



PSPO Consultation, July to August 2023

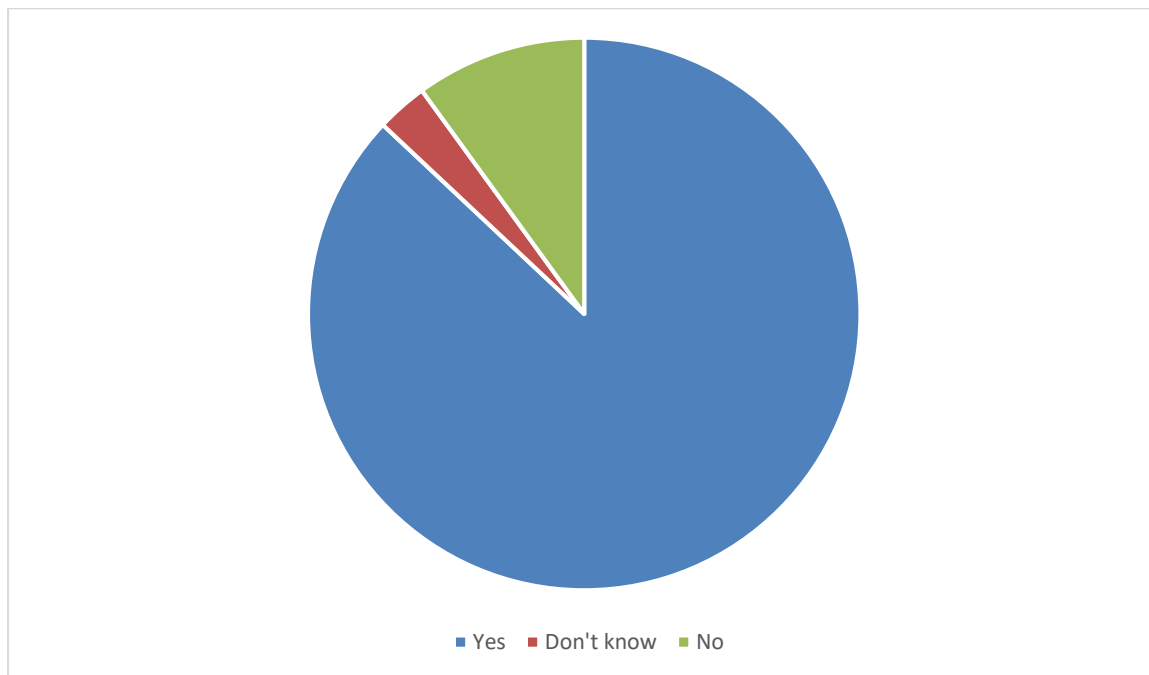
Headline findings

- 39 responses in July and August
- Support for all the proposals
- Highest support for
 - Requiring a person in charge of a dog to clean up if their dog fouls in a public place
 - Keeping dogs on leads in
 - Crematoria, cemeteries and churchyards
 - Unfenced children's play areas
- Lowest support for
 - Requiring dogs to be kept on leads in open spaces owned by town/parish councils
 - Excluding dogs from open spaces owned by parish/town councils
- 92 per cent in favour of restricting owners to six dogs in each mentioned location
- 56 per cent agreed that dogs should be kept on a lead on marked-out sports pitches
- Two-thirds of respondents were aged 51+.

Analysis

We would like to know if you would support the following proposal: The prohibition of any person having an open alcohol container in their possession. Any individual who has an open alcohol container in their possession will need to surrender this when required to do so by an Authorised Officer of the Council or Staffordshire Police.

A clear majority (87 per cent) were in support of this proposal. Ten per cent disagreed, with the remaining three per cent undecided.



Note that, in the following tables, totals might not add up to exactly 100 per cent due to rounding.

Question 1) "We would like to know if you agree with the following dog fouling controls...."

There was at least 67 per cent support for each of these proposals.

The most popular proposals were to continue to require a person in charge of a dog to clean up after it, and to continue to require dogs to be kept on a lead in the crematorium, churchyards etc and unfenced children's play equipment.

