

DOG CONTROL ORDERS

The Dog Control Orders Public Consultation ran until 31st January 2013. Accordingly to meet drafting deadlines it was not possible to include all responses in the main agenda pack. This document gives final statistics from our feedback forms, and all responses received during the consultation. Note: responses 178-188 are additions.

Final Results of Public Consultation

- 190 residents responded to our consultation between 26th November 2012 and 31st January 2013.
- 77 left additional comments – reproduced below.
- 177 respondents (94.1%) lived in, or regularly visited Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough.
- 94 (50.5%) were dog owners, 92 (49.5%) were not – showing we had the views of both.
- 137 (72.9%) thought there was a problem with dog fouling within Newcastle-under, Lyme, 34 (18.1%) did not, and 17 (9%) were unsure.
- There was **strong public support for each of the four Dog Control Orders which are proposed.**

<p>Do you support <u>Dog Fouling</u> controls in all public places across the borough?</p> <p>181 7 1 <i>Don't</i> (95.8%) Yes (3.7%) No (0.5%) know</p>	<p>Do you support <u>Dogs on Leads</u> controls in the places we've listed?</p> <p>148 28 11 <i>Don't</i> (79.1%) Yes (15.0%) No (5.9%) know</p>
<p>Do you support <u>Dogs on Leads by Direction</u> controls in all public places across the Borough?</p> <p>143 32 13 <i>Don't</i> (76.1%) Yes (17.0%) No (6.9%) know</p>	<p>Do you support <u>Dog Exclusions</u> in the places we've listed?</p> <p>136 34 19 <i>Don't</i> (72.0%) Yes (18.0%) No (10.1%) know</p>

Consultation Comments are listed below. Respondents frequently suggested actions we already deliver – suggesting they would like to see us do more. In addition many commented that they would like to strengthened enforcement – essentially in line with what is being proposed.

Comments will be shared with Operational Services, who may wish to investigate issues such ranging from fouling bin placement to the provision of dog agility equipment in parks.

APPENDIX A: DOG CONTROL ORDER PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Updated 1st February 2013

1: Think controls have been well thought out

2: Dog owners of The Dingle, Porthill: on behalf of local dog-owning residents regularly visiting The Dingle, Porthill (and other locations within the borough) we acknowledge the fact that not all are responsible enough to pick-up, however, we do actively remind those offenders to do so - some of us will pick-up after others! This is not a massive problem, as the majority are responsible and do pick-up. With reference to dogs-on-leads: dogs are often misunderstood and any dog trainer or behaviourist expert will tell you that dogs must be socialised and exercised responsibly. This means off-lead (note that the dogs-on-leads are often the anti-social ones - ask yourself why?). Again, we do not doubt that the odd individual might release what might be construed as an anti-social dog, however, dogs will be dogs and they do occasionally have conflicts (as do humans but we do not insist on leashing these). Please, we beg you not to destroy our freedom and the freedom enjoyed by our dogs. As a side issue, could we point out that the litter left by youngsters and their anti-social behaviour demands further action - could we possibly consider banning these people from our parks? Sorry if this appears to be a bit of a rant, but it is an issue about which we feel strongly. PS. we do pay our council tax to use the local facilities, as do all other individuals - why should we be controlled or excluded? Many thanks for considering our comments.

4: DOG DIRT ALONG THE AVENUE BASFORD IS DISGUSTING

9: I live in Talke and walk my dog on Chester road recreational park where fouling is a problem and i would not like my children to use it I have even seen dog owners exercising there dogs in the enclosed swings area.

10: I live in the Poolfields area and out where dog walkers go and have yet to see a dog warden in the area. The poopy bins are often full and need emptying of which I have several times, had to report this to the Council. I was led to believe that more dog bins would be supplied in the area, if they have been sited, where are they? It would interesting to know where the restricted areas are, where is the information for this? Would this cause limited availability for disabled and elderly people who do not have transport to take their dogs out for exercise. Perhaps more time and investment should be ploughed into anti-social behaviour within Poolfields as it affects everyone more than problems with dogs.

11: I think it is important that there are still areas across the Borough where dog owners can let their dogs off the lead. As a responsible dog owner, I hope that these new measures and dog fouling fines will be publicly enforced to ensure compliance. I don't necessarily feel that there is a huge problem with dog fouling in the Borough, mostly the pavements are very clean, but fully support any measures to raise awareness and improve the Borough.

12: Perhaps instead of controlling dogs, council officials should investigate the "fouling" of Bathpool Park by members of Linley Rugby Club urinating under the bridge of the dry ski slope!

