

CHICHESTER DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES TEAM

PROPOSED PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER – CONTROL OF DOGS

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ANALYSIS REPORT

MARCH 2017

Introduction

The Council has for many years had controls for certain dog related behaviours. There are sound public health and conservation reasons for the current control orders. These were introduced in 2009 and replaced byelaws that had been in place since the 1990s.

The Council continues to receive complaints about nuisance from dogs and is proposing this Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to bring the current dog control orders up to date and ensure they continue to have legal authority. The Council believes the proposed PSPO addresses the issues arising from those few dog owners who fail to act responsibly and which have a detrimental effect on the quality of life for residents of Chichester District.

The PSPO has three parts;

A – The Fouling of Land by Dogs

B – Dogs on Leads by Direction

C – The Exclusion of Dogs

Part A of the PSPO concerns dog fouling and applies to all land which is open to the air and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access within the administrative area of the Council falling within the descriptions as set out in the schedule of the order

Part B of the order means that a person in charge of a dog should put their dog on a lead if asked to do so by an authorised officer of Chichester District Council.

Part C refers to areas where dogs are not permitted either throughout the year or during certain periods each year.

Executive Summary

- 167 responses were received to the online survey between 15th February and 15th March 2017.
- 145 responses came from people who said they were local residents (89.5%), 1.2% were landowners, 4.3% were businesses or retailers, 13% were regular visitors, which includes those who work but do not live in Chichester, 3.7% were parish councillors and tourists and infrequent visitors made up 1.9% of respondents. There were 3 respondents who specified 'other'. 1 was a local resident and the other 2 were members of parish councils.
- 153 respondents provided their postcode as part of the survey. 25 of these were incomplete but were still analysed where possible. 134 of the postcodes fall within Chichester District. A full breakdown of locations is included in the Respondent Profile below.

Part A – Fouling of Land by Dogs

- The majority of respondents (over 83%) agreed that dog owners should have to pick up after their dogs in places like footpaths, playing fields and cemeteries. There were some comments relating to this, the most common was that dog waste should be cleared up everywhere.
- 11 areas were highlighted on maps and the majority of respondents (over 83%) agreed that dog owners should pick up after their dogs in all of these areas. The respondents that disagreed gave reasons for their disagreement which are detailed below. Brandy Hole Copse had the highest number of comments.
- General comments include: dogs waste should be picked up after without exception, more dog bins are required and plastic bags left on the ground are harmful to the environment.

Part B – Dogs on Leads by Direction

- 64.8% of respondents (105) agreed that the dogs on leads by direction part of the order should apply to Fishbourne Channel. 21% disagreed and 14.2% said they didn't know. The most common reason for disagreement was that a lead should not be needed if the dog is under control.

Part C – Exclusion of Dogs

- 9 in 10 respondents agreed that dogs should not be allowed in children's play areas all year round. There was less agreement to exclude dogs from Bishop's Palace Gardens year-round (49.7%) and less still to exclude dogs from Priory Park all year round.
- Suggestions for other areas the exclusion of dogs should apply year-round include: all playing grounds, bathing areas of beaches and the path alongside the beach.
- The most frequent comment about year-round exclusions was that dogs should be on leads, not excluded altogether.
- There was a similar level of agreement (between 57.3% and 59.8%) that dogs should be excluded from certain areas of East Wittering, Selsey and Bracklesham foreshores and beaches between 1st May and 30th September each year.
- Suggestions for other areas the exclusion of dogs should apply seasonally include: Priory Park and Bishops Palace Gardens.
- The most frequent comment about seasonal exclusions was that dogs shouldn't be excluded as long as they're under control.
- Respondents were asked for any further comments on the PSPO overall and the top three most frequent were: better enforcement is needed, more should be done to encourage dog ownership and there is a need for education around dog responsibility.

Methodology

An electronic survey was made available on the Current Consultations web page between 15th February and 15th March 2017. The survey was promoted on Chichester District Council's social media accounts and you will find a timeline of survey promotion in Appendix A. An email was sent to Parish Councils, Residents' Associations and other stakeholders explaining the consultation with a link to the survey. A poster was also attached for circulation and displayed in the reception area of the Council offices in East Pallant House.

Throughout this report, where relevant, results have been analysed by respondent age, gender and location and by whether they identified themselves as a local resident, land owner, business/retailer, regular visitor, parish councillor and tourist or infrequent visitor. Some analysis is based on quite small sample sizes and this is mentioned in the report where it is relevant. For questions where respondents could free-type their responses, comments have been analysed and grouped into categories, with the most common responses reported below. In some cases, selected quotes have been given to illustrate a point made by respondents. A full, verbatim list is available on request.

Respondent Profile

Respondents were asked in what capacity they were completing the survey; they could select more than one response if more than one applied to them. **89.8%** were local residents, **13%** are regular visitors which include those visiting for work, **4.3%** were representing a business, **3.7%** are Parish Councillors, **1.2%** are tourists or infrequent visitors and **1.2%** are land owners.

154 respondents provided their postcodes, although **25** were incomplete (providing the first part only). Where possible, these have still been included in analysis. **20** responses were received from areas outside Chichester District.

