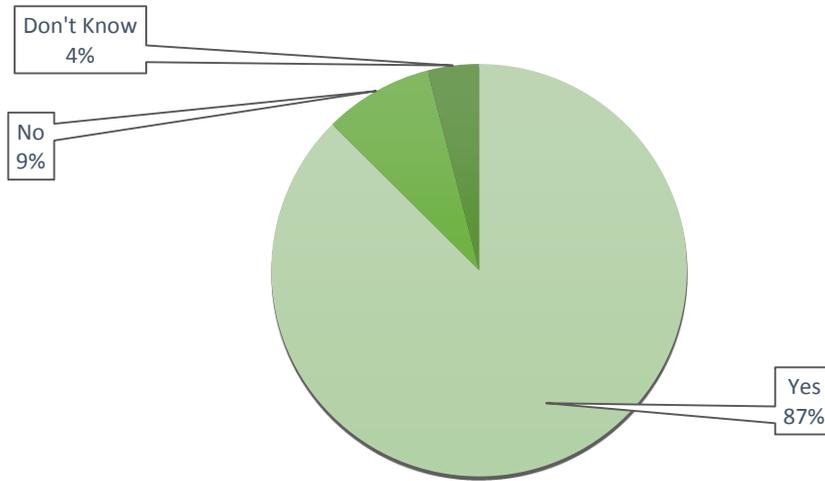
Fouling
Summary
An overwhelming majority of 95% of respondents agreed with the proposal to continue this power and therefore this will be included in the draft PSPO for adoption
Action: Offence to be included in PSPO

Q2. Do you support the continuation of the existing power that makes it an offence to allow a dog onto fenced/enclosed children's playgrounds which have been designated to exclude dogs?



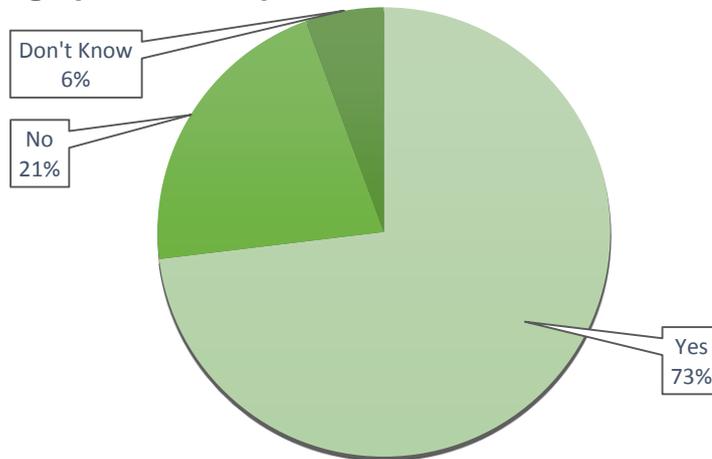
Exclusion
Summary
A majority of 94% of respondents supported the continuation of this, and it will be included in the draft PSPO for adoption
Action: Offence to be included in PSPO

Q3. Do you support the continuation of the existing power that makes it an offence to fail to put a dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer?