22: We live in Cross Heath. My five year old is constantly being told to 'watch where you're treading' as there seems to always be a lot of dog mess on the pavements!

23: I regularly walk through the Three Parks between Clayton Road and Pilkington Avenue in the Westlands with my three children, using it as a route to and from school. Unfortunately, it is obvious that several dog owners are not cleaning up after their dogs which is incredibly unpleasant. Also, many dogs are being walked off the lead and we often have dogs running up to us, barking and jumping up. It would be nice if this area required dog owners to keep their dogs on a lead as many families use the Three Parks to get to and from school and should be able to do so without dogs approaching them and having to avoid walking in dog faeces.

24: What is the situation regarding the children's play areas on Wolstanton Marsh? Does the fact that they are located on Common Land prohibit the council from applying these measures to them?

25: I think as the owner of two dogs these proposals are fair enough. I don't walk my dogs in these types of areas anyway for these reasons. I exercise mine on the marsh which I see is unaffected anyway. These proposals will only work with positive action by wardens forget the education approach you'd have to have been living under a rock to still not know you have to clean up after your dog. Therefore those that don't bother need punishing.

27: My dog is not on a lead but is always under control so I do not support a blanket order. Where problems are encountered then notices should be issued. Do not penalise all dog owners for the few irresponsible ones.

28: I have 2 German shepherds who I regularly walk around Apedale, Bathpool and Silverdale Colliery amongst other places. Both of my dogs go to obedience classes and agility training. I am a responsible dog owner. I carry poo bags with me every time I go out with my dogs and I clean up after the dogs every time they foul, even if it is off the beaten path. Most of the people that I see on my walks are responsible dog owners too, They clean up. They put their dogs on leads when necessary. I have good control of my dogs and they do as I tell them. I put in the time and effort and I don't see why I should be penalised as a responsible dog owner. If my dogs were not trained or if they were out of control, they would be kept on a lead and muzzled. I think dog owners should be allowed to judge how to deal with their own dogs, after all they're the people that know them the best.

30: I walk my two dogs round Bathpool every week. It is a fantastic time for us and my dogs love it. What annoys me is a few bad owners out there never pick up their dog faeces.....whether they are on a lead or not! This means you tar everyone with the same brush and ruin the experience for good dog owners. If we were not allowed to exercise our dogs properly and they start putting on weight then are you going to pay our vet bills for all the medical conditions this could cause. The situation would be improved if there were people in the parks fining the owners that don't pick up after their dogs. Leave good dog owners alone.

31: Who is complaining about this? Cyclists, runners? Obviously the dogs would get in their way but its a park.....these people can do their activities anywhere...dogs cant. A few bad apples not picking up after their

dogs should not go against everyone else. All the dogs I see on the walk...off lead...are still under control. The return to their owners when shouted and are well behaved. I have also seen a dog...on lead...foul in the area and the owner left it and continued the walk. So why penalise the rest of us. Do you have children? There are a few bad apples there also, how would you like it if we thought all children were the same, yours included....I bet you wouldn't be happy!

32: Kath Bell dog training club. Some of us go to dog classes and are learn how to control how dogs and to pick up after them dog do need to be free in the right places i think the law should be made that every one who owns a dog should be made to go to dog classes for atleast two years when we let our dogs of to fun free when we see dogs or people we always call our dogs back to use and made them sit by our side until they have gone pass and then we let them off again

34: While dog fouling is an issue I don't feel that you can lay this on the shoulders of dog owners who allow their dogs to walk off their leads. I have seen, across various locations, people with dogs on leads who turn a blind eye to their dogs mess. By enforcing dogs to be on leads at all time you are unfairly penalising responsible dog owners who do clean up after their dogs from walking in these lovely parks and allowing their dogs to fully enjoy themselves too.

35: RESIDENTS OF NBC HAVE REQUESTED THIS FOR YEARS. SENTINEL 28/11/2012 REPORTS 52 LITTER PENALTY TICKETS REMAIN UNPAID.? WHY DOG FOULING TICKETS MUST BE WORDED IN SUCH A WAY THAT TICKETS ISSUED WILL BE COLLECTED WHAT EVER THE COST, OR WE WILL END UP LIKE STOKE COUNCIL WRITING OFF TAX NON PAYERS (THIS MUST NOT HAPPEN) PROVE YOUR WORTH AND COME DOWN HEAVY ON FIRST 100 TICKETS AND LATER TICKET HOLDERS WILL FALL INTO LINE -BE STRONG AND WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO AFFORD MORE THAN TWO DOG WARDEN

36: My dog is part of my family, when my family and I visit Apedale we take the dog as she is part of our family, if you restrict us from going to certain areas we will no longer be able to visit Apedale. Yes there are some very irresponsible dog owners but we are not all like that. Why not have patrols that can catch these people not cleaning up after there dog and fine them??