134 fell within the district and these responses have been mapped (Appendix B). Of these postcodes, **101** were located in the wards where parts of the proposed order apply.

The table below shows other locations responses came from, along with the number of responses.

Location	Number of Responses Received
Bognor Regis	10
Brighton	4
Hitchin	1
Petersfield	1
Havant	1
Fareham	1
Godalming	1
Waterlooville	1

Three quarters of responses came from females (75% - 123 respondents) and 23.8% from males (39). 1.2% (2 respondents) preferred not to give us their gender. This is a heavy bias toward female respondents in comparison with the population.

The table below shows the breakdown of responses by age group. Just under half (48.5%) of respondents were aged between 45 and 64, with fairly even numbers of 25-34, 35-44 and 65+ year old respondents. There was little representation of respondents aged up to 24.

Age Group	% Respondents (Number)
Under 16	(0)
16 – 24	1.2% (2)
25 - 34	14.5% (24)
35 - 44	17% (28)

Age Group	% Respondents (Number)
45 – 54	28.5% (47)
55 – 64	20% (33)
65+	13.9% (23)
Prefer not to say	4.8% (8)

Over 9 in 10 respondents (91.9%) stated their ethnicity as White – British, 1.2% any other white background, 1.2% any other mixed background and 5.6% preferred not to disclose their ethnicity.

84.5% (136 respondents) said they did not have any long-term illness, health problem or disability that limits their daily activities. 16 respondents (9.9%) said they did and 9 respondents (5.6%) preferred not to say. This is in line with responses seen in other public surveys.

Survey Findings

This report will examine each survey question in turn, giving results and analysis of any trends that appear. Responses concerning each part of the PSPO have been reported separately.

Part A – Fouling of Land by Dogs

Do you agree that dog owners should have to pick up their dog’s mess in the following areas?

	Yes	No	Don't know
All adopted roads, highways and carriageways with a speed limit of 40mph or less	157 95.7%	4 2.4%	3 1.8%
Any adjoining footpaths or verges constituting highway land	160 97.6%	3 1.8%	1 0.6%
The entire width (including adjoining verges) of any footway, footpath or pedestrianised area to which the public have access	163 100%	0	0
All beaches, foreshores and promenades which allow dogs	161 98.2%	3 1.8%	0
All nature reserves established under section 21 of the National Parks and	137 83.5%	21 12.8%	6 3.7%

Access to the Countryside Act 1949			
Public open space which allows dogs and that is owned or maintained by West Sussex County Council	155 95.7%	4 2.5%	3 1.9%
Communal footpaths and communal grassed areas within the ownership or control of Hyde Martlet Housing Association or any successor to it	162 98.8%	1 0.6%	1 0.6%

The table above shows that the majority of respondents agreed with all of the proposed areas, footpaths and pedestrianised areas received the most agreement with **100%**. It should be noted that nature reserves received the highest level of disagreement (**12.8%**) which links to the open comment detailed below; 'woodland areas should not be included'.

Do you agree that dog owners should have to pick up their dog's mess in the following areas?

100% of respondents agreed that dog owners should have to pick up after their dogs in the following seven areas:

- Public parks
- Pleasure grounds
- Sports grounds
- Recreation grounds
- Playing fields
- Village greens
- Cemeteries

Agreement was still high for the remaining three areas with the lowest percentage of agreement at **95.2%** and marginally more respondents saying they were unsure whether this part of the order should apply in the specified places.

	Yes	No	Don't know
Closed churchyards	163 99.4%	1 0.6%	0
Other public open space which allows dogs and is owned or maintained by CDC	157 95.7%	2 1.2%	5 3%
Other public open space which allows dogs and is owned or maintained by any City, Parish or Town Council within the administrative area of CDC	157 95.2%	2 1.2%	6 3.6%

Respondents were asked for any further comments on the above and a few common themes emerged which have been detailed in the table below. The most frequent comments were that dog waste should always be cleared up without exception and that there are not enough dog bins provided which may be discouraging people from picking up the waste in the first place.

Comment	Mentions	Quote
Dog waste should be cleared up everywhere	37	<i>"Dog owners should pick up where ever their dog fouls. I am a dog owner and would always pick up where ever"</i>
More dog bins needed	13	<i>"I am certain you would have better response to this if more dog poo bins were provided. There are very few in the area and virtually none in central Chichester or Halnaker, Goodwood or Westhampnett"</i>
Full poo bags should be disposed of properly	5	<i>"Pick up means to take away and dispose of in bins provided or at home. Not bagged up and hung on fences and trees"</i>
Effective enforcement required	5	<i>"DNA samples should be mandatory and owners billed and fined"</i>
Woodland areas should not be included	4	<i>"Footpaths in nature reserves and public open spaces should be included, but wooded areas and scrubby areas could not apply depending on size of space and bins provided"</i>

Other comments included:

"Should also include spaces the public are not prevented from gaining access"

"Cat and Horse owners don't have to do it"

"It should be considered a hazardous waste"

"Dogs should be banned from peeing and pooing on/up walls"

"Maybe have dog wardens patrolling specific areas"

"Run publicity campaign to remind owners to pick up"

"Picking up dog mess on a road is dangerous for dogs and owners"

Respondents were then asked to comment on specific areas where the dog fouling part of the order applies.

