

Agenda Item 5

ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 4TH APRIL,
2019 -

**REFERENCE FROM CABINET: 18TH MARCH, 2019 – PUBLIC SPACES
PROTECTION ORDERS – DOG CONTROLS (NST)**

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION –

Attached are 4 comments received via email by Democratic Services.

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Davies, Gareth J

Subject: FW: Sports pitches and dogs

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 29 March 2019 13:44

To: Democratic <Democratic@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk>; Consultation <consultation@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk>

Subject: Sports pitches and dogs

[REDACTED]

----- Original message -----

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 21/03/2019 23:14 (GMT+00:00)

To: consultation@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Subject: Sports pitches and dogs

Further to the recently published PSPO consultation results, whilst I appreciate that it is very difficult to please everyone, it is very disheartening to see that the health and safety of young people (and adults) has been overlooked over the preference of well-being of dogs. It is a well known fact that dog faeces can cause blindness and whilst even responsible dog owners pick up dog faeces, traces will remain. Children playing sports to keep active and healthy are therefore exposed to unnecessary risk. Surely there is enough area around pitches / other areas to exercise dogs to allow a safe and restricted playing area for sports.

Furthermore, I have stood pitch side many a weekend (and training evening) to see dog owners exercising their dogs alongside, and on pitches whilst children are playing. Sometimes this is exacerbated with dog owners using extendable leads so dogs are 'wandering' onto pitches in middle of play. Again, this can be dangerous and so could there at least be consideration that extendable leads should not be used around sports pitches whilst participants are using them!

Finall, is there any way of putting notices near entrances to playgrounds to request dog owners to be mindful of where dogs are 'tied up' so they are not directly next to playground entrances. This can be very intimidating for children who have had bad experiences with dogs / frightened of dogs and can indeed put some children off attending the park, an activity that should be a natural part of a childhood and not feared / shyed away from, especially at a time when we are trying to ensure we do not have a generation of obese young people.

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Davies, Gareth J

Subject: FW: For consideration by Cabinet in relation to the Public Space Protection Order relating to dogs accessing sports pitches

From: [REDACTED] >

Sent: 29 March 2019 14:22

To: Democratic <Democratic@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk>

Subject: For consideration by Cabinet in relation to the Public Space Protection Order relating to dogs accessing sports pitches

I would be grateful if you could pass these comments onto the necessary Officers / Councillors for their consideration in relation to the recent policy passed regarding dogs.

I am delighted that the Council is committed to ensuring the health and wellbeing of residents as highlighted in your corporate plan. I was therefore very disappointed to see that you have now agreed to allow dogs to roam onto sports fields. I am a loss to understand why the Council is in essence putting the health of children, young people and adults who use these facilities at risk just to allow dogs to have extra space to roam. There are already enough places to enable the needs of dogs to be met so I am baffled as to the rationale for this decision.

It is a known fact that dog faeces can cause damage to human eyesight. Regardless of whether the faeces is picked up there will still be remnants on the pitch. This is extremely concerning, especially as I have family members who use such facilities.

I am also concerned about dogs being able to roam freely in spaces where there are many children such as in parks which have fixed play areas. Many children and indeed adults are wary of dogs so to allow them to run freely where children are playing is not appropriate. I applaud the decision of dogs not being able to enter fixed play spaces, however this will just result in the dogs either being left to roam the park whilst parents are looking after the children or the dogs are tied up around the Play area fencing. Again, very intimidating for children and some adults. Again there are enough open spaces for dogs to roam without the need for them to access spaces where children play.

I would be grateful for these comments to be taken into consideration. It would also be grateful to hear the rationale for why it is considered appropriate to allow dogs onto pitches. I look forward to a response.

