

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO HEALTH & HOUSING COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No. 8

meeting date: THURSDAY, 1 OCTOBER 2020
 title: DOG CONTROL PSPO
 submitted by: MARSHAL SCOTT – CHIEF EXECUTIVE
 principal author: MATTHEW RIDING – ACTING HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 That Committee note the outcome of the recent public consultation and consider the proposed extension of the Dog Control and Dog Fouling Public Spaces Protection Order 2017 for a period of 3 years.
- 1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:
- Community Objectives – To make people's lives safer and healthier.
 - Corporate Priorities – Promotes health and wellbeing through supporting healthier communities, businesses and improving personal safety of individuals.
 - Other Considerations – To promote healthier environment and lifestyle.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 On 20 October 2017, the Council made the Ribble Valley Borough Council, Dog Control and Dog Fouling, Public Spaces Protection Order 2017 ("2017 PSPO") to address the problem of dog fouling and problematic dog behaviour across the borough. The PSPO came into effect on 20 October 2017 and expires on 20 October 2020 unless it is reviewed and extended by the Council. A copy of this order is enclosed as Appendix 1.
- 2.2 Section 60 of The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (Act) makes provision for the extension of a PSPO. It provides as follows:
- "(1) A public spaces protection order may not have effect for a period of more than 3 years, unless extended under this section.*
- (2) Before the time when a public spaces protection order is due to expire, the local authority that made the order may extend the period for which it has effect if satisfied on reasonable grounds that doing so is necessary to prevent—*
- (a) occurrence or recurrence after that time of the activities identified in the order, or*
- (b) an increase in the frequency or seriousness of those activities after that time.*
- (3) An extension under this section—*
- (a) may not be for a period of more than 3 years;*
- (b) must be published in accordance with regulations made by the Secretary of State.*
- (4) A public spaces protection order may be extended under this section more than once."*
- 2.3 Since the PSPO was made the Council has continued to experience a high volume of complaints about dog fouling. The number and types of complaints, which have been received in respect of each part of the PSPO are set out in Appendix 2. It is considered therefore that the extension of the PSPO is necessary to prevent the occurrence or reoccurrence of the issues identified when the order was made and to prevent an increase in the frequency or seriousness of those activities.

- 2.4 The Act requires that a full consultation take place. The Council conducted a public consultation from 31 July 2020 to 13 September 2020, in which the views of the local community, local interest groups and parish and borough councillors were sought on whether the existing conditions of the PSPO should continue. Committee is asked to consider the consultation response. The Council also consulted the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief of Police for Lancashire Constabulary.

3 ISSUES

Consultation

- 3.1 The consultation comprised of an on-line survey published on the Council's website and publicised through press releases and social media.
- 3.2 193 electronic responses were received and these included comments from several Parish/Town Councils, Sports Clubs and the Dogs Trust. The results obtained from the consultation are summarised in the table below whilst a more detailed report is attached at Appendix 3.

Table 1 – Summary of Consultation Responses

| PROPOSAL | SUPPORT (%) |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Fouling of land by dogs | 96 |
| 2 Means to pick up dog faeces | 96 |
| 3 Dogs excluded from certain areas | 92 |
| 4 Dogs on leads (Clitheroe Cemetery) | 87 |
| 5 Dogs on lead by direction | 94 |
| 6 Maximum number of dogs | 81 |

- 3.3 The main objective of the Dog Control PSPO is to encourage responsible dog ownership and thereby:
- reduce the number of dog related incidents and complaints recorded each year;
 - reduce the impact of dog control management on the resources.

The Proposals and Recommendations

- 3.4 Committee will note that by not extending the PSPO, the Council would no longer have restrictive powers to deal with dog fouling within the district and no means of enforcement against irresponsible dog ownership.
- 3.5 A main purpose of the PSPO is to strike a balance between the needs of groups, families and sports grounds for recreation and leisure and those using them as public open space, in particular dog walkers.

Proposal 1 – Dog fouling

Current position – under the current PSPO, if a dog defecates upon designated land (any land which is open to the air and to which the public have access) and the owner fails to remove the deposit forthwith, that person shall be guilty of an offence and a fixed penalty notice served.

The public consultation held by Ribble Valley Borough Council showed a 96% support for this order to remain in place.

It is therefore recommended that the current PSPO be extended for a period of three years, replicating the terms of the existing Order.

Proposal 2 – Means to pick up dog faeces

Current position – a person in charge of a dog on land which is open to the air and to which the public have access to, must have with them appropriate means to pick up dog faeces deposited by that dog.

The public consultation held by Ribble Valley Borough Council showed a 96% support for this order to remain in place.

It is therefore recommended that the current PSPO be extended for a period of three years, replicating the terms of the existing Order.

Proposal 3 - Dogs excluded

Current position – a person in charge of a dog is prohibited from taking it onto land which comprises of any enclosed children's play area, skate park, tennis court, basketball court, bowling green, putting green, sports pitch (es) and/or any other recreational facility.

The public consultation held by Ribble Valley Borough Council showed a 92% support for this order to remain in place.

It is therefore recommended that the current PSPO be extended for a period of three years, replicating the terms of the existing Order.

Proposal 4 - Dogs on leads

Current position – all dogs must be kept on a lead in Clitheroe Cemetery.

The public consultation held by Ribble Valley Borough Council showed an 87% support for this order to remain in place.

It is therefore recommended that the current PSPO be extended for a period of three years, replicating the terms of the existing Order.

Proposal 5 - Dogs on lead by direction

Current position – any person in charge of a dog must put and keep the dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer of the Council. This applies to any land to which the public have access and where a dog is considered to be out of control.

The public consultation held by Ribble Valley Borough Council showed a 94% support for this order to remain in place.

It is therefore recommended that the current PSPO be extended for a period of three years, replicating the terms of the existing Order.

Proposal 6 - Maximum number of dogs

Current position – the maximum number of dogs that can be walked by one person is four. This applies to any land to which the public have access, except with the consent of the person having control of the land.

The public consultation held by Ribble Valley Borough Council showed an 81% support for this order to remain in place. Several comments were received suggesting that four dogs are too many for one person to control.

However, it is recommended that the current PSPO be extended for a period of three years, replicating the terms of the existing Order.

Making the Order

- 3.6 It is proposed that the PSPO should be extended for a further 3 years so that it will cease to have effect in 2023 unless reviewed and extended before that time.
- 3.7 As with the existing order the extended order would not apply to registered blind people, deaf people or people with disabilities who require trained assistance dogs or lack the physical ability to comply with the requirements of the Order.
- 3.8 If the Order is extended, then the requirements for publicity are set out within Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (Public Space Protection Orders) Regulations. The regulations require that where a Local Authority has made a PSPO, they must publish it on its website and erect such notices as it considers sufficient to inform Members of the public that the PSPO has been made and the effect of such an Order.
- 3.9 Any challenge to the PSPO must be made in the High Court by an interested person, within six weeks of it being made. If a challenge is made, the High Court can suspend the PSPO pending the verdict in part, or in totality. The High Court has the ability to uphold the PSPO, quash or vary it. This does not preclude others (such as national bodies) from seeking Judicial Review.

4 THE FUTURE

- 4.1 If new issues arise within the area where a PSPO is in force we may vary the terms of the Order at any time providing that we follow the procedures as set out in statutory guidance.
- 4.2 Under the extended order as with the existing order it will be an offence for a person, without reasonable excuse to:
- do anything that is prohibited by a PSPO; or
 - fail to comply with a requirement imposed under a PSPO.
- 4.3 Breaches may result in the service of a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN); failure to pay the FPN may result in prosecution.
- 4.4 It is proposed that officers authorised to enforce these restrictions will include both Police and Council Officers and it is likely that we will be required to work closely with the Police to help to ensure appropriate controls.
- 4.5 Council Officers will have delegated authority from the Chief Executive at Ribble Valley Borough Council.

5 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:
- Resources – monitoring and enforcement of the PSPO will be undertaken by existing staff as part of their daily duties. Costs will be incurred for erecting new signage throughout the borough.

- Technical, Environmental and Legal - The Director of the Chief Executive's Department has delegated power to take action under the relevant parts of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act and to authorise such other relevant officers to take action under the Act. Authorised officers will proceed to court proceedings where such action is considered proportionate and in line with the Council's Enforcement Policy.
- Political – None.
- Reputation – Improved public safety will enhance the Council's reputation.
- Equality & Diversity – No implications identified.

6 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

- 6.1 Having regard to the provisions of Section 60 of the Act, approve the extension of the 2017 PSPO for another three years as set out in this report.
- 6.2 Authorise the Chief Executive to make the Order.

MATTHEW RIDING
ACTING HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

MARSHAL SCOTT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

For further information please ask for Matthew Riding, extension 4470.