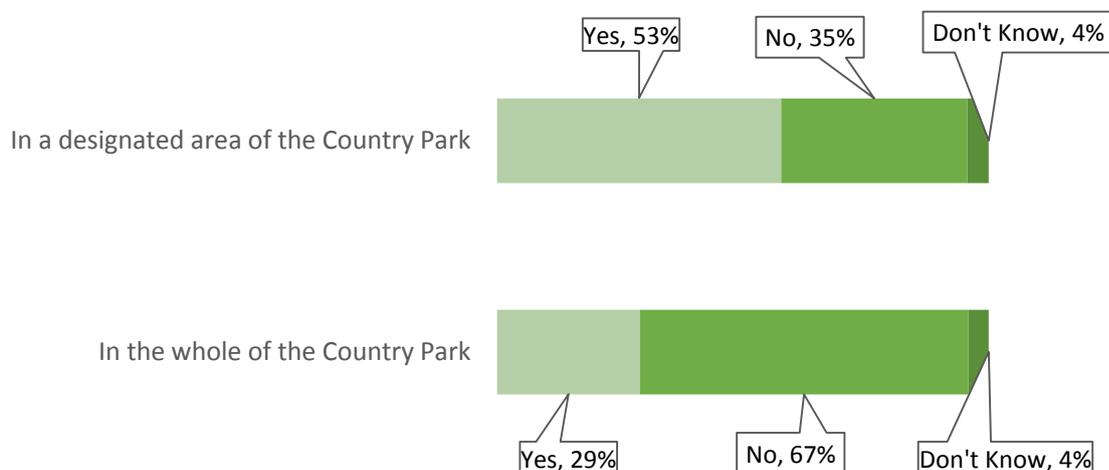
Dog ordered to be put on a lead	
Summary	
	A majority of 87% of respondents supported the continuation of this power, and it will be included in the draft PSPO for adoption.
Action: Offence to be included in PSPO	

Q4. Would you like to see the introduction of a new offence under the Public Space Protection Order which would require dog walkers to carry a poop bag or other means for clearing up after their pet?



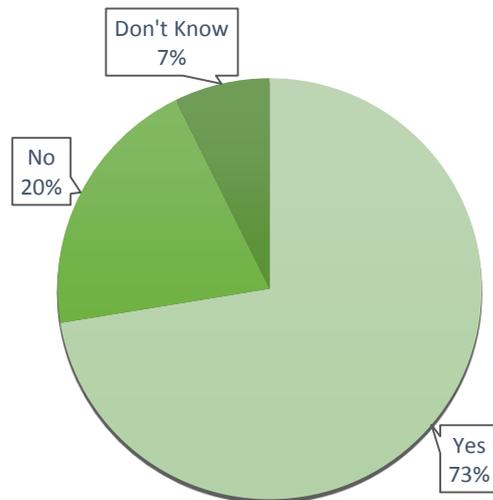
Means to pick up	
Summary of comment	RESPONSE
Concerns were expressed by consultees about the enforcement of "means to pick up".	Enforcement officers will target dog owners who are commencing walks as they should have a supply of bags at this point. Enforcement Officers will be consistent in their enforcement of the law, but will be reasonable when considering any explanation offered.
Concerns were expressed about the prospect of officers searching dog owners for dog bags.	This particular rule requires that dog walkers produce evidence of "means to pick up". The offence is committed if the dog owner fails to <u>produce</u> such means, hence, no need for dog walkers to be searched.
Action: Offence to be included in PSPO	

Q5. Would you like to see the introduction of a new offence under the Public Space Protection Order requiring dogs to be kept on leads in Daventry Country Park?



Dogs on leads	
Summary of comments	Response
There was significant opposition to the proposal to introduce an order requiring that dogs be kept on a lead throughout Daventry Country Park.	In view of the extent of the opposition DDC will introduce an order requiring dogs to be kept on leads in a designated area only. This more specific rule had majority support from both dog and non-dog owners.
Many consultees expressed that dogs should be kept on leads in the café area.	The order requiring dogs to be kept on leads will be applied to a small area around the Reservoir Café where it is appropriate.
A number of individuals highlighted other areas of the District, where it was felt that fouling was a particular problem and that dogs should be required to be on leads.	If the PSPO is adopted, there is the potential to extend this to other areas, including areas determined by Parish Councils. Areas highlighted in the consultation will be considered. This intelligence will also be used to target focused patrols by our wardens.
Action: Offence to be included in PSPO (designated area around café only)	

Q7. Do you support the Council's proposal to set the level of fine for committing one of the above offences under the new Public Space Protection Order at £100?

