

Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)

Introduction

Barnsley Council launched a public consultation to help shape a borough-wide Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) regarding the control of dogs.

The consultation took the format of an online survey which asked seven questions. The survey ran for one month from 16 September 2020 to 16 October 2020 and was promoted via social media and the Council website.

There were 1,089 responses to the survey from respondents largely living in the borough. The results were analysed and responses to freetext questions were coded into themes with each freetext response having a maximum of two themes. The themes can be seen in appendix A.

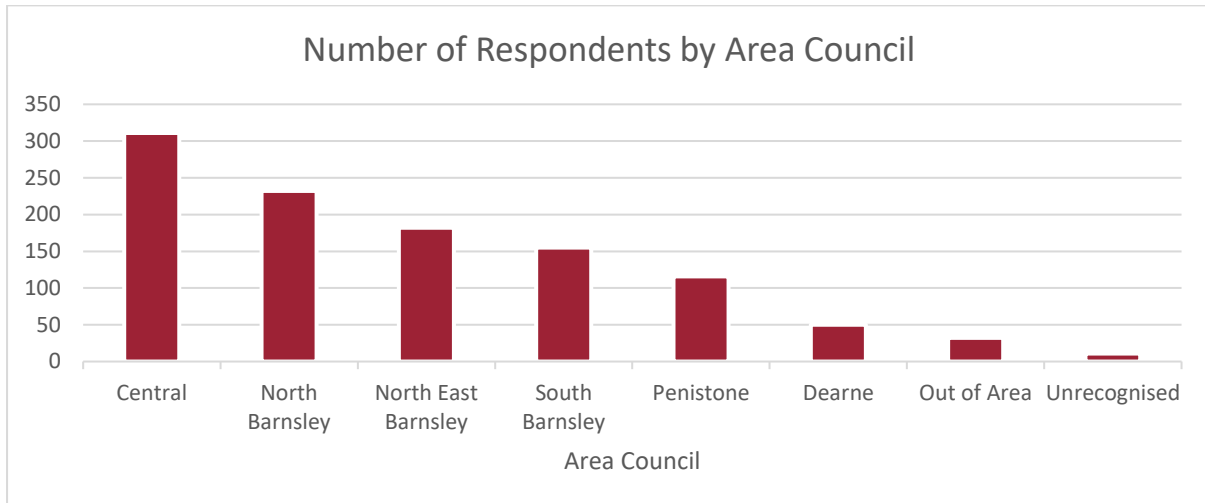
In this report where percentages are shown the actual number of respondents are shown in brackets.

Key Findings

- There was broad agreement with the proposed measures
- 96% (1,048) of respondents agreed that a person in charge of a dog must remove the faeces from any public open land across Barnsley immediately (question 1)
- 91% (987) of respondents agreed that a person in charge of a dog must put the dog on a lead when requested to do so by an authorised officer (question 2)
- 88% (963) of respondents agreed that dogs should be kept on leads at cemeteries and church yards including green burial grounds (question 3)
- 72% (779) agreed that dogs should be kept on leads at sports grounds, fields, parks and pitches when in use for officiated sporting matches (question 3)
- The least favoured location for dogs to be kept on leads was on footpaths around lakes and ponds where only 38% (411) of respondents agreed (question 3)
- In response to the question are there any individual parks in Barnsley where you feel dogs must be on leads at all times the majority of respondents said Locke Park (question 4)
- 79% (862) of respondents said yes to question 5, that a person in charge of a dog must not take it into or keep it within a fenced/enclosed children's play area
- 98% (1,063) of respondents agreed that a person in charge of a dog must carry the means to pick up dog faeces deposited by that dog (question 6)
- 28% (309) of respondents felt walkers should be limited to 2 dogs at any one time (question 7)