Public Spaces Protection Order

Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

Ribble Valley Borough Council Dog Control and Dog Fouling Public Spaces Protection Order 2017



Ribble Valley
Borough Council

www.ribblevalley.gov.uk

Notice is hereby given that Ribble Valley Borough Council ("the Council") in exercise of its powers under Sections 59 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 ("the Act") and under all other enabling powers makes the following Order known as:

Ribble Valley Borough Council Dog Control and Dog Fouling Public Spaces Protection Order 2017

1. This Order applies to the public places described in the Schedules to this Order and shown edged in red on the plans attached – ("the restricted areas").
2. The Council is satisfied that the two conditions below have been met, in that:
 - (i) activities carried on in the restricted areas as described below have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, or it is likely that these activities will be carried on in the public place and they will have such an effect;
 - (ii) the effect, or likely effect, of the activities is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature, is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable, and justifies the restrictions imposed by the Order.
3. This Order will come into force on the **20 October 2017** and ends on **20 October 2020** unless extended by further Orders under the Council's statutory powers.

BY THIS ORDER

4. The effect of the Order is to impose the following prohibitions and/or requirements in the restricted areas at all times:
 - (i) **Fouling of Land by Dogs**
 - a) If a dog defecates at any time on land in the restricted area detailed in Schedule 1 of this Order and the person who is in charge of the dog at the time fails to remove the faeces from the land forthwith, that person shall be guilty of an offence unless:
 - (i) that person has a reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or
 - (ii) the owner/occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to that person failing to do so; or
 - (iii) that person is subject to the exemptions listed in Schedule 1
 - b) For the purpose of this article:

- (i) a person who habitually has a dog in their possession is taken to be in charge of the dog at any time unless at that time some other person is in charge of the dog.

(ii) Means to Pick up Dog Faeces

- a) A person in charge of a dog on land in the restricted area detailed in Schedule 2 must have with them appropriate means to pick up dog faeces deposited by that dog unless:
 - (i) that person has a reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or
 - (ii) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to that person doing so; or
 - (iii) that person is subject to the exemptions listed in Schedule 2
- b) The obligation in Article 4 (ii) (a) is complied with if, after a request from a constable or authorised officer, the person in charge of the dog produces an appropriate means to pick up dog faeces.
- c) In this article, “an authorised officer” means a person who is authorised in writing by the Council for the purpose of giving directions under this article.

(iii) Dogs Excluded

- a) A person in charge of a dog is prohibited from taking that dog onto, or permitting the dog to enter or to remain on land within the restricted area referred to in Schedule 3 of this Order unless:
 - (i) that person has a reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or
 - (ii) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to that person doing so; or
 - (iii) that person is subject to the exemptions listed in Schedule 3
- b) For the purpose of this article:
 - (i) a person who habitually has a dog in their possession is taken to be in charge of the dog at any time unless at that time some other person is in charge of the dog.

(iv) Dogs on Lead by Direction

- a) Any person in charge of a dog, at any time, must put and keep the dog on a lead when directed to do so in the restricted area detailed in Schedule 4, unless:
 - (i) that person has a reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or
 - (ii) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to that person failing to do so; or
- b) For the purpose of this article:

- (i) a person who habitually has a dog in their possession is taken to be in charge of the dog at any time unless at that time some other person is in charge of the dog;
- (ii) a constable or authorised officer of the Council may only give a direction under this article to put and keep a dog on a lead if such restraint is reasonably necessary to prevent a nuisance or behaviour by the dog likely to cause annoyance or disturbance to any other person or the worrying or disturbance of any other animal or bird on any land to which this article applies;
- (iii) in this article, "an authorised officer of the Council" means a person who is authorised in writing by the Council for the purpose of giving directions under this article.

(v) Dogs on Leads

- a) Any person in charge of a dog, at any time, must put and keep the dog on a lead in the restricted area detailed in Schedule 5, unless:
 - (i) that person has a reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or
 - (ii) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to that person failing to do so;
- b) For the purposes of this article:
 - (i) a person who habitually has a dog in their possession is taken to be in charge of the dog at any time unless at that time some other person is in charge of the dog.

(vi) Maximum number of Dogs

- (a) A person in charge of more than one dog shall be guilty of an offence if at any time, he takes onto any land in respect of which this Order applies, more than 4 in the area detailed in Schedule 6, unless:
 - (i) he has reasonable excuse for doing so; or
 - (ii) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to his doing so.
- (b) For the purposes of this article a person who habitually has a dog in his possession shall be taken to be in charge of the dog at any time unless at that time some other person is in charge of the dog.

5. PENALTY

- i) Any person who fails without reasonable excuse to comply with any of the requirements or prohibitions at Articles 4(i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) in this Order shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 (currently £1000) on the standard scale.

6. Fixed Penalty

A constable or authorised person of the Council may issue a fixed penalty notice to anyone he or she believes has committed an offence. A person committing an

offence will have 14 days to pay the fixed penalty of £100, failing which they may be prosecuted.

7. Appeals

Any challenge to this Order must be made at the High Court by an interested person within 6 weeks of it being made. An interested person is someone who lives in, regularly works in or visits the restricted area. This means that only those who are directly affected by the restrictions have the power to challenge. The right to challenge also exists where an order is varied by the Council.

Interested persons can challenge the validity of the Order on two grounds: that the Council did not have the power to make the Order or to include particular prohibitions or requirements; or that one of the requirements of the legislation, for instance consultation, has not been complied with.

When an application is made, the High court can decide to suspend the operation of the Order pending the Court's decision, in part or in totality. The High Court has the ability to uphold the Order, quash it, or vary it.

Dated this 20th day of October 2017

**THE COMMON SEAL of
RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

was hereto affixed in the presence of:

Marshal Stott
Chief Executive

Stuart Cresset
Mayor



RESTRICTED AREAS

SCHEDULE 1

1) Subject to the exception in paragraph 2 below, all land which is in the administrative area of Ribble Valley and which is open to the air and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access (with or without payment).

2) Exemptions

Nothing in this Schedule applies to a person who:

- a) is registered as a blind person in a register compiled under Section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948; or
- b) has a disability which affects that person's mobility, manual dexterity, physical co-ordination or ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects, in respect of a dog trained by a prescribed charity and upon which that person relies for assistance.

3) Each of the following is a "prescribed charity":

- i) Dogs for the Disabled (registered charity number 700454).
- ii) Support Dogs (registered charity number 1088281).
- iii) Canine Partners for Independence (registered charity number 803680).
- iv) Canine Dogs (registered charity number 803630).
- v) Dog Aid (registered charity number 1098169).
- vi) Dogs for Good (registered charity 10929620).
- vii) Guide Dogs (registered charity 209617).
- viii) Hearing Dogs for Deaf People (registered charity 293358).
- ix) Medical Detection Dogs (registered charity 1124533).
- x) Support Dogs (registered charity 1088281).
- xi) The Seeing Dogs Alliance (registered charity 1156790).

SCHEDULE 2

4) Subject to the exception in paragraph 5 below, all land which is in the administrative area of Ribble Valley and which is open to the air and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access (with or without payment).

5) Exemptions

Nothing in this Schedule applies to a person who:

- c) is registered as a blind person in a register compiled under Section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948; or
- d) has a disability which affects that person's mobility, manual dexterity, physical co-ordination or ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects, in respect of a dog trained by a prescribed charity and upon which that person relies for assistance.

6) Each of the following is a "prescribed charity":

- i) Dogs for the Disabled (registered charity number 700454).
- ii) Support Dogs (registered charity number 1088281).
- iii) Canine Partners for Independence (registered charity number 803680).
- iv) Canine Dogs (registered charity number 803630).
- v) Dog Aid (registered charity number 1098169).

- vi) Dogs for Good (registered charity 10929620).
- vii) Guide Dogs (registered charity 209617).
- viii) Hearing Dogs for Deaf People (registered charity 293358).
- ix) Medical Detection Dogs (registered charity 1124533).
- x) Support Dogs (registered charity 1088281).
- xi) The Seeing Dogs Alliance (registered charity 1156790).

SCHEDULE 3

1) This Order applies to any land within the administrative area of Ribble Valley which comprises of any enclosed children's play area, skate park, tennis court, basketball court, bowling green, putting green, sports pitch(es) and/or any other recreational facility.

2) Exemptions

Nothing in this Schedule applies to a person who:

- (a) is registered as a blind person in a register compiled under Section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948; or
- (b) is deaf, in respect of a dog trained by Hearing Dogs for Deaf People (registered charity number 293358) and upon which that person relies for assistance (dogs must be clearly marked as assistants); or
- (c) has a disability which affects that person's mobility, manual dexterity, physical co-ordination or ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects, in respect of a dog trained by a prescribed charity and upon which that person relies for assistance (dogs must be clearly marked as assistants).

3) Each of the following is a "prescribed charity":

- (i) Dogs for the Disabled (registered charity number 700454).
- (ii) Support Dogs (registered charity number 1088281).
- (iii) Canine Partners for Independence (registered charity number 803680).
- (iv) Canine Dogs (registered charity number 803630).
- (v) Dog Aid (registered charity number 1098169).
- (vi) Dogs for Good (registered charity 10929620).
- (vii) Guide Dogs (registered charity 209617).
- (viii) Hearing Dogs for Deaf People (registered charity 293358).
- (ix) Medical Detection Dogs (registered charity 1124533).
- (x) Support Dogs (registered charity 1088281).
- (xi) The Seeing Dogs Alliance (registered charity 1156790).