Do you agree that dog owners should have to pick up their dog's mess in the following areas?

Agreement was high across the board with the lowest percentage for Brandy Hole Copse, **6.1%** disagreed and **10.3%** said they were unsure whether this part of the order should apply in Brandy Hole Copse. The second lowest percentage of agreement was for Cakeham Estate (**87.8%**) with **11%** of respondents saying they were unsure.

Area	Yes		No		Don't know	
Fishbourne Playing Field	160	97.6%	0		4	2.4%
Fernhurst Recreation Ground	156	95.1%	1	0.6%	7	4.3%
Camelsdale Recreation Ground	153	94.4%	1	0.6%	8	4.9%
Quay Meadow	152	92.7%	3	1.8%	9	5.5%
Brandy Hole Copse	138	83.6%	10	6.1%	17	10.3%
Cowdray Ruins	153	93.3%	1	0.6%	10	6.1%
West Wittering Estate	155	95.7%	3	1.9%	4	2.5%
East Head	151	92.1%	6	3.7%	7	4.3%
Cakeham Estate	144	87.8%	2	1.2%	18	11%
North Mundham Playing Field	158	96.3%	1	0.6%	5	3%
Sports ground at Petworth Park	155	95.1%	1	0.6%	7	4.3%

Open comment boxes were available for respondents to explain their answer, these questions intended to capture the comments of those who did not agree that the 'fouling of land by dogs' part of the order should apply to a certain area. These comment boxes were only visible to respondents who selected 'No'. These comments have been outlined below.

Mapped area	No. of comments of disagreement	Quotes
Brandy Hole Copse	6	<p><i>"only on footpaths not off footpaths in woods"</i></p> <p><i>"Kick it off the path of course but let it rot rather than have plastic bags strung all over"</i></p> <p><i>"In order to reduce plastic bag waste, I think that owners should be required to pick up dog mess in any area that people would walk or children are likely to use, but not areas that are unlikely to be accessed (woodland, hedgerows, etc). Slindon Estate employ this policy to good effect."</i></p> <p><i>"This is public land, as long as is not on the path I can't see a problem."</i></p>

		<p><i>"Probably quite rural"</i></p> <p><i>"I disagree in part. The paths should be cleared by owners, there are, however, swampy or overgrown areas that may not be safe or practical for owners to be climbing into to retrieve faeces from."</i></p>
East Head	3	<p><i>"because washes out to sea"</i></p> <p><i>"Only in the summer months"</i></p> <p><i>"Probably quite rural and not urban"</i></p>
West Wittering Estate	1	<p><i>"Probably quite rural and not urban."</i></p>

The majority of the comments above relate to the fact that these areas are rural and dog waste would be better left in the undergrowth rather than plastic bags being left in the area which is worse for the environment.

If you have any further comments about part A, please include here.

Respondents were then given the opportunity to provide any further comments about the Fouling of Land by Dogs. These comments have been categorised in the table below. The most frequent comments, again, were that **dog waste should always be cleared up** and that there are **not enough dog bins** provided. There were also comments on enforcement and the environmental impact of plastic bags left behind.

Comment	Mentions	Quote
Dog owners should always pick up dog waste	25	<i>"As an owner of two dogs, I believe all mess should be picked up regardless"</i>
More dogs bins are needed	10	<i>"We need more dog bins in walking areas"</i>
Areas should be patrolled and the order enforced	8	<i>"I would like to see proper enforcement of people who don't pick up after their dogs"</i>
Unrealistic in woodland areas	6	<i>"I 100% agree that owners should pick up after their dogs in all public access space, especially footpaths, playing fields etc. However, it is unrealistic to mandate areas such as woodland where dogs may be let off the lead and foul a considerable distance away from footpaths?"</i>
Unfair that people without dogs have to put up with the mess	5	<i>"All these places are used by dog owners and non-dog owners it is totally unfair for non-dog owners to have to put up with dog fouling whilst enjoying any walks or sports etc"</i>
Plastic bags left are bad for the environment	5	<i>"many dog owners take no notice or leave their little plastic bags behind"</i>

which, environmentally, is probably even worse."

Other comments included:

"Allocated places for dogs to foul"

"Banning dogs on playing fields."

Suggestions of other areas where the Fouling of Land by Dogs part of the order should apply:

"Whyke Oval, Whyke Estate, Chichester and Florence Park Chichester."

"Should include other areas even if not council maintained e.g HCA land, where public has access."

"Fishbourne Meadows, Centurion Way"

"Tangmere recreation field."

"Copse Road Recreation Ground and Heathcote Gardens"

Chichester District Council's response to consultation responses about fouling of land by dogs

This element of the order is well supported in the consultation, although some comments were received that it was felt picking up was not necessary in woodland nature reserves such as Brandy Hole Copse. Recent media from The Forestry Commission suggested kicking dog mess into the undergrowth is more appropriate and better for the environment rather than producing more plastic for dog poo bags, many of which get left in the countryside by irresponsible dog owners. The Council supports this approach, however Brandy Hole Copse is included in the order because it is a nature reserve with many volunteers and is used extensively for conservation education with adults and school children.

