

Public Space Protection Orders – Responsible Dog Ownership

Approval for Public Space Protection Orders which provide powers for the control of nuisance dogs and dog fouling. Power to grant a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) falls under The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and has a life span of 3 years.

The orders provide a framework for enforcement of the following issues:

- A person must pick up their dogs fouling when it has fouled on any public land open to the air. This includes highways and footpaths, parks and open spaces,
- Dogs should be under control at all times and put on a lead when directed by an authorised officer.
- Dogs to be excluded from fenced children's play areas and open cemeteries.
- Dogs to be kept on a lead in closed cemeteries and in certain parks where the play equipment is not gated off.

Breaches – It is an offence for a person without reasonable excuse to do anything that the person is prohibited from doing or fails to comply with a requirement of a PSPO. The current fine is £75 in Fenland with an early payment incentive of £65 if paid within 21 days of issue. A review of fines is proposed in early 2021. If prosecuted the maximum fine is £1,000.

Positive community engagement has been undertaken in July and August 2020 with dog owners and the community in Fenland offering overwhelming support to the Council's proposal to apply for a new Public Space Protection Order. All partner responses were in support of the order.