SCHEDULE 4

1) Subject to the exception in paragraph 2 below, all land which is in the administrative area of Ribble Valley and which is open to the air and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access (with or without payment).

2) Exemptions

None

SCHEDULE 5

- 1) This order applies to all land at Clitheroe Cemetery, Waddington Road, Clitheroe, Lancashire (as shown outlined in red on the attached plan).
- 2) Exemptions
None

SCHEDULE 6

- 1) Subject to the exception in paragraph 2 below, all land which is in the administrative area of Ribble Valley and which is open to the air and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access (with or without payment).
- 2) Exemptions
None

| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Dog Fouling | 38 | 164 | 125 | 84 |
| Dogs on Leads | 1 | 2 | 6 | 2 |
| Dogs on lead in cemetery | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Dog exclusion zone | 0 | 1 | 1 | |

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Ribble Valley Public Space Protection Orders - Survey

REPORT



Ribble Valley
Borough Council

www.ribblevalley.gov.uk

Methodology

The Public Space Protection Orders Survey was set up as an online survey. The link to the survey was published on the Council's website and publicised through press releases and social media on 31 July and the survey closed at 12 midnight on 13 September 2020.

In total 193 electronic responses were received.

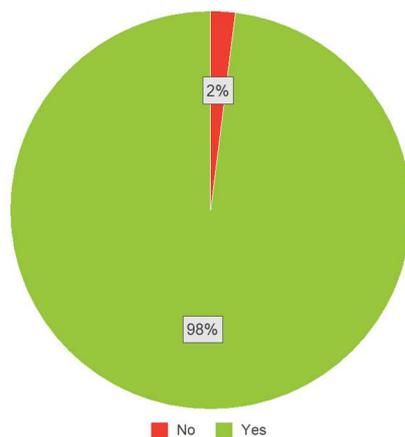
Several letters and emails were also received by the Environmental Health section as a response to the consultation. These have been included in Appendix A.

Profile of Respondents

Are you a Ribble Valley resident?

193 responded to this question. The majority of respondents were Ribble Valley residents (98%).

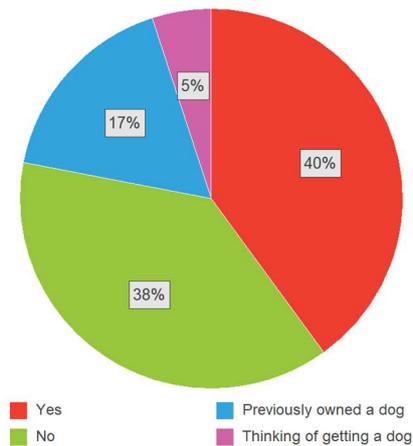
Are you a Ribble Valley resident?



Are you a dog owner?

193 responded to this question. 40% of the respondents were dog owners, a further 38% weren't dog owners, 17% have previously been a dog owner, and 5% were thinking of getting a dog.

Are you a dog owner?

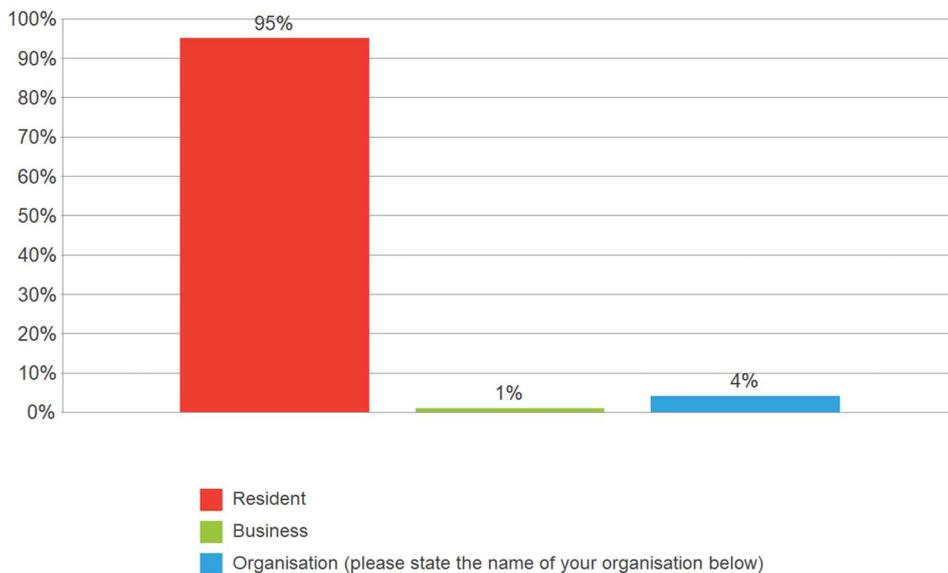


Are you responding to this consultation as a resident or a business?

193 responded to this question. The majority of respondents were residents rather than businesses or representing organisations.

Responses were received from 7 named organisations, which included Parish Councils.

Are you responding to this consultation as a:



The Results

Q1 -Fouling of land by dogs

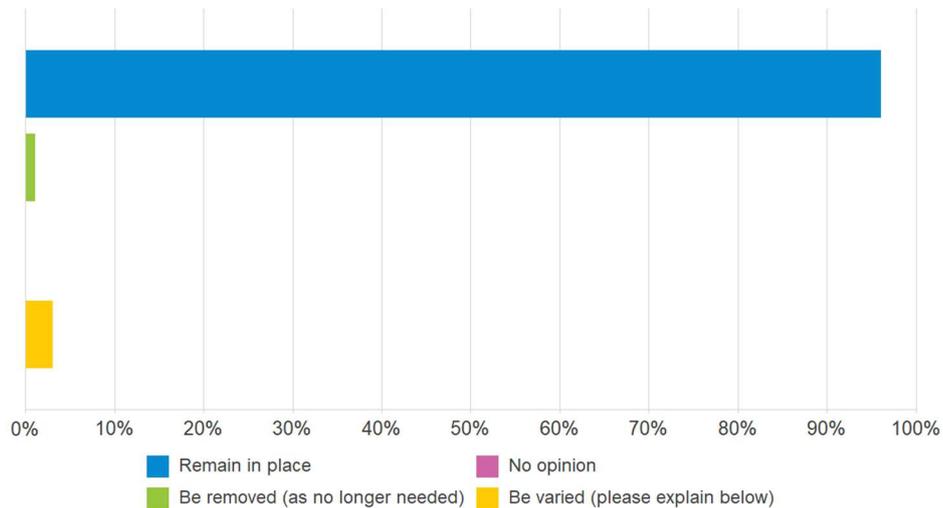
It is a condition that dog owners or the person in charge of a dog are required to remove faeces (dog mess) from any land which is open to the air and to which the public have access. Do you think that this condition should:

- *Remain in place,*
- *Be removed (as no longer needed),*
- *No opinion,*

- *Be varied (please explain)?*

193 people responded to this question. 96% replied that they think this should remain in place.

It is a condition that dog owners or the person in charge of a dog are required to remove faeces (dog mess) from any land which is open to the air and to which the public have access. Do you think that this condition should:



3% of respondents felt that there should be a variation and provided the following verbatim explanations for the variation:

- Pick up and remove from all areas where people walk but allow for natural breakdown in wild areas
- Also should be made to dispose of correctly once picked up. Regularly I have bags of dog poo put in to my household bin when it is awaiting emptying, often the bags are not even tied up.
- To include unadopted back streets.
- But add? To dispose of the bag appropriately not drop on verge or hedge? !!
- More importantly, PLEASE, PLEASE make it an offence to abandon the full dog poo bag in hedges, tree stumps, hanging from bushes, gates etc, etc. Its an absolute disgrace the amount of discarded bags

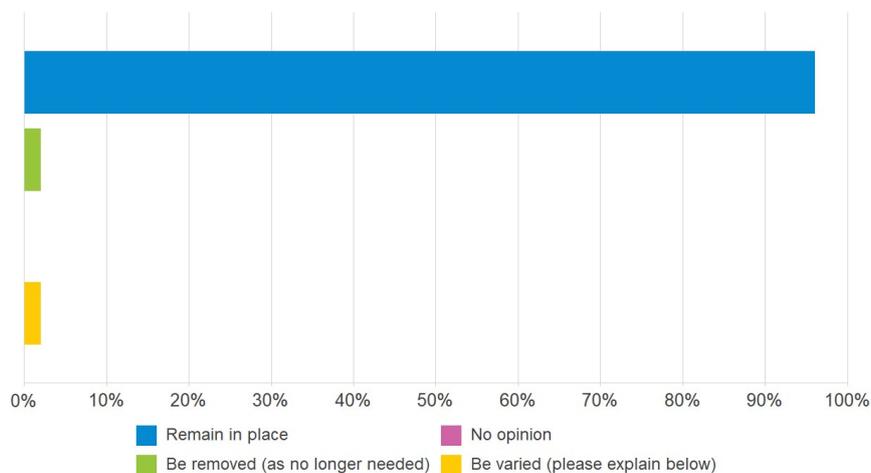
Q2 - Means to pick up dog faeces

This requires a person in charge of a dog on land which is open to the air and to which the public have access to have with them appropriate means to pick up dog faeces deposited by that dog. Do you think that this condition should:

- *Remain in place,*
- *Be removed (as no longer needed),*
- *No opinion,*
- *Be varied (please explain)?*

193 people responded to this question. The majority of respondents (96%) answered that they think this should remain in place.

