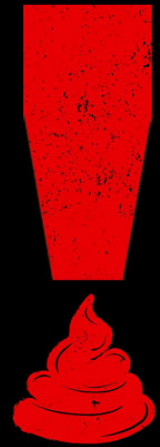


**PROPOSED
EXTENSION TO
CURRENT DOG
CONTROLS**



IN RHONDDA CYNON TAF

CONSULTATION REPORT
SEPTEMBER 2023



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This report presents the findings of the consultation on proposals to renew a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) consultation on dog control in Rhondda Cynon Taf.
- The consultation ran from the 10th July to the 18th August 2023. Overall, 319 survey responses and 5 emails/letters were received to the consultation.
- **88.3%** of respondents to the online survey said they supported the Council's approach to dealing with dog fouling and the renewal of the approach for the next 3 years.
- There was wide scale support for each of the elements of the PSPO, with **over 89%** of respondents agreeing with each of the elements of the PSPO and that they should be continued over the next 3 years.

	Yes
Dog owners MUST clean up their dogs' mess immediately and dispose of it properly.	98.1%
Dog owners MUST carry a means to pick up dog mess (i.e. bags) at all times.	97.2%
Dog owners MUST follow a direction from an authorised officer to put a dog on a lead.	92.7%
Dogs are BANNED from all schools, children's play areas and marked sports pitches maintained by the Council.	89.2%
Dogs MUST be kept on a lead at all times in Council maintained cemeteries	95.2%

- **80.2%** of respondents agreed that the maximum permitted fixed fine of £100 should remain in place. The majority of respondents that said it should not, did so as they stated they would like the amount to be higher.
- Respondents provided a large number of comments on the proposals and these have been summarised into the following main themes;

Increase Fines
More Enforcement / CCTV
More Bins and bags needed
Dogs should be on leads everywhere
Signage/Communication
Enclosed areas to allow dogs off of leash

- A separate PSPO, for Aberdare Park, was also introduced in 2017 and renewed in 2020 and states that dogs must be kept on leads at all times in Aberdare Park. 73.3% of respondents agreed that dogs should continue to be kept on leads at all times in Aberdare Park. 15.7% stated “don’t know”, mainly as they were not familiar with the area or the park, if the data is analysed without the “don’t know” answers, 87.0% of respondents were in agreement.
- Many of the respondents agree with continuing the restrictions in Aberdare Park, although some raised the lack of a safe or enclosed space for dogs to exercise as a concern. A large proportion of respondents said that similar restrictions should be in place in other parks in RCT.
- The Council was keen to see if residents agreed that there had been a reduction in dog fouling in the last 6 years. 61.1% of residents believe that the dog fouling levels had not decreased in the last 6 years.
- 52.0% of respondents to the online survey were dog owners. 98.4% of respondents were residents and 1.6% replied as organisations to the survey.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the findings of a consultation on proposals to renew a Public Spaces Protection Order on dog control in Rhondda Cynon Taf.
- 1.2 Section 2 outlines some brief background.
- 1.3 Section 3 details the methodology.
- 1.4 Section 4 presents the results from the online survey.
- 1.5 Section 5 outlines some of the stakeholders and groups who responded to the consultation and emails received from members of the public.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014 introduced provisions whereby a local authority can make Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs). The PSPO is designed to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in an area. The behaviour must be having a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the community, it must be persistent or continuing and it must be unreasonable.
- 2.2 In 2017 the Council introduced a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in relation to dog fouling across Rhondda Cynon Taf and this was renewed in 2020. The order says that;
 - Dog owners **MUST** clean up their dogs' mess immediately and dispose of it properly.
 - Dog owners **MUST** carry a means to pick up dog mess (i.e. bags) at all times.
 - Dog owners **MUST** follow a direction from an authorised officer to put a dog on a lead.
 - Dogs are **BANNED** from all schools, children's play areas and marked sports pitches maintained by the Council.
 - Dogs **MUST** be kept on a lead at all times in Council maintained cemeteries.
 - The Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) also introduced an increased fine of £100, which Enforcement Officers can issue.
- 2.3 A separate PSPO, for Aberdare Park only, was also introduced on October 1, 2017 and renewed in 2020 and says that dogs must be kept on leads at all times in Aberdare Park.