There were responses saying that clearing up after dogs was not necessary on beaches as the sea cleans the beach. Dog faeces that wash into the sea are likely to affect the quality of the bathing water. This is supported evidence in the Southern Water Bathing Water Enhancement Project 2017. Poor bathing water results would result in lower water quality standards being awarded for the beach. There is also the risk of contamination from dog faeces when walking or playing on the beach.

The other significant comment was that dog waste should be picked up everywhere. As a result of the consultation, it is proposed to remove the exemptions in the fouling order (agricultural land, common land etc). Where the public are permitted by footpath, road,

playing field, recreation ground etc. then they are required to pick up.

There were requests for more bins. We have 299 dog waste bins in the district, 166 are CDC bins, the remainder are paid for by parish councils, RSPB, NT, WSCC etc. Through our education programme we advise dog owners that they can use any waste bin, encourage use of poo pods to carry waste until in the vicinity of a bin. When a request is received for a new bin, officers liaise with the land owner; considering the location of bins, other available bins, the cost of more bins and emptying them (2015/16, the Council collected 111 tonnes of dog waste). With regards to dropping poo bags or leaving them in hedges, this is littering and this is covered by other legislation where litterers can be served with a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Making DNA sampling mandatory was called for however this would be costly and requires a national scheme to be effective.

The following additional areas that were requested are covered by point 8 of Schedule 1; Whyke Oval, Whyke Estate.

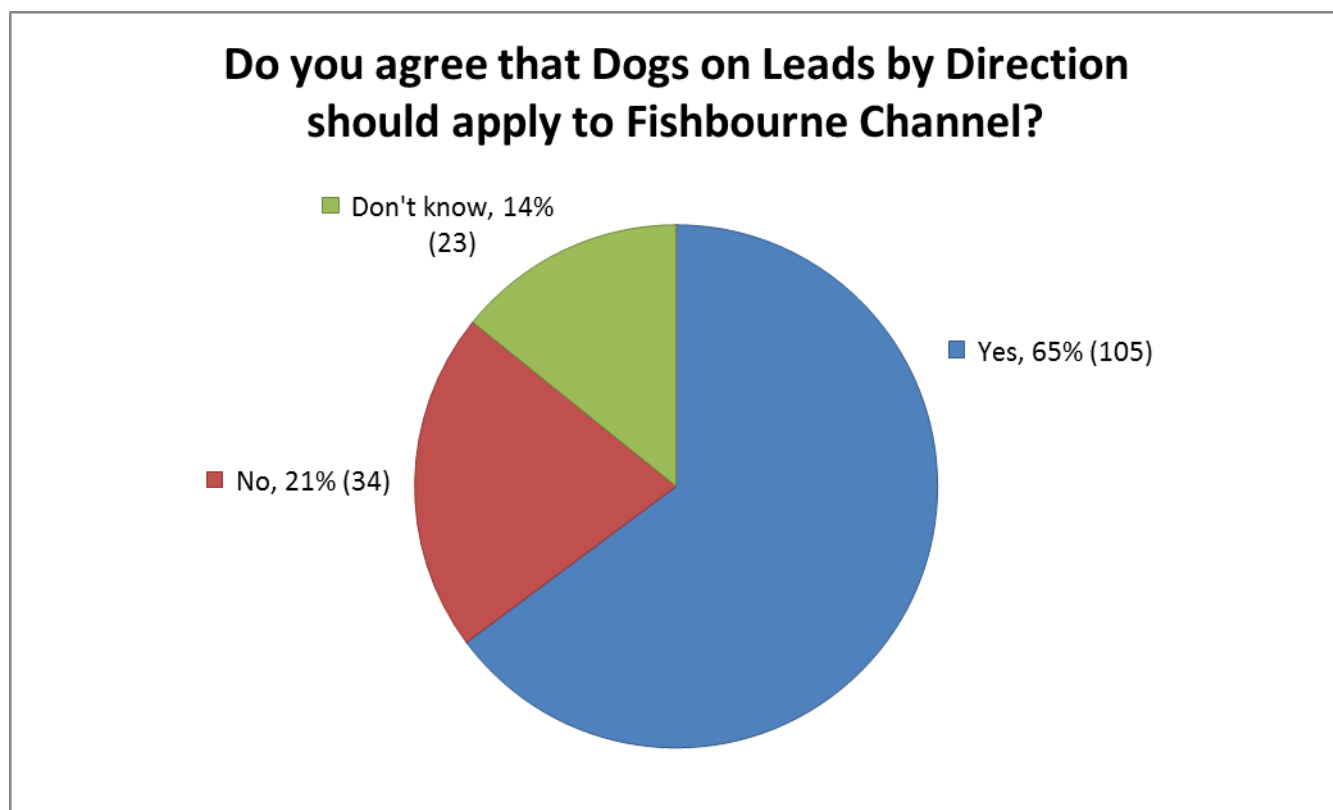
Florence Park is covered by point 3 of Schedule 1.

Centurions Way is covered by point 2 of Schedule 1.

It is proposed to include Haverstock Park, Graylingwell, Maybush Copse, Chidham and Fishbourne Meadows as new areas in point 7 of Schedule 1.