This requires a person in charge of a dog on land which is open to the air and to which the public have access to have with them appropriate means to pick up dog faeces deposited by that dog. Do you think that this condition should:



2% of respondents felt that there should be a variation and provided the following verbatim explanations for the variation:

- There are far too many people not picking up their dogs mess and even if they do some people are hanging the bags on trees ??
- Persons must prove compliance
- How can this be legally justified when it has not been enforced?
- ? We question the effectiveness of issuing on-the-spot fines for not being in possession of a poo bag and whether this is practical to enforce.

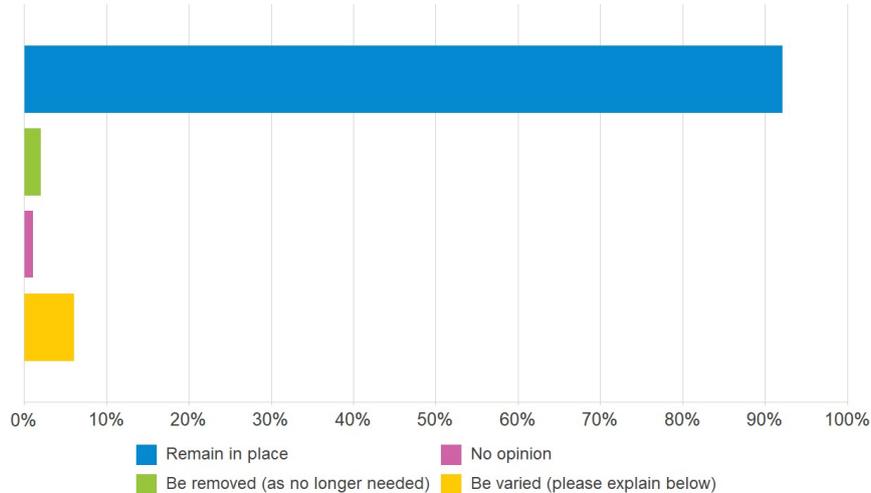
Q3 - Dogs excluded

Dogs are excluded from fenced play areas set aside for children and other sports pitches. The full list is outlined in the Order. Do you think this condition should:

- *Remain in place,*
- *Be removed (as no longer needed),*
- *No opinion,*
- *Be varied (please explain)?*

193 people responded to this question. The majority of respondents (92%) answered that they think this should remain in place.

Dogs are excluded from fenced play areas set aside for children and other sports pitches. The full list is outlined in the Order. Do you think this condition should:



6% of respondents felt that there should be a variation and provided the following verbatim explanations for the variation:

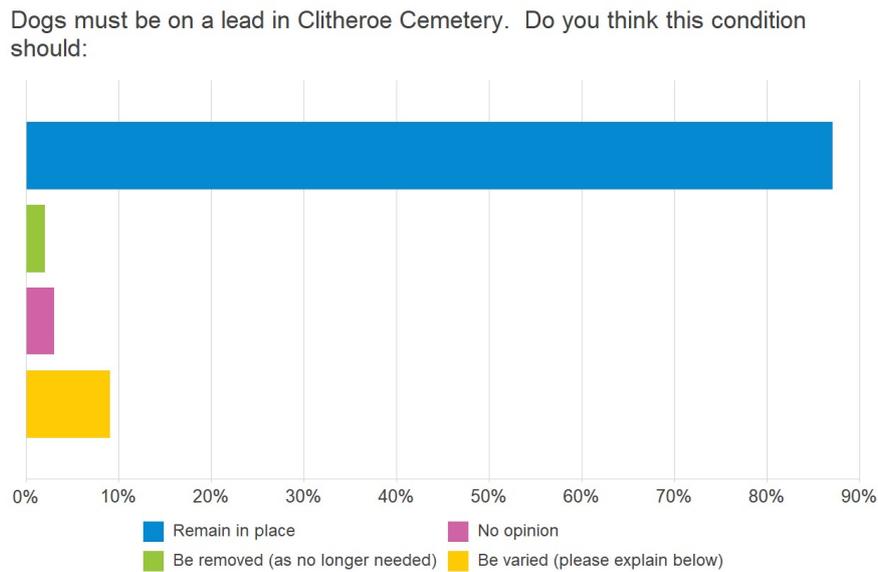
- We have the field by our Village Hall used by dog owners as a 'safe space' for dogs to exercise we do pick up \after the dogs perhaps spaces like this could be exempt
- Dogs shouldn't be allowed where children play as a safe guard to those children
- Definitely not on children's play areas but areas where there are football pitches like by roefield if you walk around the edge of the field and pick up poop I would allow dogs in these areas.
- I think this should be extended to sports pitches such as the Rec ground in Longridge.
- The current order pushes dog owners and public together into areas such as the castle park. Yet very large areas, ideal for off lead exercise, at Edisford are totally underutilised as marked football
- I think dogs should be allowed on leads to allow parents to take their child in fenced play areas-I wouldn't want to leave a dog tied up outside a play area and risk somebody stealing it or teasing it
- The sports pitches should maybe be changed. Private sports pitches should be included, but council owned ones which are only there for enjoyment as part of a bigger grassed area shouldn't be.
- Keep dogs of playgrounds, but sports fields like roefield should allow people to walk dogs across on leads
- Not from public footpath running alongside or through an unfenced play area or sports pitch
- Sports pitches should be shared, dog walkers exercise every day, football and cricket is once a week. Dog walkers could walk around the edges of the field or have a section fenced off as a dog park
- Excluding dogs from areas that are not enclosed could pose enforcement problems - we would consider it more difficult to enforce an exclusion order in areas that lack clear boundaries.

Q4 - Dogs on leads

Dogs must be on a lead in Clitheroe Cemetery. Do you think this condition should:

- *Remain in place,*
- *Be removed (as no longer needed),*
- *No opinion,*
- *Be varied (please explain)?*

193 people responded to this question. The majority of respondents (87%) answered that they think this should remain in place.



9% of respondents felt that there should be a variation and provided the following verbatim explanations for the variation:

- Dogs should be kept on a lead in all public places I am sick to death of the dogs running over to my dogs that are on a lead and they say it's ok they just want to say hello and then try and fight
- too include all cemeteries
- should apply to all cemeteries
- Extend the list of places to include other public spaces within the RVBC outside of Clitheroe
- I think this should be extended to all cemeteries in the Borough
- On a lead in any cemetery or church grounds
- All Cemeteries and all public places
- And other Ribble Valley towns
- Why does this only apply to Clitheroe Cemetery?-should all burial grounds not be included
- In all cemeteries in Ribblevalley
- It should also apply to the castle grounds too, as it used to. Lots of children utilise the area, and sports clubs use the fields, to have loose dogs in this area is inappropriate.

- Remain in place but also extended to the castle field as the amount of dogs running around not under control
- and public parks
- On a lead in ALL cemeteries
- And in parks ie castle grounds
- And other popular public spaces - perhaps within certain time constraints.
- all public areas
- Dogs Trust accept that there are some areas where it is desirable that dogs should be kept on a lead. ? Dogs Trust would urge the Council to consider the Animal Welfare Act 2006 section 9 requirement

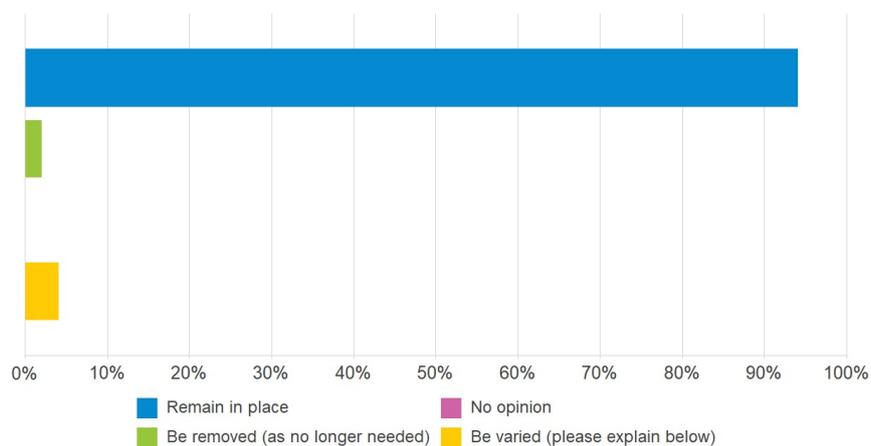
Q5 - Dogs on lead by direction

It is a condition that dog owners put their dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer. This applies to any land to which the public have access and where a dog is considered to be out of control. Do you think this condition should:

- *Remain in place,*
- *Be removed (as no longer needed),*
- *No opinion,*
- *Be varied (please explain)?*

193 people responded to this question. The majority of respondents (94%) answered that they think this should remain in place.