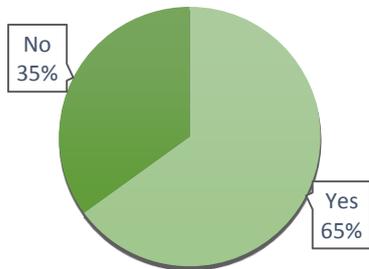


Level of fine for Fixed Penalty Notices	
Summary of comments	Response
18 consultees commented that the £100 level was not high enough and 20 consultees commented that the fine was too high. The majority agreed with this level of fine.	Given the degree of support for setting the fine at £100 it is proposed that this new level of fine be applied.
Action: Level of fine to be set at £100	

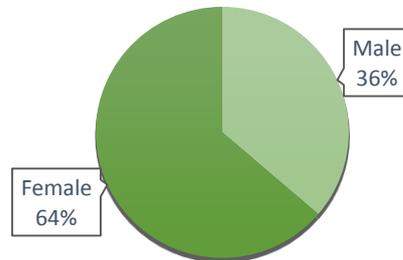
General Comments	
Summary of comments	Response
Many consultees expressed concerns about insufficient resource to carry out the necessary patrols to enforce the new orders and also pointed out that dog wardens have not been seen in areas where dog fouling is a particular problem.	DDC has two officers who routinely patrol hotspots around the district. Patrols are carried out in the early mornings, evenings and on weekends in addition to office hours. Currently officers do not wear dog warden uniforms and usually use an unmarked van. Dog owners who allow their dogs to foul are notoriously difficult to catch. This low profile approach is aimed at limiting the potential for dog fouling offenders to be alerted to the presence of enforcement officers. An intelligence based focus will be encouraged. The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 also allows this power to be extended to other agencies, which is something we shall be exploring.
34 comments were received regarding the lack of dog poo bins	Feedback to be provided to contract manager for consideration
11 comments were received regarding danger arising from persons using bikes around the country park	Feedback to be provided to officers who manage our country park
Several comments highlighting the problem of using extendable dog leads were made, indicating that they can become entangled easily and that they are more of a problem than dogs off leads.	Extendable leads will be required to be retracted in the café area.
Several consultees stated that they would prefer the approach of education rather than enforcement.	Part of the role of our officers is to educate the public. If the PSPO is adopted, in the first instance an informal approach to deal with offences will be taken, with an educational campaign to run alongside it.
A need for clear signage was expressed.	Signage will be erected advising of the new measures. This will involve the systematic removal and replacement of existing signage.
Some concerns were expressed for people with disabilities who have difficulty picking up their dog's waste	The measures do not apply to assistance Dogs used by the blind or by persons who lack the physical ability to comply with the requirements of the PSPO.

Demographic Information

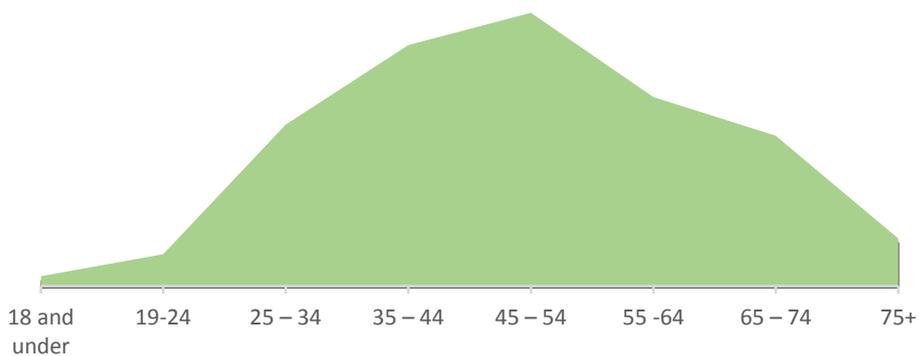
Q6. Are you a dog owner?



Q9. Gender



Q10. What is your age group?



Q11. Do you have a long-term illness or disability which limits your daily activities?

