

## Public Spaces Protection Order Consultation - Enhanced Dog Control Powers

Daventry District Council is considering amending a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO), giving its enforcement officers broader powers to deal with dog owners who fail to properly control their pets in public open spaces across the district. As well as testing those laws already in place, the Council is keen to take advantage of this opportunity to expand the requirements of the existing Public Spaces Protection Order and consult on more innovative ideas which would extend the remit to encompass other pressing local issues that fall within the description of antisocial behaviour. Comments of the Parish Council on the proposals are requested during a statutory consultation period from Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2018 to Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

The Council currently enforces five dog control orders that make it an offence for people who:

- Fail to pick up after their dog
- Allow their dog into a designated children's play area
- Fail to put their dog on a lead when directed to do so by a Council officer
- Fail to keep their dog on a lead within a designated area at Daventry Country Park
- Fail to have the means to pick up after their dog.

It is considering introducing nine additional new powers, which aim to enhance the Council's ability to deal with irresponsible dog owners. These changes include:

- Dogs should always be on a lead in graveyards, cemeteries or memorial gardens
- Dogs should always be kept on leads near schools
- Dogs should always be kept on leads in built up areas
- Dogs should be excluded from playing areas of marked and maintained sports pitches (in season)
- A defined lead length and type of lead is to be used in areas where a dog should be on a lead
- A restriction on the number of dogs to be walked at any one time
- Prohibition of smoking from defined children's play areas
- Introduce DNA restricted areas of public space
- Delegation of enforcement powers to parish councils

I would be particularly interested in hearing from parish councils who wish to consider adopting powers currently used by our dog wardens. If you wish to discuss this proposal informally please contact Paul Knight, Environmental Health Manager on 01327 302537.

I would be grateful if you could provide a response on behalf of the Parish Council by midnight on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July. Representations can be made to Daventry District Council by completing the online feedback form, which can be accessed on the council website [www.daventrydc.gov.uk/consultation](http://www.daventrydc.gov.uk/consultation) or by writing to the Environmental Improvement Team, Daventry District Council, Lodge Road, Daventry Northants, NN11 4FP. If you would like to have an informal chat about the new proposals, especially in relation to the delegation of enforcement powers to parish councils, please contact Paul Knight via [pknight@daventrydc.gov.uk](mailto:pknight@daventrydc.gov.uk)

It would also be appreciated if you could raise awareness of this consultation amongst parish residents, by displaying the attached poster and leaflet on public notice boards, in your parish newsletter and via any social media networks as appropriate and encourage residents to complete the online feedback form.

I would like to thank you for your support with this matter.

Regards,

**Rebecca Edgar**

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