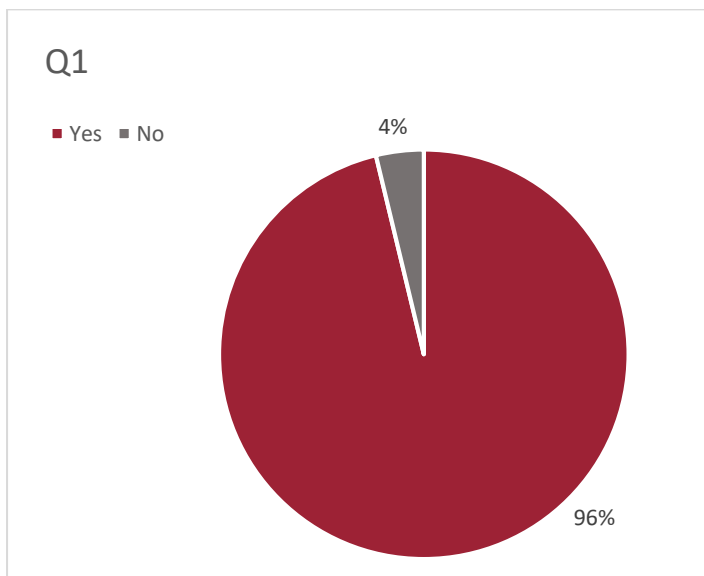
Detailed Findings

The majority of respondents (311) were from Central Area Council, followed by North Barnsley Area Council (232). A small number of respondents (32) were from outside the borough of Barnsley and 11 respondents provided unrecognised postcodes.



Whilst responses to each of the survey questions were considered by the area council a respondent was from care should be taken when viewing results at this level due to the limited number of responses. It was not possible to analyse the results at a lower geography due to the limited number of responses.

Q1. Dog Fouling: A person in charge of a dog must remove the faeces from any public open land across Barnsley immediately. Do you agree with this?

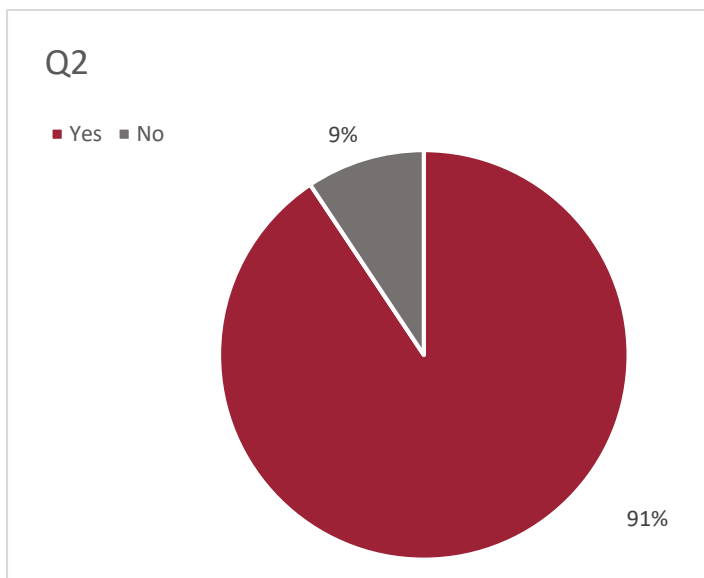


There was broad agreement with 96% (1,048) of respondents saying yes, that a person in charge of a dog must remove the faeces from any public open land across Barnsley immediately. There was little variation in response by area council.

Q1 Freetext themes

249 respondents chose to provide a freetext response to question 1. The majority of responses related to the fact that responsible dog owners already pick up after their dogs. The next most popular theme related to the perception that more bins are needed across the borough to allow for responsible disposal of this waste, followed by a perception that picking up after a dog is particularly important in certain areas such as footpaths and near schools.

Q2. Dogs on leads by order: A person in charge of a dog must put the dog on a lead when requested to do so by an authorised officer. This doesn't mean you must have your dog on a lead at all times. It is simply a requirement that should an authorised officer ask you to place a dog in your control on a lead then you would be in breach of the order if you refused. You would only be asked to do this if a dog was causing a nuisance/harassment or was a danger to another animal or person. Do you agree with this?



91% (987) of respondents said yes to question 2, that a person in charge of a dog must put the dog on a lead when requested to do so by an authorised officer. Respondents from Dearne Area Council area were least likely to be in favour of this with 86% (43) answering yes to this question.