Part B – Dogs on Leads by Direction

Respondents were then asked to look at another map and indicate whether they agreed with the application of the Dogs on Leads by Direction part of the order in Fishbourne Channel.



Just under two thirds of respondents agreed that dogs on leads by direction should apply to Fishbourne Channel. Some of those who disagreed provided comments explaining why, which have been categorised below.

20 respondents said as long as a dog is under control no leads should be needed

"If a dog is well trained and the owner has good control then there should be no reason to request that the dog be placed on a lead for the sake of it"

6 respondents said that dogs need exercise off the lead

1 respondent said it should be where and when appropriate

1 respondent said this part of the order seems unnecessarily restrictive

1 respondent suggested dogs on leads by direction may be necessary in early bird breeding season.

There seemed to be some misunderstanding among respondents regarding this part of the order. Dogs on leads by direction does not mean that dogs have to be kept on leads at all times in these areas, only if told to do so by an appropriate officer of Chichester District Council who feels that the dog in question is causing disturbance or posing a threat to the wildlife in the area, for example.

Chichester District Council's response to dogs on lead by direction

Public agreement with this order was the lowest out of all the orders, with only 65% agreeing with the order. However, where 21% of respondents disagreed, they stated that

dogs should not be on a lead if under control. This shows a misunderstanding of the requirements of the order as only when dogs are not under control would the owners be directed to put their dog on a lead. We will continue to educate dog owners on the requirements but it is possible that the responses came from residents who are not local to Fishbourne.

There was a request to extend the dogs on lead by direction order to other areas such as playing fields, beaches, recreations grounds. It is proposed that the dogs on lead by direction order be amended to cover the whole of the District. This is to enable the dog wardens to deal with any situation where a dog is not under control and creating a nuisance or danger to others.

Part C – Exclusion of Dogs

Respondents were asked for their opinion on the exclusion of dogs from specific places all year round and seasonally, between May 1st and September 30th each year.

Do you agree that dogs should be excluded from the following places all year round?

The following table shows a high level of agreement for the exclusion of dogs in children's play areas which is also reflected in the open comments. There are high levels of disagreement for excluding dogs from Bishop's Palace Gardens and Priory Park, these two places were mentioned a few times in the open comments with people feeling that exclusion is too harsh and that dogs should be permitted on leads.

	Yes		No		Don't know	
All children's play areas which are enclosed by a fence or gate and owned or maintained by Chichester District Council	148	90.2%	14	8.5%	2	1.2%
Bishop's Palace Gardens (Chichester)	82	49.7%	65	39.4%	18	10.9%
Priory Park (Chichester)	62	37.8%	86	52.4%	16	9.8%

The age group most likely to say that dogs should not be excluded from **children's parks** is those aged 25-34 and least likely is those aged 55-64. 65+ year olds were the most likely to agree that dogs should be excluded from **Bishop's Palace Gardens**.

Respondents were also given the opportunity to state any other places they felt dogs should be excluded from on each day of the year. **4** respondents said all playing fields, **3** said seafront bathing areas, **2** suggested the path along Selsey beach. There were a few other individual suggestions including: play areas in Graylingwell Park, East Head, public parks used by families, play areas in Carron Lane in Midhurst and Florence Park.

Respondents were given the opportunity to provide any further comments on year-round exclusions which are categorised in the table below. The most frequent comments were that dogs

should not be excluded from these places but permitted with a lead but some of the same respondents specified that dogs should be excluded altogether from children's play areas.

Comment	Mentions	Quote
Dogs should be on leads, not excluded altogether	19	"Would be better to have dogs on leads than excluding them from areas such as parks"
Dogs should definitely be excluded from fenced children's areas	8	"I think no dogs in the enclosed areas of parks specifically for children."
Dogs should not be allowed access to all outdoor spaces	7	"Visitors to these areas should be able to use them without worrying about dog fouling or animals not in sufficient control"
Dogs shouldn't be excluded from open spaces	6	"Gardens are for the enjoyment of all and a well-behaved dog should not be denied access to a public space."
There should be a 'dogs only' section of parks	2	"Council should introduce dog-only (fenced off) sections of parks for toileting etc, and keep dogs off other areas of public parks."
Dogs are good for wellbeing, these restrictions lessen the benefits	2	"I am keen for more of my patients to adopt rescue dogs as it is good for human health and good for dogs. The harder you make it the lesser the benefit."

Other comments included:

"Chichester generally is very dog unfriendly"

"I am a responsible custodian of a canine partner, education is more effective than a blanket ban."

1 respondent said better enforcement is needed.

Do you agree that dogs should be excluded from the following places between May 1st and September 30th each year?

Although the majority of respondents agreed that these areas should exclude dogs for the summer season (**57.3%-59.8%**) there is still relatively high levels of disagreement and respondents who said they were unsure.

	Yes		No		Don't know	
Certain areas of East Wittering foreshore and beach	98	59.8%	48	29.3%	18	11%
Certain areas of Selsey foreshore and beach	94	57.3%	49	29.9%	21	12.8%
Certain areas of Bracklesham foreshore and beach	95	57.9%	47	28.7%	22	13.4%

35-44 year olds were consistently the least likely to agree that dogs should be excluded between May and September in the above locations.