- 2.4 The two Public Spaces Protection Orders related to dog controls within Rhondda Cynon Taf are due to expire on the 30th September 2023. At any point before expiry of these orders, the Council can vary or extend them by up to three years if it considers it necessary to prevent the original behaviour from occurring or recurring.
- 2.5 In accordance with the Act if the recommended proposed extension and variation of the Dog Control PSPOs is approved in principle the Council is then required to consult stakeholders. This report presents the findings of the consultation undertaken.

3. METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The consultation ran from the 10th July to the 18th August 2023.
- 3.2 The aim of the consultation was to gather the views of residents and other relevant bodies and interested parties on proposals to renew a Public Spaces Protection Order, with regards to dog fouling in Rhondda Cynon Taf.
- 3.3 The consultation used an online survey which was built using Snap XMP. The survey aimed to gain feedback on the proposals.
- 3.4 To ensure wide outreach and involvement of the wider community the consultation was promoted on the [Councils consultation webpage](#) to encourage engagement. A short video was created outlining the key elements of the PSPO, this was placed on the webpage and also shared on social media sites.
- 3.5 An email was also sent to key stakeholders to promote the consultation and encourage participation, including the following;
- South Wales Police and Police & Crime Commissioner
 - Sports Clubs/Leisure 4 life App 12000 active users
 - Neighbouring local Authorities
 - Schools
 - Councillors/MPs/SMs
 - RSPCA, Kennel Club etc.
 - Neighbourhood Networks
- 3.6 Posters were placed in a number of key local parks, leisure centres and community centres.
- 3.7 A telephone consultation option was in place, through the Council's contact centre. This option allows people to discuss their views or request consultation materials. Individual call backs were available on request and a consultation Freepost address provided an option for postal responses.

- 3.8 Respondents were encouraged to write in using a dedicated email address consultation@rctcbc.gov.uk, in order to allow them to share their views. Overall, there were a total of 5 emails/letters received from the public relating to the consultation.
- 3.9 The proposals were presented and discussed at the [Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 17th July 2023](#).
- 3.10 Overall, 319 survey responses and 5 emails/letters were received to the consultation.

4. Online Survey Results

- 4.1 Overall, 319 responses were received to the online survey.
- 4.2 88.3% of respondents to the online survey said they supported the Council's approach to dealing with dog fouling and the renewal of the approach for the next 3 years.

Do you support the Council's approach to dealing with dog fouling and the renewal of the approach for the next 3 years?	
Yes	281 88.3%
No	26 8.2%
Don't know	11 3.5%

Figure 1 - Support for the Council's approach

- 4.3 The renewal of the existing PSPO would include a number of separate elements. Respondents were asked whether they agreed with the following elements of the existing order and if they should be continued for the next 3 years.

The results are shown in the table below.

	Yes	No	DK
A.)Dog owners MUST clean up their dogs' mess immediately and dispose of it properly.	98.1%	0.6%	1.3%
B.)Dog owners MUST carry a means to pick up dog mess (i.e. bags) at all times.	97.2%	2.2%	0.6%
C.)Dog owners MUST follow a direction from an authorised officer to put a dog on a lead.	92.7%	6.0%	1.3%
D.)Dogs are BANNED from all schools, children's play areas and marked sports pitches maintained by the Council.	89.2%	9.8%	1.0%
E.)Dogs MUST be kept on a lead at all times in Council maintained cemeteries	95.2%	3.8%	1.0%

Figure 2 - Agreement with the elements of the PSPO

- 4.4 There was wide scale support, with **over 89%** of respondents agreeing with each of the elements of the PSPO and that they should be continued over the next 3 years.
- 4.5 80.2% of respondents agreed that the maximum permitted fixed fine of £100 should remain in place. A large number of respondents that said no, did so as they stated they would like the amount to be higher.

Do you agree that the fixed fine should remain at £100?	
Yes	80.2%
No	17.9%
Don't know	1.9%

Figure 3 - Do you agree that the fixed fine should remain at £100 (this is currently the maximum permitted)

- 4.6 Respondents provided a large number of comments on the proposals and these have been summarised into the following main themes;

Themes

Increase Fines
More Enforcement / CCTV
More Bins and bags needed
Dogs should be on leads everywhere
Signage/Communication
Enclosed areas to allow dogs off of leash

Figure 4 - Main themes from open responses

Increase Fines

- 4.7 The Council is limited to a maximum fixed fine of £100 in place of prosecution. However, a large number of respondents still felt that the fines should be increased;

“The fine should be increased to deter all offenders. Council should explore options for this.”