38: Kennel Club.

The Kennel Club is the governing body of dogs in the United Kingdom amongst whose main objective is to promote in every way the general improvement of all dogs and encourage responsible dog ownership. As part of its External Affairs activities the Kennel Club runs a dog owners group KC Dog, which was established to monitor and keep dog owners up to date about dog related issues, including dog control orders being introduced across the country.

We have some concerns regarding your proposed dog control orders which include (1) Dog Fouling, (2) Dog Exclusions, (3) Dogs on Leads and (4) Dogs on Leads by Direction. I have enclosed our briefing on Dog Control Orders for information; however, I would like to outline the reasons for our concern below.

Firstly, I would like to remind you of the intention of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 to give local authorities the powers to implement Orders only that are necessary and proportionate responses to problems caused by dogs. Defra's guidance on the Act states that: "It is important for any authority considering a dog control order to be able to show that this is a necessary and proportionate response to problems caused by the activities of dogs and those in charge of them and; Any authority needs to balance the interest of those in charge of dogs against the interests of those affected by the activities of dogs and that a failure to give consideration to these factors could make any subsequent dog control order vulnerable in the Courts."

To turn to your proposals the Kennel Club does not normally oppose orders to exclude dogs from playgrounds, bowling greens or recreational facilities, as long as alternative provisions are made for dog walkers in the vicinity. Also, we would point out that children and dogs should be able to socialise together quite safely under adult supervision. However, in respect to any sport pitches, we would ask that you consider whether or not these restrictions are absolutely necessary and whether, in the latter case, time-limited restrictions could be introduced to cover use of pitches for sporting purposes.

Regarding Newcastle-under-Lyme Council's 'Dogs on Lead' order proposal, the Kennel Club believes that so long as dogs are kept under effective control (keeping the dog within sight and being confident that it will return on command) off-lead there should be no reason to restrict them in this way in public spaces. We would ask you to review the 'Dogs on Lead' proposal and consider instead extending the area in which your proposal of 'Dogs on Leads by Direction' could be applied to.

Furthermore, in order to help Newcastle-under-Lyme Council and your authorised officers with defining what an out of control dog is, we have provided our definition below:

"Given that a dog under control is one that will obey its owner on command, whether on the lead or off the lead, KC Dog considers an out of control dog to be one behaving in such a way that would cause personnel trained in dog behaviour to reasonably believe that there was a significant possibility that through the actions

of the owner in not controlling the dog, it would cause damage, distress, or physical harm (accidental or otherwise) to people or other dogs”.

We would also like to stress that the authorised officer enforcing the order must be properly trained in dog behaviour in order to determine whether restraint is necessary. We would also recommend that the authorised officer only be able to direct a person to put their dog on a lead if the dog is not under proper control. There is a danger that, through no fault of its own, a dog could be a ‘nuisance’ or ‘annoyance’ to another person who simply does not like dogs.

Ultimately, any proposal to restrict or exclude access for dogs to public spaces should simultaneously establish dog friendly areas of open land within the same location; the accessibility of alternative routes already available and potential negative effects on government targets for health and reducing congestion. With regards to the dog fouling control order, the Kennel Club does not necessarily oppose the introduction of these orders, as this measure can help by sensibly ensuring that dog owners act responsibly. However, we would encourage Newcastle-under-Lyme Council to adopt more proactive measures which tend to help more when promoting responsible dog ownership throughout local area.

Based on our previous work and funded research on this issue, there are numerous reasons why dog fouling may be occurring in the first place. These include;

There may be a lack of signs and/or understanding amongst the dog owners in the area regarding the legal requirements which can differ depending on the needs of the land owner or of the type of land;

Dog bins may not be conveniently located or sighted for dog owners and are therefore undiscovered or disregarded;

Existing bins may not be regularly emptied and cleaned;

There may be a small number of persistent offenders.

We have found that other local authorities which have similar problems have typically experienced a reduction in dog fouling by holding an event such as a ‘Responsible Dog Day,’ where officers can discuss the needs of dog owners in relation to the citing of bins or existing signs which advise the public on where to dispose of dog faeces. Such events can be run for a small incurred cost of £500 – which is often deemed to be cheaper than setting up public display notices, running a public consultation and acquiring signs displaying information about new orders in your council.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite Newcastle-under-Lyme Council to sign up to the Kennel Club’s KC Dog campaign. There are no entry requirements, but consulting with KC Dog, or keeping KC Dog up to date with what your Council is doing is a good way to keep in touch with our dog-owning members. For more information visit www.thekennelclub.org.uk/kcdog and to join, email kcdog@thekennelclub.org.uk.