The least popular proposals were to keep dogs on leads in open space owned by parish/town councils and in parts of Bathpool Park.

Table 1: Proportions who agreed or otherwise with dog fouling controls

	Agree	Don't know	Disagree
Continue to require a person in charge of a dog to clean up its faeces if their dog fouls in any public place.	100%	0%	0%
Q2) Continue to require a dog to be on the lead at...			
Borough Council Crematorium, churchyards and cemeteries, and closed churchyards	95%	3%	3%
Formal gardens (such as Queens Gardens, Queen Elizabeth Park)	87%	3%	10%

Unfenced children's play equipment and a portion of the surrounding area, extending 20 metres in all directions from it.	95%	3%	3%
Fenced / enclosed portions of Apedale Country Park which are designated for wildlife conservation	80%	5%	15%
Parts of Bathpool park from the car park, across the reservoir dam, and along the side of the reservoir next to the railway line	68%	13%	18%
Fishing Pools managed by angling clubs as per their signs	74%	8%	18%
Open space owned by parish and town councils as per their signs	67%	13%	21%

Again, at least two-thirds were in support of all the proposals: 92 per cent agreed with keeping dogs excluded from the grassed portion of all bowling greens, with 67 per cent agreeing to keep them out of open space owned by parish and town councils.

Table 2: Proportion who agree with the following statements.

Do you agree that we should.....			
	Agree	Don't know	Disagree
Continue to require owners to place their dog(s) on a lead(s) when directed	92%	8%	0%
Q3) Do you agree that we should continue to require dogs to be excluded from:			
Fenced or enclosed children's play areas which are designated and marked for children's play	82%	5%	13%
Fenced or enclosed games areas, such as tennis and ball courts, multisport areas, skate parks	90%	3%	8%
The grassed portion of all bowling greens	92%	3%	5%
Fenced or enclosed portions of Apedale Country Park which are designated for wildlife conservation	84%	8%	8%
Fishing Pools managed by angling clubs as per their signs	80%	10%	10%
Open space owned by parish and town councils – as per their signs	67%	18%	15%

For the following question, asking about setting a maximum of six dogs per person, the results were identical across the parks, with 35 out of 38 respondents (92 per cent) in agreement on each one.

Table 3: Proportion who agree with the following:

Q4) Do you agree that we should continue to set a maximum that no more than six dogs can be taken by any one person, into the following locations:			
	Agree	Don't know	Disagree
Apedale Country Park	92%	3%	5%
Bateswood Country Park	92%	3%	5%
Bathpool Park	92%	3%	5%
Clough Hall Park	92%	3%	5%
Silverdale Community Park	92%	3%	5%
Lyme Valley Parkway	92%	3%	5%
Birchenwood Country Park	92%	3%	5%

When it comes to marked-out sports pitches, would you prefer a requirement to....

A little over half (56 per cent) were most in favour of keeping dogs on a lead. Around one-quarter (28 per cent) preferred dogs to be excluded, with the remaining 15 per cent saying they were in favour of neither.

Keep dogs on a lead	56%
Exclude dogs	28%
Neither	15%

Are there any additional controls you think are required, or any other locations where specific controls need to be set - if so please tell us here....(note that these comments have been included exactly as they were submitted)

- Dogs should be BANNED from farm land when cows, sheep etc are pregnant and where there are young. It has been clearly stated by Farmers that Dog Faeces causes abortion and deformity. Dogs should be BANNED from any area where children play.
- Please make it illegal to tie up a dog outside a shop/supermarket... Pet thieves take only seconds to snatch
- Disagree with allowing six dogs on a lead to be walked by one person. Dogs should be excluded from all football pitches marked or not.
- Silverdale Country Park fenced off nature reserves to exclude dogs similar to Apedale nature reserves.
- Missed locations include: MUGA at Riley's Field Wood Lane Audley Millennium Green, Leddys Field, Scot Hay play area - would be helpful if these could be enforced by regular patrols so people understand they have some status rather than just signs (and also publicity to show they are enforced in rural not just urban parts)
- Dogs on leads at all times in all areas of Apedale Country Park; there are far too many people who allow their dogs to roam freely whilst under no control whatsoever. They let their out of control dogs run up to other dogs who are on a lead & also jump up people. Dogs off leads in the wooded areas are a nuisance, sometimes aggressive & unnerving for other dogs & people. There are far too many dog walking