It is a condition that dog owners put their dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer. This applies to any land to which the public have access and where a dog is considered to be out of control. Do you think this condition should:



4% of respondents felt that there should be a variation and provided the following verbatim explanations for the variation:

- Dogs should be on a lead at all times
- on a lead at all times, whether directed or not by an authorised officer, notably on private land or where there is livestock. A dog off a lead is by definition not fully under control.

- I think all dogs should be on a lead in a public place where there is a risk to public health, for example all paths within the boundary and leading up to the rec ground or areas where sports or child
- Authorised officer this should be any person asking the dog owner as a Parish Councillor I am fed up asking people to lead there dogs. Mine are always on a lead. No excuse
- if not causing a nuisance and no aggressive behaviour or in same field as livestock should be ok
- Increased so that they do not threaten people
- when requested by any member of the public
- ? Dogs Trust enthusiastically support Dogs on Leads by Direction orders (for dogs that are considered to be out of control or causing alarm or distress to members of the public to be put on and kept on lead

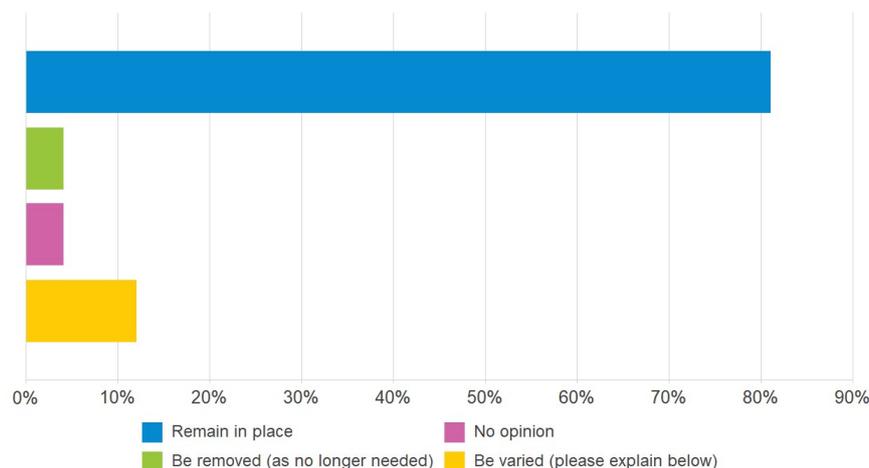
Q6 - Maximum number of dogs

The maximum number of dogs that can be walked by one person is four (this applies to any land to which the public have access, except with the consent of the person having control of the land). Do you think this condition should:

- *Remain in place,*
- *Be removed (as no longer needed),*
- *No opinion,*
- *Be varied (please explain)?*

193 people responded to this question. The majority of respondents (81%) answered that they think this should remain in place.

The maximum number of dogs that can be walked by one person is four (this applies to any land to which the public have access, except with the consent of the person having control of the land). Do you think this condition should:



12% of respondents felt that there should be a variation and provided the following verbatim explanations for the variation:

- 4 is too many

- as an owner of 5 dogs, this makes it impossible for me to walk all my dogs at once. it should be altered that if the dogs are all from one family it should be allowed
- Reduced to two dogs, there is no way one person can clean up dog poo and keep control of four dogs at the same time
- I think 3 should be the max. Some people struggle to control one
- I think this should be reduced to three.
- Four is too many, the number should be reduced.
- Reduce to no more than 3 dogs
- Having two dogs on a lead at all times I can say that is difficult enough therefore two dogs should be the maximum
- Depends on the size of dog. Very small dogs could be walked in slightly larger groups, maybe 6, but only if all the dogs are small.
- Reduce to 2. There's no way that you can adequately control 4 dogs.
- Some people cannot control 2 dogs
- Four is too many.
- Reduce to 2 for large dogs
- I have had 5 dogs in the past and they were all under control, and I know a lot of people with multiple dogs and they are well controlled-simply because they have a lot of dogs.
- some owners have more control of multiple dogs than single ones also affects livelihood of d of walkers
- Reduced to three
- How do they even look after 4? Make it 2
- Should be reduced to two.
- 4 is to many when they are walked by professional paid dog walkers as they meet up and walk together with lots of dogs.
- Number of dogs should be reduced to 2
- Limited to 2
- two max one on each hand is acceptable for control
- Surely a single dog walker can not control 4 dogs at the same time! This number should be reduced.
- ? The behaviour of the dogs and the competency of the handler need to be taken into consideration if considering this order. Research from 2010 shows that 95% of dog owners have up to 3 dogs.

Q7 - Any other comments?

Do you have any other ideas on how we can improve dog control in Ribble Valley? Please let us know your ideas.

Nearly every respondent made comments. Below are the verbatim comments received.

- "Dogs should not be allowed to chase people using public footpaths though private land ie they should be under control / on a lead. I have constantly been chased by a dog when on a public

right of way through a farm yard - as I am scared of dogs (father & child bitten in unprovoked attacks) this puts me off using the path (which may be the intention)"

- "Fine people throwing the bags into the open with dog faeces in them"
- "increase dog wardens around the longridge area"
- "More dog warden patrols, particularly in problem areas and at busy times for dog walking. More signage in public places."
- "Enforcement of fines for dog fouling."
- "More patrols in dog fouling hotspots and more dog poo bins located in hotspots"
- "Higher fine might help to force those who make a bad name to every decent and responsible dog owners"
- "More patrols by warden in sensitive areas, lead control of breeds like staffies, and big dogs at all times anywhere"
- "There are some dog owners who give responsible dog owners a bad name. Irresponsible dog owners allow their dogs to foul in public areas. We need more dog wardens to rigorously enforce the Order, particularly in Longridge where dog fouling in parks and on pavements is a particular problem."
- "Keep all dogs on leads unless on private property I have stopped taking my dogs to beacon fell because everyone just lets their dogs run wild off the leads or they are on the retractable leads and the owners are in front and the dogs trailing behind or miles in front and they don't see the dog has had a poo"
- "mandatory that dogs are on a lead at all times when crossing private, residential land over which there is a public right of way"
- "By enforcing the rules and regulations that are in place more stringently. More signage and bins and possibly information delivered to each household so no one can say they weren't aware. Also ensure fines are executed."
- "More dog bins would be useful. a dog warden that actually understands the difference between a 'dog playing' and a 'dog out of control'"
- "In Gisburn we have a problem with some people leaving bags containing dog waste in the playing field, pavilion building, along footpaths or at the entrance gates to the field. There have also been problems with people dropping the bags in other people's red bins that they pass on the way home. Could the legislation be extended to require people to dispose of the bags properly in either the public bins provided for the purpose or in their own bin at home?"
- "Bigger penalties for those that breach the condition"
- "More wardens needed. More fining needed."
- "Publicise those caught to act as a deterrent and also make it an offence (if it isn't already) to leave poop bags and contents in public places ie footpaths, on walls and hanging from road signs, trees etc. Obtain funds to periodically have the contents of poop bags frequently left in public places tested for species. I'm sure that could bring persistent offenders to justice. Someone constantly leaves poop bags on the floor next to the street name on Bosburn Drive, Mellor Brook."
- "More dog poop bins in the area"
- "More dog bins around"
- "more dog bins in mellor village, there is only one !!"
- "Other than CCTV and education, unfortunately no."

- "No just keep up the good work!"
- "Be around to actually enforce the rules. For example, station an officer in random play areas for an hour or so every weekend day and every day during school holidays. More dog warden patrols early morning and 9/10pm at night when owners walk dogs"
- "Dogs should remain in a lead on all public highways. A guy was walking along pendle road with his dog trotting beside him, no lead. It saw something across the road and darted out in front of me. Luckily I managed to stop without hurting anyone but my sister did have a stiff neck for a couple of days. A small minority of dog owners are irresponsible and it's only those that will object"
- "More visibility of Dog Warden"
- "information posters on how dog faeces can be potentially detrimental to the well-being of adults and especially children"
- "I live in Gisburn and we only have 1 designated dog waste bin. We need more spread around the village."
- "More dog wardens patrolling problem areas. At the moment a percentage of their time is used in emptying dog bins which could be taken off their job description allowing them to concentrate on visiting different areas, speaking to dog owners about dog fouling and controlling their dogs."
- "More presence of dogs wardens for those who don't pick up poop and for those people who have temperamental dogs that should be on a lead."
- "Fenced off areas for people to let their dogs off would be more appropriate means of control. At the moment I find it disgusting that dogs are allowed on sports pitches or areas where children travel to and from playgrounds. the hanging dog poo bag is now a blight on many a walk. It is unacceptable that people walk their dog so it can have a poo in a park, or on a pavement to and from their homes. there is always a residual mess left which is unhygienic. A compromise would be to allow the local public to volunteer to set up dog friendly areas within a park but which is fenced off. This could serve as a beacon of excellence in promoting and educating good ownership and provide a link to RVBC."
- "Dogs within the castle grounds should only be let off the lead in the lower fields, in all other areas of the castle they should remain on a lead."
- "Allow more access to Edisford fields for off lead exercise. Dog walkers are out early in the morning and late at night. They will deliberately go to places to avoid groups of people. The current legislation severely limits locations for off lead exercise, pushing dogs into areas that can be very crowded. If dog fouling was tackled more robustly, then the shared use of these larger areas would decrease incidents of people being concerned over dogs having (much needed) off the lead exercise."
- "Having tried to raise an issue with the dog warden on 16/06/20 I have yet to receive any contact from her. I have spoken to her colleague in Environmental Health who stated she works 2 and a half days a week and is extremely busy. It would appear we need another dog warden to support the existing one and provide a better service to our community. The issues I wanted to report were very real and numerous and to top it all being committed by a 'professional' dog walker."
- "Dogs to be on a lead at all times in any and all public spaces"
- "Installation of more dog poo bins More frequent emptying of existing dog poo bins Installation of poo bag dispensers by bins and entrances to areas of high use Recruitment of more dog wardens who can patrol areas of concern More vigorous enforcement of regulations Installation of CCTV in areas of high concern"
- "More bins"

