

# Public Space Protection Order Survey



## Frequently asked questions

### About the consultation

<b>What does the consultation seek to do?</b>	<p>The consultation is aimed at balancing the interests of the general public. We are seeking the views of local residents and interested groups (local access groups, police, schools, public houses, dog clubs etc). People have strong views about dogs, whether they are about dog fouling or the rights of dog owners to exercise their dogs.</p> <p>We wish to ensure that both those directly affected by the proposals and the general public are aware; giving everyone the opportunity to help us in developing the PSPO.</p>
<b>Do my views matter?</b>	<p>Yes, very much so. Your ideas and suggestions are very welcome and all views will be considered. What is most important is to achieve the correct balance between the needs and wishes of all the community.</p>
<b>Will South Lakeland District Council (SLDC) be replying to every response?</b>	<p>Unfortunately due to the number of questionnaires we expect to receive we cannot reply to everyone, but all comments received will be considered.</p> <p>We will communicate as much information as we can by using the Council's website <a href="http://www.southlakeland.gov.uk">www.southlakeland.gov.uk</a> and social media.</p>

### About Public Space Protection Orders

<b>What is a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)?</b>	<p>PSPOs were introduced in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. A 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.</p> <p>The PSPO can impose restrictions on the use of that area which apply to everyone who is carrying out that activity. The orders are designed to ensure that the law-abiding majority can enjoy public spaces, safe from anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>For further information on powers to control dogs and PSPOs please visit <a href="http://www.gov.uk/guidance/control-dogs#pspo">www.gov.uk/guidance/control-dogs#pspo</a></p>
<b>Why are Dog Control Orders being replaced?</b>	<p>The current Dog Control Order legislation expires in October 2017 and a PSPO has been used by many other local councils in England to replace Dog Control Orders.</p> <p>We believe that by introducing a PSPO we can build on the effectiveness of the previous Dog Control Orders in South Lakeland and create a fair and consistent approach when dealing with issues.</p>
<b>How would a PSPO differ from Dog Control Orders?</b>	<p>Some of the locations covered in the PSPO would be different in size and shape compared to the Dog Control Orders. Maps of these areas are available on our website at <a href="http://www.southlakeland.gov.uk/pspo">www.southlakeland.gov.uk/pspo</a></p> <p>The PSPO could also allow us to introduce a limit on the number of dogs that could be walked by a person at any time and a requirement for a dog walker needing to possess the means to pick up faeces if asked to by an authorised officer.</p>
<b>Is there anybody that would be exempt from the PSPO?</b>	<p>The PSPO would not apply to a registered blind person or someone who has a dog trained by a charity to support a person suffering from mobility, manual dexterity disability or deafness.</p> <p>A dog that is working on the land with the consent of the person in control of the land and a person in control of police or rescue dogs on official duty would also be exempt.</p>

<b>Will the PSPO apply to public rights of way?</b>	Dogs will not be prohibited from public rights of way, however there may be a requirement to keep dogs on leads in certain areas e.g. cemeteries, or excluded from children's play areas or sports pitches.
<b>What about the needs of dog owners?</b>	<p>Owning a dog can bring great happiness but also places a lifelong responsibility on the owner to ensure that the dog is not a hazard, a health risk, or a nuisance to other members of our society. Unfortunately some owners do not take a responsible attitude towards dog ownership and as a result the council receives a high number of complaints a year covering a range of issues such as noise nuisance from barking or uncollected dog faeces.</p> <p>The Council needs to balance the needs of those in charge of dogs with the interests of those affected by the activities of dogs, bearing in mind the need for people, in particular children to have access to dog free areas and areas where dogs are kept under strict control.</p>
<b>What is the penalty for a PSPO?</b>	<p>If you ignore a PSPO, you can be fined, £100 on the spot (a Fixed Penalty Notice) or up to £1,000 if it goes to court.</p> <p>You can't be fined if you're a registered blind dog owner.</p>
<b>Who will enforce the Order?</b>	<p>Fixed Penalty Notices would be issued by any of SLDC's Enforcement Officers or by Police Officers or Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs).</p> <p>We are not an authority which aims to issue large numbers of Fixed Penalty Notices. Our preferred and current approach is to encourage responsible behaviour and to issue Fixed Penalty Notices where this guidance is not adhered to.</p>

## What happens next?

<b>What will happen as a result of the consultation?</b>	<p>The results of the consultation will help us decide if the PSPO will be put in place. If it is, it will also affect how and where the order is implemented across the district. We will consider all the responses in order to achieve the best possible result that balances the needs of the public. The results will be published on the council's website <a href="http://www.southlakeland.gov.uk/pspo">www.southlakeland.gov.uk/pspo</a></p>
<b>How can I report problems with dog fouling in my area?</b>	<p>SLDC also encourages you to report incidences of dog fouling, which can be made anonymously, to our Customer Services on <b>01539 733333</b>. This will help us to identify hot spot areas and our enforcement teams will be able to take a more targeted approach.</p> <p>Please give us as much detail as you can including: name of site, description of dog and dog owner, date and time the incident was witnessed, any other information such as, is it a regular occurrence, description of car etc. Please do not approach the person yourself.</p>
<b>If we haven't answered your question, please contact us</b>	<p>If your question isn't answered here, or you have any further questions, please get in touch with us call on <b>01539 733333</b> or email <a href="mailto:parks@southlakeland.gov.uk">parks@southlakeland.gov.uk</a></p>