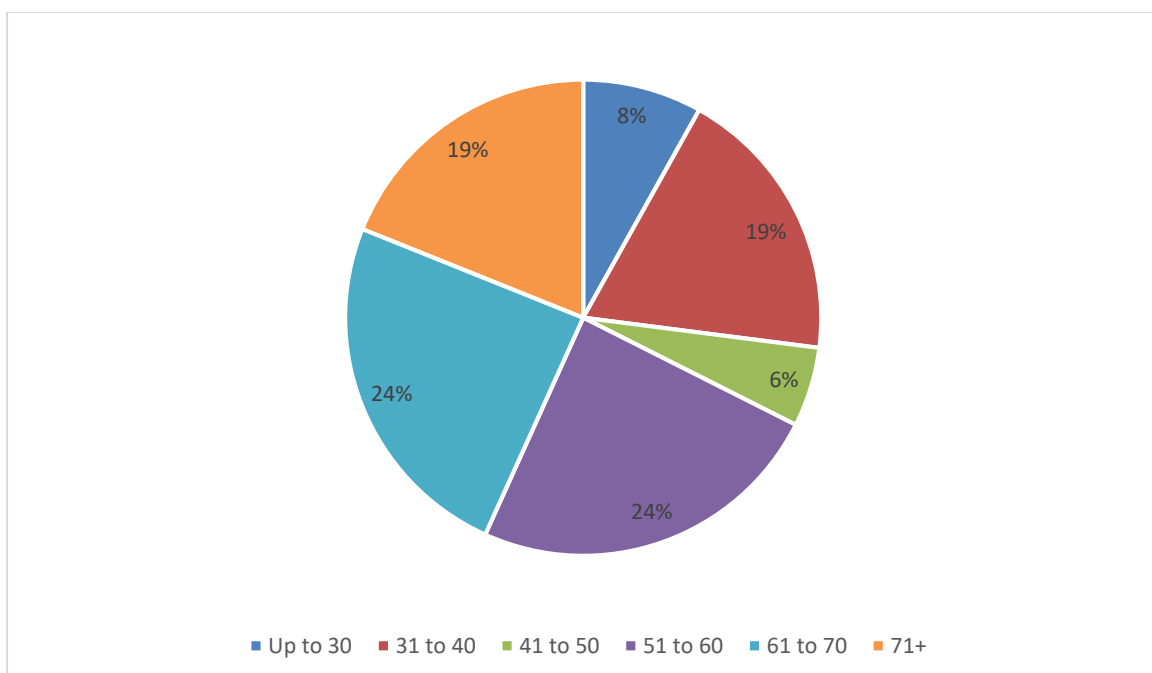
businesses using Apedale Country Park & also the land between Cheviot Place, Knutton, around Deep Pond pool, the field & 'concrete road' next to Apedale Country Park. These dog walking businesses are a menace, lots of dogs off lead, out of control, intimidating, dog poo not picked up, filled poo bags left lying around, wild fowl chased, frightened & killed. Six dogs is far too many, the maximum number needs to be reduced. Also, these dog walking businesses totally disrespect the country park, surrounding areas and should be charged for using the place as their own. The playing field on Loomer Road (opposite the former Speedway) also needs stricter controls as so many dogs on there are not kept under strict control. I regularly see dogs without collars/harnesses being walked on public footpaths by owners who don't even carry a lead. A more frequent police or dog warden presence around Loomer Road, Brutus Road, Forum Road, Horatius Road might catch these frequent law breakers. Great Row woods (between Apedale Heritage Centre & Loomer Road playing field) needs more specific controls as there are so many inconsiderate owners who allow their dogs to roam freely in there & refuse to put them on a lead - that's if they even have one. It used to be a really quiet, safe place to walk but since the Ranger (who's now left Apedale Country Park) opened up the fence by the picnic table on the grass verge by the main entrance road into the country park, far too many people now get into Great Row...it is totally ruined & has spoilt the habitat for all the wildlife in there.

