

# **ANALYSIS OF RESPONSES TO THE NORTH DEVON COUNCIL 2020 PSPO DOG CONTROL PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

**INDEPENDENT  
ANALYSIS  
CONDUCTED BY  
TONIC**

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## Contents

Executive Summary .....	3
1. Background to the Consultation .....	11
2. Methodology .....	12
3. Findings from the Analysis of Consultation Responses .....	14
3.1 Responses to the Consultation .....	14
3.2 Part A - Proposals for Controlling Dog Fouling .....	15
3.3 Part B - Dog Control.....	26
3.4 Part C - Formal Sports Pitches.....	49
3.5 Part D - Tarka Trail.....	57
3.6 Part E - Braunton Burrows Special Area of Conservation (SAC).....	64
3.7 Part F - High Tide Roosting Sites .....	72

## Executive Summary

### A. INTRODUCTION

#### Background

North Devon Council consulted the public on plans to introduce a new Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to introduce controls to help address antisocial behaviour associated with dog waste and uncontrolled dogs, while still providing open spaces where owners can freely exercise their dogs. TONIC were commissioned to conduct and report on the findings of an independent analysis of responses to the consultation.

#### Methodology

Responses were received from an online survey and by email and letter, with all responses types brought together for analysis and treated in the same way – namely, all quantitative responses were counted and all qualitative responses were read and analysed in order to identify key themes that support or oppose the proposals, as well as provide suggestions and other comments. The analysis findings are set out in this report.

#### Response Numbers

There were 3,078 responses to the consultation, with the vast majority (3,017) responding via the online consultation portal and a further 61 responding by email or letter. Responses came from across North Devon and surrounding areas, as well as from other areas in the country.

#### Consultation Proposals

The consultation put forward questions on the following set of proposals:

- Part A - Proposals for Controlling Dog Fouling
- Part B - Dog Control
- Part C - Formal Sports Pitches
- Part D - Tarka Trail
- Part E - Braunton Burrows Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Part F - High Tide Roosting Sites

### B. FINDINGS

#### Quantitative Findings

The majority of respondents supported the majority of proposals - with over half of respondents expressing their support for two thirds (67%) of the questions (18 out of 27) relating to the proposals. Support ranged from 53% to 92% across the proposals. Of the remaining 9 questions, 8 had narrow majorities for those who opposed the proposal – ranging from 53% to 59% opposed. The remaining proposal showed equal levels of support and opposition. This table sets out a summary of the proposals broken down by whether they had majority support or opposition to them from those who responded to the consultation:

Table 1 - sets out a summary of the responses to the quantitative questions:

Part	Ref	Proposals	Response Rates	Summary	
PART A: Proposals for Controlling Dog Fouling	A1	Introduction of a PSPO to further control dog fouling		Majority support	
	A2	Introduction of dog fouling controls on all public spaces across the district		Majority support	
	A3	Introduction of dog fouling controls on the six beaches identified		Majority support	
	A4	Give delegated authority to approved third parties to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of enforcing dog fouling controls		Majority support	
PART B: Proposals for Dog Control	B1	Address nuisance or offence caused by dogs in public cemeteries, and nuisance on the six busy amenity beaches through a PSPO		Majority support	
	B2	Proposed controls in enclosed children's play areas		Majority support	
	B4	Proposed controls for dogs in public cemeteries		Majority support	
	B6	Proposed controls on Saunton Sands		Majority oppose	
	B7	Proposed controls on Woolacombe Sands		Majority oppose	
	B8	Proposed controls on Putsborough Sands		Majority oppose	
	B9	Proposed controls on Instow beach		Majority oppose	
	B10	Proposed controls on Croyde Bay		Equal	
	B11	Proposed controls on Combe Martin beach		Majority oppose	
	B12	Proposed designated areas of the beaches being promoted as being "dog friendly"		Majority support	
	B13	Proposed controls to require a person to place their dogs on a lead of 2 meters in length or less, as directed by a suitably delegated person or		Majority support	
	PART C: Proposals for Formal Sports Pitches	C1	Address dog fouling on public and privately owned formal sports pitches through the introduction of a PSPO		Majority support
		C2	Proposed controls for all public and privately owned sports pitches across the district		Majority support
C3		Give delegated authority to approved third parties to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of enforcing the controls on public and privately owned		Majority support	
PART D: Proposals for the Tarka Trail	D1	Address issues caused by the presence of dogs 'off lead' on the Tarka Trail through the introduction of a PSPO		Majority oppose	
	D2	Proposed controls to prohibit the presence of dogs 'off lead' on the Tarka Trail		Majority oppose	
	D3	Proposed controls to require a person to place their dogs on a lead of 2 metre length or less, as directed by a suitably delegated person/Officer		Majority oppose	
PART E: Proposals for Braunton Burrows SAC	E1	Address the issue of uncontrolled dogs disturbing grazing livestock in Braunton Burrows SAC through the introduction of a PSPO		Majority support	
	E2	Proposed controls to require a person to place their dog on a lead of 2 metres length or less in Braunton Burrows SAC, as directed by a suitably		Majority support	
	E3	Proposed controls to prohibit the presence of dogs 'off lead' in Braunton Burrows SAC at specific locations at appropriate times of the year		Majority support	
PART F: Proposals for High Tide Roosting Sites	F1	Address concerns about the impact of dogs 'off leads' on certain sites of the Taw/Torridge Estuary through the introduction of a PSPO		Majority support	
	F2	Proposed controls to prohibit the presence of dogs in the identified locations at appropriate times of the year		Majority support	
	F3	Proposed controls to require a person to place their dogs on a lead of 2 metre length or less, as directed by a suitably delegated person or Officer		Majority support	

Table 2 – sets out a summary of proposals by whether there was majority support or opposition amongst consultation respondents

MAJORITY RESPONDENT SUPPORT FOR	MAJORITY RESPONDENT OPPOSITION TO
A1. Introduction of a PSPO to further control dog fouling	B6. Proposed controls on Saunton Sands
A2. Introduction of dog fouling controls on all public spaces across the district	B7. Proposed controls on Woolacombe Sands
A3. Introduction of dog fouling controls on the six beaches identified	B8. Proposed controls on Putsborough Sands
A4. Giving delegated authority to approved third parties to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of enforcing dog fouling controls	B9. Proposed controls on Instow beach
B1. Address nuisance or offence caused by dogs in public cemeteries, and nuisance on the six busy amenity beaches through a PSPO	B11. Proposed controls on Combe Martin beach
B2. Proposed controls in enclosed children’s play areas	D1. Address issues caused by the presence of dogs 'off lead' on the Tarka Trail through introduction of a PSPO
B4. Proposed controls for dogs in public cemeteries	D2. Proposed controls to prohibit the presence of dogs 'off lead' on the Tarka Trail
B12. Proposed designated areas of the beaches being promoted as being “dog friendly”	D3. Proposed controls to require a person to place their dogs on a lead of 2 metre length or less, as directed by a suitably delegated person/Officer
B13. Proposed controls to require a person to place their dogs on a lead of 2 meters in length or less, as directed by a suitably delegated person or Officer	B6. Proposed controls on Saunton Sands
C1. Address dog fouling on public and privately owned formal sports pitches through the introduction of a PSPO	EQUAL SUPPORT & OPPOSITION FROM RESPONDENTS
C2. Proposed controls for all public and privately owned sports pitches across the district	B10. Proposed controls on Croyde Bay
C3. Giving delegated authority to approved third parties to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of enforcing the controls on public and privately owned sports pitches across the district to address dog fouling	
E1. Address the issue of uncontrolled dogs disturbing grazing livestock in Braunton Burrows SAC through the introduction of a PSPO	
E2. Proposed controls to require a person to place their dog on a lead of 2 metres length or less in Braunton Burrows SAC, as directed by a suitably delegated person or Officer	
E3. Proposed controls to prohibit the presence of dogs 'off lead' in Braunton Burrows SAC at specific locations at appropriate times of the year	
F1. Address concerns about the impact of dogs 'off leads' on certain sites of the Taw/Torridge Estuary through the introduction of a PSPO	
F2. Proposed controls to prohibit the presence of dogs in the identified locations at appropriate times of the year	
F3. Proposed controls to require a person to place their dogs on a lead of 2 metre length or less, as directed by a suitably delegated person or Officer	

## Analysis of comments and suggestions

The most commonly occurring suggestions and comments made in support or opposition to the proposals are summarised in the following tables:

### A5 – Alternative controls which would achieve the same aim as the proposals in relation to dog fouling

Suggested alternative control	% of people who provided an answer to this question who made this suggestion	% of total respondents to the consultation
Provide more dog waste bags and bins with more frequent emptying	25%	11%
Clear signage is needed for fines and where and when dogs should be “on lead”	12%	5%
Campaigns and training to encourage dog owners to be responsible	8%	4%
All dogs should be kept on leads	6%	3%

Related Comments	% of people who provided an answer to this question who made this suggestion	% of total respondents to the consultation
<b>Support</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>19%</b>
It is important to deal with dog fouling	4%	2%
People should take responsibility if they do not look after their dogs properly	4%	2%
Higher penalties for dog fouling	3%	1%
<b>Opposition</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>15%</b>
Dog walkers are generally responsible – only a minority are irresponsible	15%	7%
Action on littering is more important	12%	5%
There must be some controls on fines from “third parties”	7%	3%

### B3 – Alternative controls which would achieve the same aim as these proposals in children's play areas

Suggested alternative control	% of people who provided an answer to this question who made this suggestion	% of total respondents to the consultation
Ban dogs in general from children's play areas	21%	4%
Provide clear fenced-off areas designated for children's play with entry prohibited by dogs	6%	1%
All dogs should be kept on lead at all times	3%	1%
Set out specific times of day to allow dog walking off lead	3%	1%

Related Comments	% of people who provided an answer to this question who made this suggestion	% of total respondents to the consultation
<b>Support</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>5%</b>
Dogs upset and scare individuals and children	2%	0%
This will keep children safe from dogs’ behaviour and possible health hazards from dog waste	2%	0%
Support for higher penalties	1%	0%
<b>Opposition</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>7%</b>
The area chosen is too large – beaches and/or cemeteries should not be included in a dog ban on or off lead	8%	2%
These regulations are already in place - we do not need new rules, just enforce the rules we have	5%	1%
Litter and antisocial behaviour are more important issues	4%	1%

**B5 – Alternative controls which would achieve the same aim as these proposals in public cemeteries**

Suggested alternative control	% of people who provided an answer to this question who made this suggestion	% of total respondents to the consultation
Ban dogs from cemeteries – exception for assistance dogs	11%	1%
Provide better signage, advice and notices in local papers – provide training on responsible ownership. Dog licences should be mandated	10%	1%
Keep dogs on leads at all times	2%	0%
Provide dog racks to tie dogs to when visiting cemeteries	1%	0%

Related Comments	% of people who provided an answer to this question who made this suggestion	% of total respondents to the consultation
<b>Support</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>4%</b>
Larger penalty needed	3%	0%
A larger area should be included in this proposal	1%	0%
<b>Opposition</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>3%</b>
Owners already control dogs in cemeteries - enforce existing rules	6%	1%
Provide designated areas for dogs on beaches	5%	0%
Only fine uncontrolled dogs – allow controlled dogs off lead	4%	0%
Private sector companies should not get revenue - Process should be fair and evidence should be provided when issuing fines	3%	0%
Provide designated areas in cemeteries to walk dogs	3%	0%

**B14 – Alternative controls which would achieve the same aims as these proposals on the beaches**

Suggested alternative control	% of people who provided an answer to this question who made this suggestion	% of total respondents to the consultation
Clearer signage needed - for rules, fines, ways the public can report offenders. Educate and train owners. Monitor with CCTV	8%	3%
Dogs should be kept on lead at all times	3%	1%
Specify times of day dogs can be allowed “off lead” – e.g. when not busy	3%	1%
Limit the number of people and cyclists who can use the trail at certain times. Limit the number of dogs per person	2%	1%
Uncontrolled dogs should be on lead - dedicated person to enforce this	2%	1%
Provide separate area for bikers and dog walkers on the Tarka trail	2%	1%
Dogs should be kept on short leads on the Tarka trail	2%	1%

Related Comments	% of people who provided an answer to this question who made this suggestion	% of total respondents to the consultation
<b>Support</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>6%</b>
Dogs are dangerous and unpredictable – not everyone is safe around dogs, and they can be a danger to wildlife	2%	1%
People should take responsibility for their dogs – those that do will not object to these proposals	1%	0%
<b>Opposition</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>26%</b>
Walking a controlled dog “off lead” responsibly is not dangerous – do not single out dog owners	38%	16%
This leaves few options for walking dogs – especially for elderly, disabled, and those living near these areas.	10%	4%
Target the irresponsible minority	9%	4%

**C4 – Alternative controls to achieve the same aim as the proposals for public and privately owned sports pitches**

Suggested alternative control	% of people who provided an answer to this question who made this suggestion	% of total respondents to the consultation
Clear signage and more enforcement of existing rules – encourage people to act responsibly	12%	2%
Provide more dog waste bags and bins that are regularly emptied	3%	1%
Fence off areas dogs should not be in and/or apply this rule only during the sporting season	3%	1%
Enable public reporting, name and shame offenders and ban them from these areas, monitor through CCTV and provide an appeal system	3%	1%

Related Comments	% of people who provided an answer to this question who made this suggestion	% of total respondents to the consultation
Support - FPNs for dog fouling	36%	7%
Support - dog ban	24%	5%
Provide alternative suitable spaces for dogs nearby	5%	1%
This will protect public from health hazard of dog fouling	3%	1%
Increase the fines – owners should then have to be educated	2%	0%
Oppose – General opposition	27%	7%
Oppose - Dog ban	31%	5%
Dogs “on lead” should be allowed around pitches but not on them	12%	3%
Concerns about using third parties – this should only be the local authority dog wardens. Must be fair and well controlled	11%	2%
Sports pitches should be used by all – dogs should be allowed in these areas as long as they are under control	9%	2%

**D4 – Alternative controls which would achieve the same aim as these proposals on the Tarka Trail**

Suggested alternative control	% of people who provided an answer to this question who made this suggestion	% of total respondents to the consultation
Better enforcement of current rules - including clear signage to raise awareness and educate the public; a reporting mechanism for the public; training for dog owners who receive FPNs – especially repeat offenders; and CCTV	10%	4%
Dogs not under control should be “on lead”	4%	2%
Allocate certain times of day specifically for dog walking	3%	1%
Divide the trail – with dog walkers on one side and cyclists on the other	2%	1%

Related Comments	% of people who provided an answer to this question who made this suggestion	% of total respondents to the consultation
Support	16%	6%
Dogs are dangerous and unpredictable	6%	2%
Being “on lead” protects dogs from cyclists, runners and children	2%	1%
Responsible dog owners will not disagree with these proposals	2%	1%
Opposition	62%	25%
The Tarka Trail is a shared, multi-use space, so fines should not be given to every dog owner whose dog is “off lead” but to all people who cause a nuisance – including irresponsible dog owners and cyclists	33%	13%
Restrict the proposal to busy periods and/or certain areas of the trail	9%	4%
2m lead rule is an issue – too long, too short or more dangerous	6%	3%



**E4 – Alternative controls which would achieve the same aim as these proposals for the Braunton Burrows SAC**

Suggested alternative control	% of people who provided an answer to this question who made this suggestion	% of total respondents to the consultation
Provide more signage - CCTV, reporting mechanism and ways the public can report offences. Train and educate dog owners on how to behave around livestock	19%	5%
Enforce existing rules	17%	4%
Dogs disturbing livestock should be put on leads or fined by a warden – including harsher punishments for repeat offenders	6%	1%
All dogs should be on leads at all times	3%	1%

Related Comments	% of people who provided an answer to this question who made this suggestion	% of total respondents to the consultation
<b>Support</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>5%</b>
Support for proposals in areas around livestock, nesting birds and wildlife	8%	2%
Increase the fine	1%	0%
<b>Opposition</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>12%</b>
Majority of responsible dog owners should not be put under restrictions	16%	4%
There is enough space for dogs to be on and off lead in the Burrows	12%	3%
The Burrows are the only place left that dogs can run free to exercise	8%	2%
2m lead is too short	4%	1%
Cattle should not be there	3%	1%
Concerns with third party issuing fines – evidence should be clearly presented	2%	1%

**F4 – Achieving the aim of these proposals at High Tide Roosting Sites**

Suggested alternative control	% of people who provided an answer to this question who made this suggestion	% of total respondents to the consultation
Provide more signage – to inform and educate dog owners on how to behave in this area, advising where roosting sites are and where dogs must be “on lead”	26%	5%
Fence off bird roosting areas to protect them	4%	1%
Ban dogs from these areas completely	2%	0%
Enforce existing rules better	2%	0%

Related Comments	% of people who provided an answer to this question who made this suggestion	% of total respondents to the consultation
<b>Support</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>5%</b>
Protects wildlife	4%	1%
Dogs should be kept on leads and under strict control in nature reserves and around wildlife	4%	1%
<b>Opposition</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>7%</b>
Object to blanket ban – dogs should be allowed in these areas on lead at certain times	6%	1%
Only irresponsible owners should be fined – the responsible majority should not be punished	6%	1%
These measures are unnecessary and discriminatory against dog owners	5%	1%

## Other issues raised

Respondents also raised a number of points that were not directly related to the specific consultation questions. These centred on the following issues:

- Objecting in principle to the concept of banning dogs from public areas
- Cyclists being seen as the main problem that needs to be addressed in these areas
- Concerns that these proposals will have a negative impact on tourism and the local economy
- Other issues need to be tackled in these areas – including antisocial behaviour, drug abuse, littering, teenage drinking
- More restrictions on dog walking in these areas will lead to dog walkers using other less safe areas, such as farmland
- Dog walking has many benefits, such as socialising, exercise, mental health, and family time
- Criticisms of the consultation process, including respondents expressing their feelings that the way the proposals were set out was confusing; that there was insufficient information to make informed decisions about the proposals; and that they experienced problems accessing the online consultation

## 1. Background to the Consultation

North Devon Council have consulted on plans to introduce a new Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to introduce controls to help address antisocial behaviour associated with dog waste and uncontrolled dogs while still providing open spaces where owners can freely exercise their dogs.