I hope you take these points into consideration and I hope that you find the enclosed briefing of use. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

39: I think this is a disgrace, the vast majority of dog owners in this area are responsible dog owners who respect the areas they walk there dogs. I have used Bathpool Park for years, well before the council took any interest in developing it. I use this park daily and I can understand the concerns of "some irresponsible" owners but how you can target everyone who owns a dog for select few is a joke. I would say 85% of people who use Bathpool are dog owners and during the colder months I would say that was higher, so how you think this is fair to restrict the majority user is beyond me. I'd be interested to know how many wardens have issued tickets for dog fouling seen as its a problem and how you think keeping dogs on leads would reduce dog fouling in these area. As I say its the few irresponsible owners you should be dealing with not the majority

40: agree with dogs on a lead in children’s play areas however I completely disagree with dogs on a lead on football pitches, Apedale and Bathpool etc. I live by Birchenwood fields and I always clean up after my dogs - which is more than football clubs do who use the fields at the weekend. My dog had to have an operation costing £500 after cutting her foot on litter left after a tournament. Perhaps more bins located in the field rather than just on the car park would help. Also if I and others are unable to walk to an area where we can exercise our dogs off lead we will need to travel in the car further afield leading to increased environmental impact and more traffic on the already busy roads. Also I would be interested to see this research which details that when dogs are on a lead the handlers are more likely to pick their poo up! I have seen people watch their dogs leave a mess on the pavement and just walk off and their dog is on a lead. Rather than spending all this money bringing in new bylaws and penalising the majority; just allocate the money towards more patrols to catch the people who don't clean up after their dogs now - as these are the type who still wont bother even if you bring in these new measures. Why should I and my family not be able to enjoy full access to all these areas as we pay the same council tax as everyone else. This is like a knee jerk reaction and one stick beats all policy. Please don't stop my dogs running free - the are well trained and cause no nuisance to anyone; why should they suffer?

42: do agree that dogs should not be allowed on areas where children play or activities are regularly held. I do feel though that there are not enough local areas of greenery available for just dog walking, for example in the USA they have parks just for dogs. More and more areas are having stricter and stricter

limitations placed for dog walkers. A dog needs to have off lead exercise to keep both body and mind healthy and active. I use Baldies field on Hempstalls lane and part of this has been taken for the development of the new nursery. I don't go over onto the playing field area, so now I'm stuck to walking in a circle on a tiny area of green. The amount of people that use this as a dogs toilet is disgusting and its the few irresponsible dog owners, that don't clean up after their dogs, that give us all bad names. I strongly believe if your not prepared to clean up after your dog then you should not have one!. I attend Kath Bell dog training school that is held on a Tuesday night in Knutton Community centre and have been going there for the past 5 years with my two dogs. Not enough people train and socialise their dogs properly or give up too easily. I also think that something should be included in schools teaching children the do's and don'ts around dogs. All in all i do agree that things need to change or become a bit stricter BUT there also needs to be areas just for dogs provided too. As you've said 1 in 4 houses own a dog, and rescue kennels are full to bursting already so lets not double that by putting strict laws with no leeway, leaving people no choice but to give their dogs up. It should be give and take not just take as then we are being discriminated against. Thank you for your time and im sorry if ive waffled on but i hope this reads across how seriously i take this issue

53: I don't think dogs should be excluded for certain places as long as they are on a lead and under proper control. There are not enough dog fouling bins which is why people do not pick it up. There is not a bin from the Higherland on the corner of the parkway all the way up to Keele.

55: Thistleberry Residents Association. I have specified no to item 6 as "unfenced children's play area's/Some open spaces owned by parish and town councils" because as dogs moving into unfenced area would be difficult to enforce. Public areas that are not fenced from free dog access areas would be difficult for dog owners to comply with without making the whole area a lead control area. This would not be fair. As long Dog owners are clearly instructed to act responsibly in areas close to unfenced areas near to free dog access areas.

58: - Bring back dog licenses. - Simplify the system whereby residents having to deal with dog fouling can arrange for a council employee to remove the excrement. At the moment all that happens is a long winded and expensive process making a reports etc. but with no one actually taking it away.