Q2 Freetext themes

267 respondents chose to provide a freetext response to question 2. The majority of responses related to the perception that dogs should be on leads in public places, particularly in the presence of people and other dogs. The second most popular theme was that owners know their own dogs and should be trusted to know when to put their dog on a lead.

Q3. Dogs on leads: A person in charge of a dog on the land below must keep their dog on a lead at all times: Do you agree?

Question 3 asked respondents to consider whether dogs should be on the lead at specific locations, the table below shows responses by location.

Location	Yes %	No %
All cemeteries and church yards including green burial grounds	88	12
All footpaths around lakes and ponds	38	62
All sports grounds, fields, parks, and pitches but only when in use for officiated sporting matches.	72	28

- 88% (963) agreed that dogs should be on leads at cemeteries and church yards. This was echoed in freetext responses where respondents said it was respectful for dogs to be kept on leads in these locations.
- 72% (779) agreed that dogs should be kept on leads at sports grounds, fields, parks and pitches when in use for officiated sporting matches.
- The least favoured location for dogs to be kept on leads was on footpaths around lakes and ponds where only 38% (411) of respondents agreed.

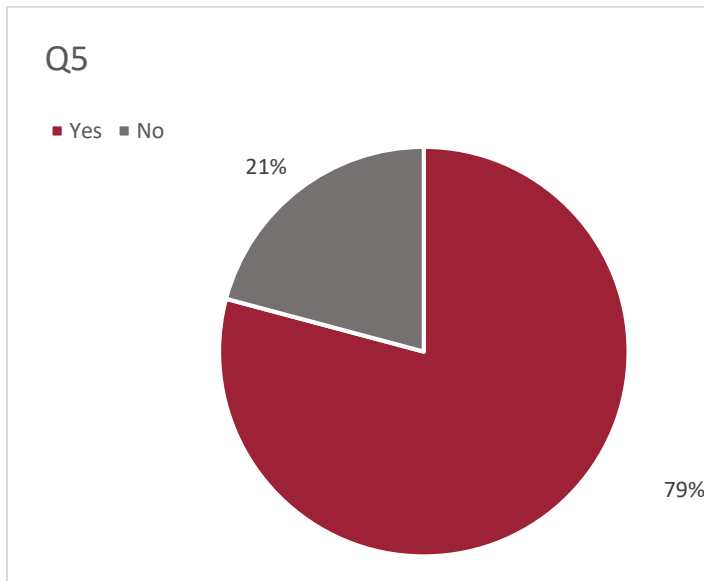
Q3 Freetext themes

There were 304 freetext responses to question 3. The majority freetext theme was 'don't penalise the dogs' with respondents stating that dogs need time off the lead to exercise and that responsible owners know when and where this is appropriate. Conversely the second most popular theme was that dogs should be kept on a lead at all times, showing a divide in opinion.

Q4. Restrictions: Are there any individual parks in Barnsley where you feel dogs must be on leads at all times? If yes, please specify the park name below.

There were lots of parks mentioned in response to this question however of those who specified a park where dogs should be on a lead the vast majority of people said Locke Park. Equally many respondents felt dogs should be on leads at all parks or at parks where there are children's play areas.

Q5 A person in charge of a dog must not take it into or keep it within a fenced/enclosed children's play area. Do you agree with this?

