

Once the PSPOs have been made, they will be valid for a period of three years, after which the Council must review the PSPOs, consult on any amendments or new PSPOs, and introduce any new PSPOs for a further three years.

6. Promoting Responsible Dog Ownership in Mid Sussex

Since implementing PSPO's three years ago, the experience of council officers is that the majority of dog walkers act responsibly when using public land in the District. However there remains a small number of people who act in a way that endangers or affects the wellbeing of other users of these open spaces.

The Park Rangers have also focused on promoting responsible dog ownership, which has served to reassure site users and educate any potential offenders. When specific complaints are received, the Rangers can respond with targeted enforcement activities, when and where appropriate.

When considering the PSPO's the Council must find the balance between protecting public spaces that are used in various ways from walking to recreational pursuits, from misuse and damage whilst not unfairly restricting the activities of dog walkers.

7. How Public Spaces Protection Orders Will be Applied in Mid Sussex

1. PSPOs will apply to the Council's Land. This will enable officers to take enforcement action if required under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.
2. The Council will also apply PSPOs to sites that have been adopted by MSDC since the introduction of the previous PSPO' in October 2017, so that all District Council landholdings are covered by the PSPO's.

8. Public Spaces Protection Orders - Maximum Number of Dogs (6)

For the last three years maximum dogs on specified land has proved successful in controlling the numbers of dogs using these areas of land that require additional protection or have been areas that had problems with over use by dog walkers. It is felt that in order to protect these areas of land that this order continue.

9. Consultation

A six-week consultation period was completed on the 22nd October 2020 .

Prior to the consultation period, the Customer Service and Communications Team prepared press releases to emphasise the key messages to the public and the Council's social media channels were utilised to promote the key messages.

The Solicitor & Deputy Monitoring Officer emailed the Clerks of all the Town and Parish Councils to alert them to the consultation to gather their support and/or comments.

In total, 45 responses were received during the consultation period. This was up from 33 when the original PSPO's were consulted on in 2017. The majority of these were from individual members of the public, then Parish and Town Councils, and some Local Community Organisations and a letter was also received from The Kennel Club. Appendix 2 provides a chart showing the breakdown of answers to questions asked. There is also a

summary of the main responses.

Policy Context

10. The contents of this report support the Council's Main Purpose, to be an effective Council delivering value for money services and helping to create a strong economy, environment and community. The main purpose of this report is to ensure that the Council retains and enhances existing powers for ensuring the public open spaces remain fit for all users.

Other Options Considered

11. None

Financial Implications

12. This report contains no financial implications.

Risk Management Implications

13. None.

Equality and Customer Service Implications

14. Some of those responding to the consultation made particular reference to commercial dog walking companies and commented on their use of public land for this purpose. In the vast majority of cases, commercial dog walkers are providing a professional service to residents of Mid Sussex, whose dogs would otherwise be walked on public land.
15. The Kennel Club has developed a National Code of Practice for Commercial Dog Walking and has in its representations referred to it and has encouraged its adoption. The Council must treat customers equitably in this regard and when applying this legislation, there should be no discrimination between commercial dog walkers and private individuals.

Other Material Implications

16. This report covers the adoption of Public Spaces Protection Orders in relation to Dog Control, as applied by the Council's Outdoor Services Team. Any further application of this legislation by the District Council will be subject to a separate report.

Background Papers

Appendix 1 Public Spaces Protection Orders

Appendix 2 Summary of consultation responses