- "Consider idea of areas for exercising dogs off lead."
- "More Dog Wardens & more fixed penalties issued please."
- "To control the no of dogs to be looked after by dog minders"
- "More poo bins on green space"
- "AS is but NO TO WARDENS HAVING POWERS TO ORDER OWNERS TO LEAD UP."
- "more dog poo bins"
- "Please place a poo bin at the end of Moorfield Avenue, Ramsgreave as there is continual fouling of the path there."
- "Place bins at entrance to popular dog walking sites. Definitely at the lay-by entrances to Dean Clough reservoir"
- "All dogs should be on leads when using public rights of way which cross over private land unless allowed by the land owner. All dogs should be on leads when using public rights of way which cross over sports grounds where young people may take part in sport."
- "More dog bins"
- "As previously suggested dog owners should dispose of bags of dog waste correctly, should be fined for using other peoples domestic bins to dispose of the bags."
- "- for more dog poo bins to be put into the area - for dog poo bins to be emptied more frequently."
- "I live in the Wilpshire area of the Ribble Valley and amount of dog fouling left on the pavements and public footpaths has become a terrible problem in recent months. From what has been posted on the local Facebook/Nextdoor Neighbour, some dog owners seem to find it highly when people complain about this but it isn't funny when you can't go for a walk without having to wheel prams into busy main roads and walk into the road with children to avoid it. Perhaps, if some of these dog owners were fined they wouldn't find it so amusing and would start picking up after their dogs."
- "Dogs on lead at all times. The incidence of dogs fouling is so much greater when the dog owner studiously walks on whilst the dog fouls the pavement etc, this allows him/her to ignore the protocols."
- "More fines for dog foul"
- "Increase signage about dog fouling and review signage condition more often. Some signs have been torn down!"
- "Increase the number of dog bins or litter bins around the Ribble valley Increased emptying of litter bins in the RV area, would help. Far too many bins are overflowing and especially in rural areas. Increase the number of dog wardens in the RV borough. I've personally never seen a warden or even a wardens vehicle. Increase presence would be good. Can RV introduce a licence fee for dog owners? If you can, Then you should. This can help pay towards increased dog wardens across the borough. ?Stick and flick? remove the rumour and explain to the public that this is possible in certain areas. Maybe stick and flick signage in designated areas."
- "More bins for the disposal of poo bags and possibly CCTV in areas where it is known to be bad. Hopefully if caught on CCTV and they are hit with a hefty fine they will pick the mess up."
- "Sadly council funds are limited, but it would be good to see high profile prosecutions of some of the tiny minority that do not clean up after their dogs."
- "As a Wilpshire Parish Councillor and a two dog owner I am Fed up with all the complaints about dogs we must take action. Allow councillors to enforce the rules as well as dog wardens."

Large signs telling people to put their dog on a lead. I know a number of dog owners that do not and will not use a lead so RVBC must follow through with the fines and keep giving them. The largest group of people who complain about dogs to me are dog owners and I for one do not want the bad name from the idiots who do not have control over their dogs"

- "More dog waste bins in appropriate places so dog owners aren't tempted to drop their faeces bags into the bins of non dog owners if the bin is in reach."
- "I have never seen a Dog Warden actually on the ground and I always wish we could have more on the spot fines to deter people from leaving dog faeces around. As a family we are even more disgusted by those who bag it and leave it. I also think extending leads are dangerous when used incorrectly."
- "During the pandemic all dogs should be kept on a lead in public places. When walking around on the outskirts of Clitheroe we have experienced on a number of occasions when a dog is off the lead and the owner is a long way in front and we are in between the dog and its owner then owner turns back to look for dog passing very close by us well below 2metres"
- "Get people to keep dogs on a lead more when around other people. Dog owners need to be educated that not everyone wants their dog to approach them - people have allergies, people have been attacked by dogs previously, people think they are dirty, people are generally scared of them. It is the responsibility of dog owners to keep them under control at all times, not to let them approach people, not to let them bark or growl at others. If they can't do that they shouldn't be able to keep a dog."
- "Personally feel more bins are needed u"
- "recruitment of more dog wardens *installation of more dog-poo bins *more frequent emptying of existing dog-poo bins *more robust enforcement of current regulations * increased patrols and/or CCTV in areas of high concern"
- "Visit the field within Calderstones Park where people let their dogs off leads and run and jump up at people who are passing. They seem to think this is perfectly acceptable."
- "My recommendation is that there should be more dog wardens to enforce the regulations"
- "The fines for dog fouling should be much greater. As a dog owner myself I am appalled at the amount of dog poo on the streets and also in open spaces that just never gets picked up. Sadly, there is not enough patrolling to deter the offenders. I would also suggest that Clitheroe Council introduce a registration for all dog owners in the Ribble Valley. Our local council did this in Melbourne Australia and it worked. Every dog had to be registered each April for a fee - this helped a great deal in monitoring the situation."
- "Borough Council regulation appears adequate"
- "We need more notices about the rules. And more bins to put poo bags in. The open football pitches in Longridge should be patrolled by dog warden."
- "All the conditions are reasonable but will be very difficult to enforce outside Clitheroe where a Dog Warden is a rare sight-to improve dog control in the Ribble Valley you must provide more Dog Warden presence in the towns and villages outside Clitheroe. Residents in the towns and villages pay their rates and therefore should be able to expect the same consideration given to Clitheroe ratepayers"
- "No, just please keep the current regulations in place to ensure that our wonderful borough remains clean."
- "Common sense says dog mess etc should be cleaned up. But why waste money having surveys like this. Or is it some councillor sat home trying to justify his/her salary ???"
- "People should have to keep their dogs on a short lead in town centres"

- "Provide a securely fenced area where dogs can be safely allowed to exercise off their lead."
- "Dogs must be on a Short lead on all pavements they are a danger to all but especially older people Who on moving away from them they can trip over result broken hips and other bones. Some people are afraid of dogs and would feel confident when in near contact that the owner was in direct control of the animal instead of being anxious about its behaviour and could enjoy their walk with more pleasure. In these time of Covid when we have so much hand cleansing we do not want a dog coming near our hands when it has had its nose in filthy material on the ground and in some cases marking our clothing."
- "Dogs are constantly pooping on the grass on Bright Street which makes mowing the grass messy to say the least. Dogs are generally let loose or just let out. Fine these people Fine them..."
- "More visible presence of dog wardens"
- "Over the past few months, I have felt, while exercising during lockdown and afterwards, that Clitheroe's public spaces are being used simply as large dog parks, with too many owners taking no account of other users of the spaces. I am sure that stricter rules will not inconvenience the responsible dog owners, but they will allow the irresponsible ones to be stopped. Given the number of times I have seen people approached at top speed by dogs not on a lead, with no owner in sight, I would like to see tighter rules about loose dogs in council parks. There are plenty of spaces in Ribble Valley where dogs can be let off the lead, but the smaller public parks are simply not suitable. Please allow everyone to use the parks and enjoy them - not just dog owners."
- "Not sure how or what could even be done or how you might begin to tackle this one but I do think a lot of dog owners in Ribble Valley have been left unstuck due to the sheer number of new developments that have taken previously used (often without any issue) land and public footpaths. There are so few places and open space areas in which dogs can be safely exercised off lead and the rise in home owners with dogs of course means everyone is struggling and jockeying without much room to start with. I have seen every small field, open space and previously public access farmland routes disappear within the space of five years. I now rent a small paddock privately from a farmer exclusively for use with the dogs because there is nowhere else to take them and let them run riot in private and without us running the risk of upsetting people. I personally dislike the whole idea of dog parks but think it might be an idea to consider allocating some space or open area – fenced for safety "
- "I think designated dog parks should be made available so dogs can socialise without people making complaints"
- "Yes ...I own a dog walking business and have seen the number of dog owners and dogs in the Ribble valley grow by at least 30% if not more ...yet the dog warden resource is the same if not less ..there needs to be more official resource split between dog control ,dog training and education ..to prevent any current problems getting worse"
- "no dogs off leads walking on the streets . some let their dogs off lead on public footpaths whilst walking round the streets."
- "The dog warden could visit Grindleton Fell Rd. People seem to be parking at 2 particular spots and letting dogs free to defacate and not clean up after them."
- "Improved service by employing more dog wardens and higher penalties issued to offenders to help support that."
- "Target problem areas"
- "As in the case of all nuisance offences, dog fouling, littering, fly-tipping etc., it is practically impossible to eliminate them completely without an army of wardens patrolling and stiff penalties when offenders are caught. Community pride needs to be revived and encouraged so that

those, i.e. the vast majority, who are disgusted by the offences feel motivated to report offenders, who should be named and shamed. Sadly, the general state of Clitheroe has deteriorated so much with lack of maintenance of pavements, drains etc., and some awful eyesores of buildings and street clutter, that community pride has fallen by the wayside. And how can the community feel proud of the state of the old bowling green and cafe in the Castle grounds? A 'Clean Up Clitheroe' campaign might be a start. It could accomplish more than the single issue of dog fouling."