The nine week consultation, which ended on the 14th August 2020, aimed to gain the community's views on a number of proposed district-wide control measures at specific locations where dog fouling and dog control are a problem, including: sports pitches, cemeteries, enclosed play areas and high tide roosting sites. This included some specific beaches, the Tarka Trail and Braunton Burrows.

The proposed measures would give each private landowner discretion on how they wished the PSPO to be enforced and failure to follow the controls could result in a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) of £100.

In developing this, the Council took guidance from The Kennel Club, which has made recommendations for local authorities to reduce the risk of unfair and disproportionate controls on responsible dog walkers. The Council was also interested in exploring non-regulatory alternatives and in asking residents and visitors to share their ideas through the consultation.

The consultation had six elements:

- Part A - proposals for controlling dog fouling
- Part B - dog control
- Part C - formal sports pitches
- Part D - Tarka Trail
- Part E - Braunton Burrows Special Area of Conservation
- Part F - high tide resting sites

North Devon Council commissioned TONIC ([www.tonic.org.uk](http://www.tonic.org.uk)) to conduct an independent analysis of the responses to the public consultation. The findings from this analysis are set out in this report.

## 2. Methodology

### 2.1 Overview

Consultation responses were received from an online survey, by email and by letter. All response types were brought together for analysis and were treated in the same way. Only online survey responses have been counted in the quantitative analysis as they were the only response type that included this data.

After we received the response data, each individual answer was analysed. Statistical analysis was performed on the answers to all “closed” (quantitative) questions, while all “open” (qualitative) responses were read in full by our analysts. The range of issues presented were captured and explored through a coding process that enabled us to build a picture of the respondents’ sentiments and ideas, including specific examples, explanations for their opinions, and alternative suggestions, as well as the frequency that these sentiments and ideas arose in order to identify the most common and strongest arguments around an issue.

It should be noted that the numbers responding to each question is not always the same as the numbers presented in the respondent group table. Only some of the respondents answered all of the questions; others chose to comment on the questions (or sections) of greatest relevance to their organisation, sector or field of interest. The report indicates the number of respondents who commented on each question.

### 2.2 Quantitative Analysis

We performed quantitative analysis of the quantitative questions and have set out the response rates by stakeholder type as well as the overall totals for preferred options. Percentage figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number for the majority of questions, therefore, as a result, not all numbers add up to 100%.

## 2.2 Qualitative Analysis

We conducted a thorough qualitative thematic analysis. Thematic Analysis<sup>1</sup> is a simple and flexible form of qualitative analysis that is commonly used in social research. We have chosen this approach as it provides a way of summarising patterns in a large body of data, highlights similarities and differences across the data set, and can generate unanticipated insights. Our use of thematic analysis is driven by the consultation questions; all data that is relevant to the consultation questions is coded. The analysis is not guided by theory, but rather is data driven, providing an overall analysis of themes relevant to the consultation. Our analysis comprises of six steps:

- Step 1: A detailed reading of the data to become familiar with the text
- Step 2: Initial codes are then manually ascribed to the data, organising the data into meaningful groups relevant to the consultation questions
- Step 3: Codes that are conceptually related to one another are grouped together, and identified as themes. A theme is defined as capturing something important about the data in relation to the research question, and represents some level of patterned response or meaning within the data set
- Step 4: The themes are reviewed to determine whether they are internally coherent (i.e., all data within them are conceptually linked) and distinct from each other
- Step 5: We then define and name the themes with the aim of capturing the essence of the data they comprise. This stage also involves the identification of subthemes, which help to provide structure to the analysis. The relationship between the codes, subthemes and themes is then captured in a thematic map and coding book
- Step 6: We then write up the results, providing a narrative summary of the relationship between codes, subthemes and themes, including examples from the data to illustrate the essence of each theme

## 2.4 Report Structure

This report provides an overview of the responses received, setting out the main themes that emerged. Given the number and variety of consultation responses received, in order to present our analysis in a way that reduces duplication and makes sense to the reader, we have grouped themes together in the most logical locations in this report.

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<sup>1</sup> Braun and Clarke (2006)

### 3. Findings from the analysis of consultation responses

This section of the report sets out the data analysis from both the open and closed questions in the order they appeared within the consultation document.

#### 3.1 Responses to the Consultation

There were 3,078 responses to the consultation, with the majority (3,017) responding via the online consultation portal and a further 61 responding by email or letter. 1,900 respondents provided an address or postcode. Responses came from across North Devon and the surrounding areas, and are summarised in the following table showing all areas that had more than 1 response:

Postcode/Town/City	Number of respondents
EX39	269
EX31	266
EX33	224
EX34	199
EX32	125
Barnstaple	72
EX36	48
EX38	47
Braunton	44
Bideford	42
EX37	28
Ilfracombe	22
EX20	18
Only a street name provided	18
EX21	17
EX19	17
Instow	17
EX35	14
EX18	13
EX22	12
No Address Supplied	11
Croyde	11
South Molton	10
Combe Martin	10
Fremington	9
Northam	9
EX16	9
Appledore	8
EX17	8
Exeter	6
Yelland	6
PL20	5
EX15	5
TA4	4
Torrington	4
Westward Ho	4
Georgeham	4
BA3	4

Postcode/Town/City	Number of respondents
EX13	3
PL6	3
TQ13	3
Bratton Fleming	3
Somerset	3
EX23	3
EX14	3
Woolacombe	3
BS30	3
EX10	3
Bickington	3
Taunton	2
Winkleigh	2
EX8	2
GU16	2
EX4	2
HR8	2
EX6	2
EX2	2
Umberleigh	2
Landkey	2
SL4	2
North Devon	2
EX5	2
Witheridge	2
Tiverton	2
PL19	2
TQ12	2
EX24	2
TR13	2
PL24	2
Devon	2
B50	2
GL52	2
Plymouth	2
North Molton	2
Marwood	2

No further demographic data was collected as part of the consultation – e.g. age or gender – therefore no further information can be provided about who the respondents were.

## 3.2 Part A - proposals for controlling dog fouling

North Devon Council consulted on a new Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to introduce controls to help address antisocial behaviour associated with dog waste and uncontrolled dogs, while providing open spaces where owners can freely exercise their dogs. The Council believe the following regulatory controls should be considered to further control dog fouling:

- To issue £100 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) to people who do not pick up their dog waste in all public areas and on the beaches of Saunton Sands, Woolacombe Sands, Putsborough Sands, Instow, Croyde Bay and Combe Martin
- To increase the efficiency and effectiveness of enforcing this provision by giving delegated authority to approved third parties to issue FPNs in relation to the above.

### A1: Do you support us in addressing this area of community need through a PSPO?

The clear majority of respondents to this question (77%) supported the proposal of a PSPO to further control dog fouling.



### A2: Do you support the introduction of these controls on all public spaces across the district?

The majority of respondents (72%) support the introduction of dog fouling controls on all public spaces across the district.



### A3: Do you support introduction of these controls on all the beaches identified?

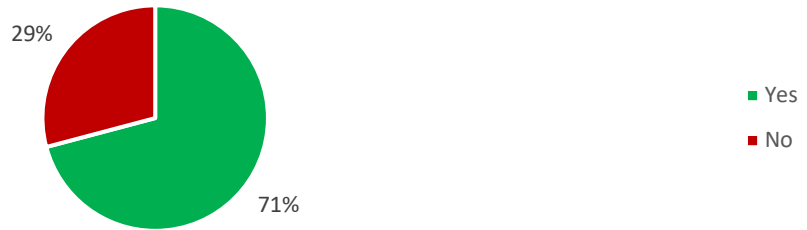
The majority of respondents (73%) support introduction of dog fouling controls on the 6 identified beaches – Saunton Sands, Woolacombe Sands, Putsborough Sands, Instow, Croyde Bay and Combe Martin.





**A4: Do you support us in giving delegated authority to approved third parties (such as police officers, Parish/Town Councils, beach owners, and other landowners) to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of enforcing these controls?**

The majority of respondents (73%) support the proposal for giving delegated authority to approved third parties to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of enforcing dog fouling controls.



**A5: Comments and suggestions for alternative controls which would achieve the same aim as these proposals in relation to dog fouling**

**Summary of Themes**

There were 1,394 responses to this question. 42% of those who provided a response to this question provided comments which supported the proposals made (this equates to 19% of total respondents). 34% gave comments which opposed the proposed actions (15% of the total). 48% provided alternative suggestions to be considered and 25% raised other points that they wanted considered.

THEME	No.	% of respondents to this question	% of total respondents
SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL	580	42%	19%
OPPOSE THE PROPOSAL	470	34%	15%
SUGGESTIONS FOR THIS POLICY	663	48%	22%
OTHER POINTS RAISED	350	25%	11%
NOT APPLICABLE	32	2%	1%

The tables below provide a summary of the themes identified in our analysis of all responses to this question.

## Support

THEME	No.	% of respondents to this question	% of total respondents
Advocate dealing with dog fouling as it is important (without explicitly supporting FPNs)	61	4%	2%
People should take responsibility for not looking after their dogs correctly	60	4%	2%
Higher penalties for dog fouling	41	3%	1%
This will help keep people safe from disease	32	2%	1%

## Oppose

THEME	No.	% of respondents to this question	% of total respondents
Dog walkers are generally responsible – only a minority are irresponsible. This would punish responsible dog owners	209	15%	7%
Action on littering is more important	162	12%	5%
There must be some controls on fines from “third parties” – private companies should not have this power, only the police or council officers. Conflict of interest if landlords and beach owners give out fines. This is a money making scheme	96	7%	3%
Tourists are the problem, not local people	16	1%	1%
This will cost the tax payer money that could be better used elsewhere	16	1%	1%
Patrolling officers will ruin the beauty of the place and put people off coming – the police and Council have enough to do already	11	1%	0%
The fine should be reduced	4	0%	0%

## Suggestions

THEME	No.	% of respondents to this question	% of total respondents
Provide more dog waste bags and bins and more frequent emptying of bins	350	25%	11%
Clear signage is needed for fines and when dogs need to be “on lead”. Specify “on lead” times of the day and year and designated areas. Make specific areas dog free	167	12%	5%
Flyers, signage and campaigns encouraging all dog owners to be responsible. Training for dog owners on how to responsibly look after their dog	118	8%	4%
All dogs should be kept on leads	80	6%	3%
Photographic evidence of dog fouling from the public and CCTV could be used to catch “offenders”	41	3%	1%
Introduce licences to keep dogs. Mandate dog training and chipping dogs for identification	30	2%	1%
Ban dogs from beaches and parks	26	2%	1%
This should include dog fouling on pavements and grassy areas. Other areas of Devon should be included in this	6	0%	0%
Increase fines for repeated offences	3	0%	0%

## Other

THEME	No.	% of respondents to this question	% of total respondents
Don't ban walking dogs – this is unfair for responsible dog walkers. Fears this may be an excuse to ban dogs all together	175	13%	6%
This will be bad for Devon's economy	109	8%	4%
Dog walking is a good for socialising, mental health, exercise and family time. Restrictions will make it harder for disabled people to enjoy dog walking	61	4%	2%

Cyclists are a problem on the Tarka Trail	48	3%	2%
Instow beach is not clean enough to swim, so should be used by dog walkers	32	2%	1%
Identification of repeated dog fouling owners. Name and shame and/or ban them from certain areas	21	2%	1%
Criticism of the consultation process	19	1%	1%
There are more pressing issues like antisocial behaviour and drug abuse in the area	17	1%	1%
“Stick and Flick” method is better than bags and bins	8	1%	0%
More restrictions on dog walking in these areas will lead to other areas, such as farmland, being at risk	7	1%	0%
Allow dogs “on lead” on beaches	3	0%	0%

## Themes in Detail

### Agree

#### **They advocate dealing with dog fouling / think it is important (without explicitly supporting the FPNs)**

People didn’t specifically mention FPNs however they agreed that dog fouling needed to be controlled in the form of punishment as it is an increasing problem in the area. They complained that there is not enough being done to reduce the amount of dog fouling and that it tarnishes the beauty of North Devon. People also mentioned that bags filled with dog excrement are left and that this is also a huge problem in the area, and that there is no excuse for someone to do that. Some people blamed this on dogs not being on leads, meaning that the owners may be unaware of the fouling.

#### **Less fouling would make people safer from infection and disease**

Respondents expressed concern regarding the diseases that can be caught from dog excrement, such as toxocarasis. This was especially important for children who play on beaches where dogs would regularly defecate around them. It was also mentioned that dog waste can be harmful to other animals as well.

#### **People should take responsibility for not looking after their dogs correctly**

Respondents felt that dog owners should be prepared to take responsibility for their dogs, including picking up after them when they have fouled and disposing of it in a proper manner. Dog owners who failed to do this, it was felt, should be either educated, by way of training, or penalised.

### **Higher penalty for dog fouling**

A higher penalty is needed for dog fouling in order to for it to act as a deterrent. This was mainly in the form of a larger FPN, e.g. £500. Some also mentioned that the higher penalty should include people being named and shamed, and that repeat offenders should have increasing fines.

### **Disagree**

#### **Action on litter from people is more important and is more/equally a concern**

Some respondents disagreed that strong actions should be directed at the issue of dog fouling when they believed that littering was a much more pressing concern in the area, both in terms of unsightliness – spoiling the beauty of North Devon for both visitors and locals alike – and in causing potential danger to people and animals (e.g. broken glass).

#### **Dog owners are generally responsible and could be unfairly punished for the actions of a few**

Some disagreed with the proposal because they believed that dog owners are generally responsible and that the proposal seeks to address problems caused by a very small minority with a blanket solution which would be felt as a punishment to many, for issues they have not caused. It was also felt that the issue of dog fouling and problem behaviour by some dog owners and their pets were exaggerated, and that those who ignored current rules would be unlikely to follow increased regulations, therefore the only outcome would be decreased liberties and enjoyment for those who already managed their dogs responsibly.

#### **There must be some controls on fines from “third parties” – private companies should not have this power, only the police or council officers.**

There was a concern over who the “third party” would be, with some respondents feeling that the proposal would likely lead to a system where issuing fines for financial gain would become the driving force, rather than creating safety and cleanliness, and that it would lead to a conflict of interest between the general public and land owners. Fines, it was felt, should be given by Council employees or police officers only.

#### **Tourists are the problem not the locals**

A small proportion said that tourists who brought their dogs with them caused far bigger problems in terms of dog fouling than local residents, who were much more likely to care about the area and who were familiar with the location of dog bins.

**Patrolling officers will ruin the aesthetics. The police and council have enough to do already**

Some respondents felt that seeing officers patrolling areas of beauty and “looking for people to fine” would diminish the atmosphere and reduce their enjoyment of a walk in nature. It was also felt that resources and manpower could be better employed elsewhere, and that there were more pressing problems to which police officers and council employees could put their time.

**The fine should be reduced**

Some respondents stated that they felt the fine was set too high, and that it should be reduced to a figure or between £25 and £50.

**Costs the tax payer money**

Some felt that the cost of these proposals would be better spent elsewhere, and that the upkeep of the land should be funded by the owners themselves, rather than the tax payer.

**Suggestions****Clear signage is needed for fines and when dogs need to be “on lead”. Create “off lead” times of the day and year in designated areas. Make specific areas dog free**

Respondents suggested that clearer signs stating where dogs are allowed off lead should be installed, as well as signs stating that fines will be issued for those not following rules. It was also suggested that there could be certain times of the day and year that dogs could be off lead in certain areas – for example, when areas are less populated – and that there should be areas where they are always free to run off-lead. It was felt that North Devon could provide room for everyone to enjoy the outdoors in a beneficial and satisfactory way, and that educating and reminding dog owners through signs would be preferable to employing officers and wardens and issuing fines.

