



Consultation on new Dog Control Article

West Devon Borough Council (WDBC) issued a Public Consultation on Dog Controls across the Borough asking the general public, and Town and Parish Councils to let them know if there were any local concerns regarding dog controls. The Consultation ran from 1st June to 31st July 2020.

Following a good response, this led them to believe that the majority of residents were happy with the status quo which has been in place, in general since 2014, and is as follows:

On all land which is in the administrative area of the Borough Council and which is: open to the air; and, to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access with or without payment (except Forestry Commission lands). This land is referred to as 'the restricted land' in the rules.

- Dog walkers must pick up the faeces (and dispose of in a responsible manner) if their dog defecates on land in the restricted area
- Dogs must be kept on leads on all areas covered by Rule 56 of the Highway Code which includes the road, the pavement or on a path shared with cyclists or horse riders (this rule supports the Traffic Act(s) enforced by the Police)
- Dogs must be kept on leads on: Areas with retail premises designated as zone 1 under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, i.e., where there are 2 or more commercial / shop premises; in Car Parks; Cemeteries and Churchyards; Any fenced, hedged or walled pond, area of water or nature reserve; Marked sports fields whilst organised sport is in progress; and, Areas delineated as formal gardens.
- Dogs must be put on leads by direction, i.e., when so asked by an authorised officer
- Dogs are excluded from any fenced, hedged or walled site delineated as a children's play area; bowling green; tennis court; putting green; and any sporting or recreational facility pitch when sport is in play.

There are exemptions for those registered blind and with a disability which affects mobility, manual dexterity, physical coordination or ability to lift and who relies for assistance on a dog trained by a prescribed charity such as Dogs for the Good; Support Dogs; or, Canine partners for Independence.

The only difference is that the proposed new Order will include a control that dog walkers must carry the means to pick up faeces if their dog defecates on land in the restricted area.

WDBC have extended the review period to ensure that they have considered all concerns or suggestions regarding the proposed new Dog Control Article. If you have any further concerns that you would like to report, then please contact Honey Foskett at honey.Foskett@swdevon.gov.uk or the Clerk at clerk@northlewparrishcouncil.org.uk. You can also find further information at <https://www.westdevon.gov.uk/article/4118/Dog-Control-Orders>

Thank you.