59: Generally, dog fouling is not to bad in Newcastle under Lyme town itself. The problem is in areas where dogs are allowed to roam free.

61: No places listed !

62: more dog exclusion areas would be good...as would more patrols to catch people not clearing up. I am not a dog hater - but I am fed up of irresponsible owners. You can't walk to school in Loggerheads due to the amount of fouling on the pavements. Some residents have stencilled signs on the pavements which has improved matters in those areas - Reynards rise. perhaps you could do a more widespread stencilling?
Thanks

63: Keeping dogs on leads has nothing to do with stopping dog fouling. Owners who are the worst offenders often never let there dogs off their extendible leads.

64: It appears that after initial enthusiasm by owners, it has now become less sexy to pick up the waste. This seems to be predominantly the ladies, but also the elderly who cannot manage the activity, unfortunately, I cannot see an immediate solution other than more bins and continual education.

68: There needs to be more action to identify and punish dog owners who do not clean up after their dog.

69: there is lots of dogs roaming loose in my area and i think that there should be some control over them, i.e catching the dogs and putting them in the dog pound

71: I couldn't find any listings on the questionnaire - hence the responses to Qs 6 and 8

72: name and shame dog owners who foul pavements and verges. Encourage people to photograph dog owners not picking up/clearing dog mess

74: There is quite a lot of dog fouling around the West Brampton, Enderly Street, Station Walks, and along A34. It seems that most parks I've visited have a problem with dog fouling. In the area where i live the dog fouling seems to occur at unsocial hours (either very early or very late) which along with a lack of police presence means hardly anyone gets caught for not cleaning up after their dogs. I believe the only way you will encourage people to clean up after their dogs is if a dna system like they have in some parts of Germany

with fines used to pay for cleaning up they mess (for this to work though the government would need to introduce a dna data base if they ever introduce compulsory chipping).

78: The Borough tries very hard to control dog fouling but there are some owners of dogs who still allow their dogs to foul perhaps there is the need for more fines to be issued and advertised - eg. How many people were fined each month or 6months So people are more aware of the possibility of being fined !!!

81: People with dogs should both be treated with and behave with respect. Most dog owners are sensible in the way that they control and clear up after their dogs; given that there should be no access restrictions on them - adequate laws and bylaws exist to deal with those who allow their dogs to cause a nuisance - please don't restrict the many as a result of poor behaviour by the few.

83: There is still a small amount of dog owners who don't clean up and pretend to not notice the dog fouling. Although generally speaking the situation is vastly improved throughout the area.

84: You haven't listed anywhere so I can't comment

85: It would be helpful to have bins for poo bags particularly in the more rural areas.

92: People who walk nasty dogs should be forced to muzzle them. I have three bitches and am sick to the back teeth of nasty dogs trying to attack them and brain dead owners ignoring the dogs bad behavior. We NEED more dog pooh bins especially around Chesterton.(Wolstanton Road and London Road)

95: I love dogs and have previously owned dogs however, whilst some owners are very good at looking after their pets other do not and spoil privileges that should be enjoyed ball owners

96: We are losing too many freedoms. More, stronger bins for dog excrement and more frequent emptying is a better solution.

97: I also think that people should only be able to own 2 dogs as on many occasions when I have walked my dog we have had to cope with people who have 3 dogs or more off the lead. They then act like a pack animal and it is very scary. Gone are the days when it was pleasurable to walk dogs. There are also individuals who walk dogs in the Cross Heath area, mostly young men with Staffys who do not put them onto a lead. A fellow dog walker had a very nasty incident on the Silverdale railway/cycle path where her dog was attacked by a staffy even though she asked him to put him on a lead. As for dog fouling it is horrendous and gives good dog owners a bad name. Apologies for all the negativity but something really needs to be done. There should be a direct line for the dog warden as you have to phone the council which is then transferred to the dog warden which takes time when they are needed promptly

98: Some areas of the Borough are worse than others. There should be a consistent approach throughout.

101: There seems to be so many people walking dogs in public places and they are not on leads which is dangerous where children are playing and walking. Something needs to be done before somebody gets hurt. It seems some dog owners do not care about anything but themselves.

102: Responsible dog owners and their pets should not be penalised by over regulation for a minority of poor pet owners. Closer community policing should be able to reduce fouling and unsupervised pets.

103: Places not listed so that's helpful!!!!!! This is the usual treat all dogs as dangerous argument as used by cat owners. Are we going to do something about cats entering people properties and pooping everywhere??