**CCTV and photographic evidence should be used to catch offenders**

Some respondents suggested that, in addition to the use of CCTV in problem areas, a web portal could be created whereby members of the public could provide video and photographic evidence of dog fouling offences.

**Licences to keep dogs should be introduced and owners should take dogs to training**

It was suggested that requiring a license in order to own a dog, as well as requiring training for both dog and owner, would educate dog owners and instil in them an understanding and sense of the responsibilities of dog ownership. These requirements may also dissuade or prevent those unsuitable to

the proper care of an animal from becoming dog owners, therefore tackling the issue at root cause. The money gathered from dog licences could pay for both the enforcement of responsible dog ownership and clean up resulting from dog fouling. In addition, it was suggested that all dogs should be microchipped so that they can be easily identified and traced.

### **More dog waste bags and bins, and more frequent emptying of bins**

A large majority stated that there was not enough provision of dog excrement bins in order to properly encourage picking up after dogs. More bins would mean less people leaving their dog waste in bags on the ground. The bins should also be emptied more regularly, and especially during peak times. In addition, dog waste bags could also be made available, therefore removing the excuse for those who may have forgotten, run out, or otherwise neglected to ensure that they were suitably equipped for their walk.

### **Increased punishment for repeat offenders**

Respondents suggested that the level of fine should be increased in the event that a person repeats a dog fouling offence, and that the person offending could be named and shamed in the public domain.

### **Enlarge the area included in the proposal**

Some stated that they felt the area included in the proposal should be enlarged, to include other grassy areas, footpaths, and pavements. Dog fouling in areas was also seen as problematic and in need of attention, with some stating that they felt the problem of dog excrement was worse on pavements than on beaches.

### **Increased education and training for dog owners**

A significant number of people felt there was a need for the public to be educated on good dog ownership. This could be in the form of flyers, signs and campaigns in areas where dog owners take their dogs, as well as training on how to look after their dogs responsibly, which would encourage them to be more mindful of dog fouling. Education was suggested as a more positive approach than enforcing rules, which should be a last resort.

### **All dogs should be kept on leads and more control is needed for them**

Some felt that dogs should always be kept on a lead and be properly controlled at all times; this would ensure that owners were always aware when the dog is fouling and benefit the general safety of the

public – particularly for families and children. Unleashed dogs were termed “chaotic” and a “nuisance”, and was seen as a growing problem, with more and more people walking their dogs “off lead”.

### **Ban dogs from beaches and parks**

Some suggested that beaches and parks should be used for the enjoyment of people only, free from disruption and inconvenience caused by dogs. It was felt that it would be safer for children if they were able to play without dogs running around and potentially approaching them. Also, those who dislike dogs and would like to be outdoors in a place where there are no dogs felt that they had nowhere they could go which was truly “dog free”.

### **Other**

#### **Don’t ban dog walking – this is unfair for responsible dog walkers.**

A large number of respondents objected to a ban of walking dogs either off lead or on lead. They felt this was an unfair proposal that discriminates against dog walkers, responsible or not. They agree that dog fouling is bad, however they disagree with the proposal, feeling it may lead to banning dogs from beaches entirely. This threatens the enjoyment people have when they walk their dogs, and was seen as a blanket punishment for a problem cause by a small minority.

#### **Allowed dogs on lead on beaches**

Dog should always be allowed on beaches but they should be on a lead. Restricting the presence of dogs on beaches would directly affect tourism in North Devon and be detrimental to the economy.

#### **Dog walking is a good way of socialising, and beneficial for physical and mental health**

The advantages to dog walking massively outweigh the disadvantages. For some people, their dog may be their sole companion and the main reason they go outdoors and exercise, as well as a key factor in social interaction. Too many restrictions on dog owners would mean they cannot exercise their dogs properly. Dog walking was seen as being beneficial for people’s mental health – especially during the pandemic – and meeting up with family and friends to walk dogs together was seen as an enjoyable and intrinsic part of life.

#### **Visitors and tourists are important for the revenue they bring to the area, and they should be able to bring their dogs. Restrictions could negatively impact the economy of Devon**

People have moved to North Devon and visit North Devon because it is a welcoming, dog-friendly place to come. By enforcing these restrictions, it will affect the amount of people that visit North Devon and



stimulate the economy as there will be less people going to shops, pubs, restaurants, etc. Revenue in any way should not be restricted – especially in the time of COVID.

### **More pressing issues like antisocial behaviour and drug abuse**

Many people think dog fouling is bad, however it is not as bad as other issues in the area such as antisocial behaviour from humans and drug abuse. Fly tipping, barbecues, dirty nappies, speedy cyclists and rowdy behaviour were mentioned as example of antisocial behaviours respondents felt were more pressing issues to address than dog fouling.

### **Restrictions for dog walking in the named areas will lead to other areas being at risk**

Given that people need an outdoor space in order to walk their dogs, they will go elsewhere if they are restricted from beaches. Farmland was mentioned as seeing a likely increase in dog walking, and there were fears that this may impact on the safety of livestock, dog walkers and dogs alike. Moving the problem from one place to another would not be a solution but rather ignores the actual issue: the small but significant number of irresponsible dog owners.

### **Cyclists are a huge problem on the Tarka Trail**

Some respondents felt that issues caused by cyclists – particularly on the Tarka Trail – was a far greater problem than dog fouling. Inconveniences mentioned including: cycling too fast; not ringing their bells; being nasty and rude; and littering. Some stated that they had almost been hit by cyclists and that they worried about walking in places where cyclists were prevalent – particularly when walking with small children.

### **Stick and flick method is better than using bags, and better for the environment too**

Some felt that the “stick and flick” method should be encouraged and that excrement should be allowed to erode naturally – particularly in the countryside – thereby avoiding the use of plastic bags which do not erode and are often found hanging in branches or otherwise discarded along the path. It was noted that “stick and flick” is promoted by the National Trust. This suggestion, however, was not be expected to apply to beaches, but specifically to places with suitable and heavy plant growth.

### **Instow beach is not clean enough to bathe so should be used by dog walkers**

Some respondents felt that Instow Beach differed from other named beaches in that it is not a blue flag beach and therefore isn't suitable for swimming. They suggested that Instow should be left alone and available for use by dog owners year round as and they pleased, either in full, or by way of the creation of

certain restriction-free areas. It was also mentioned that allowing dog walking on Instow Beach would be beneficial to the disabled.

### 3.3 Part B - dog control

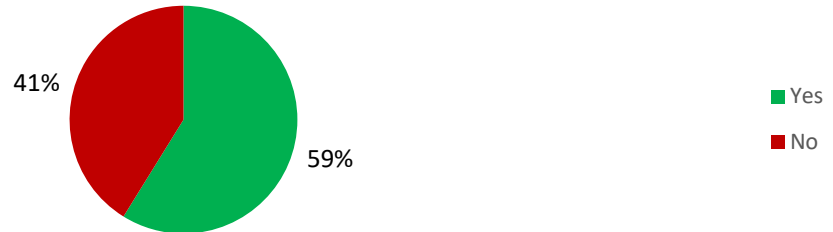
North Devon Council believe walking or exercising dogs 'off lead' in public children's play areas can be dangerous, that it can cause nuisance or offence in public cemeteries, and that the presence of dogs on the six busy amenity beaches can cause nuisance to other beach users. The owners of these beaches want additional dog controls put in place during the summer season (Easter Day - 30th September).

We wish to consult on the following proposals:

- To issue FPNs of £100 to people who walk or exercise their dogs 'off lead' in enclosed children's play areas
- To issue FPNs of £100 to people who walk or exercise their dogs 'off lead' in public cemeteries
- To prohibit the presence of dogs on six amenity beaches identified above between Easter Day and 30th September, except in certain designated “dog friendly” areas. The beach owner will be responsible for identifying and promoting such designated “dog friendly” areas – including the provision of associated signage
- To issue FPNs of £100 to people who allow their dogs to be present on these beaches – other than being in or travelling to the “dog friendly” areas as signed
- To require a person to place their dogs on a lead of 2.0 metre length or less, as directed by a suitably delegated person/officer.
- To issue FPNs of £100 to people who do not place their dogs on a lead of 2.0 metre length or less when directed by a suitable delegated person/officer
- To increase the efficiency and effectiveness of enforcing this provision by giving delegated authority to approved third parties to issue FPNs
- The above controls will not apply to people who are blind or partially sighted and have an assistance dog registered with a member organisation of Assistance Dogs UK.

### B1: Do you support us in addressing these issues through a PSPO?

More than half of the respondents (59%) support addressing nuisance or offence caused by dogs in public cemeteries and on the six busy amenity beaches through a PSPO.



### B2: Do you support the proposed controls in enclosed children's play areas?

The clear majority of respondents (92%) support introducing the proposed controls in enclosed children’s play areas.



### B3: Comments or suggestions for alternative controls which would achieve the same aim as these proposals in children's play areas

#### Summary of Themes

There were 605 responses to this question. 24% of those who provided a response to this question provided comments which supported the proposals made (this equates to 5% of total respondents). 34% gave comments which opposed the proposed actions (7% of the total). 45% provided alternative suggestions to be considered and 21% raised other points that they wanted considered.

THEME	No.	% of respondents to this question	% of total respondents
SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL	146	24%	5%
OPPOSE THE PROPOSAL	204	34%	7%
SUGGESTIONS FOR THIS POLICY	272	45%	9%
OTHER POINTS RAISED	129	21%	4%
NOT APPLICABLE	54	9%	2%

The tables below provide a summary of the themes identified in our analysis of all responses to this question:

### Support

THEME	No.	% of respondents to this question	% of total respondents
I don't want dogs to scare me or my children	13	2%	0%
The proposal will allow children to be safe from dogs' behaviour and possible health hazards from dogs	12	2%	0%
Support for higher penalties	9	1%	0%
Support to ban dogs from all named places	4	1%	0%

### Oppose

THEME	No.	% of respondents to this question	% of total respondents
The area chosen is too large – beaches and/or cemeteries should not be included in a dog ban on or off lead	50	8%	2%
These regulations are already in place, we don't need more, just enforce the rules we have	33	5%	1%
Litter and antisocial behaviour are more important issues – dog walkers should not be singled out	22	4%	1%

Should be enforced by public sector and dog wardens, not by private companies. Third parties will need clear ID and evidence when enforcing this	19	3%	1%
Strong rules may mean that instructions are ignored or cause overcrowding	10	2%	0%
Longer leads should be allowed as long as the dog is under control	5	1%	0%
Fines are too large	4	1%	0%
2m lead is too long	2	0%	0%

## Suggestions

THEME	No.	% of respondents to this question	% of total respondents
Ban dogs in general from children's play areas	127	21%	4%
Provide clear fenced-off areas designated for children's play with entry prohibited by dogs	39	6%	1%
All dogs should be kept on lead at all times	20	3%	1%
Set out specific times of day to allow for dog walking off lead	19	3%	1%
Maximum of one dog on a lead per person in children's play areas	3	0%	0%
Dog licences should be introduced	2	0%	0%

## Other

THEME	No.	% of respondents to this question	% of total respondents
Provide clear and reasonable areas designated for dog walkers. Locals and holiday makers are important for the economy, and this includes dog owners. Do not ban dogs anywhere	87	14%	3%
Dogs being off lead is good for the dog's health and owner's enjoyment and mental health. It is educational for children to be thoughtful towards animals. Dogs are "part of the family"	39	6%	1%
Instow beach is not clean enough to swim in, so this should be used by dog walkers	15	2%	0%
Criticism of the consultation process	12	2%	0%

## Detailed Themes

### Support

#### **I don't want dogs to scare me or my children**

Parents would like dogs away from children's play areas so that they don't scare them or create a phobia of them for the future. Some children are already scared of dogs and aren't able to use the play areas comfortably with dogs around, which was seen as unfair. Furthermore, dog owners who fail to control their dogs in children's play areas – even when asked to do so – were seen as making the experience frightening for both children and parents alike.

#### **The proposal will allow children to be safe from dogs' behaviour and possible health hazards from dogs**

Respondents felt that having dog-free areas would be better for the safety of children, possibly preventing infection and disease caused from exposure to urine and faeces, as well as avoiding the problem of stepping in dog excrement.

#### **Support for higher penalties**

Some felt that proposed penalties should be higher, and that £100 was not enough of a deterrent to irresponsible owners. Repeated offenders could receive have higher fines and/or community service programs involving the cleaning up of dog excrement.

### Oppose

#### **Strong rules may mean that instructions are ignored or cause overcrowding**

Some felt that the introduction of strong rules may lead to overcrowding in other areas, people using areas that are not suitable, or people "rebellious" by ignoring the rules altogether.

#### **Litter and antisocial behaviour are more important issues**

As mentioned above, some also stated here that they felt dog owners were being unfairly singled out and that there were more important antisocial human issues which needed addressing, such as littering, drunken/drug-fuelled behaviour, teenage disruptive behaviour and unruly children. These issues need to be treated as a whole together.

#### **The area chosen is too large**

Some respondents felt that the named areas provided ample space for all to enjoy, and that banning dogs completely was too draconian. While they agreed that children's play areas would be better served by being dog-free, it was felt that imposing restrictions on beaches and cemeteries was unnecessary. It was

also pointed out that some children love to play and run with their dogs, and that it is beneficial for their exercise and wellbeing; therefore a ban could actually be detrimental to a significant number of children and their families.

### **Regulations should be enforced by the public sector and dog wardens, not by private companies**

As above in A5, there was a concern over who the “third party” issuing fines would be. People said that this is likely to lead to a system where issuing more fines would be in the favour of the delegated “third party” for financial gain. This would lead to a conflict of interest between the general public and landowners. Fines should strictly be given by a council employee, police officer or dog warden only. Clear evidence should be shown when issuing FPNs with clear identification of the issuing person.

### **Length of lead**

Some felt that the 2m was too long and that a dog cannot be properly controlled or prevented from jumping on other people with a lead of that length, while it was also stated that extendable leads should be banned. Others, however, felt that as long as a dog was under control then a restriction on lead length was unnecessary, pointing out that some dogs behaved better with longer leads and that longer leads were more beneficial in terms of exercise and canine socialisation.

### **The regulations are already in place, but they aren't enforced**

Respondents stated a belief that there are already sufficient regulations in place, and while most dog owners know about these regulations and abide by them, currently, when the rules are broken, they aren't enforced. Increasing rules and regulation, therefore, isn't solving the problem; rather, current regulations should be enforced first.

### **Fines are too large**

The fine should be lower and then increase if repeated offence.

## **Suggestions**

### **Ban dogs in general from children's play areas**

A large majority of people said that dogs should be banned from children's play areas entirely. This would make the play areas a safe place for children to play and for parents to relax. This reduces any risk a child may have around a dog. The residue left when dog faeces has been picked up is still unhygienic for children.

### **Maximum of one dog on a lead per person in children's play areas**

Limiting the number of dogs per person in play areas ensure that the dog is properly controlled around children and any dog fouling that occurs will be picked up.

### **Provide clear fenced-off areas designated for children's play area prohibited entry by dogs**

A significant number of people said that areas specifically for children to play should be marked and fenced off, prohibited to dogs on or off lead. A fence will make sure the dog can't get in the park. Some say that dogs should have their own fenced area away from the general public in order to run free. This would separate both parties where the clear issues of antisocial behaviour can be identified.

### **Set out specific times of day to allow for dog walking off lead**

Some suggested that dog walking off lead should be restricted to certain times of day that are seen as "off peak". This would enable people to be able to walk and exercise their dogs freely without disturbing the general public. This was suggested as a fair compromise.

### **All dogs should be kept on lead at all times**

All dogs should be kept on a lead in order to have full control of the dog at all times while out in public. This would stop them from fouling in places that owners cannot see. Dogs off lead can be a menace to families and individuals that do not like dogs.

### **Dog licences should be introduced**

As above in A5.

### **Clearer signage to enforce rules and areas where dogs are banned or should be kept on/off lead in these areas. Educate children on how to approach dogs. Educate people how to train/keep dogs.**

Educating the public on how to have responsible dog ownership is needed to be encouraged by the council. It should be made clear that if you have an uncontrollable dog they should be on lead through signage and educating the public. More signage needs to be clear about where dogs are allowed and the areas in which they are allowed off or on lead. Children need to be educated as to how they need to behave around dogs – for example, knowing that they should ask before approaching a dog.



**Provide a place outside a children's play area where people can keep their dogs without being stolen**

Some parents need to be able to exercise their dogs as well as take their children out. Having safe areas where dogs can be kept outside children’s play areas would be helpful so that both can be done at the same time. As opposed to having dogs strapped somewhere where they can potentially be stolen.