- "More poo bins Directional signposts to poo bins"
- "Please let's have more notices posted and more signs of dog wardens"
- "I think the main problem is lack of education, the council could encourage people to take their dogs/puppies to obedience training classes-maybe have a list of trainers on their website and/or refer them to the Kennel Club site for a list of approved trainers in the area."
- "random checks for microchips enforce dogs on leads on farm land"
- "Provide additional dog waste bins to match the increase in number of residents and properties adjacent to the countryside. These developments have led to an increase of dog walkers in Barrow and Wiswell for example."
- "RVBC has this issue right with its current policy and the next three years with these same disciplines remaining in place will see an even greater improvement and compliance from the dog owning public and a greater tolerance from none dog owners too as it has obvious benefits for everyone in the community. Dog wardens should consider pro-active measures in order to avoid issues arising, hand out leaflets to dog owners together with a coloured bag and a friendly chat around known dog walking areas. "Prevention is better than cure"."
- "make the dog owners responsible for the actions of their dogs. If this means fining them then do so!"
- "Dog control is good, but more dog-poo bins clearly labelled (or if it's ok in a litter bin, then a clear label please)"
- "Dogs to be kept on short leads on public highways and pavements. Improved enforcement. Simplified system of reporting issues of dog fouling/greater publicity ."
- "Please provide additional support to sports clubs to be able to enforce the law. PCSO's (or actual officers) visiting sports grounds at popular times, ie. morning and early evening to reinforce the law to the public."
- "Is there any way measures can be taken to reduce the number of filled 'poo bags' being left on the ground or hanging from fences/branches? This appears to be an increasing problem - somehow the irresponsible dog owners who do this need to be made aware that bagging it is not in itself sufficient"
- "Dogs on leads in all public spaces including Castle grounds and Edisford river area."
- "I think the order covers all the areas it needs to"
- "CCTV for playgrounds and sports pitches. Higher fines or community service for repeat offenders. Removal of dogs from repeat offenders."
- "Cameras"
- "Please could you provide a bin/dog foul bin on Chatburn Rd, there is always dog mess on this stretch on road and no means to dispose of it."
- "Anything that can reduce the number of pet dogs in the towns of the Ribble Valley"
- "None I think it is much much better since these laws came in place. Owners have to take responsibility for their pets"

- "More dog faeces bins"
- "More signs need and bins some people need reminders. I have noticed an increase on fouling. I live near Castle View and the amount of fouling is terrible and along the main road adjacent to Trinity Church. It angers me that this is happening something needs to be done as it will unfortunately get worse, which is extremely disappointing. Another factor is that a lot of dog walkers walk along the river and come out at Kirkmoor Road which is a hotspot."
- "Dog control, per say, isn't an issue. This is a behavioural issue. Heavy fines for fouling need rigorous enforcement."
- "There have been issues on Clitheroe Castle with dogs off leads. A park warden may be a good idea to enforce lead wearing if and when required"
- "Perhaps allow funding for parish councils to employ part time dog wardens to work at weekends. Also more prominent signage in all car parks etc"
- "As stated earlier, We are always seeing the full bags thrown down where other dogs or vermin roam and children step in, don't understand their logic!"
- "More wardens to check up."
- "Dog licenses should be compulsory and all dogs must be microchipped. Licenses should be of a token charge to ensure full compliance. Fines for dog walkers who do not deposit dog poo in bins."
- "Despite the requirement for dog poo to be picked up and disposed of by owners, our parks and public spaces continue to be littered with dog poo, both in and out of bags. The bags themselves are a major issue when not disposed of as they contribute to the plastic littering the countryside. Some owners seem to habitually bag their dog's waste and fling it into the undergrowth, hang it on a branch or pile it in a favourite spot. I would strongly urge the council to introduce a dog DNA register so that fouling can be traced back to owners. Unless dog warden patrols are hugely scaled up, I can see no other way of successfully addressing this issue."
- "Dogs that cannot be controlled by their owners should be removed from them. If you are unable to recall a dog that has endangered others you are not a responsible owner and should be barred from owning dogs."
- "Have the public be able to report individuals. This data collected and repeat offenders contacted. Several dog walkers have no consideration for other dog owners, allowing dogs to run up to other dogs kept on the lead. This creates a tense situation. Have had to speak to someone on no less than 7 occasions because he can't control his dog. Should I and others be able to report this in a non urgent manner, the reports collected and presented to the individual then more notice would be taken. Whilst he has no control of his dog any member of public as well as other animals could be injured. As a repeat offender it is better to prevent this happening rather than deal with it once someone is injured."
- "Dogs on children's playing areas (Castle field) should be kept on a lead, you see it full of dogs in the morning then in the afternoon children at picnics. Perhaps like they do at popular beaches banning them completely during the SUMMER months would be a good idea."
- "The dog warden(s) should be more visible, especially in problem areas. Maybe a small increase on council tax could provide funds."
- "Be more proactive in controlling nuisance dog behaviour from local residences.. eg constant barking due to owners leaving outside"
- "More dog warden patrols in the areas that dog fouling is a major problem . Woone Lane , Chatburn Road , Henthorn Park of which dog owners pick the dog mess up in a poo bag then just discard . Walking down Woone Lane is like a dog poo obstacle course . And regarding the cemetery. Dog owners need to show respect and not let them run freely . Maybe installing

CCTV in the cemetery. But something really needs doing . It's the small minority that cause these problems ."

- "Encourage or enforce use of bio degradable bags and fine those who do not take the waste home with them."
- "Designate a dog walking field in the area where owners can take their dog and let it be loose."
- "Just dogs should be on a lead in the castle grounds"
- "fine any dog owner found carelessly deposing poop bags"
- "Anyone contravening the order should be vigorously pursued and the results made public. Ideally with names of offenders."
- "Maybe dogs should be kept on a lead and under control in all areas where the public old and young have access to."
- "Ban dogs roaming in farmers fields when on a footpath. They are a nuisance to sheep ground nesting birds and other wild animals"
- "Dogs should be on leads in the parks. Too many times people have lost sight or control of their dogs and the dogs come bounding up to children and young families. Dog litter should be enforced much more. You could rename woone lane dog poo alley there is that much left lying around. It's frustrating as it give the good dog owners a bad name."
- "More dog loo bins, more larger dog walking areas where you can let dogs of lead like henthorn dog park. Fine people who don't pick up dog poo."
- "Dogs should be kept on a lead in all public parks in my opinion"
- "In those areas highlighted as having a dog fouling problem then the following might be considered: 1. More dog warden patrols. 2. The provision of more waste bins. 3. Appropriate and regular mail shots to households. 4. Engagement with local residents to help identify culprits. 5. Greater fines to those caught repeatedly offending."
- "Give dogs and owners more places to run free for exercise"
- "Local dog licence by byelaw"
- "I am a responsible dog owner and very much dislike being tarred by irresponsible dog owners. Please don't make the castle a lead only area most dogs have excellent recall and behave appropriately. Why penalise the majority for the minority."
- "That the council should be more supportive of the warden when issuing fines and that the fines should be enforced. I do feel dog fouling in Clitheroe is a problem and spoils the town."
- "Get more wardens on patrol and fine people, this disgusting mess is getting worse, I would like to know how many fines have actually been imposed and paid !"
- "More patrols? More signage? Request in all RV publicity material for potential visitors to be aware that local regulations are enforced, with brief details in the actual publicity material rather than just a reference to a web site."
- "It would be good if areas fenced off could be used for dogs, so that the rest of us can enjoy the parks etc, which we cannot at present. This might operate in Norway. Dogs have multiplied over recent years until they dominate parks etc. How can small children play in parks when large dogs like alsatians are bounding around. Soon we have have a casualty if this continues. All dogs should be under far stricter control."
- "Change the 'four dogs at once' to ' two dogs at once'"
- "Signage with regard to the danger to health and anti social aspects of dog mess which is not cleaned up."