Regards

[REDACTED]

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Davies, Gareth J

Subject: FW: Dog ban/restrictions

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 1, 2019 7:05 PM
To: Consultation <consultation@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk>
Subject: Dog ban/restrictions

Dear vale of glamorgan council

As a responsible dog owner of 2 active dogs, I am grateful at the proposals to lift some of the dog bans on local green areas. However one of my local walks - Alexandra Gardens still will have a restriction/ban that is impossible to stop dogs from stepping on. This being, the exercise area to the side of the tennis courts. I fully support the restrictions in the tennis courts and childrens play areas and these are clearly fenced off. The exercise area however is very very close to the path running alongside it - part of the circular walk around the park. When passing the community hall at the bottom of the park the path curves back round, almost touching the concrete area where the exercise equipment is. My dogs naturally cross the corner of this area, meaning under the new proposals I would be fined. I usually do [REDACTED], [REDACTED] times a day ! I'm wondering are the council considering to fence this area off - particularly the base of the exercise area just past the community hall. This would certainly avoid any stray paws and prevent any unnecessary fines. Please can this be considered seriously before anything definite is decided. Can this be brought up on my behalf at the Scrutiny Meeting scheduled for Thursday 4th April 2019

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

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Davies, Gareth J

Subject: FW: Pspo dog control & barry island parking - scrutiny meeting this week

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 April 2019 18:06
To: Democratic <Democratic@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk>
Subject: Pspo dog control & barry island parking - scrutiny meeting this week

Dear Sir / Madam,
I am unable to attend the scrutiny meeting this week as i am working. I would like the following points to be noted.

Barry Island Car Parking Charges

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(2). Dog Control PSPO

I refer you to my comments in the Gem (see attachments below)and would like the council to either commit to fencing the gym zone OR exclude it from the no dogs area OR provide a sensible notice at the site re recalling your dog if strays a paw onto the area rather than a huge fine. My dog regularly cuts over the corner of the gym just walking around the path. I want reassurance that the council staff will be sensible?

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New dog controls in the Vale

THE Vale Council won't be introducing any more restrictions on dogs at locations that include sports pitches—although there will be controls elsewhere.

The decision has been welcomed by local dog owners.

On Monday, March 18 the Vale Cabinet agreed to introduce a PSPO—a public space protection order—to ensure there are effective controls on dogs in specified areas. The PSPO report will be considered next by a scrutiny committee before the likelihood of it being formally agreed by the Cabinet.

The report says dog bans will exist all year round in all fenced off children's play areas, conservation areas and bowling greens and will apply on a seasonal basis on the beaches at Whitmore Bay, Durnaven Bay and Cwm Colbau.

⚠️ Dog bans won't apply at Cold Knap and Penarth Beach. 'Dog on lead' controls will apply in parks where children's play areas are not fenced off and at Penarth and Whitmore Bay promenades. At Whitmore Bay, the 'dog on lead' control will include the promenade gardens. The controls will be all year round.

There won't be any more restrictions introduced on sports pitches because measures are in place which enable the council to take action if dog mess is not picked up by owners. The council says there's going to be increased enforcement, but says it hopes there will be a 'good working relationship with responsible owners.

The new PSPO regime will last for three years and maps with full details will be published on the Vale Council's website.

Last year, during the consultation period on the PSPO, local dog owner Sue Cribbs started a Facebook group 'Objections to the VOG Council Public Space Protection Order Dog Control', which now has almost 2,000 members. She has always emphasised that responsible dog owners support the council when it cracks down on dog fouling.

This week, speaking in a personal capacity and not as a group spokesperson, she said: "I'm pleased that

less draconian measures are planned in the amended PSPO but I am disappointed in the plans for my local park, Alexander Gardens in Barry.

"It had a fitness area used by adults and teenagers but not young children that is not fenced off. It also has benches and tables. If the PSPO goes ahead this will be a dog 'no go area'. The executive summary of the report only talks about fenced children's areas being banned, so this is misleading.

"The path around the park runs a couple of feet away from the gym area in places and it will be impossible to keep an off-lead dog from straying onto the gym area."

She said council staff would need to show discretion in how measures were applied to the restricted areas. On her Facebook group, the Vale Council's decision not to introduce more restrictions at sports pitches was welcomed with one person commenting: "I moved to Barry from Cardiff last November and we campaigned against the banning of dogs on sports pitches.

"The vast majority of city centre open spaces in Cardiff had sports pitches on and there was statistically more of an issue with rubbish and litter, especially after a weekend of sports, than with dog owners letting their dogs foul on pitches.

"You will never stop irresponsible owners from not picking up after their dogs no matter what restrictions and bans are in place. Better to take responsibility as owners, educate, and try to encourage compliance rather than tax owners all with the same brush.

"I was happy when Cardiff council retracted their plans to ban (on sports pitches) and I am happy that the Vale has followed suit now I am resident here."

TC

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Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

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