**Other**

**Dogs being off lead is good for the dog’s health and owner’s enjoyment and mental health. It is educational for children to be thoughtful towards animals. Dogs are “part of the family”**

Dogs need to be off lead to be exercised properly and it is good for their health. It is the duty of the dog owner to be able to care for their dogs properly. Dog walking together with family is an enjoyable experience for some and some treat their dogs as part of the family. Child and dog relationships can be healthy for the wellbeing of the dogs, the children and the parents. Dog walking is a good way of helping with mental health and exercise and people need to be able to enjoy the public areas with their dogs.

**Provide clear and reasonable areas designated for dog walkers. Locals and holiday makers are important for the economy, this includes dog owners. Do not ban dogs anywhere**

As above in A5.

**Instow beach is not clean enough to swim in, so this should be used by dog walkers**

As above in A5.

**B4: Do you support the proposed controls in public cemeteries?**

The clear majority of respondents (87%) support the proposed controls for dogs in public cemeteries.



## B5: Comments and suggestions for alternative controls which would achieve the same aim as these proposals in public cemeteries

### Sentiment Analysis

There were 323 responses to this question. 36% of those who provided a response to this question provided comments which supported the proposals made (this equates to 4% of total respondents). 26% gave comments which opposed the proposed actions (3% of the total). 25% provided alternative suggestions to be considered and 16% raised other points that they wanted considered.

THEME	No.	% of respondents to this question	% of total respondents
SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL	115	36%	4%
OPPOSE THE PROPOSAL	84	26%	3%
SUGGESTIONS FOR THIS POLICY	81	25%	3%
OTHER POINTS RAISED	51	16%	2%
NOT APPLICABLE	51	16%	2%

### Summary of Themes

The tables below provide a summary of the themes identified in our analysis of all responses to this question:

#### Support

THEME	No.	% of respondents to this question	% of total respondents
Larger penalty required	9	3%	0%
A larger area should be included in this proposal	3	1%	0%

## Oppose

THEME	No.	% of respondents to this question	% of total respondents
People are in control of their dogs in cemeteries already and relevant rules already exist. It would be better to enforce existing rules	20	6%	1%
Designated areas for dogs are essential on beaches for holidaymakers (for economic reasons), do not included beaches in this proposal. Dogs need open spaces to exercise and be walked without so many restrictions	15	5%	0%
Dogs walking "off lead" but under control should not be fined – in control in general should not be fined	12	4%	0%
Private sector companies should not get revenue from this. Evidence should be shown when issuing fines. The process should be fair	10	3%	0%
Provide designated areas in cemeteries to walk dogs on / off lead, as it is some peoples only accessible area where they can exercise their dogs	10	3%	0%
Going straight to fines without considering other options is too heavy handed	8	2%	0%
2m lead requirement should be changed to just be on a lead	3	1%	0%
Fine are too high – repeat offenders should have fines increased	3	1%	0%

## Suggestions

THEME	No.	% of respondents to this question	% of total respondents
Ban dogs from cemeteries, but do not apply this to assistance dogs	35	11%	1%
Provide better signage, advice and notices in local papers. Educate people on how to train dogs and on responsible ownership. Dog licences should be mandated	31	10%	1%
Keep dogs on leads at all times	8	2%	0%

Provide dog racks to tie dogs to when visiting cemeteries, outside cemeteries or in designated areas	4	1%	0%
Dogs only on a designated footpath in cemeteries	3	1%	0%
Provide more CCTV coverage to catch offenders	3	1%	0%
Specify times during the day for dogs to be allowed on beaches and cemeteries rather than seasonal bans	2	1%	0%

## Other

THEME	No.	% of respondents to this question	% of total respondents
Dogs are a companion when mourning with family, they should be allowed in cemeteries and they should be able to mourn their owners too	32	10%	1%
Do not agree in general to dog bans	13	4%	0%
Criticism of the consultation process	7	2%	0%
I do not want to leave my dog unattended whilst mourning	3	1%	0%
Common sense should prevail	2	1%	0%

## Detailed Themes

### Support

#### Larger penalty required

As mentioned above, some suggested that larger fines (up to £500) and/or community service orders in which the offender clears dog excrement should be applied.

#### A larger area should be included in this proposal

More beaches should be included in this proposal, specifically Wildersmouth Beach, RNLI launch Beach and Ilfracombe beaches. Some suggested this should be imposed for a longer time than it is proposed.

## Oppose

### **Going straight to fines without considering other options is too heavy handed**

Other options should be presented before going straight to fines. It seems a bit petty and unnecessary. It seems like dog walkers are targeted and penalised in this proposal.

### **Designated areas for dogs are essential on beaches for holidaymakers (for economic reasons), do not include beaches in this proposal. Dogs need open spaces to exercise and be walked without so many restrictions**

There needs to be designated areas where people can walk their dogs as people need a place to be able to exercise their dogs. There are too many restrictions and people are having less and less space to be able to walk their dogs. Cemeteries are always empty and people will end up there to walk their dogs as other places have too many restrictions. Beaches should be kept out of these proposals to protect the cemeteries from dogs. This is very important for the locals and tourists.

### **Dogs walking “off lead” but under control should not be fined – in control in general should not be fined**

People who can walk their well-behaved dogs responsibly without a lead should not be fined. People who have uncontrollable dogs should be fined instead. The specific irresponsible person should be targeted rather than introducing blanket restrictions.

### **Private sector companies should not get revenue from this. The process should be fair and transparent – evidence should be shown when issuing fines.**

As above in A5.

### **2m lead requirement should be changed to just being “on lead”**

2m leads are not necessary, dogs should just be on a lead whatever length that is.

### **People are in control of their dogs in cemeteries already and relevant rules already exist. It would be better to enforce existing rules**

Restrictions in cemeteries should not be necessary, people already know how to handle their dogs there and are respectful of people mourning. Rules are already in place for keeping dogs behaved, they just need to be enforced more. These places are already quiet and you are punishing dog owners for no reason.

**Provide designated areas in cemeteries to walk dogs on / off lead, as it is some people's only accessible area where they can exercise their dogs**

There are less and less places that people can go to exercise their dogs. Some people need quiet places to train their dogs and cemeteries are the only quiet place they can go. Some people cannot access other places to walk their dogs and there should be designated off lead areas in cemeteries for dog walkers. It is the safest place away from cars and roads.

**Fine are too high – though repeat offenders should have fines increased**

The fines are too high. They should be lowered and then repeat offenders should have them increased each time.

### Suggestions

**Provide better signage, advice and notices in local papers. Educate people on how to train dogs and on responsible ownership**

As above in A5. And, in addition, it was suggested that clear signs indicating where and when funerals are taking place should be posted in order to keep dogs out of those areas.

**Ban dogs from cemeteries, but do not apply this to assistance dogs**

People suggested dogs should be completely banned from cemeteries as their presence is disrespectful. Dog should not be in cemeteries, they may end up fouling on or near a grave. They may bark and disrupt people grieving, there are plenty of other places they can go. This does not apply to assistance dogs.

**Keep dogs on leads at all times**

Dogs should be kept on leads at all times in cemeteries so that they can be properly controlled and seen when fouling.

**Specify times during the day when dogs are allowed in cemeteries**

There should be certain times in the day when dogs can be walked off lead in cemeteries. This would eliminate any incidence when funerals are taking place. Seasonal bans should not be introduced.

**Dogs only on a designated footpath in cemeteries**

Dogs should only be allowed on the footpaths in cemeteries so that incidents don't take place on graves. These are public footpaths that people may need to use to get from A to B.

### **Provide more CCTV coverage to catch offenders**

CCTV should be used to catch people offending, this is a good way of providing proof.

### **Provide dog racks to tie dogs to when visiting cemeteries, outside cemeteries or in designated areas**

Dog racks should be provided for people so that they can keep their dogs in a safe place when visiting graves. This can be just outside or on the edge of the cemeteries where it is shady and there is water provided for the dogs. Some, however, stated that they would not want to leave their dogs unattended and expressed concerns over dog theft.

## **Other**

### **Do not agree to dog bans**

Some respondents could not agree with any policy where dogs are banned, though they did agree that increase dog control was necessary.

### **Dogs are a companion when mourning with family, they should be allowed in cemeteries and they should be able to mourn their owners too**

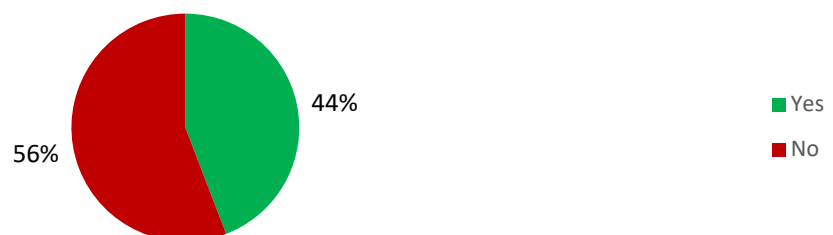
Dog owners consider their dogs as family and may feel that they need them as companions while grieving. This would be a very unfair proposal if people could not be able to take their dogs with them when they need them for support. Some people only have their dogs in their lives and need them for companionship. Dogs also need to go to mourn their owners. Dogs might be part of the service.

### **Common sense should prevail**

People should be encouraged to use their common sense and control their dogs around grieving people funeral goers.

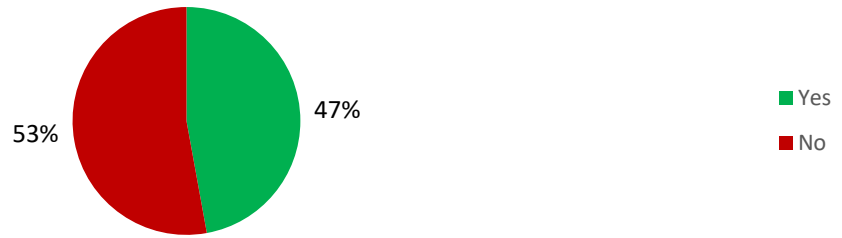
## **B6: Do you support the proposed controls on Saunton Sands?**

More than half of the respondents (56%) do not support the proposed controls on Saunton Sands.



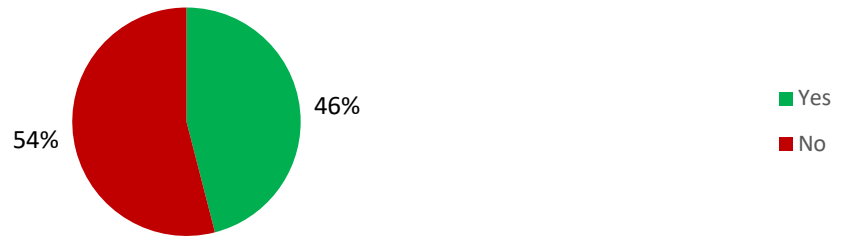
### B7: Do you support the proposed controls on Woolacombe Sands?

More than half of the respondents (53%) do not support the proposed controls on Woolacombe Sands



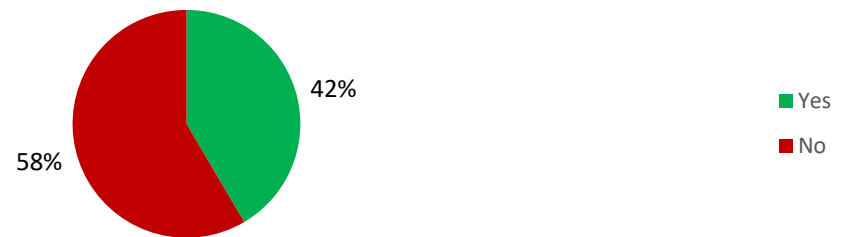
### B8: Do you support the proposed controls on Putsborough Sands?

More than half of the respondents (54%) do not support the proposed controls on Putsborough Sands.



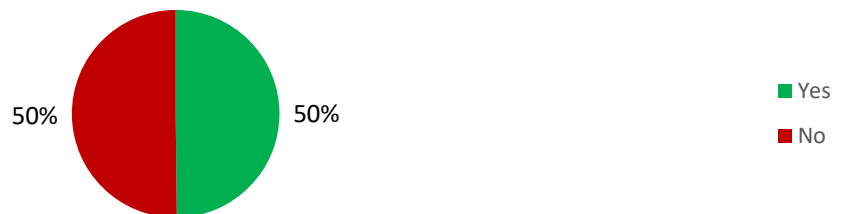
### B9: Do you support the proposed controls on Instow beach?

More than half of the respondents (58%) do not support the proposed controls on Instow beach.



### B10: Do you support the proposed controls on Croyde Bay?

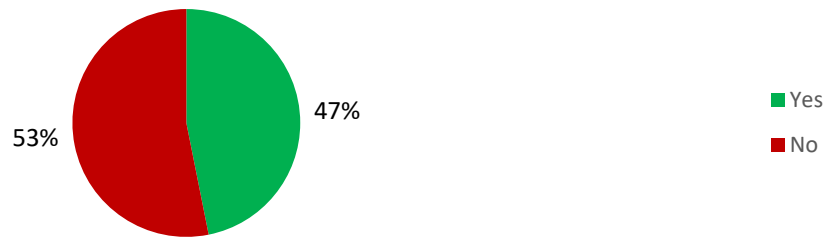
Half of respondents support the proposed controls on Croyde Bay and 50% do not support the proposals.





### B11: Do you support the proposed controls on Combe Martin beach?

More than half of the respondents (53%) do not support the proposed controls on Combe Martin beach.



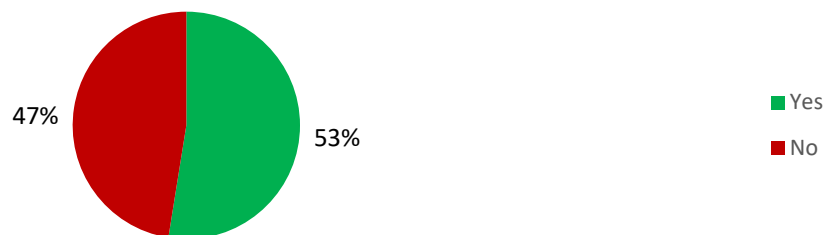
### B12: Do you support the proposal of designated areas of the beaches being promoted as being “dog friendly” - i.e. places where people can exercise their dogs without restrictions?

The majority of respondents (73%) support the proposal of introducing designated areas of the beaches being promoted as being “dog friendly”.



### B13: Do you support the proposed controls to require a person to place their dogs on a lead of 2.0 metre length or less, as directed by a suitably delegated person/officer?

More than half of the respondents (53%) support the proposed controls to require a person to place their dogs on a lead of 2 meters in length or less, as directed by a suitably delegated person or officer.



## B14: Suggestions for alternative controls which would achieve the same aims as these proposals on the beaches

### Summary of Themes

There were 1,286 responses to this question. 13% of those who provided a response to this question provided comments which supported the proposals made (this equates to 6% of total respondents). 63% gave comments which opposed the proposed actions (26% of the total). 24% provided alternative suggestions to be considered and 57% raised other points that they wanted considered.

THEME	No.	% of respondents to this question	% of total respondents
SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL	170	13%	6%
OPPOSE THE PROPOSAL	808	63%	26%
SUGGESTIONS FOR THIS POLICY	308	24%	10%
OTHER POINTS RAISED	731	57%	24%
NOT APPLICABLE	46	4%	1%

The tables below provide a summary of the themes identified in our analysis of all responses to this question:

### Support

THEME	No.	% of respondents to this question	% of total respondents
Dogs are dangerous and unpredictable – not everyone is safe around dogs, and they can be a danger to wildlife	31	2%	1%
People should take responsibility for their dogs – those that do will not object to these proposals	11	1%	0%
Compulsory dog training and higher fines for repeat offenders	4	0%	0%

## Oppose

THEME	No.	% of respondents to this question	% of total respondents
Walking a controlled dog “off lead” responsibly is not dangerous – “on lead” can be more dangerous for cyclists and is a trip hazard. The trail is multi-use and it is for all, dog walkers alone should not be discriminated against. All users of the trail should be treated equally, with consideration of fines to all who misuse these spaces	483	38%	16%
As exercising a dog is important, this leaves few options for walking dogs – especially for the elderly, the disabled, and those who live near these areas. People will go to places that are not safe, e.g. the countryside where livestock and nesting birds may be affected	133	10%	4%
The minority with uncontrolled dogs should be fined as opposed to punishing everyone – dog walkers should be allowed to have their dogs off lead at the owners risk	120	9%	4%
The proposal should be restricted to busier times or areas on the Tarka Trail – e.g. summer, weekend or “peak times”	84	7%	3%
Antisocial behaviour and litter are more of a problem than dog walkers	39	3%	1%
2m lead is too long	26	2%	1%
FPNs should only be given by a dog warden or public employee – this does not need a PSPO	21	2%	1%
The Tarka Trail should be kept out of this proposal	20	2%	1%
2m lead it too short	19	1%	1%
There is over use of fines – leniency should be shown, e.g. if breaches are accidental, or if there is no one else on the Trail, you should not be fined.	13	1%	0%

## Suggestions

THEME	No.	% of respondents to this question	% of total respondents
Clearer signage for rules and fines, including ways the public can report offenders. Educate the public on awareness of dogs, training dogs, and campaigns encouraging people to be aware of their surroundings. CCTV could be used to enforce this	105	8%	3%
Dogs should be kept on lead so they can be properly controlled	44	3%	1%
Specify certain times of day for dogs to be allowed "off lead" – e.g. when locations are not busy	40	3%	1%
Limit the number of people and cyclists who can use the trail at certain times. Limit the number of dogs per person - makes the owner more able to control the dog	32	2%	1%
Uncontrolled dogs should be put on leads. There would need to be a dedicated person to enforce this	31	2%	1%
Provide separate area for bikers and dog walkers on the Tarka trail	30	2%	1%
Dogs should be kept on short leads on the Tarka trail so they are safe from / not a danger to cyclists.	29	2%	1%
Existing laws should be enforced	18	1%	1%
Children can also be a problem	11	1%	0%
Dogs should be kept out of the Tarka trail and beaches	10	1%	0%
Dog owners and walkers should be given priority on the Tarka trail before cyclists	9	1%	0%

## Other

THEME	No.	% of respondents to this question	% of total respondents
Cyclists are a problem on the Tarka trail	665	52%	22%
There are many benefits to dog walking – exercise, family time, enjoyment, mental health, socialising, tourism and the economy. It is also good for the dog to be "off lead"	110	9%	4%
Criticism of the consultation process	30	2%	1%
Common sense of the public should be used	11	1%	0%

## Detailed Themes

### Support

#### **People should take responsibility for their dogs – those that do will not object to these proposals**

These restrictions are fair and responsible owners will not object to this, they have a duty to control their dogs.