104: I think that dogs when being walked on public streets or walkways should be kept on a lead. There are plenty of open fields which are classed as public places but it would and should be down to the dog owner/walker to decide whether or not it is appropriate to allow the dog off the lead for exercise. In these areas such as the walkway along the old railway line and on the Whammy, both in Knutton, I would suggest that more dog litter bins are placed in strategic points along the walk. Let us not forget that we are a nation of animal lovers and the majority of people act responsibly when out walking their pets. That said there will always be people with complete disregard for others and we should be punishing those people with fines for continuous breach of laws and regulations.

109: Is there a particular reason why controls regarding the persistent barking of dogs left outside all day has not been included?

111: Dogs should be allowed to go anywhere a child would go provides, THE DOG IS UNDER CONTROL.

117: We need more information as to where exactly the orders would apply. There needs to be more dog bins, not just in parks but along main roads to encourage dog owners to be responsible. The bins to be well maintained and regularly emptied which is not always the case.

120: I know most dog owners are responsible, but I can't tell you the number of times I have come home with my shoes covered in dog excrement. I love animals...all animals, and its not the dogs fault..but the owner. Something needs to be done.

122: read the recent article Orders put the bite on bad owners and initially was greatly heartened at the prospect of new legislation being approved to tackle unleashed dogs and also owners who allow, or actively encourage their dogs to foul public footpaths or communal grassed areas, making no effort to clean up and remove their pets mess to a suitable disposable point. For me the real problem is enforcement of such legislation without increasing the numbers of wardens or the provision of CCTV. Sadly many irresponsible individuals do not respond to clear signage. May I suggest that all signage needs to be large and bold and placed in a position that prevents vandalism. My own area needs to be designated a Dog Poo Hotspot, Reeves Avenue, Cross Heath and in particular the alleyway that joins Reeves Avenue to Upper Milehouse Lane. Dog faeces are constantly present and have to be cleaned up by the residents otherwise children and older persons have to dodge th e mess which is often trodden in and walked along the tarmac. The size of some dog motions I leave to your imagination. My own feeling is that owners who commit the offence can only be identified in any serious numbers with the use of CCTV as often when an offence occurs no staff would be present and some offences are committed at night. At the time of writing the Alleyway walkway is covered with dog faeces. I am sure there are other neighbourhoods that are equally plagued with the same problem. I would be interested how many prosecutions there have been over the last twelve months. It concerns me, whilst wishing to remain optimistic regarding the implementation of new laws; I fear it will be a toothless tiger.

123: Legislation penalises responsible owners. Irresponsible owners would not comply anyway

125: read the recent article Orders put the bite on bad owners and initially was greatly heartened at the prospect of new legislation being approved to tackle unleashed dogs and also owners who allow, or actively encourage their dogs to foul public footpaths or communal grassed areas, making no effort to clean up and remove their pets mess to a suitable disposable point. For me the real problem is enforcement of such legislation without increasing the numbers of wardens or the provision of CCTV. Sadly many irresponsible individuals do not respond to clear signage. May I suggest that all signage needs to be large and bold and placed in a position that prevents vandalism. My own area needs to be designated a Dog Poo Hotspot, Reeves Avenue, Cross Heath and in particular the alleyway that joins Reeves Avenue to Upper Milehouse Lane. Dog faeces are constantly present and have to be cleaned up by the residents otherwise children and older persons have to dodge the mess which is often trodden in and walked along the tarmac. The size of some dog motions I leave to your imagination. My own feeling is that owners who commit the offence can only be identified in any serious numbers with the use of CCTV as often when the offence occurs no staff would be present and some offences are committed at night. At the time of writing the Alleyway walkway is covered with dog faeces. I am sure there are other neighbourhoods that are equally plagued with the same problem. I would be interested how many prosecutions there have been over the last twelve months. It concerns me, whilst wishing to remain optimistic regarding the implementation of new laws; I fear it will be a toothless tiger.

126: the cycle path in Knutton is like a public toilet hardly anyone cleans up after there dogs there. i live alongside it and see this all the time.

131: Red Street Community Centre. Could possibly do with more signs around areas to make general public more aware especially children playgrounds/ playing fields

137: It would have helped me in the completion of this questionnaire if the restrictions mentioned in 6/7 & 8 were included for reference. How would the various exclusions be monitored and enforced? Personally I think that general litter is a much more serious problem. There appear to be more dog litter bins provided than general litter bins.