Again, respondents were asked if there were any other places they felt should be included in this part of the order, excluding dogs between these dates. 3 respondents made suggestions:

“West beach, medmerry beach Selsey”

“Priory park and bishops palace gardens in chichester”

“Selsey sea wall between Selsey Bill and Park Lane.”

Respondents were given the opportunity to provide any further comments on seasonal exclusions. The comments have been categorised in the table below. Again, respondents frequently felt that dogs should not be excluded if they are kept under control and cleaned up after. There were also comments suggesting that May to September is too long and that enforcement is needed.

Comment	Mentions	Quote
Dogs shouldn't be excluded as long as they're kept under control	14	<i>“dogs should be allowed on these beaches between May & September but they should be kept on a lead”</i>
Agree with this part of the order	8	<i>“areas should be dog free for the busy of the year as not everyone is happy with dogs being near”</i>
Disagree with this part of the order	4	<i>“Banning dogs on beaches??? Humans make a lot more mess than dogs.”</i>
May to September is too long	3	<i>“the period from May to September seems excessive and doesn't fit within the actual peak ‘Summer’ season.”</i>
Enforcement needed	2	<i>“Needs to be enforced by visible and substantial signs not those placed at ground level which are easily overlooked – needs to be supported by adequate enforcement”</i>

Other comments included:

“Not to be excluded from foreshore, but must be on leash! Excluded from beaches, yes!”

“Particularly at rutting time, Petworth Park should exclude dogs from the rutting areas.”

Chichester District Council's response to exclusion order

This element of the order generated the most comments. There was a high support for exclusion from children's playing areas. However, exclusion from Bishop's Palace Gardens and Priory Park was felt to be too harsh and that dogs should be permitted on leads all year or at least on leads outside of the summer season.

CDC's response is that it is felt that dogs should be excluded from these City parks on the grounds of public health as they are both used extensively for lunch breaks and picnicking

by families and city workers. There are many other open green spaces where dogs are permitted within close proximity to these parks and the city centre.

In response to the request for segregation and fenced off areas in parks for dogs, this may be possible in some parks but there would be a financial resource issue. Any such measures would need to be carefully thought through to avoid displacing problems. This maybe a measure that can be explored for specific parks to resolve a problem.

There were requests for exclusion of dogs and dogs on leads on playing fields. As sports areas are generally within recreation grounds and are not fenced, it would not be possible to exclude dogs from the playing fields area, without excluding them from the whole park, which is not justified. The risk from contamination from soil is present for sport players but not as great as someone who is sitting on the ground, picnicking. There is no basis for dogs on leads in these areas. The Council has to try to balance the needs of all residents, those that want to use the sports facilities and dog owners. Dogs must have areas where they can run off the lead under Animal Welfare legislation.

With regards to beaches, there were consultation responses ranging from excluding dogs from all beaches to dogs on lead to removing all exclusions areas for dogs. With regards to dogs on leads, this is not deemed necessary and would have a resource implication to effectively enforce. The Dog Wardens and the Foreshores Officers can ask a dog owner to put their dog on a lead if it is causing a nuisance and there is legislation already in place to deal with a dog dangerously out of control in a public or private place.

Regarding exclusion of dogs from beaches, in Chichester District, there are more beaches where dogs are permitted than not. The Council does recognised dogs and their owners want to walk on the beach and it promotes dog friendly tourism. However, the exclusion of dogs from the main bathing beaches will remain in place to enable people to picnic and play without problems from dogs.

There were also comments on reducing the exclusion period to the main times when people use the beach for bathing e.g. summer holidays. The Council proposed to maintain the exclusion period between 1 May to 30 Sept because the exemption applies to a small area of beach and there are many beaches where dogs are permitted all year.

The consultation raised an access issue and therefore the bathing beach exclusion area in Bracklesham will be moved from groyne A22 to A29 to groyne A21 to A25 enable the less mobile to use the slipway to access the beach with their dogs.

A number of children's play areas where cited in the responses where it was requested dogs were banned from these areas. This is already the case for any fenced play area.

Respondents were given the opportunity for any final thoughts or comments on the proposed PSPO overall. These comments have been categorised and are shown in the table below. Enforcement came up as the most common theme here. There were also comments relating to education of dog owners and dedicated dog parks could be introduced.

Comment	Mentions	Quote
Better enforcement	6	<i>"The problem we have is that there is not enough people policing dog owners"</i>
Do more to encourage dog ownership/access	4	<i>"Please do more to encourage dog ownership."</i>
People need to be educated	3	<i>"The key is educating people and bring communities together"</i>
Unfair to responsible dog owners	3	<i>"Dogs are being excluded from certain areas because of a small minority of dog owners who don't control or clear up after their dogs"</i>
Dog licence should be required	2	<i>"I would like to see the dog licence reintroduced"</i>
Should be on a lead if not under control	2	<i>"Dogs should be kept on a lead if the owner cannot safely control the animal."</i>
Dedicated dog areas/parks	2	<i>"It would be beneficial to have dedicated enclosed spaces with secure fencing where owners could exercise their dogs safely."</i>
People should be the prime focus of public spaces	2	<i>"keeping 'people' as the prime focus first of public spaces"</i>

Other comments included:

"professional dog walkers should have their numbers of dogs walked at any one time restricted reasonably"

"Please bring this in PSPO great idea."