#### **Dogs are dangerous and unpredictable – not everyone is safe around dogs, and they can be a danger to wildlife**

Some respondents felt that dogs are a nuisance to society and they need to be properly controlled with these restrictions. They can be dangerous to adults and children and they need to be kept away in order to have a safe environment. They can also disrupt the environment with their fouling.

#### **Compulsory dog training and higher fines for repeat offenders**

As above.

### Oppose

#### **There is over use of fines – leniency should be shown, e.g. if breaches are accidental, or if there is no one else on the Trail**

These rules are draconian and unfair. The issues of dog walking is exaggerated. These restrictions should not apply to parts of the trail where there very little human presence. And fines that are to be given must be lenient if done by accident.

#### **Walking a controlled dog “off lead” responsibly is not dangerous – “on lead” can be more dangerous for cyclists and is a trip hazard. The trail is multi-use and is for all, the trail should be respected. Dog walkers alone should not be discriminated against – all users of the trail should be treated equally, with consideration of fines to all who misuse these spaces**

There is room on the Tarka Trail and beaches for all of the public to use, they are a multi-use facility and should be respected by all. A well behaved dog that is in control should not be given a fine and picked on as it is not a danger to society. If fines are being given out in these areas then every antisocial behaviour that may occur should be treated equally – e.g. fast cyclists, people who litter, etc. Insisting dogs are on a lead all the time could be a trip hazard for walkers and bikers. Some dogs are better off lead as they can keep away from oncoming cyclists.

**The minority with uncontrolled dogs should be fined as opposed to punishing everyone – dog walkers should be allowed to have their dogs off lead at the owners’ risk**

These blanket restrictions punish all dog owners whereas most are responsible and cause no trouble. Increasing regulations across the board does not solve the issue. Instead, enforcing current rules and issuing FPNs to owners who are irresponsible would be a better step. A dog walker should be able to make their own decision on where and when they would like to keep their dog on a lead and off lead, and that decision should be made by the owners risk alone.

**As exercising a dog is important, this leaves few options for walking dogs – especially for the elderly, disabled people and those that live near to these areas. People will go to places that are not safe – e.g. the countryside, which may negatively impact livestock and nesting birds**

It is a dog owner’s responsibility to exercise their dogs properly. If they cannot let their dogs run free on the Tarka Trail and the beaches then where will they be able to go? You are leaving people with very few options. More and more places that actually allow dogs will become overcrowded due to further restrictions and people will end up ignoring the rules or walking their dogs in places that they shouldn’t – for example, near livestock and roosting birds. The elderly and the disabled need places with flat surfaces to be able to walk their dogs on or off lead and the Tarka Trail is one of the only places they can do this.

**The proposal should be restricted to busier times or areas on the Tarka Trail – e.g. summer, weekend or “peak times”**

These proposals are understandable for “peak times” where there are a lot of people around. During the summer months is a reasonable suggestion or the busy weekend times. There are also busier areas on the trail where owners should be urged to keep their dogs under control.

**The Tarka Trail should be kept out of this proposal**

The Tarka trail is for all and it should not be included in this proposal. FPNs should not be issued to people on the Tarka trail.

**Antisocial behaviour and litter are more of a problem than dog walkers**

As above.

**2m lead is too short/too long**

As above.

**FPNs should only be given by a dog warden or public employee – this does not need a PSPO**

As above.

### **Suggestion**

**Clearer signage for rules and fines, including ways the public can report offenders. Educate the public on awareness of dogs, training dogs, campaigns encouraging people to be aware of their surroundings. CCTV could be used to enforce this**

(Has been mentioned before, see other sections).

**Uncontrolled dogs should be put on leads. There would need to be a dedicated person to enforce this**

(Has been mentioned before, see other sections).

### **Children can also be a problem**

Children can be just as dangerous as dogs and they should be kept on a lead too if you insist that dogs should be kept on a lead.

### **Dogs should be kept on lead so they can be properly controlled**

Dogs need to be able to be properly controlled by their owners. The only way this can be done is by keeping them on a lead in these areas at all times.

### **Dog owners and walkers should be given priority on the Tarka trail before cyclists**

The Tarka trail is for everyone, not just cyclists. Walkers with or without dogs should be given priority in this area.

### **Limit the number of people and cyclists who can use the trail at certain times. Limit the number of dogs per person**

There should be a restriction on the number of dogs a person can walk in order to be in full control of the dog. The Tarka Trail is very long and there are areas where it is hardly used, therefore restrictions should not be imposed in all areas. Areas where there is a lot of foot traffic dogs should be advised to be kept on leads. Cyclists should also have restrictions in busy areas, and should be told to slow down or avoid the area entirely.

### **Existing laws should be enforced**

These restrictions are not necessary. There are laws already that stop people from letting uncontrollable dogs cause havoc. These existing laws just need more enforcement.

### **Provide separate area for bikers and dog walkers on the Tarka trail**

Dogs and cyclists need to be separated from each other. There should be parts of the Tarka trail that are just for dog walkers or walkers only and no cyclists can enter. Or the trail itself should be separated with a line where each party keeps to each section.

### **Dogs should be kept out of the Tarka trail and beaches**

The Tarka trail and beaches should not allow dogs at all, they should be for the use of humans only and provide a place where people can enjoy the outdoors free from the nuisance of dogs.

## **Other**

### **Cyclists are a problem on the Tarka trail**

A very large number of people – almost 700 – expressed a number of complaints about cyclists on the Tarka Trail. It is important to address this issue due to the volume of people that expressed their concerns. Many people said they or their dogs have almost been hit by cyclists. Some said that they have actually collided with cyclists. They expressed that cyclists go too fast and use the trail as a race track, causing dangers for walkers who do not have enough time to get out of the way. They sometimes fear stopping to pick up their dog's waste in fear of a cyclist not seeing them do so. Cyclists don't have or use their bells to let people know they are coming. They ride in groups where they do not leave enough space for pedestrians. It was felt that pedestrians should have the right of way and that if cyclists wanted a place where they could ride as quickly as possible they should use the roads. Many also stated that they have found cyclists rude and confrontational, and also expressed concerns that accidents with small children will occur if cyclists are not controlled. Some also stated that they have seen cyclists riding with their dogs on a lead alongside, which was felt to represent a danger and something which should be banned.

### **There are many benefits to dog walking – exercise, family time, enjoyment, mental health, socialising, tourism and the economy. It is also good for the dog to be “off lead”**

As above.

### **Common sense of the public should be used**

Some respondents felt that common sense rather than fines should dictate how short or long a dog's lead should be, or whether they should be on lead or not.



### 3.4 Part C - formal sports pitches

The presence of dog fouling on public and privately owned formal sports pitches (e.g. football, rugby, cricket, netball, tennis courts, bowling greens, athletics tracks) is a risk to health. High levels of cleanliness in these locations are particularly important to us due to our desire to promote tourism, the economy, and support residents and visitors to have a healthy and active lifestyle. We believe that regulatory controls should be considered as a result of:

- (i) The current level of regulatory activity.
- (ii) The observations of our Neighbourhood Wardens who patrol the district.
- (iii) Private sports pitch owners wanting dog controls enforced to enable these areas to be safely used for the purpose which they are designed.

We wish to consult on the following proposals:

- To issue FPNs of £100 to people who do not pick up their dog's waste from all publicly owned formal sports pitches.
- To issue FPNs of £100 to people who do not pick up their dog's waste from all privately owned formal sports pitches, where the owner has requested such controls.
- To prohibit the presence of dogs on all publicly owned formal sports pitches.
- To prohibit the presence of dogs on all privately owned sports pitches, where the owner has requested such controls.
- To issue FPNs of £100 to people who allow their dogs to be present on all publicly owned sports pitches.
- To issue FPNs of £100 to people who allow their dogs to be present on all privately owned formal sports pitches, where the owner has requested such controls.
- To increase the efficiency and effectiveness of enforcing this provision by delegating authority to approved third parties to issue FPNs.

The above controls will not apply to people who are blind or partially sighted and have an assistance dog registered with a member organisation of Assistance Dogs UK. The site owner will be responsible for the provision of associated signage and promotion of these restrictions.

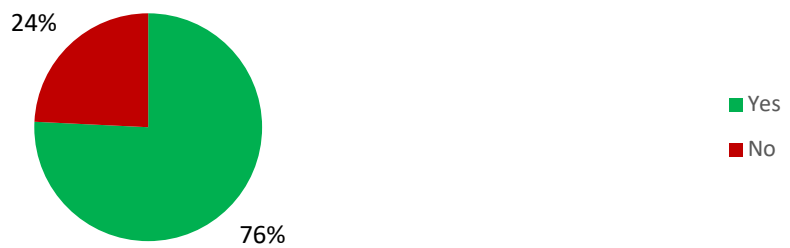
### C1: Do you support us in addressing this area of community need through a PSPO?

The majority of respondents (77%) support the proposal to address dog fouling on public and privately owned formal sports pitches through the introduction of a PSPO.



### C2: Do you support the proposed controls on all public and privately owned sports pitches across the district?

The majority of respondents (76%) support the proposed controls being introduced for all public and privately owned sports pitches across the district.



### C3: Do you support us in giving delegated authority to approved third parties (such as police officers, Parish/Town Councils, sports pitch owners, and other landowners) to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of enforcing these controls?

The majority of respondents (73%) support the proposal to give delegated authority to approved third parties to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of enforcing the controls on public and privately owned sports pitches across the district to address dog fouling.



## C4: Comments and suggestions for alternative controls which would achieve the same aim as these proposals for public and privately owned sports pitches

### Summary of Themes

There were 634 responses to this question. 36% of those who provided a response to this question provided comments which supported the proposal regarding FPNs for dog fouling (this equates to 7% of total respondents) and 24% expressed support for a ban on dogs (5% of the total). 27% provided comments which opposed the proposed actions in general (6% of the total), with 31% specifically disagreeing with the dog ban and 1 response disagreeing with FPNs for dog fouling.

21% provided alternative suggestions to be considered and 7% raised other points that they wanted considered.

THEME	No.	% of respondents to this question	% of total respondents
SUPPORT - FPNs FOR DOG FOULING	226	36%	7%
SUPPORT - DOG BAN	155	24%	5%
OPPOSE – GENERAL OPPOSITION	173	27%	6%
OPPOSE - DOG BAN	199	31%	6%
OPPOSE - FPNs DOG FOULING	1	0%	0%
SUGGESTIONS	133	21%	4%
OTHER COMMENTS	44	7%	1%
NOT APPLICABLE	44	6%	1%

The tables below provide a summary of themes identified in our analysis of all responses to this question.

### Support

THEME	No.	% of respondents to this question	% of total respondents
Provide alternative suitable spaces for dogs nearby	29	5%	1%
This will protect children and adults due to public health hazard of dog fouling	22	3%	1%
Increase the fines – owners should then have to be educated	15	2%	0%

## Oppose

THEME	No.	% of respondents to this question	% of total respondents
Dogs "on lead" should be allowed around pitches but not on them	79	12%	3%
Concerns about using third parties – this should only be the local authority dog wardens. Must be fair and well controlled	69	11%	2%
Sports pitches should be used by all – dogs should be allowed in these areas as long as they are under control	54	9%	2%
Irresponsible few should not spoil it for the responsible many – punish the irresponsible	43	7%	1%
Sports pitches are only used occasionally – dog walkers should have as much right to exercise their dogs here in off season and when there are no games	34	5%	1%
For some (elderly and disabled) this is the only space they can walk their dogs – they should be allowed to do so in a controlled manner	22	3%	1%
Do not include multi-use areas that hold festivals/events and dog shows or are used for dog training sessions	5	1%	0%

## Suggestions

THEME	No.	% of respondents to this question	% of total respondents
Clear signage and enforce rules properly – encourage people to act responsibly	75	12%	2%
Provide more bags and bins that are regularly emptied	21	3%	1%
Fence off areas dogs should not be in – only during sporting season	20	3%	1%
Public reporting, name and shame offenders, CCTV and an appeal system. Ban offenders banned from these areas	17	3%	1%
Dogs should be kept on a lead if there is a match	4	1%	0%

Rock Park pitch areas should be better defined pitch areas	3	0%	0%
Dogs should be kept on a lead in all public areas	3	0%	0%
Provide “ball free” areas for dogs so they don’t get distracted	1	0%	0%

## Other

THEME	No.	% of respondents to this question	% of total respondents
Other issues needs to be addressed – litter, antisocial behaviour, human faeces and public urinating	19	3%	1%
Criticism of the consultation process	14	2%	0%
This would be bad for the local economy	7	1%	0%
Delegating this will be difficult – the minority will always ignore it and police have other priorities	5	1%	0%

## Detailed Themes

### Support

#### Agree to FPNs for Dog Fouling

##### **This will protect children and adults due to the public health hazard of dog fouling**

Dog fouling is a health hazard. Even when people pick up their dog’s excrement traces may remain and make their way on to a person’s body. This is a public health hazard.

##### **Increase the fines – owners should then have to be educated**

The amount for fines is wrong. The fines should be increased to act as a deterrent. There should be extra measures in place to punish such as dog education classes.

##### **Agree to a dog ban**

There is no place for a dog in these areas, they should just be for people.

### **Provide alternative suitable spaces for dogs nearby**

Some respondents agreed with the proposed ban on dogs on and around sports pitches with the proviso that suitably large alternative areas were provided for people to be able to exercise their dogs – potentially near to the sports areas that would be restricted.

## **Oppose**

### **Disagree in general**

This whole proposal is wrong and it should not be taking place at all.

### **Disagree to a ban on dogs**

Dogs should not be banned from these areas under any circumstances.

### **Concerns about using third parties – this should only be the local authority dog wardens. Must be fair and well controlled**

As mentioned above in previous sections. Also, in addition, respondents felt that public money should not be used to benefit privately owned sports facilities, stating that private land owners could enforce their own rules if they chose, but that public land should be used for the public.

### **Irresponsible few should not spoil it for the responsible many – punish the irresponsible**

Most dog owners are responsible and there are a few that are not. These restrictions are punishing all including most of the responsible dog owners and that is not fair.

### **Sports pitches are only used occasionally – dog walkers have as much right to use them**

Some felt that sports pitches are utilised far more by dog walkers than by people playing sports, and that dog walkers have just as much a right to use them to exercise their dogs – particularly during off season and when no games are taking place.

### **Dogs “on lead” should be allowed around pitches but not on them**

Families often come to watch their children play with their dogs as it is a long day and they cannot leave them at home or in the car. It is a nice family activity including the dog. They should be allowed to accompany their owners if they are not on the pitch, but rather at the side and on a lead.

### **Sports pitches should be used by all – dogs should be allowed in these areas as long as they are under control**

Sports pitches should be used by all whether the dog is on or off lead. This is due to sports pitches being used a lot of the time to train dogs as it is a safe place away from roads and cars, while on occasion gated areas are necessary for some dogs (e.g. tennis courts). Many other alternative places are being restricted and there is no other place for dog walkers to go to exercise their dogs. They should be allowed in these areas without restrictions as long as they are under control.

### **For some (e.g. the elderly and disabled) this is the only space they can walk their dogs**

For some people that live close to these areas that do not have a car this is the only place that they are able to walk their dogs. People such as the elderly and the disabled have only this area to walk their dogs and it would be devastating to them if they could not do so. Not allowing them to do so in a controlled manner without causing problems to others would seem unfair.