142: will not be happy if one of your "workers" asks me to put my dog on his leash, if he is running free, then he is with me under supervision and is not in a place where he will cause trouble. I poop and scoop. You need more bins to put dog excrement in. I feel that you are victimizing dog owners with these orders,

and appreciate that it is the few bad owners that spoil it for the responsible owners. It will mainly be responsible owners that you hassle. Where is the money coming from for the extra policing in the exclusion areas? Why is money not being spent on opening public toilets for people? In fact what are you going to do if you see people urinating and worse in public areas? Where do walkers/fishermen/cyclists etc go now? What about them bagging and binning? Also children and teenagers? They drop litter, can be rude and abusive, parents do not control them, are they to be excluded from certain areas and put on a leash if needed? Get your act together and start spending time and money on things that are actually important and will help to get the country back on its feet instead of taking it even lower than it is now!!! Wake up, pot holes, education, refuse, recycling.....there is more mess after they have collected the bags/boxes than before they start!

144: The Vast Majority of Dog Owners are responsible. Introducing Dogs on Leads in all Public Places across the Borough is in my opinion too Draconian a step. A far better way for me would be to harshly Fine (every time) people who allow their Dogs to Foul and also People who do not adequately control their Dogs.

145: More dog waste bins in Betley/Wrinehill. We have one down a dirt track but none along the pavement and only one litter bin in Wrinehill too, where the worst problems with fouling are.

159: The small minority of people spoil it for those of us who are responsible dog owners. I think there needs to be much tighter control on dog fouling as I never see anybody in this role and see a lot of dog mess around. It's a shame that dogs should be on leads all the time so there does need to be areas where they can be off but people with dogs that shouldn't be off the lead should be made to keep them on leads so that those people with well behaved dogs aren't penalised.

165: I live in Miles Green and often walk in Podmore Nature reserve and along the old railway track which runs from Thomas Boughie School to Bignall End. In both these places I often encounter dogs out with their owners who are running free and often jump up on myself or others who are with me. The dog owners do not seem bothered by this and just comment "It's ok - he's friendly". I am a dog lover but do not feel as though this 'jumping up' is acceptable. On occasions when I have said something {always politely}, I have had rude responses. I don't know if anything can be done about this.

166: I live in Fearn Ave Bradwell. I have a little puppy I take for a walk around the estate and I've never in my life seen so much dog muck. Someone let their dog do their mess on my drive the other day I had to get buckets of hot water to move it it's a disgrace, I've got grandchildren I don't want them walking on it and bringing it in the bungalow. I took her down the crem park I started to walk on the big field there I put one foot on the grass and got back off as that was full of dog muck too and it's a shame for the children who want to play there. It's a big problem and it needs sorting out..

167: The dog control put signs in my street some year ago they haven't worked we still have dog owners going through to the marsh from Grosvenor place ST5 0HS letting them poo all up the street it's terrible .please please come and fine them .they need caught

168: we are dog training classes and we are training my dog to come back to me

169: I live in Bradwell and we are plagued by dog fouling. Often left at the entrance to the school and the pavements approaching the school and in the alleyways. A short walk of a couple of hundred yards brought me in contact with 9 or 10 'little piles'. Dog dirt is dangerous to children, both by infection and damage to shoes and clothes, it is trodden into the school by children and picked up on pram wheels, it transfers to fingers and then to mouths. Please help us to control these dirty people who care so little for their neighbours and local environment. Thank you for making this a priority.

171: believe that dog fouling is a huge problem and not just about dogs being on a lead. The footpaths in my area suffer from large amounts of dog fouling and that is clearly an issue where dogs, are walked on leads not running free. I do not believe exclusions like this will help with this issue as people who, allow their dogs, to, foul and do not pick it up will do this whether their dog is on a lead or not. I, am a regular visitor of Bathpool park and feel that the exclusion zone is too much. I agree that it is an issue if dogs are, fouling on a sports pitch but is banning all dogs except on a lead the solution? I would suggest not. I think that this is a knee jerk reaction and would welcome open consultation (on site) so that officers could see the types of people who use the park. I could say that I have a problem with the bike riders who, use the paths, passing at great speed with little or no regard for pedestrians, but I am a tolerant person and it is not all, but a few. There are 2 sections in Bathpool park and in reality the far end towards Talke would be a much better option for dog walking, no sports pitch or play area but 2 huge grassed areas. However in my experience you, would have to be prepared for, your children to witness the disgusting behaviour taking place on the car park and in the bushes by the numerous individuals who seem to, have now taken over this complete section. So

what is the solution? Ban all dogs except on a lead. Or perhaps deal with the issues taking place, on the other side of the park (not ignoring it despite it being reported to the police, and council on numerous occasions), and therefore create 2 sections to the park where dog lovers, walkers, bike riders and sports enthusiasts can all enjoy a valuable resource without alienating anyone from any side.