“The fine should be higher because then maybe people would actually pick up after their dogs”

“I think you should also prosecute those individuals that have been issued with a fixed penalty and refuse or don't pay the fine in full.....”

This was particularly the case for repeat offenders;

“Fines should double from the original for each subsequent offence.”

“Fine should be higher. Constant offenders prosecuted”

Enforcement

- 4.8 Many comments referred to a perceived lack of enforcement of the existing PSPOs and called for higher fines and more wardens/enforcement officers.

“This has been excellent for RCT but there are still too many that flout the law. We need regular enforcement of these laws if they are ever going to work.”

"It's all well and good bringing in controls but if they are not enforced then they are useless. I've never seen anybody patrolling my local area and the local bypass path is strewn with dog mess on the path a full bags thrown in the trees"

"I think there should be more officers making sure people are picking up after their dogs in places that are used by both dogs and children."

"Needs more enforcement officers patrolling and stopping this happening. On most days there is excrement on the streets where I live...."

"Increase in enforcement patrols, particularly around schools and playing fields. Tougher action on owners who leave their dogs off the lead or allow their dogs to roam the streets without control or supervision."

Dog Bins & Bags

- 4.9 Multiple respondents said that there are not enough dog waste bins provided in areas where dogs are walked, and that those already in place are not emptied often enough. Some comments also raise the issue of dog waste bags being provided.

"To encourage these rules to be acted upon by dog owners, more dog bins should be provided. Money from fines could be used for this purpose!"

"Sometimes as a dog owner, despite carrying poo bags you can occasionally get caught out and run out of bags on a walk. If bags were placed around housing estates, in parks, in dog walking spots then there would be no excuse from anyone not to pick up and it may also guilt people who would be likely to leave their mess into picking it up."

"I agree on most points made on this survey, however I've noticed a lack of dog waste bins around Aberdare...."

"Perhaps more frequent emptying of the bins would help"

"Need more bins for dog waste which are maintained and emptied regularly"

"The dog waste bins need to be placed back in the areas they have been taken from. Also the ones that are currently in use in RCT need to be emptied more frequently. Most bins are overflowing due to lack of being emptied."

Dogs on Lead Everywhere

- 4.10 Some of the respondents felt that dogs should be kept on a lead at all times in all public parks and some of the respondents referenced the need to expand the PSPO to cover public rights of way.

“All dogs should be kept on leads in any council parks especially where children are”

“Dogs should be kept on leads in all parks unless there is a dedicated and fenced of areas dogs can run around”

“Dogs should be kept on a lead in public parks, not everyone likes dogs running up to them, neither do other dogs. Dogs run off and foul in parks unnoticed by their owners”

“Also I wonder if all dogs should be on a lead in all public spaces, especially where children visit.”

“Consider if dogs should be on leads on combined footpath’s/ cycle paths”

A number of comments specifically mentioned Ynysangharad Park in Pontypridd.

“There are far too many dogs off the lead in Ynysangharad Park and this should be addressed. Some dogs are aggressive and owners are not in control. All parts of the park.”

“Dogs to be kept on leads in Ynysangharad war memorial park at all times other than in the designated Dog Pen Area”

Signage/Communication

- 4.11 The PSPO signage was mentioned in a number of responses, some suggested that the signage needed to be clearer and there needed to be more of them;

“Signage needs renewing in Ynysangharad Park, it has faded in several parts on the pathways especially around the cricket pitch and football field.”

“Signage needs to be improved.”

“More, pick up after your dog signs, and perhaps talks in schools of the danger that dog mess poses, and explain the unacceptable social repercussions.”

Enclosed areas to allow dogs off of leash

4.12 A number of comments suggested that the council should provide more enclosed areas for dogs in parks;

“I agree that in these places dogs should be on lead at all times but in other places dogs should be allowed off lead, maybe providing dog parks similar to the small provision at Ynysangharad park in other areas would be a good idea”

“Including, in housing estates and parks, adding monitored & enclosed areas to exercise dogs off lead would also be a good idea.”