### **Do not include multi-use areas that hold festivals/events and dog shows or are used for dog training**

These sports pitches are multi-use and sometimes have festivals and events such as dog shows. Dog training sessions also use these pitches.

### **Disagreement with the idea that dog fouling on sports pitches is a problem**

Dog fouling is not a problem in this area and should not be enforced.

## **Suggestions**

### **Dogs should be kept on a lead if there is a match**

If there is a match it should be clearly stated that dogs should be kept on leads.

### **Clear signage and enforce rules properly – encourage people to act responsibly**

There should be very clear signs that encourage people to manage their dogs responsibly, that indicate which areas are out of bounds, and which fully detail the current and proposed rules. Education should be favoured over restrictions, but where education doesn't succeed existing rules should be more fully enforced.

### **Pitch areas should be better defined pitch areas**

Some respondents felt that certain parks – particularly Rock Park – had sports areas which were not well defined, therefore making it difficult to know where the pitch actually was.

**Fence off areas dogs should not be in**

Some suggested that sports pitches should be fenced off to prevent dogs from wandering into them (though not fenced during the off-season).

**Public reporting, name and shame offenders, CCTV and an appeal system. Ban offenders banned from these areas**

As above.

**Dogs should be kept on a lead in all public areas**

There should be no public spaces where dogs are allowed off lead.

**Provide more bags and bins that are regularly emptied**

If more bin and dog waste bags are provided and emptied this would encourage people to be more mindful about picking up after their dogs.

**Provide “ball free” areas for dogs so they don’t get distracted**

Dogs also need an area where they can run without being distracted by sports games with balls.

**Other Comments****Other issues needs to be addressed – litter and antisocial behaviour**

As detailed in previous sections.

**Delegating this will be difficult – the minority will always ignore it and police have other priorities**

Some felt that this was an unrealistic proposal that will be hard to delegate or monitor. The minority will always ignore FPNs and the police have more important things to worry about.

**Banning dogs would be bad for the local economy**

Having an anti-dog attitude will stop people from visiting and affect the economy.



### 3.5 Part D – the Tarka Trail

We believe that the presence of dogs 'off lead' on the Tarka Trail can be dangerous and a cause of nuisance to other users of this multi-use trail. We believe that regulatory controls should be considered as a result of:

- (i) The current level of regulatory activity.
- (ii) The observations of our Neighbourhood Wardens who patrol the district.

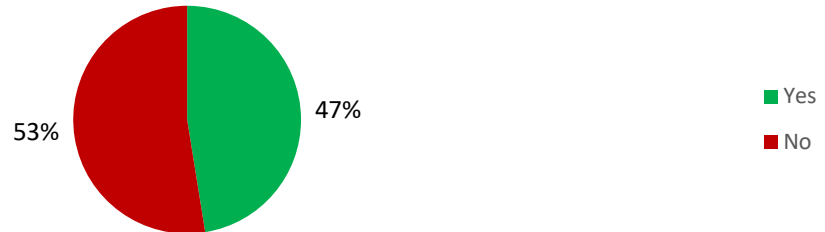
We wish to consult on the following proposals to ensure that the presence of dogs does not interfere with the enjoyment of other users of the Tarka trail:

- To prohibit the presence of dogs 'off lead' on the Tarka Trail.
- To issue FPNs of £100 to people who walk or exercise their dogs 'off lead' on the Tarka Trail.
- To require a person to place their dogs on a lead of 2.0 metre length or less, as directed by a suitably delegated person/officer.
- To issue FPNs of £100 to people who do not place their dogs on a lead of 2.0 metre length or less when directed by a suitable delegated person/officer.
- To increase the efficiency and effectiveness of enforcing this provision by giving delegated authority to approved third parties to issue FPNs.

The above controls will not apply to people who are blind or partially sighted and have an assistance dog registered with a member organisation of Assistance Dogs UK.

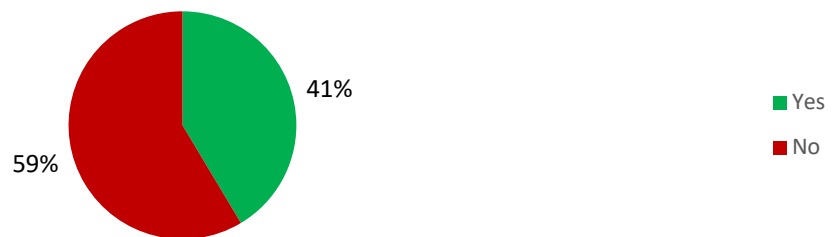
### D1: Do you support us in addressing these issues through a PSPO?

Over half of respondents (53%) do not support the proposal to address issues caused by the presence of dogs 'off lead' on the Tarka Trail through the introduction of a PSPO.



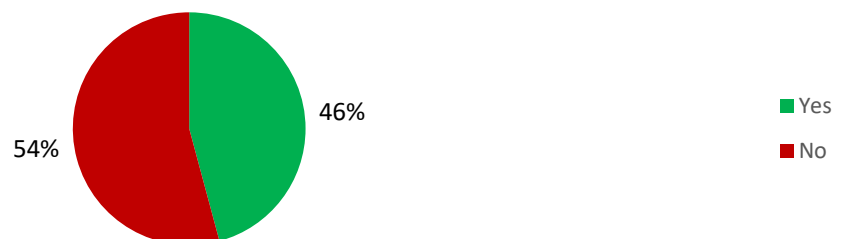
### D2: Do you support the proposed controls to prohibit the presence of dogs 'off lead' on the Tarka Trail?

Over half of respondents (59%) do not support the proposal to introduce controls to prohibit the presence of dogs 'off lead' on the Tarka Trail.



### D3: Do you support the proposed controls to require a person to place their dogs on a lead of 2.0 metre length or less, as directed by a suitably delegated person/Officer?

Over half of respondents (54%) do not support the proposal to introduce controls to require a person to place their dog on a lead of 2.0 metres length or less on the Tarka Trail, as directed by a suitably delegated person or Officer.



## D4: Comments and suggestions for alternative controls which would achieve the same aim as these proposals on the Tarka Trail

### Summary of Themes

There were 1,245 responses to this question. 16% of those who provided a response to this question provided comments which supported the proposals (this equates to 6% of total respondents). 62% provided comments which opposed the proposed actions (25% of the total). 56% provided alternative suggestions to be considered and 3% raised other points that they wanted considered.

THEME	No.	% of respondents to this question	% of total respondents
SUPPORT	200	16%	6%
OPPOSE	770	62%	25%
SUGGESTIONS	234	19%	8%
OTHER COMMENTS	697	56%	23%
NOT APPLICABLE	38	3%	1%

The following tables provide a summary of themes identified in our analysis of responses to this question.

### Support

THEME	No.	% of respondents to this question	% of total respondents
Dogs are dangerous and unpredictable	71	6%	2%
Being “on lead” protects dogs from cyclists, runners and children	31	2%	1%
Responsible dog owners will not disagree with these proposals	23	2%	1%

### Oppose

THEME	No.	% of respondents to this question	% of total respondents
The Tarka Trail is a shared, multi-use space, so fines should not be given to every dog owner whose dog is “off lead” but to all people	408	33%	13%

who cause a nuisance – including irresponsible dog owners and cyclists			
Restrict the proposal to the summer months, busy periods or weekends and/or certain areas of the trail rather than a blanket restriction	111	9%	4%
2m lead rule is an issue – too long, too short or more dangerous than a dog “off lead” that is well controlled	78	6%	3%
Priority should be given to walkers and dog walkers – owners should be able to walk their dogs “off lead” at their own risk	32	3%	1%
Dogs help cyclists slow down, making it safer for all users of the trail	12	1%	0%
Concerns with third parties issuing fines	11	1%	0%
Cyclists should not have their dogs “on lead”	7	1%	0%

## Suggestions

THEME	No.	% of respondents to this question	% of total respondents
Better enforcement of current rules, including clear signage to raise awareness and educate the public; a reporting mechanism for the public; mandate training for dog owners who receive FPNs – especially repeat offenders; CCTV; compulsory dog licences	125	10%	4%
Dogs not under control should be “on lead”	51	4%	2%
Allocate certain times of day specifically for dog walking	34	3%	1%
Divide the trail – with dog walkers on one side and cyclists on the other	22	2%	1%
Limit the number of dogs per person	5	0%	0%
Ban dogs altogether	4	0%	0%
Restricted to the trail only – do not include the land around it	2	0%	0%
Increase fines for repeated offenders	1	0%	0%

## Other

THEME	No.	% of respondents to this question	% of total respondents
Cyclists and runners can be dangerous – limit cycling speeds or use speed bumps	637	51%	21%
Walking is good for physical and mental health – limiting dog walking will negatively affect the elderly, the disabled, and tourism (which will harm economy)	96	8%	3%
Antisocial behaviour such as littering and teenage drinking should be tackled. Provide more bins on the trail, which are regularly emptied	52	4%	2%
Criticism of the consultation process	7	1%	0%

## Support

### Being “on lead” protects dogs from cyclists, runners and children

Dogs in these areas should be on lead for their own protection. This is due to the large number of traffic from cyclists, runners and children which could cause the dog to be alarmed and cause an accident.

### Responsible dog owners will not disagree with these proposals

This is a good proposal and responsible owners will not disagree with this. Having a dog on a lead is a good way to keep them under control and owners will be able to see when they are fouling.

### Dogs are dangerous and unpredictable

Dogs are dangerous and unpredictable. They can cause people to fall off their bikes as well as jump on small children and adults. They can also injure livestock.

## Oppose

### The Tarka Trail is a shared, multi-use space, so fines should not only to dog owners whose dogs are “off lead” but to all people who cause a nuisance

Some respondents felt that the proposal to focus solely on dog owners was unfair. They stated that the Tarka trail is a shared multi-use area and therefore all users who caused a nuisance should be equally sanctioned. Cyclists and runners also cause issues and should be fined, whereas responsible dog walkers

who control their dogs should not be subject to fines and regulations. All users of the trail should respect one another.

**There are not sufficient alternative spaces to walk dogs – this could lead to walking dogs in unsafe places**  
As above.

**Cyclists should not have their dogs “on lead”**

It is very dangerous for dogs to be on a lead attached to a cyclist and this action should be banned.

**Dogs help cyclists slow down, making the trail safer for all users**

Some suggested that having dogs off lead stops cyclists from riding as fast as possible due to the need to be more mindful of dogs.

**Disagreement with the 2m lead rule**

Some respondents took issue with the proposal to limit lead length to 2 metres. Some felt that 2 metres was too short and that this could actually be more dangerous than having a dog off lead, while others felt that 2 metres was too long and did not allow for adequate control.

**Restrict the proposal to summer months, busy periods or weekends and/or certain areas of the trail**

Respondents pointed out that the Tarka Trail covers a large area and that some sections can be very quiet at certain times of the year, therefore a blanket proposal covering both the entire trail and the entire year may not be suitable. It was suggested that restrictions should be confined to the summer months or weekends only, and only to the busiest sections of the trail (suggested as being those closest to towns).

**Priority should be given to walkers and dog walkers – owners should be able to walk their dogs “off lead” at their own risk**

Some respondents felt that walkers (including dog walkers) should be given priority to use the trail above cyclists and runners, and that those who used the trail – whether those opposed to dogs or those, for example, who feared for their dog’s safety from cyclists – did so at their own risk.

**Concerns with third parties issuing fines**

As above.

## Suggestions

**Better enforcement of current rules, including clear signage to raise awareness and educate the public; a reporting mechanism for the public; mandate training for dog owners who receive FPNs – especially repeat offenders; CCTV; compulsory dog licences**

This has been detailed in previous sections. In addition, with specific regard to the Tarka Trail, respondents stated that more signs reminding people of the presence of cyclists and the need to keep to the left would be welcome.

### **Children can be a nuisance**

Some believe that children can also be a nuisance and be a source of danger to others on the trail.

### **The proposal should be restricted to the trail only**

Some stated that they wanted the land around the trail to be excluded from the proposal and that it should be restricted to the actual trail only.

### **Limit the number of dogs per person**

Some felt that there should be a restriction on the number of dogs per person in order to ensure that they are properly controlled.

### **Divide the trail – with dog walkers on one side and cyclists on the other**

The only way to make the trail safe for all is to divide it down the middle for dog walkers and cyclists.

### **Ban dogs altogether**

Some felt that dogs should not be allowed on the trail in any capacity, whether off lead or on.

## Other Comments

### **Cyclists and runners can be dangerous**

As mentioned above. Plus, in addition, it was suggested that a speed limit and speed bumps be introduced, as well as regulations prohibiting the use of earphones by cyclists and runners.

### **Walking is good for physical and mental health – limiting dog walking will affect the elderly, disabled tourists (which will harm economy)**

As mentioned above.

### **Antisocial behaviour such as littering and teenage drinking should be tackled. Provide more bins on the trail, which are regularly emptied**

As previously mentioned.

### 3.6 Part E - Braunton Burrows Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

We are aware of concerns from Natural England, and the owners of land in and around Braunton Burrows regarding uncontrolled dogs disturbing grazing livestock. The suggestion is that this could adversely impact on their business. We believe that regulatory controls should be considered as a result of:

- (i) The current level of regulatory activity.
- (ii) The observations of our Neighbourhood Wardens who patrol the district.
- (iii) The need to support economic growth associated with the grazing of livestock in this area.

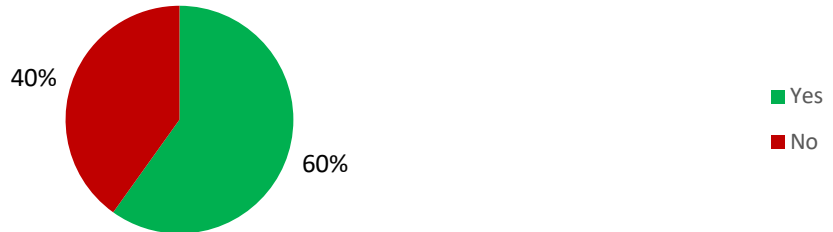
We wish to consult on the following proposals:

- To prohibit the presence of dogs 'off lead' in specific locations on Braunton Burrows at appropriate times of the year.
- To issue FPNs of £100 to people who walk or exercise their dogs 'off lead' in these areas at these times.
- To require a person to place their dogs on a lead of 2.0 metre length or less, as directed by a suitably delegated person/Officer.
- To issue FPNs of £100 to people who do not place their dogs on a lead of 2.0 metre length or less when directed by a suitable delegated person/Officer.
- To increase the efficiency and effectiveness of enforcing this provision by giving delegated authority to approved third parties to issue FPNs.



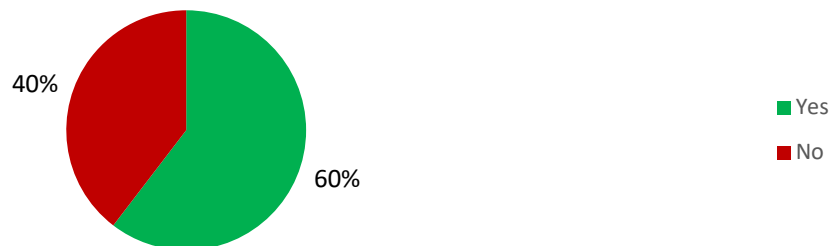
### E1: Do you support us in addressing these issues through a PSPO?

Over half of respondents (60%) support the proposal to address the issue of uncontrolled dogs disturbing grazing livestock in Braunton Burrows SAC through a PSPO.



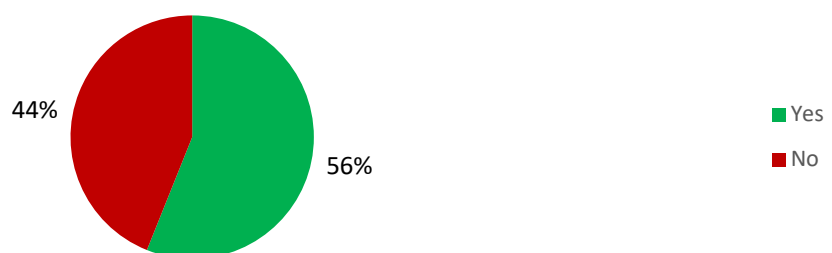
### E2: Do you support the proposed controls to require a person to place their dogs on a lead of 2.0 metre length or less, as directed by a suitably delegated person/Officer?

Over half of respondents (60%) support the proposal to introduce controls to require a person to place their dog on a lead of 2 metres length or less in Braunton Burrows SAC, as directed by a suitably delegated person or Officer.



### E3: Do you support the proposed controls to prohibit dogs 'off lead' in specific locations at appropriate times of the year?

Over half of respondents (59%) do not support the proposal to introduce controls to prohibit the presence of dogs 'off lead' in Braunton Burrows SAC at specific locations at appropriate times of the year.