172: all off lead dogs should be the owners responsibility and under the owners control. offlead pets need the opportunity to burn up excess energy. if not allowed to do so the dog may develop behaviour problems thus leading to potential more unwanted dogs in the borough. i support responsible dog ownership and cleaning up fouling is very important .even though more bins aren't planned surely this should be supported by supplying more bins. off lead exercise areas should be well sign posted as should dogs on lead signs.

ADDITIONAL RESPONSES FOLLOW

The following comments were received between 13th January, and the conclusion of the consultation period on 31st January 2013. These were not in the original Public Protection Report due to drafting deadlines.

178: than blanket controls based on the type of area concerned it would be more cost effective to apply the controls only in specific areas where issues have been reported regularly. This would reduce the cost of signage, monitoring and undue restrictions in areas where there is no perceived problem. As we are all interested in promoting a healthy local population the balance has to be right to ensure people are not discouraged from taking healthy exercise with their dogs. Neither is it desirable to limit visitors to local amenities and attractions. It should be remembered that requiring dogs to be on leads does not guarantee the owner will clean up after them and the owners of dogs regularly walked off-lead are more likely to be responsible owners as these dogs will often have received better training. Further clarification would be useful on the term "marked sports pitches" - does this refer to the area inside the marking only or does it extend to the whole field in which the pitch is contained?

179: we only moved into the borough in sept 2012, but to find dog mess on the pavement on regular occasions isnt something we find acceptable, esp when walking with a 3 year old to do something as simple as going the local shop. We feel like most decent people that if your dog fouls a public area then you should clean it up. If it had been a one off occasion then we probably wouldn't of complained but every week it is there again as we walk to the shop, it is the same person and dog as its always in the same length of pavement on meremore drive. Thank you

181: when the council stops golf motorcycles and horse riding and the mess football players and supporters leave after a match on a sunday then perhaps i will obey the rules of the mount road recreation ground at the moment it looks like a sledge graveyard

184: I live at xxx redacted xxx, Hartshill. There is a large green space adjacent to Stubbs Walk Park on Victoria Road near my house that has a lot of problems with dogs off leads. The area is adjacent to a children's play area and is situated in between 2 sites of Newcastle School. therefore it is an area where children are coming and going very regularly (including evenings as the school has many extra-curricular activities). My children attend Hassell Street School and so this area is on our way to school. We also use the Stubbs Walk Park regularly. Dogs not on leads regularly bound up to us, which can be scary for small children. I have had to pick my children up on occasions to get them away from unwanted attention from a dog I am aware that some 12-24 months ago a boy from Newcastle School was bitten whilst walking in this area. I would like this area to be considered for a 'Dogs on Leads' zone.

186: Councils should randomly challenge dog-walkers to prove that they are able to clean up their dog's mess. If they are not carrying a bag, etc, then they are clearly not going to be able to. If they can't clean it up, they should be fined the maximum. A few high profile cases should deter people. Put up signs, and leaflet areas where it is happening. Get the public to name and shame people they know are doing it. I can start you off on Clough Hall Road in Kidsgrove - come and watch my next door neighbour's dogs as they are taken for their walk to the end of my drive, where they also do their mess, and it's left there for my daughter to walk in and cycle in if we take them out. My daughters are 4 and 18 months, so this is a real concern for me.

188: is a dog fouling problem in the Kidsgrove area which is very popular with dog walkers. Bathpool Park is well supplied with waste and dog waste bins but other areas such as St Johns Wood, Windmill field area by Mill Rise, woods off Long Row and Ravenscliffe Road, etc have no bins of any sort. Having spoken to the council, I am aware that some of this is down to historic placement (council cannot or do not place bins by verges as they are owned by Staffordshire Highways). However, just because something has always been done one way does not mean it cannot be changed and I am sure that the provision of bins would help

to alleviate (if not eliminate) the problem. I spoke to Paul Middleton on 23rd Jan and he has promised to look into providing a bin on Mill Rise and possibly the woods off Long Row so hopefully this will help in the future. I know that some people do not use bins even where they are available so maybe educating people as to the harm that dog waste can do and the need for children to have a safe area where dogs are not allowed and wonder if there is any way in which a fenced area could be provided purely for dogs to play? The permanent keep-fit trail in the park is excellent, the introduction of an agility version for dogs would be very welcome and entertaining and could help to boost visitor numbers.

Correspondence has also been received from Dog Trust (undated, received 18/01/2013)