“Provide an area where off lead walks /exercise is permitted as in Ynysangharad Park.”

“Dogs need to run off lead to use up their energy. Areas should be provided in every area of RCT for dogs to run off lead.”

Aberdare Park

4.13 A separate PSPO, for Aberdare Park only, was also introduced on October 1, 2017 and renewed in 2020 and states that dogs must be kept on leads at all times in Aberdare Park.

73.3% of respondents agreed that dogs should continue to be kept on leads at all times in Aberdare Park. 15.7% stated “don’t know”, mainly as they were not familiar with the area or the park, if the data is analysed without the “don’t know” answers, 87.0% of respondents were in agreement.

Do you agree that dogs should continue to be kept on leads at all times in Aberdare Park?	
Yes	73.3%
No	11.0%
Don't know	15.7%

Figure 5 – Do you agree that dogs should continue to be kept on a lead?

4.14 Many respondents agree with continuing the restrictions in Aberdare Park, although some raised the lack of a safe or enclosed space for

dogs to exercise as a concern. A large proportion of respondents said that similar restrictions should be in place in other parks in RCT.

“Anyone in charge of a dog is responsible for controlling it's behaviour in public - however it isn't necessary for dogs to be leashed at all times.”

“If there are areas of wide open space, maybe there could be certain areas where dogs can be off lead if they are trained and controlled? Definitely kept on leads near any play areas/where it's very busy, especially with children.”

“This should be the case in all of our parks and public spaces.”

“Dogs should be free to exercise. It should be the owners who should be responsible in terms of keeping them on leads and letting them off leads.”

“Maybe have an area in Aberdare park for dogs, a dog park, there's plenty large enough areas to do this”

“Definitely. People are unable to control their dogs without it. There are a great deal of old people who walk their dog in the park and don't deal with it at all.”

Perceived Dog Fouling Levels

- 4.15 A report published by Keep Wales Tidy entitled ‘An Analysis of Local Environmental Quality in RCT 2022-23’ shows that the presence of dog fouling on streets in RCT has remained consistent (at 10.9%) when compared to the period the PSPO was last renewed in 2020. It is worth noting however that in 2021-22 the presence of dog fouling was recorded on 8.9% of streets – so the most recent report does unfortunately evidence an increase.

Prior to the original introduction of the PSPO in 2017 this figure was around the 18% mark. This report does therefore demonstrate that since its introduction in 2017 the PSPO has led to a reduction in the presence of dog fouling on the streets of RCT but also highlights it still remains an issue.

- 4.16 The Council was keen to see if residents agreed that there had been a reduction in dog fouling in the last 6 years.
- 4.17 In contrast to the results in the report, 61.1% of residents believe that the dog fouling levels had not decreased in the last 6 years.

Do you agree that the level of dog fouling has decreased in your local area over the last 6 years?	
Yes	27.3%
No	61.1%
Don't know	11.6%

Figure 6 - Dog Fouling Levels

Respondent Profile

- 4.18 52.0% of respondents to the online survey were dog owners.
- 4.19 98.4% of respondents were residents and 1.6% replied as organisations to the survey.

Equalities Question

- 4.20 Under the 'Equality Act 2010' and the 'Public Sector Equality Duties', the Council has a legal duty to look at how its decisions impact on people because they may have particular characteristics. Respondents were therefore asked to state if the proposals would affect them because of: Gender, Age, Ethnicity, Disability, Sexuality, Religion / belief, Gender identity, Relationship status, Pregnancy, Preferred language.
- 4.21 Some comments raised concerns with limiting areas that people with mobility issues can exercise their dogs and highlighted the positive effects of walking with dogs in local areas. Other respondents raised concerns about feeling unsafe around off-lead dogs or dealing with dog fouling when mobility-impaired.