"If the control of dogs around Fishbourne Creek is to protect bird life then it gets my total support. However, I can't understand why wildfowlers are allowed to distress and kill wild birds that use the area as a place of refuge."

Chichester District Council's response to the general comments about the PSPO.

More enforcement - As Chichester District is a large geographical area, the Council have two full time dog wardens who are patrolling and enforcing the dog legislation. In addition, they also undertake various responsible dog ownership initiatives and PR.

The Council use the full range of available enforcement options. Rather than introduce restrictive legislation to exclude or put dogs on leads, which impacts unnecessarily on responsible dog owners, officers are targeting enforcement on irresponsible dog owners by using Community Protection Notices. These, together with Acceptable Behaviour Contracts enable officers to require on-going compliance rather than one off sanctions.

Consultation responses called for the Council to do more to encourage dog-friendly tourism. Tourism is a key objective for the Council and these controls should not discourage dog owners.

Business Friendly - Many businesses are directly involved in providing services for dog owners e.g. dog walkers, dog crèches. Many businesses market them selves as being dog friendly. The Councils orders aim not to significantly impact these businesses. There were some consultation responses calling for professional dog walkers to have a restriction on the numbers of dogs they can walk at any one time. The Council does not have any evidence that professional dog walkers and their dogs are creating a problem that needs controlling through the order. Through the Dogs on Leads by Direction, the dog wardens and foreshore officers ask an owner to put their dog on a lead where it is causing a nuisance.

Call to encourage dog ownership. The Council recognises that dog ownership has physical and mental benefits and the aim of the orders is to be as least restrictive as possible but still secure a sensible level of control and therefore compliance.

Conclusions (Key points in bold)

Part A – Fouling of Land by Dogs

The majority of respondents felt that **dog waste should be picked up in all the places listed**. Where the disagreement figures are higher the areas are more rural which is reflected in the open comments with many respondents suggesting the **environmental effect of plastic bags** in the environment would be worse than leaving the faeces in the undergrowth. There was **100% agreement for 7 of the 17 areas** listed.

Overall, agreement was high for part A of the order in the mapped locations. The lowest agreement was for Brandy Hole Copse (**83.6%**), with **6.1%** disagreeing and **10.3%** who were unsure. Comments of disagreement were mostly suggesting that **as long as the dog waste is not on the path in rural areas it should not have to be picked up**. There were also comments suggesting that this part of the PSPO needs to be **properly enforced**.

Part B – Dogs on Leads by Direction

Just under **two thirds** of respondents agreed that **dogs on leads by direction should apply to Fishbourne Channel**. The main reason for disagreement was that **as long as a dog is under control it should not have to be on a lead**, the second most common was that dogs require exercise off the lead.

There seemed to be some misunderstanding among respondents regarding this part of the order. **Dogs on leads by direction does not mean that dogs have to be kept on leads at all times** in these areas, only if told to do so by an appropriate officer of Chichester District Council who feels that the dog in question is **causing disturbance or posing a threat to the wildlife in the area**, for example.

Part C – Exclusion of Dogs

There was a **high level of agreement for the exclusion of dogs from children's play areas** all year round, this is reflected in the open comments with some respondents suggesting that dogs should not be excluded from all places as long as they are on a lead but stressed that they did not include children's parks in this. **Bishop's Palace Gardens and Priory Park elicited high levels of disagreement** and a few open comments suggesting that exclusion is too harsh and that dogs should be permitted here on leads.

Although the **majority of respondents agreed that dogs should be excluded from the beach and foreshore areas listed between May and September** there was still a relatively high level of disagreement and number of respondents saying they were unsure. Respondents said that the **specified 'Summer season' is too long**, there were comments about **enforcement** and again that **dogs should not be excluded, just kept on leads**.

The Public Spaces Protection Order Overall

Most of the comments overall were about properly **enforcing the order**, doing more to **encourage responsible dog ownership** through education and suggestions that a **dog licence should be required** to own dogs.

For more information on this report or for full listings of comments, please contact the Communities Team on 01243 521261 or community@chichester.gov.uk

Appendix A – Social Media Timeline

- **Overall reach:** 54,100;
- **Overall shares:** 45;
- **Overall clicks:** 293; and
- **Overall comments:** 11.

The results of posts broken down individually are:

15 Feb: posted at 9.17am.

Twitter: Reach: 10.6 k; 0 comments; 2 shares; 1 like; 14 clicks.

Facebook: Reach: 4.4k; 4 comments; 16 shares; 7 likes; 100 clicks.

19 Feb: posted at 2.14pm.

Twitter: 9.6k reach; 0 comments; 2 shares; 0 likes; 15 clicks.

Facebook: 6.1k reach; 3 comments; 5 shares; 0 likes; 37 clicks.

23 Feb: posted at 2.14pm

Twitter: 6.0k reach; 0 comments; 0 shares; 0 likes; 3 clicks.