- "Given the substantial improvement since PSPO it would appear that the current legislation has been successful but needs to remain in situ. However, a number of dog owners are not abiding by the regulations as I found out to my personal cost! If there remain areas where dog fouling is more in evidence than others then perhaps temporary cameras may prove effective."
- "Ban all dogs from Town Centre Shopping areas. Be in charge of 2 dogs only at one time."
- "Have never seen a dog warden in the town. If we have insufficient funds for wardens could other departments assist in any way. There are too many dogs in the area (including the town centre) and often are seen without leads but nothing is done and cannot be done if only a dog warden is allowed to instruct owners to put leads on dogs. Outside the town centre dog faeces are seen on many footpaths which are never cleaned. The entire situation re dog fouling can only be improved by more active dog wardens and when any fines are issued either owners names could be published or more warning notices be displayed throughout the Ribble Valley."
- "Dogs should be on a lead in park. Too many incidents from irresponsible dog owners."
- "We have 2 dogs and always leave on a lead in public places. People let their dogs off leads when entering Brugerly Park. The amount of dog mess near the entrance is not acceptable"
- "All dogs should be chipped and their DNA taken, paid for by an upfront payment say £200. Offending ""matter"" could then be sampled and the owners contacted. Anyone leaving a plastic bag on a fence or down a drain would have a big fine and say a community order placed on them. Super markets should have warning signs in them reminding dog and cat owners of dealing with the outfall responsibly."
- "Designated dog parks with bins and CCTV in operation to enforce pick up of dog mess. Part of football fields next to new build houses could be used. Other areas are also available. If too expensive for dog parks then more enforcement officers on patrol. In six years of dog ownership I have only seen dog wardens twice in that time. Dogs should be allowed off lead and under control in more outdoor places, as they used to be. It would be great for tourism and locals alike. Promotion of responsible dog ownership in local schools and community groups."
- "Increase provision of dog waste bins. Increase spot checks on compliance - particularly out of hours. Introduce ability to ban / restrict dog ownership from repeat offenders."
- "any dog off a lead should be muzzled"
- "More presence of dog wardens. In the castle grounds, I still see owners not picking up after their dogs and have politely drawn their attention to it; it is usually because they are busy looking at their phones and not concentrating on what the dog is doing or where it is if it is off the lead."
- "Re introduce a dog licence the funds of which would only be used for dog related matters improving facilities for dogs i.e. bins and poo bags plus the cost of cleaning up the mess and dog warden costs. The account should be transparent so that the public can see what the money is spent on. Thus being accountable the dog owner will hopefully be more careful and control their animals behaviour. Ensure all dogs carry third party insurance cover for when something serious happens."
- "Enforce existing rules."
- "More officers to deal with fouling. Create a dog park, so that dogs can be let off lead safely. Support farmers having to deal with dogs in their livestock"
- "Please provide more bins for dog rubbish disposal."
- "Please ensure the policy is fairly and thoroughly enforced. Think about ways that the public can have more access to open spaces within walking distance of where they live."
- "I have noticed a significant improvement in areas since 2017. There are still problems with dog mess outside schools despite good signage. Is there something which could be done there?"

actions. This might persuade a few to conform. I live in Clitheroe and never see a dog warden on patrol, whilst I am sure they are busy flexibility to be around in the evening and have a much higher profile. For example the problem with the playing fields in low moor is that at night some residents stand at the edge of the playing fields and let their dogs run free not caring what deposits they make and making no effort to pick them up. The presence of a warden on occasion will deter this activity and encourage owners to take dogs for a proper walk. The use of normal bins for dog waste is a first class initiative but for some reason labels have been removed On some bins and need replacing."

- "Common sense."
- "The PDSA's 'Paw Report 2018' found that 89% of veterinary professionals believe that the welfare of dogs will suffer if owners are banned from walking their dogs in public spaces such as parks and beaches, or if dogs are required to be kept on leads in these spaces. Their report also states that 78% of owners rely on these types of spaces to walk their dog. I would also like to bring your attention to the similar recommendations stated in the Government's 'Anti-social behaviour powers -Statutory guidance for frontline professionals' document, pages 52/53. We believe that the vast majority of dog owners are responsible, and that the majority of dogs are well behaved. In recognition of this, we would encourage local authorities to exercise its power to issue Community Protection Notices, targeting irresponsible owners and proactively addressing anti-social behaviours. Dogs Trust works with local authorities across the UK to help promote responsible dog ownership. "

• Response from [REDACTED] Parish Council

Dear Mr Robinson

I have been asked to put forward the following comments regarding the consultation for the Dog Control Order PSPO. The councillors felt that

1. Dogs should be on leads at all times whether this is walking down the road or footpath. Dogs do not stick to footpaths when unleashed so the only certain way to have your dog under control is to have it on a lead at all times. We have numerous public footpaths across fields where livestock graze and to have dogs off the lead can easily upset the animals.

2. More short notices explaining to dog owners about the importance of cleaning up after your dog, whether they are on the pavement, road, or public footpath/field. Including social and health hazards to other livestock if they don't do so. Our farmers have reported incidents of livestock going to slaughter and being notified that they have present live tapeworms due to dog fouling.

3. More dog bins near to popular footpaths to encourage collection and disposal. (maybe this point isn't valid on the dogs order but would help out).

4. People drive into our parish and have been seen letting their dogs out to chase balls in fields along the riverbank, as it is a public footpath in a field they believed that this was acceptable and even though livestock ran to another field to get out of the way seemed unconcerned. It is felt that more notices to dog owners is required.

Regards

- I do agree with the controls on dogs in public spaces, but could you please stop using the word 'poop'. Not only is it infantile, it lessens the sense of the sheer nastiness of the mess. I know that you cannot call it what it really is, but could you use the term 'faeces' instead?
- On behalf of [REDACTED] Parish Council I write to advise that after consideration the council agree all the conditions as laid out in the existing order should remain and the order should continue. The online survey has been completed.
- [REDACTED] Parish Council would support the extension of the order in respect of the included areas within the Parish.
- There is no doubt that the Order should be renewed. (I have failed to find a questionnaire relating to this topic. Perhaps the website could make it easier for residents to express their views.)
- I feel that whole PSPO should be continued BUT the rule about having dogs off a lead in Clitheroe Cemetery should be extended to it being an offence to have a dog of a lead anywhere in residential areas and the main streets and have signs put up to state that it is a designated dogs on leads area, similar to other boroughs nearby. We have our own private lawn at the front of our house (no hedge) and it has been used by dogs as their toilet one quite a few occasions, which should not have to be tolerated. I know I am not alone in feeling this amendment should be made to the renewed PSPO. (Sorry to have to send this in this way, but I did spend some time trying to find the consultation on your website.)
- I have seen the letter you sent to Councillors and Parish Clerks in respect of the above matter, and have accepted your invitation to respond directly to you. A public footpath runs the length of our driveway, and for the 18 years we have lived here we have been subjected to regular deposits of dog faeces – often several times a week. It will be on record that we have complained to the Dog Warden on several occasions. Many times, faeces has been trodden in by myself or members of our family, often being transferred into the home or the car. During that time, we have had young

children, and nowadays young grandchildren whose health is subject to a significant risk from dog faeces. I would welcome the Council considering the following:

- Commit to prosecute every offender where there is photographic/video or corroborated eye-witness evidence of the offence; and
- Compulsory for dogs to be kept on a lead when crossing private, residential land; and
- Permit the property owner to deny identified (not necessarily convicted) offenders access across their land

In respect of point 3., we do consider the cleanliness of our home and property and the safety of our grandchildren to be far more important than the right of public access of those who show little or no respect for the right they have been granted. I am happy to discuss this directly with you, or welcome you to our home to view the site in person. There will be others I'm sure who suffer persistently the same lack of respect from others.

Dear Sir, FAO - 4420

I read with interest a brief note in the Lancashire Post re. the PSPA introduced in 2017.

I fully support the initiative, despite as a Longridge resident never having heard of before. Please extend the order for a further three years.

I must point out that I have no hostility towards dogs or dog-owners. I do however keenly support the maintenance of safe, environmentally friendly public spaces to be used and enjoyed by the community at large.

I am very concerned about the situation on John Smith's Playing Field in Longridge. I have used the facility for many years and have recently noticed a significant change in its usage.

It is encouraging to see the area used for sporting purposes by youngsters and also families, particularly in the summer months. However, the football now is mostly that of dogwalkers.

Following the building of new housing estates over recent years, the number of dog walkers has increased exponentially. People arrive by car and often come twice a day. A few have three dogs or more. Unfortunately, the dogs relieve themselves fairly soon after arriving and some areas around the entrances, on and around the soccer pitch near the children's play area and along the edges of paths are often overused.

The vast majority of owners retrieve the droppings,

P.T.O

but not all. Despite the best of intentions, the grass in any event is smeared with excreta which as we are all aware is a health risk, especially to young children. The smearing is accumulative and frequency increases the problem.

It is disturbing to see families with young children picnicking, rolling about on the ground, playing ball games etc unknowingly on grass which has been extensively polluted. I think the risk to public health has significantly increased.

It is worth remembering that the area in question is not a Park but a Playing Field and by definition a place where young people and children can enjoy sport safely. Perhaps it should be treated in a similar way to a School Playing Field.

~~There are various ways in which the situation could be improved and I am sure that you are familiar with all of them.~~

One possibility that springs to mind is to create a designated 'Poop Area' with fencing and Waste Bins as are often found on Motorway Service Stations.

Fortunately, there are several large spaces on John Smith's which are not used by anybody and which provide opportunities for such a project. This does not even include the frequent large strips of nettles which could be cleared.

Keep up the good work. I am confident that you will do your best to introduce changes which are acceptable and beneficial to all.

Best Wishes,

A concerned citizen.