## E4: Comments and suggestions for alternative controls which would achieve the same aim as these proposals for the Braunton Burrows SAC

### Summary of Themes

There were 765 responses to this question. 22% of those who provided a response to this question provided comments which supported the proposals made (this equates to 5% of total respondents). 50% gave comments which opposed the proposed actions (12% of the total). 42% provided alternative suggestions to be considered and 17% raised other points that they wanted considered.

THEME	No.	% of respondents to this question	% of total respondents
SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL	169	22%	5%
OPPOSE THE PROPOSAL	379	50%	12%
SUGGESTIONS FOR THIS POLICY	323	42%	10%
OTHER POINTS RAISED	131	17%	4%
NOT APPLICABLE	47	6%	2%

The tables below provide a summary of themes identified in our analysis of responses to this question:

### Support

THEME	No.	% of respondents to this question	% of total respondents
Support for the proposals in areas around livestock, nesting birds and wildlife	64	8%	2%
Increase the fine	4	1%	0%
Implement but decrease the fine	2	0%	0%
Allowances should be made for assistance dogs	1	0%	0%

## Oppose

THEME	No.	% of respondents to this question	% of total respondents
The majority, who are responsible owners with dogs under control, should not be put under restrictions and punished for the behaviour of a minority	124	16%	4%
There is enough space for dogs to be on and off lead in the Burrows, it is for the enjoyment of the whole community all year	90	12%	3%
The Burrows are the only place left that dogs can run free to exercise, which they need	60	8%	2%
2m lead is too short	28	4%	1%
The cattle should not be there, the space should be for the pleasure of people – the cattle/farmers are the problem	20	3%	1%
Issues with third party issuing fines – evidence should be clearly presented. Wardens are better placed to do this	16	2%	1%
Dog walking should be encouraged as it is good for a person's health/mental health	9	1%	0%
2m lead is too long	3	0%	0%

## Suggestions

THEME	No.	% of respondents to this question	% of total respondents
Provide more signage, educate people on how to behave around livestock with dogs – e.g. dog training. Signage to include CCTV, clearly highlighting designated areas fenced off for cattle and ways the public can report offences	149	19%	5%
Owners know dogs should be under control “on lead” around livestock but it is not enforced	129	17%	4%

Owners of dogs found disturbing livestock should be asked to put them on lead or fined by a warden – including harsher punishments for repeat offenders	44	6%	1%
All dogs should be on leads at all times	24	3%	1%
Ban dogs all together from these areas	10	1%	0%
Dogs should be on the lead when birds are nesting	9	1%	0%
Restrict the number of dogs per person	3	0%	0%
Existing paths into the Burrows should not be included in this proposal	2	0%	0%
People should be prohibited all together at certain times of the year	2	0%	0%

## Other

THEME	No.	% of respondents to this question	% of total respondents
Other issues need to be addressed – military training activity, vehicles, blank firing, litter and antisocial behaviour	862	113%	28%
Criticism of the consultation	62	8%	2%
This will stop people visiting Devon and the Burrows – harming the local economy	25	3%	1%
People need to use common sense	4	1%	0%

## Detailed Themes

### Agree

#### Support for the proposal in areas around livestock and wildlife

Respondents felt that the proposal for dogs to be better controlled was important for the good of livestock, nesting birds and other wildlife, as well as for the safety of dogs and their owners.

#### Increase/decrease the fine

Some again stated that they believed larger fines would be needed to create a greater deterrent, as well as the requirement to attend educational classes/courses. Others, however, felt that the level of proposed fine was too high.

### **Allowances should be made for assistance dogs**

Some pointed out that allowances for people with assistance dogs was not mentioned in the proposal for this section, and that they felt these allowances should be included.

### **Disagree**

#### **The cattle is the problem, not the dogs/people**

A small number of respondents felt that problems and issues would be better solved by removing the cattle, which were viewed as potentially dangerous and alien to the natural eco system. They disagreed that grazing cattle should take precedence over dog walkers and believed that cow excrement represented a more pressing concern than dog excrement. Some also stated that farmers are often rude to walkers and that they should be fined for nuisance behaviour.

#### **The majority, who are responsible owners with dogs under control, should not be put under restrictions and punished for the behaviour of a minority**

As previously discussed.

#### **The Burrows are the only place left that dogs can run free**

Respondents stated that the Burrows was the only place where dogs were allowed to run free and get the exercise they need. They felt that there should be at least one open space environment free from restrictions, and that the Burrows was ideally suited to this, with respondents pointing out that it was possible to walk here for many miles without running into other walkers or cattle, therefore negating the requirement to always keeping a dog on lead.

#### **2m lead is too long/short**

As mentioned above.

#### **Dog walking should be encouraged**

Some respondents stated felt that restrictions at the Burrows would discourage dog walking, whereas they believed dog walking should be encouraged by the Council in order to promote exercise, longevity, socialisation, mental health, and general well-being.

#### **Issues with third parties issuing fines**

As mentioned above.

## Suggestions

### **Owners know dogs should be under control “on lead” around livestock but it is not enforced**

Respondents suggested that owners already know that their dogs should be on lead around livestock – there are signs that state this – and that it is a small minority that do not follow the current regulations. Rather than introduce new regulations that negatively impacts responsible dog owners, the current regulations – including the issuance of FPNs – should be enforced.

### **Owners of dogs found disturbing livestock should be asked to put them on lead or fined by a warden**

Some respondents felt that specific owners who repeatedly walk with uncontrollable dogs should be required to have them on leads and, if they have disturbed livestock, they should be fined by dog wardens. Repeated offenders should be fined more. This was proposed as an improvement to a blanket ban which was seen as punishing dogs and their owners who already behaved perfectly in accordance with requirements and expectations.

### **Restrict the number of dogs per person**

As mentioned previously, some felt that restricting the number of dogs per person so that they can be properly controlled would help solve any problems and issues.

### **All dogs should be on leads at all times**

This would protect the public and wildlife. By having dogs on leads at all time, the owner has more control and they can keep them away from areas they should not be in and from people who dislike dogs.

### **More signage, more CCTV, more education and training**

As detailed in previous sections. In addition, with specific regard to the Burrows, respondents suggested that some areas should be fenced off so that cattle and the public (and their dogs) can be kept separate and no longer cause a nuisance to one another. It was also suggested that much clearer signage showing where cattle actually are should be installed, as there was a belief that many people were unaware of these zones. People should also be educated about the wildlife of the Burrows and how to act with their dogs in order to protect them and the wildlife/livestock, and there should be greater cooperation and interaction between farmers and dog walkers in order to make the area a safer and more beneficial place.

### **Existing paths into the Burrows should not be included in this proposal**

The existing paths in the Burrows should not be restricted as some people need to use them to get to other places, such as beaches.

### **Dogs should be on the lead when birds are nesting**

Dogs need to be controlled on a lead when birds are nesting so that they don't disrupt them. Maybe these places should be fenced off for their protection.

### **Ban dogs from these areas**

Some respondents felt that dogs caused too much disruption to be allowed in these areas and should be banned completely in order to properly benefit and protect wildlife.

### **People should be prohibited all together at certain times of the year**

Some felt that there were certain times of the year when dogs and people should be prohibited from entering areas of the Burrows in order to best serve wildlife and livestock.

## **Other**

### **This will stop people visiting Devon and the Burrows, harming the local economy**

Devon is advertised as a dog-friendly area, but these restrictions will negatively affect tourism as many visitors bring their dogs with them. In turn, this will be detrimental to the economy of Devon.

### **Other issues need to be addressed – military training activity, vehicles, blank firing, litter and antisocial behaviour**

There are other antisocial issues that are a problem in these areas. Military activity, litter, disruptive children and teenagers are also bad for the natural habitat of the Burrows and should have restrictions in place. More bins in general should be provided for litter.

### **People need to use common sense**

Common sense should be encouraged in these places. Signage of the area and education would help with this.

### 3.7 Part F - high tide roosting sites

We are aware that a significant proportion of the community take enjoyment from watching the diverse range of birds which rest ('roost') on certain sites of the Taw/Torridge Estuary during the high tide cycle. These sites are in both public and private ownership. The presence of dogs 'off lead' in such areas displaces resting birds and has the potential to directly limit the ability of this group of the community to enjoy this activity. We are aware that non-Government Organisations and local lobbyists have concerns about the impact of dogs 'off leads' on these sites, which are of high value as resting areas when feeding sites around the estuary are covered during periods of high tide. We believe that regulatory controls should be considered as a result of:

- (i) The current level of regulatory activity.
- (ii) The observations of our Neighbourhood Wardens who patrol the district.
- (iii) The concerns of non-Government Organisations and local lobbyists stated above.

We wish to consult on the following proposals to ensure that the presence of dogs does not interfere with the enjoyment of other users of the sites:

- To prohibit the presence of dogs in the locations identified in Figure 1 (below) at appropriate times of the year.

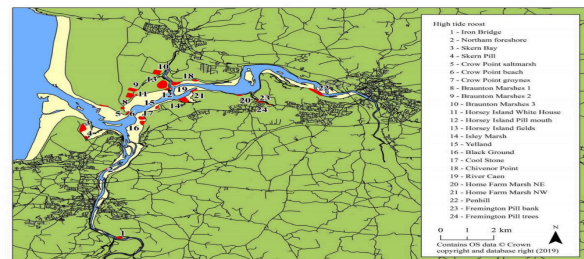


Figure 1 – High Tide Roosting Sites in North Devon District

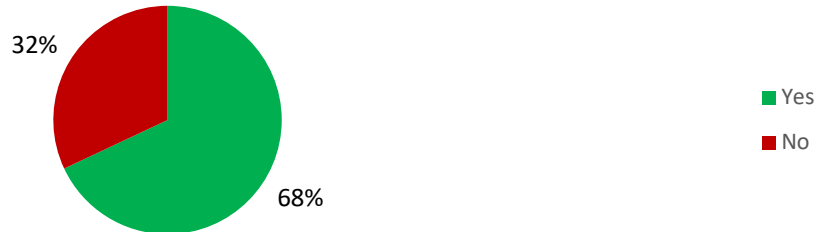
- To issue FPNs of £100 to people who walk or exercise their dogs 'off lead' in these areas during these times.
- To require a person to place their dogs on a lead of 2.0 metre length or less, as directed by a suitably delegated person/officer.
- To issue FPNs of £100 to people who do not place their dogs on a lead of 2.0 metre length or less when directed by a delegated person/officer.
- To increase the efficiency and effectiveness of enforcing this provision by giving delegated authority to approved third parties to issue FPNs.

The site owner will be responsible for identifying and promoting relevant dates and this will include the provision of the associated signage. The above controls will not apply to people who are blind or partially sighted and have an assistance dog registered with a member organisation of Assistance Dogs UK.



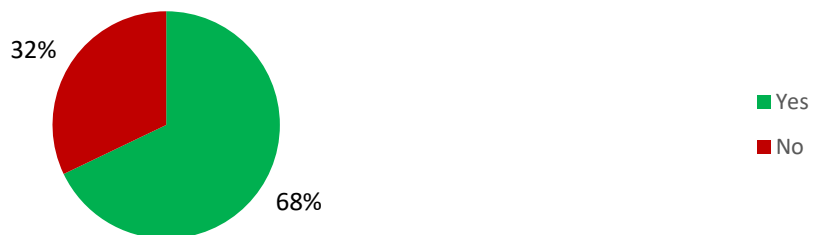
### F1: Do you support us in addressing these issues through a PSPO?

More than half of respondents (68%) support addressing concerns about the impact of dogs 'off leads' on certain sites of the Taw/Torridge Estuary through the introduction of a PSPO.



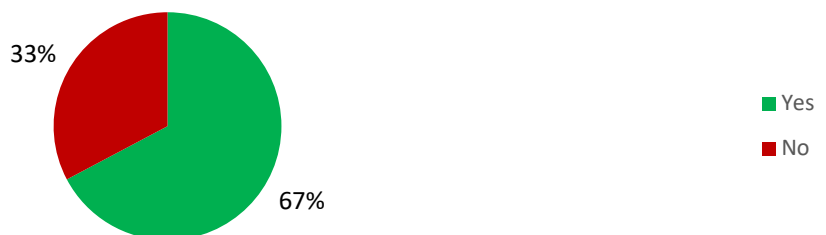
### F2: Do you support the proposed controls to prohibit the presence of dogs in the locations identified in Figure 1 at appropriate times of the year?

More than half of respondents (68%) support the proposed controls to prohibit the presence of dogs in the identified locations at appropriate times of the year.



### F3: Do you support the proposed controls to require a person to place their dogs on a lead of 2.0 metre length or less, as directed by a suitably delegated person/officer?

More than half of respondents (67%) support the proposed controls to require a person to place their dogs on a lead of 2 metre length or less, as directed by a suitably delegated person or officer.



## F4: Comments and suggestions on achieving the aim of these proposals at High Tide Roosting Sites

### Summary of Themes

There were 545 responses to this question. 27% of those who provided a response to this question provided comments which supported the proposals made (this equates to 5% of total respondents). 37% gave comments which opposed the proposed actions (7% of the total). 34% provided alternative suggestions to be considered and 24% raised other points that they wanted considered.

THEME	No.	% of respondents to this question	% of total respondents
SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL	148	27%	5%
OPPOSE THE PROPOSAL	202	37%	7%
SUGGESTIONS FOR THIS POLICY	187	34%	6%
OTHER POINTS RAISED	130	24%	4%
NOT APPLICABLE	47	9%	2%

The following tables provide a summary of the themes identified in our analysis of all responses to this question:

### Support

THEME	No.	% of respondents to this question	% of total respondents
Support as this protects wildlife	20	4%	1%
Dogs should be kept on leads and under strict control in nature reserves and around wildlife	20	4%	1%
Support the proposal as long as there are other places dogs can run free	6	1%	0%
A larger area should be included in this proposal	6	1%	0%
Increase the fines and provide training courses	5	1%	0%

## Oppose

THEME	No.	% of respondents to this question	% of total respondents
Object to blanket ban – dogs should be allowed in these areas but kept on a lead at certain times of the year when birds are nesting	35	6%	1%
The minority of irresponsible owners should be fined – the responsible majority should not be punished	31	6%	1%
These measures are discriminatory against dog owners, over-the-top and unnecessary, just because a minority do not like dogs and want to get rid of them	26	5%	1%
Dog walking has many benefits – exercise, mental health, family time. Proposals will adversely affect people who cannot travel to other places	21	4%	1%
Dogs need areas to be exercised “off lead”	20	4%	1%
2m lead is too short or long	20	4%	1%
Private companies should not be implementing this policy, and an appeal system needs to be in place	12	2%	0%
The area in question is too large	8	1%	0%
As hunting is allowed in these areas, dogs should not be banned	1	0%	0%

## Suggestions

THEME	No.	% of respondents to this question	% of total respondents
Provide more clear signage, which informs and educates dog owners on how to behave in this area, advising where roosting sites are and where dogs must be “on lead”	140	26%	5%
Fence off bird roosting areas to protect them	24	4%	1%
Ban dogs from these areas completely	13	2%	0%
This is already a law and should be properly enforced	10	2%	0%
All walkers should be banned from these areas	5	1%	0%
Provide ways for the public to report offences	2	0%	0%

## Other

THEME	No.	% of respondents to this question	% of total respondents
Criticism of the consultation	64	12%	2%
There are other problems for birds in these areas, including pedestrian and cycle traffic, littering, development of infrastructure and antisocial behaviour	49	9%	2%
This would stop visitors coming to Devon and have an adverse economic impact on tourism	20	4%	1%
Foxes/other wildlife are also a problem for birds	7	1%	0%

## Detailed Themes

### Support

#### Support the proposal as long as there are other places dogs can run free

Respondents felt that the restrictions were reasonable as long as there were plenty of other places where dogs could run off lead and be able to adequately exercise.

#### Support as this protects wildlife

This is necessary in order to keep wildlife protected from dogs. Dogs can be disruptive to wild life and they should be controlled.

#### Dogs should be kept on leads and under strict control in nature reserves and around wildlife

Dogs have to always been on lead when around wildlife so that they do not disrupt the natural behaviour and habitat. People need to make sure that dogs are closely controlled around wildlife.

#### Increase the fines and provide training courses

As mentioned above.

#### A larger area should be included in this proposal

This proposal does not cover a large enough area. The low tide roosting sites and ground nesting birds should also be included in this.

## Oppose

### **The measures are discriminatory and unnecessary**

Some respondents felt that the proposed measures were discriminatory against dog owners, as well as being over the top and unnecessary, and that they were being driven by a small minority of people in power who dislike dogs and want to get rid of them. These respondents believed the proposed measures were grossly unfair and that problems reportedly caused by dogs were being exaggerated.

### **Objections to a blanket ban**

Some respondents believed that dogs should not be banned from high tide roosting sites due to the fact that they are public spaces that should be available to everyone. Instead, they proposed that dog walkers should be allowed to use these areas but that dogs would be kept on lead at the times of the year when the birds are nesting – with exemptions for extremely well-behaved dogs who behaved perfectly when off lead.