“I'm already limited to where I can walk my dogs due to my disabilities but extended the areas in which I wouldn't be able to walk my dog would make life for me very difficult as it is I often have to ask family members to walk my dogs and I'm grateful for the help I get but I do like to try and get out when I have someone to help me”

“As we age a dog can be a lifeline, there must be designated areas within easy reach for dogs to run and chase a ball”

“Many elderly people are unable to drive to areas to walk their dogs and a little wander around a field first thing in a morning or during the day where their dog can have a little run is so important for physical and mental well-being”

“Feel safer whilst using tramways, mineral lines and old railway walks like Monk street (top) to Cwmaman. Any pedestrian walkway, dogs should be on a lead, nobody these days takes the time to learn how to control their pet.”

“Disability is the only factor to consider here regarding slips/dogs mess on wheelchair wheels etc.”

“I am movement impaired. Dog mess on the streets is a consistent hazard I could really do without having to negotiate for something as simple as doing my shopping on my local high street.”

Welsh Language Question

- 4.22 The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 makes provision for the specification of standards of conduct in relation to the Welsh language and consequently the Council has a legal duty to look at how its decisions impact on the Welsh Language.

The majority of responses received thought that there was no impact and questioned how this was related to dog controls. A small number mentioned signage as follows;

“I don't believe there would be any detrimental impact on Cymraeg, provided the council continue to maintain its bilingual provision”

“Bilingual signage should show the Welsh language then translated”

The comments received for the above 2 question have been made available to officers for the development of the associated impact assessments.

5. Stakeholder Responses

5.1 Responses were received from the following organisations;

- Dogs Trust
- RSPCA
- LLanharry Community Council

5.2 The following is a summary of comments received via email and letter;

Note: The full responses of the emails and letters will be made available for Cabinet and Officers to view

Dogs Trust

1. Re; Fouling of Land by Dogs Order:
 - a. Dogs Trust consider 'scooping the poop' to be an integral element of responsible dog ownership and would fully support a well-implemented order on fouling. We urge the Council to enforce any such order rigorously. In order to maximise compliance, we urge the Council to consider whether an adequate number of disposal points have been provided for responsible owners to use, to consider providing free disposal bags and to ensure that there is sufficient signage in place.
 - b. 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.
2. Re; Dog Exclusion Order:
 - a. Dogs Trust accepts that there are some areas where it is desirable that dogs should be excluded, such as children's play areas, however we would recommend that exclusion areas are kept to a minimum and that, for enforcement reasons, they are restricted to enclosed areas. We would consider it more difficult to enforce an exclusion order in areas that lack clear boundaries.
 - b. Dogs Trust would highlight the need to provide plenty of signage to direct owners to alternative areas nearby in which to exercise dogs.
3. Re; Dog Exclusion and sport pitches
 - a. 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.
 - b. We feel that exclusion zones should be kept to a minimum, and that excluding dogs from all sports pitches for long stretches of the year is unnecessary. In some cases sports pitches may account for a large part of the open space available in a public

- park, and therefore excluding dogs could significantly reduce available dog walking space for owners.
- c. We would urge the Council to consider focusing its efforts on reducing dog fouling in these areas, rather than excluding dogs entirely, with adequate provision of bins and provision of free disposal bags
4. Re; Dogs on Leads Order:
- a. Dogs Trust accept that there are some areas where it is desirable that dogs should be kept on a lead.
 - b. Dogs Trust would urge the Council to consider the Animal Welfare Act 2006 section 9 requirements (the 'duty of care') that include the dog's need to exhibit normal behaviour patterns - this includes the need for sufficient exercise including the need to run off lead in appropriate areas. Dog Control Orders should not restrict the ability of dog keepers to comply with the requirements of this Act.
 - c. The Council should ensure that there is an adequate number, and a variety of, well sign-posted areas locally for owners to exercise their dog off-lead.
5. Re; Dogs on Lead by Direction Order:
- a. 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 a lead when directed to do so by an authorised official).
 - b. We consider that this order is by far the most useful, other than the fouling order, because it allows enforcement officers to target the owners of dogs that are allowing them to cause a nuisance without restricting the responsible owner and their dog. As none of the other orders, less fouling, are likely to be effective without proper enforcement we would be content if the others were dropped in favour of this order.

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.

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.