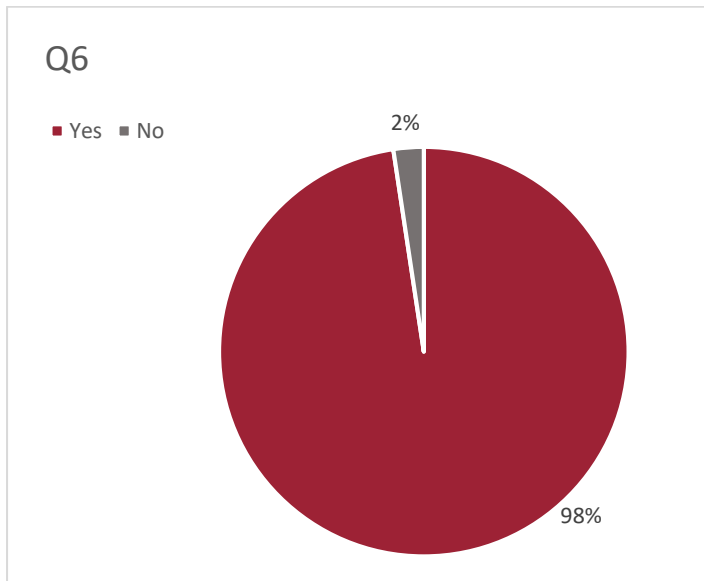


79% (862) of respondents said yes to question 5, that a person in charge of a dog must not take it into or keep it within a fenced/enclosed children's play area. Respondents from South Area Council were most likely to be in favour of this with 86% (136) answering yes to this question.

Q5 Freetext themes

Of the freetext responses to question 5 the majority suggested it was ok for a dog to be in a fenced or enclosed children's play area providing it was under control and that the person in charge picked up after it. The second most common theme was around safety, with respondents saying that it wouldn't be safe to have a dog in an enclosed area, particularly an area designated for children. The health hazard of faeces was also mentioned. The third most common theme was around family trips to the park and that if those in charge of a dog with a child weren't able to take the dog into an enclosed area the child may miss out.

Q6 Means to pick up: A person in charge of a dog must carry the means to pick up dog faeces deposited by that dog. Do you agree with this?



98% (1,063) of respondents agreed that a person in charge of a dog must carry the means to pick up dog faeces deposited by that dog. There was little variation in responses by area council.

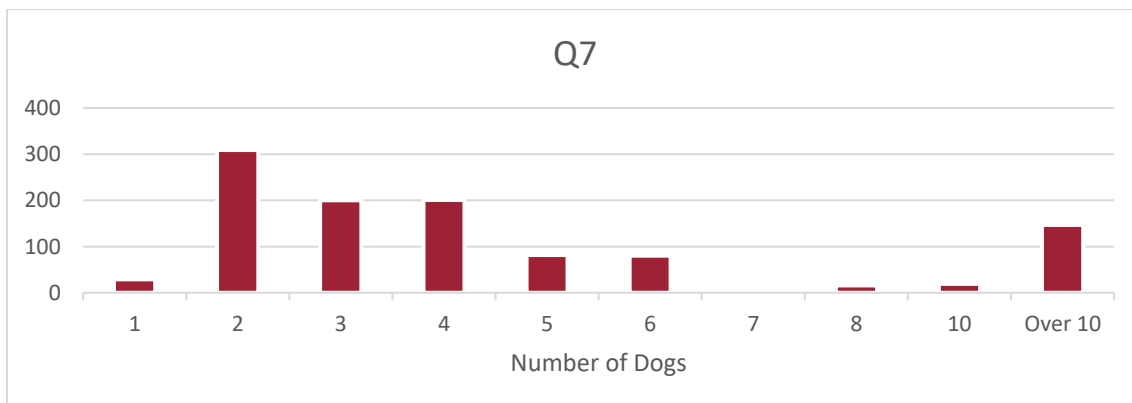
Q6 Freetext themes

The most common response theme for question 6 was that responsible people would always do this and there was no excuse not to. The second most common theme was around circumstances in which exceptions to this would apply, such as when the person in charge of a dog had already used their last bag or had given one to another dog walker.

Q7 Amount of dogs: A person walking alone with dogs must be limited to how many?

28% (309) of respondents felt dog walkers should be limited to 2 dogs. When combined 83% of respondents felt no more than six dogs should be walked by any one person.

Of those who selected 10 plus many went on to add comments to say the number walked at any one time should be based on owners discretion.



Q7 Freetext themes

The majority theme in response to the question a person walking alone with dogs must be limited to how many was that this is dependant on the person in control of the dog at the time. Professional dog walkers were mentioned and it was generally perceived they were trained sufficiently to allow for walking multiple dogs. The next most common theme was that it was dependant on the dog, the breed, temperament and size.