- Due to the alarming increase of inconsiderate dog owners who wilfully refuse to place their dog on a lead when another dog is approaching all dogs should be on a lead at all times in and around the Apedale country park.
- As long as owners clean up themselves then no issue with dogs around sports pitches
- No problem but only when games are not being played
- Dogs should be able to run free, but also depends on the type and nature of the dog
- No problem with dogs on leads around sports areas
- No
- Dogs on lead at designated picnic areas - dogs running loose are a pain when enjoying an outdoor picnic, jumping on the tables and pinching food.
- Dogs should be on leads in areas e.g across fields where children have no choice but to walk through to access a playground.
- No more than three dogs should be taken by any one person into any public space. It is difficult to see why numbers should be restricted only in the larger parks etc.
- I have noticed that on the draft PSPO list, you state that dogs should be excluded from Newcastle Cemetery, Lymewood Road, whereas as the Yes/No questions above, you imply that dogs on leads are acceptable - this is not clear. Dogs on leads have always been allowed into Newcastle Cemetery and I do not see why this should change as there have been no reported issues and dog owners often take dogs into the Cemetery as they have walked there through the 3 Parks and to be a comfort when visiting deceased relatives, especially when the deceased person was close to the dog in question.
- Please do not therefore exclude dogs on leads from Newcastle Cemetery as there is no need to.
- Thanks
- In the proposal I have seen the intention to exclude dogs from cemeteries, however I do not see that proposal presented here to express my views, so how can this be a proper consultation? Dogs should be on leads in cemeteries but should not be excluded, why should they be? Many people like to take their dogs with them when visiting family graves so I oppose this proposal. Dogs should not be excluded as many people visit relatives' graves with their dogs, however they should be on leads, along with current proposals.

- In a borough where many parks (including those used by children) are infested by the consumption of alcohol and illegal intoxicants as well as more serious issues such as arson and vandalism (the potentially lovely Icky Picky being just one example), the presence of dog walkers and other nonthreatening footfall gives a sense of security to parents as well as to those just enjoying the outdoors. With levels of litter high throughout the borough, it does seem unfair to target dog owners alone (though not all scoop up the poop!). New means of enforcing dog fouling laws as well as of encouraging dog walkers to do the right thing are definitely called for but exclusionary measures are not the answer. And I speak as someone who has never owned a dog.
- The six dog rule is ridiculous where are you going to exercises your dogs you talk about increasing public health taking your dog for a walk is excellent exercise. These places are paid for by all the tax payer including dog owners they should always have equal rights to access these places they fund with local and national taxes. You are destroying the community you are destroying family walks put people health at risk by this totally backwards plan i do not support this section fenced if playing areas are fine but open park land no families and dog owners walk their dogs and meet others the physical and mental health benefits out way any other negative. Stop being backwards council need to stop controlling peoples live and get on with the real work on road repair social housing and building communities instead of destroying communities
- I would be interested to understand why it is being considered to not allow dogs on leads in the cemeteries, what harm are they doing? In addition when people visit graves they may want to take a dog with them, I understand they should be on leads so don't understand the reasoning behind this. It would also be good to understand how these rules will be enforced. There are people sleeping rough in Newcastle cemetery and Lyme Valley and many other areas in Newcastle should they not be helped? Fly tipping happens all the time in the Lyme Brook, this includes supermarket trollies, should that not be rectified?

Age profile

There was a bias towards older respondents – just under one-third (32 per cent) were aged up to 50, with a little over two-thirds (68 per cent) aged 51 and above.



Further representation

Respondents were asked if they were representing an organisation or residents group and the following were submitted:

- Councillor Gill Williams
- Audley Parish Council
- Philip Doodie
- Fiskars