### **As hunting is allowed in these areas, dogs should not be banned**

Some stated that since these areas are sometimes used by the shotgun community then dogs should not be kept on lead. The damage hunting does to the birds is much larger and cannot be compared to the damage dogs do.

### **Private companies should not be implementing this policy**

As mentioned previously – and, in addition, it was suggested that there should be an appeal system for dog owners who feel they have been unfairly fined.

### **The minority of irresponsible owners should be fined – the responsible majority should not be punished**

As above.

### **Dogs need areas to be exercised “off lead”**

Some respondents again pointed out that dogs require large areas to exercise off lead, feeling that the areas mentioned in the proposal are suitable to this purpose and large enough to provide enough space for dogs, their owners, and wildlife alike.

### **2m lead is too short or too long**

As before.

### **Dog walking has many benefits – exercise, mental health, family time, etc**

As mentioned above.

## Suggestions

**Provide more clear signage, which informs and educates dog owners on how to behave in this area, advising where roosting sites are and where dogs must be “on lead”**

In addition to previous suggestions for increases in the amount and visibility of signage, respondents felt there was a need for very clear signs indicating where the roosting sites are so that responsible dog owners could take appropriate action.

**Ban dogs from these areas completely**

Some stressed again their idea that dogs represent bring disruptive element to their interaction with valuable and that the roosting sites were too valuable to run the risk of any dogs entering the vicinity present. They therefore advocated that all dogs should be kept away from those areas for the good of the birds.

**Provide ways for the public to report offences**

As above.

**This is already a law and it should be properly enforced**

As mentioned in earlier sections.

**All walkers should be banned from these areas**

In addition to suggesting a ban on dogs in order to protect important roosting sites, some respondents felt that a ban on humans would also represent an improvement for the birds' well-being.

**Fence off bird roosting sites to protect them**

Alternatively, some felt that the best way to protect roosting sites from dogs and humans was to fence them off to keep them free from disruption and disturbance.

## Other

**Other wildlife is also a problem for birds**

Some believed that dogs were not the main threat to roosting birds, but that other wildlife such as foxes represented a greater disruption and danger.

**This would stop visitors coming to Devon and have an adverse economic impact on tourism**

As in previous sections.

### **Other problems for birds in these areas**

Some pointed out other issues facing roosting birds, including pedestrian and cycle traffic, children, littering, antisocial behaviour, and the development of new infrastructure near the sites – specifically, the Yelland Power station. All of these need to be controlled if the safety of these areas is to be taken seriously.

## ANNEX A: Consultation Questions

### Part A - Proposals for Controlling Dog Fouling.

The presence of dog fouling in public areas is a risk to health. A high level of street cleanliness is particularly important locally due to our desire to promote tourism and the economy. We believe that regulatory controls should be considered as a result of:

- (i) The current level of community representations received by us.
- (ii) The current level of regulatory activity.
- (iii) The observations of our Neighbourhood Wardens who patrol the district.

We have in addition identified six significant amenity beaches in the district, namely:

- Saunton Sands
- Woolacombe Sands
- Putsborough Sands
- Instow
- Croyde Bay
- Combe Martin

The owners of the beaches have indicated that they believe there is a need to regulate dog fouling controls to maintain the appropriate level of cleanliness for all users.

We wish to consult on the following proposals:

- To issue Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) to people who do not pick up their dog waste of £100 in all public areas and on the beaches of Saunton Sands, Woolacombe Sands, Putsborough Sands, Instow, Croyde Bay and Combe Martin
- To increase the efficiency and effectiveness of enforcing this provision by giving delegated authority to approved third parties to issue FPN in relation to the above

**Q1: Do you support us in addressing this area of community need through a PSPO?**

Yes

No

**Q2: Do you support the introduction of these controls on all public spaces across the district?**

Yes

No



**Q3: Do you support the introduction of these controls on all the beaches identified?**

Yes

No

**Q4: Do you support us in giving delegated authority to approved third parties (such as Police Officers, Parish/Town Councils, beach owners, and other landowners) to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of enforcing these controls?**

Yes

No

**Q5: If you have any other comments, or suggestions for alternative controls which would achieve the same aim as these proposals in relation to dog fouling, please provide them below:**

Part B - Dog Control.

We believe that walking/exercising dogs 'off lead' in public children's play areas can be dangerous.

We also take the view that walking/exercising dogs 'off lead' in public cemeteries can cause nuisance or offence.

Our Neighbourhood Wardens report that many people are disregarding the current 'advisory signs' which are in place in these two areas.

We believe that the presence of dogs on the six busy amenity beaches, (Saunton Sands, Woolacombe Sands, Putsborough Sands, Instow, Croyde Bay and Combe Martin), can be a cause of nuisance to other beach users.

The owners of these beaches want controls in place during the summer season (Easter Day - 30th September) to ensure that the presence of dogs does not interfere with the enjoyment of other users who may be sunbathing, swimming or involved in other leisure activities.

We wish to consult on the following proposals:

- To issue FPN of £100 to people who walk or exercise their dogs 'off lead' in enclosed children's play areas.
- To issue FPN of £100 to people who walk or exercise their dogs 'off lead' in public cemeteries.
- To prohibit the presence of dogs on six amenity beaches identified above between Easter Day and 30th September, except in certain designated "dog friendly" areas. The beach owner will be responsible for identifying and promoting such designated "dog friendly" areas - including the provision of associated signage.
- To issue FPN of £100 to people who allow their dogs to be present on these beaches - other than being in or travelling to the "dog friendly" areas as signed.

- To require a person to place their dogs on a lead of 2.0 metre length or less, as directed by a suitably delegated person/Officer.
- To issue FPN of £100 to people who do not place their dogs on a lead of 2.0 metre length or less when directed by a suitable delegated person/Officer.
- To increase the efficiency and effectiveness of enforcing this provision by giving delegated authority to approved third parties to issue FPN.
- The above controls will not apply to people who are blind or partially sighted and have an assistance dog registered with a member organisation of Assistance Dogs UK.

Q1: Do you support us in addressing these issues through a PSPO?

Yes

No

Q2: Do you support the proposed controls in enclosed children's play areas?

Yes

No

Q3: If you have any other comments, or suggestions for alternative controls which would achieve the same aim as these proposals in children's play areas, please provide them below:

Q4: Do you support the proposed controls in public cemeteries?

Yes

No

Q5: If you have any other comments, or suggestions for alternative controls which would achieve the same aim as these proposals in public cemeteries, please provide them below:

Q6: Do you support the proposed controls on Saunton Sands?

Yes

No

Q7: Do you support the proposed controls on Woolacombe Sands?

Yes

No

Q8: Do you support the proposed controls on Putsborough Sands?

Yes

No

Q9: Do you support the proposed controls on Instow beach?

Yes

No

Q10: Do you support the proposed controls on Croyde Bay?

Yes

No

Q11: Do you support the proposed controls on Combe Martin beach?

Yes

No

Q12: Do you support the proposal of designated areas of the beaches being promoted as being “dog friendly” - i.e. places where people can exercise their dogs without restrictions?

Yes

No

Q13: Do you support the proposed controls to require a person to place their dogs on a lead of 2.0 metre length or less, as directed by a suitably delegated person/Officer?

Yes

No

Q14: If you have any other suggestions for alternative controls which would achieve the same aims as these proposals on the beaches, please give them below:

#### Part C - Formal Sports Pitches.

The presence of dog fouling on public and privately owned formal sports pitches, (e.g. football / rugby / cricket pitches, netball / tennis courts, bowling greens, athletics tracks), is a risk to health.

High levels of cleanliness in these locations are particularly important to us due to our desire to promote tourism, the economy, and support residents and visitors to have a healthy and active lifestyle.

We believe that regulatory controls should be considered as a result of:

- (i) The current level of regulatory activity.
- (ii) The observations of our Neighbourhood Wardens who patrol the district.
- (iii) Private sports pitch owners wanting dog controls enforced to enable these areas to be safely used for the purpose which they are designed.

We wish to consult on the following proposals:

- To issue FPN of £100 to people who do not pick up their dogs waste from all publicly owned formal sports pitches.
- To issue FPN of £100 to people who do not pick up their dogs waste from all privately owned formal sports pitches, where the owner has requested such controls.
- To prohibit the presence of dogs on all publicly owned formal sports pitches.
- To prohibit the presence of dogs on all privately owned sports pitches, where the owner has requested such controls.
- To issue FPN of £100 to people who allow their dogs to be present on all publicly owned sports pitches.
- To issue FPN of £100 to people who allow their dogs to be present on all privately owned formal sports pitches, where the owner has requested such controls.
- To increase the efficiency and effectiveness of enforcing this provision by delegated authority to approved third parties to issue FPN.

The above controls will not apply to people who are blind or partially sighted and have an assistance dog registered with a member organisation of Assistance Dogs UK.

The site owner will be responsible for the provision of associated signage and promotion of these restrictions.

Q1: Do you support us in addressing this area of community need through a PSPO?

Yes

No

Q2: Do you support the proposed controls on all public and privately owned sports pitches across the district?

Yes

No

Q3: Do you support us in giving delegated authority to approved third parties, (such as Police Officers, Parish/Town Councils, sports pitch owners, and other landowners), to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of enforcing these controls?

Yes

No

Q4: If you have any other comments, or suggestions for alternative controls which would achieve the same aim as these proposals for public and privately owned sports pitches, please give them below:

### Part D - Tarka Trail.

We believe that the presence of dogs 'off lead' on the Tarka Trail can be dangerous and a cause of nuisance to other users of this multi-use trail. We believe that regulatory controls should be considered as a result of:

- (i) The current level of regulatory activity.
- (ii) The observations of our Neighbourhood Wardens who patrol the district.

We wish to consult on the following proposals to ensure that the presence of dogs does not interfere with the enjoyment of other users of the Tarka trail:

- To prohibit the presence of dogs 'off lead' on the Tarka Trail.
- To issue FPN of £100 to people who walk or exercise their dogs 'off lead' on the Tarka Trail.
- To require a person to place their dogs on a lead of 2.0 metre length or less, as directed by a suitably delegated person/Officer.
- To issue FPN of £100 to people who do not place their dogs on a lead of 2.0 metre length or less when directed by a suitable delegated person/Officer.
- To increase the efficiency and effectiveness of enforcing this provision by giving delegated authority to approved third parties to issue FPN.

The above controls will not apply to people who are blind or partially sighted and have an assistance dog registered with a member organisation of Assistance Dogs UK.

Q1: Do you support us in addressing these issues through a PSPO?

Yes

No

Q2: Do you support the proposed controls to prohibit the presence of dogs 'off lead' on the Tarka Trail?

Yes

No

Q3: Do you support the proposed controls to require a person to place their dogs on a lead of 2.0 metre length or less, as directed by a suitably delegated person/Officer?

Yes

No

Q4: If you have any other comments, or suggestions for alternative controls which would achieve the same aim as these proposals on the Tarka Trail, please provide them below:

### Part E - Braunton Burrows Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

We are aware of concerns from Natural England, and the owners of land in and around Braunton Burrows regarding uncontrolled dogs disturbing grazing livestock. The suggestion is that this could adversely impact on their business.

We believe that regulatory controls should be considered as a result of:

- (i) The current level of regulatory activity.
- (ii) The observations of our Neighbourhood Wardens who patrol the district.
- (iii) The need to support economic growth associated with the grazing of livestock in this area.

We wish to consult on the following proposals:

- To prohibit the presence of dogs 'off lead' in specific locations on Braunton Burrows at appropriate times of the year.
- To issue FPN of £100 to people who walk or exercise their dogs 'off lead' in these areas at these times.
- To require a person to place their dogs on a lead of 2.0 metre length or less, as directed by a suitably delegated person/Officer.
- To issue FPN of £100 to people who do not place their dogs on a lead of 2.0 metre length or less when directed by a suitable delegated person/Officer.
- To increase the efficiency and effectiveness of enforcing this provision by giving delegated authority to approved third parties to issue FPN.

Q1: Do you support us in addressing these issues through a PSPO?

Yes

No

Q2: Do you support the proposed controls to require a person to place their dogs on a lead of 2.0 metre length or less, as directed by a suitably delegated person/Officer?

Yes

No

Q3: Do you support the proposed controls to prohibit dogs 'off lead' in specific locations at appropriate times of the year?

Yes

No

Q4: If you have any other comments, or suggestions for alternative controls which would achieve the same aim as these proposals for the Braunton Burrows SAC, please provide them below:

### Part F - High Tide Roosting Sites.

We are aware that a significant proportion of the community take enjoyment from watching the diverse range of birds which rest ('roost') on certain sites of the Taw/Torridge Estuary during the high tide cycle. These sites are in both public and private ownership. The presence of dogs 'off lead' in such areas displaces resting birds and has the potential therefore, to directly limit the ability of this group of the community to enjoy this activity.

We are aware that non-Government Organisations and local lobbyists have concerns about the impact of dogs 'off leads' on these sites, which are of high value as resting areas when feeding sites around the estuary are covered during periods of high tide. We believe that regulatory controls should be considered as a result of:

- (i) The current level of regulatory activity.
- (ii) The observations of our Neighbourhood Wardens who patrol the district.
- (iii) The concerns of non-Government Organisations and Local Lobbyists stated above.

We wish to consult on the following proposals to ensure that the presence of dogs does not interfere with the enjoyment of other users of the sites:

- To prohibit the presence of dogs in the locations identified in Figure 1, (Figure 1 can be viewed in the documents tab), at appropriate times of the year.
- To issue FPN of £100 to people who walk or exercise their dogs 'off lead' in these areas during these times.
- To require a person to place their dogs on a lead of 2.0 metre length or less, as directed by a suitably delegated person/Officer.
- To issue FPN of £100 to people who do not place their dogs on a lead of 2.0 metre length or less when directed by a delegated person/Officer.
- To increase the efficiency and effectiveness of enforcing this provision by giving delegated authority to approved third parties to issue FPN.

The site owner will be responsible for identifying and promoting relevant dates and this will include the provision of the associated signage. The above controls will not apply to people who are blind or partially sighted and have an assistance dog registered with a member organisation of Assistance Dogs UK.

Q1: Do you support us in addressing these issues through a PSPO?

Yes

No

Q2: Do you support the proposed controls to prohibit the presence of dogs in the locations identified in Figure 1, which can be found under the documents tab, at appropriate times of the year?

Yes

No

Q3: Do you support the proposed controls to require a person to place their dogs on a lead of 2.0 metre length or less, as directed by a suitably delegated person/Officer?

Yes

No

Q4: If you have any other comments, or suggestions which would achieve the same aim as these proposals at High Tide Roosting Sites, please provide them below:



## ANNEX B: Coombe Parish Council Dog Control Survey Results

The Chairman of Combe Martin Parish Council, Cllr David Woodbury, sent a letter to be considered as part of the consultation, which contained the results of a consultation held in their village on the proposed dog controls conducted by Combe Martin Parish Council jointly with the Combe Martin Water Watch Group (CMWWG).

They hand delivered a leaflet to approximately 1,500 to 2,000 households in Combe Martin and put details of the consultation on their website. They received 208 completed survey responses to this local consultation. In summary, over 90% of responses they received supported the existing dog controls in Combe Martin, with 35% of responses coming from dog owners. As a result of reviewing their local findings, at the Combe Martin Parish Council meeting on Monday 10 August 2020, Council Members voted to support the retention of the dog controls in Combe Martin. The full results of this local survey are set out below:

<b>Number of Survey Returns: 208</b>		<b>Spoilt Returns: 11</b>	
		<b>3 Duplicates, 8 Changed Dates</b>	
<b>Q1.</b>	<b>Do you support the existing year-round dog ban On: Arnolds Plot, Hollands Park Play areas and Hollands Park football pitch?</b>	<b>Yes 204 98+%</b>	<b>No 4</b>
<b>Q2.</b>	<b>Do you support a dog ban on Combe Martin Beach from the 1<sup>st</sup> May until 30<sup>th</sup> September?</b>	<b>Yes 189 90+%</b>	<b>No 19</b>
<b>Q3.</b>	<b>Do you support a Combe Martin Beach dog ban For the Devon school Easter holiday period?</b>	<b>Yes 143 69+%</b>	<b>No 65</b>
<b>Q4.</b>	<b>Are you a dog owner? Two did not answer</b>	<b>Yes 72 35%</b>	<b>No 134 64+%</b>
	<b>How many dog owners out of 72 supported the Combe Martin Beach dog ban</b>	<b>Yes 58 80+%</b>	<b>No 14</b>
	<b>How many dog owners out of 72 supported the Combe Martin Beach Easter dog ban</b>	<b>Yes 32 44+%</b>	<b>No 40 55+%</b>
<b>Q5.</b>	<b>Have you completed the NDC online survey?</b>	<b>Yes 62 29+%</b>	<b>No 146 70+%</b>

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