RSPCA

RSPCA Cymru welcomes the opportunity to respond to Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's consultation on the proposed extension to its current Public Space Protections Order (PSPO). PSPOs provide local authorities with a means of tackling dog fouling and other dog-related issues, such as access to public spaces. While RSPCA Cymru understands that local authorities have a duty to improve the communities they serve and protect human health, we would always urge any council to consider whether a PSPO is needed to achieve this. PSPOs risk punishing responsible dog owners for the actions of the less responsible, while potentially creating less spaces for dogs to exercise and express their natural behaviours. While PSPOs offer an effective means of tackling dog fouling via Fixed Penalty Notices for those who fail to clean up after their pet, we would encourage a more flexible approach to other issues relevant to dogs as outlined below.

Dog fouling in public areas

RSPCA Cymru understands that dog fouling remains a significant issue for towns and cities across Wales. In order to encourage responsible dog ownership and keep our communities clean, the RSPCA agrees that local authorities should require owners to clean up their dogs' waste and dispose of it properly. To assist with this, Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC could look towards the introduction of educational and promotional schemes around responsible dog ownership in areas where fouling is an issue. Other local authorities across Wales, such as Conwy CBC, work with the local community to reduce instances of dog fouling in their areas by encouraging the reporting of offenders, with such a scheme being something Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC could also consider introducing.

RSPCA Cymru also supports measures that require all dog owners to carry an appropriate bag to pick up their dog's faeces. In October 2020, Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC renewed a previous PSPO, setting out conditions for dog owners to collect and dispose of dog faeces immediately. All dog owners were also required to carry an appropriate means - such as bags - for picking up dog mess at all times. RSPCA Cymru believes similar ongoing action from the council would encourage responsible dog ownership while facilitating more harmonious relationships between dog owners and the wider community.

Other dog-related issues

Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC's previous PSPO on dog control required owners to put their dog on a lead when requested by an authorised officer. To ensure this condition is administered appropriately if continued, the RSPCA believes the experience and knowledge of the

officer/s imposing the condition should be sufficient enough to prevent dog welfare from being compromised. Consideration should always be made in terms of whether such an instruction is necessary, especially if there is no risk to the safety of people, the dog themselves or other animals, or if the dog is not out of control or causing distress.

Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC seeks to continue the exclusion of dogs from all schools, playgrounds and marked sports pitches owned and maintained by the council. Within an additional proposed extension to the existing PSPO, the council also seeks to extend dog controls at Aberdare Public Park, proposing that the order imposes the condition that a person in charge of a dog keeps them on a lead at all times.

Many dogs enjoy interacting with each other and other people, and it is important that dogs are able to express normal behaviour off the lead in the appropriate places. Being given an opportunity to be walked off a lead and being able to interact and play with new animals and people in an appropriate place is important in terms of ensuring a dog is well-socialised. Interaction with others is particularly important in the development of puppies and younger dogs. However, RSPCA Cymru recognises that not all dogs will be well-socialised and some may find situations with other animals and people threatening, therefore not all places will be appropriate for time off-lead. As a result, we are fully supportive of all dogs being kept on leads in children's play areas, on school grounds when they accompany those picking children up and in cemeteries when providing comfort to their owners. However, we would encourage a more flexible approach towards dogs being allowed off-lead on council-owned land such as parks and marked sports pitches.

Areas such as marked sports pitches and fields in parks can provide owners with the option to let their dog/s off lead responsibly when not in use, especially if adequate space is not available nearby. Additionally, we believe the existing provisions that make it an offence for an owner not to pick up their dog's faeces go some way to mitigating the issues associated with areas such as marked sports pitches and parks. We therefore always urge local authorities to consider this when deciding whether dogs need to be banned from these spaces. With the full exclusion of responsible dog owners on marked sports pitches being both restrictive and limiting, the RSPCA would consider allowing dogs on leads a better proposal than a blanket ban. This is something that has been adopted by some other local authorities in Wales, with some considering this a sufficient means of tackling dog-related issues in their communities.

Llanharry Community Council

Would like Llanharry park to be included in the proposal.

Public Responses via email/telephone;

5.3 A small number of emails and phone calls were received from members of the public and comments included;

- Reports of individual dog fouling incidents and hotspot areas.
 - Support for the PSPO and the need to enforce it to reduce dog fouling.
 - Dogs should be kept on leads at all times, especially where young children are playing.
 - Suggestion to provide designated dog friendly areas.
 - Need for more bins and more regular emptying.
-