Facebook: 4.3k; 0 comments; 1 share; 2 likes; 12 clicks.

27 Feb: posted at 4.12pm.

Twitter: 6.2k reach; 0 comments; 1 share; 0 likes; 7 clicks.

Facebook: 6.1k reach; 3 comments; 10 shares; 1 like; 56 clicks.

3 March: posted at 6pm.

Twitter: 9.6k reach; 0 comments; 1 share; 0 likes; 8 clicks.

Facebook: 3.9k reach; 1 comment; 5 shares; 5 likes; 15 clicks.

7 March: posted at 8.13am.

Twitter: 6.0k reach; 0 comments; 0 shares; 0 likes; 5 clicks.

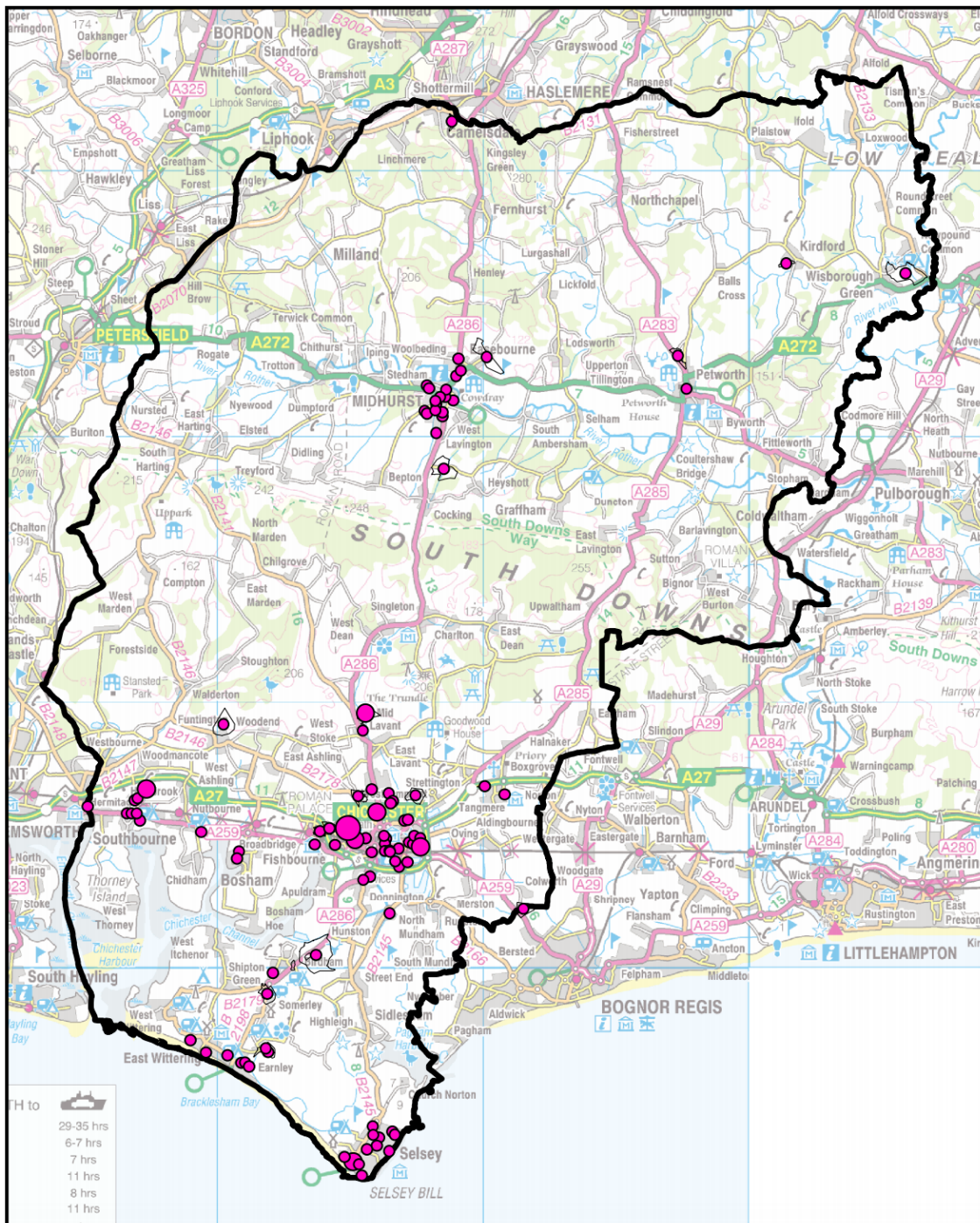
Facebook: 3.2k reach; 0 comments; 1 share; 0 likes; 13 clicks.

13 March: posted at 10.05am.

Twitter: 6.1k reach; 0 comments; 1 share; 0 likes; 2 clicks.

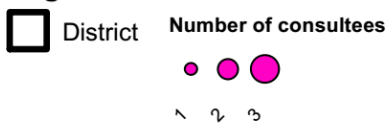
Facebook: 2.2k reach; 0 comments; 0 shares; 1 like; 6 clicks.

Appendix B – Mapped Respondent Postcodes



PSPO Control of Dogs consultation

Legend



Date Saved: 22/03/2017

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