



**North East
Derbyshire**
District Council

**North East Derbyshire District Council
PSPO Dog Management Response Report
September 2023**

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September 2023

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Distribution	Issue	Date
Thomas Rush	Final Report	07/09/23
Kath Drury	Final Report	07/09/23

Introduction

Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) are powers introduced by local authorities (Under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014) to help deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a particular area that is damaging to the local community's quality of life. The power to make a Public Spaces Protection Order was given to District Councils by the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

Before making an order, the council must consult with the local chief officer of police, and the local policing body, community representatives and the owner or occupier of land within the restricted area. The Council must also notify the County Council and Parish (Town) Council of the proposed order.

The PSPO can prohibit people from doing certain things in an area, requires specified things to be done by persons carrying out specified activities in an area, or do both of those things. A PSPO can last for up to three years, but this time period can be extended if necessary.

In response to residents' complaints regarding responsible dog ownership, we introduced a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in October 2020 which over the past few years has allowed us to deal with complaints, take enforcement action where necessary, and improve the environment in the borough.

This consultation concerns the proposal to extend this PSPO for a further 3 years until October 2026, at which point we would decide whether to extend it again after another consultation.

Methodology

A consultation survey was created, and this was made available to all relevant stakeholders with options to complete online, via the NEDDC website and through survey links via a social media campaign (paper copies of the survey were available upon request). The survey was open for 4 weeks with a closing date of Friday 1st September.

Response Summary

In total 147 responses to the survey were received prior to the return deadline, all of which were completed online.

The percentages throughout the report may not always add exactly to 100% due to rounding.

Executive Summary

- Of the 147 responses received, these were spread over 21 North East Derbyshire wards, with the most responses from Wingerworth with 15 responses (10.2%), Coal Aston and Dronfield North with 12 responses each (8.2%), and Dronfield South, Dronfield Woodhouse and Killamarsh West with 11 responses each (7.5%).
- Of the 147 respondents, 35 (23.8%) commented on the question ‘are there any requirements you would remove, amend or add?’ the most commonly cited being comments regarding ‘dogs off leads’, ‘enforcement and fines’ and ‘reduce the number of dogs permitted to walk at one time’.
- 133 of the 147 responses received (90.5%) were from people in support of the extension of the Dog Management PSPO in North East Derbyshire District, with 14 responses (9.5%) from people opposed to the PSPO extension.
- When asked for additional comments, respondents referenced several subjects, the most popular being ‘Concerns about how the PSPO will be enforced’, ‘Issues concerning dog fouling’ and ‘Issues concerning dogs off leads’.

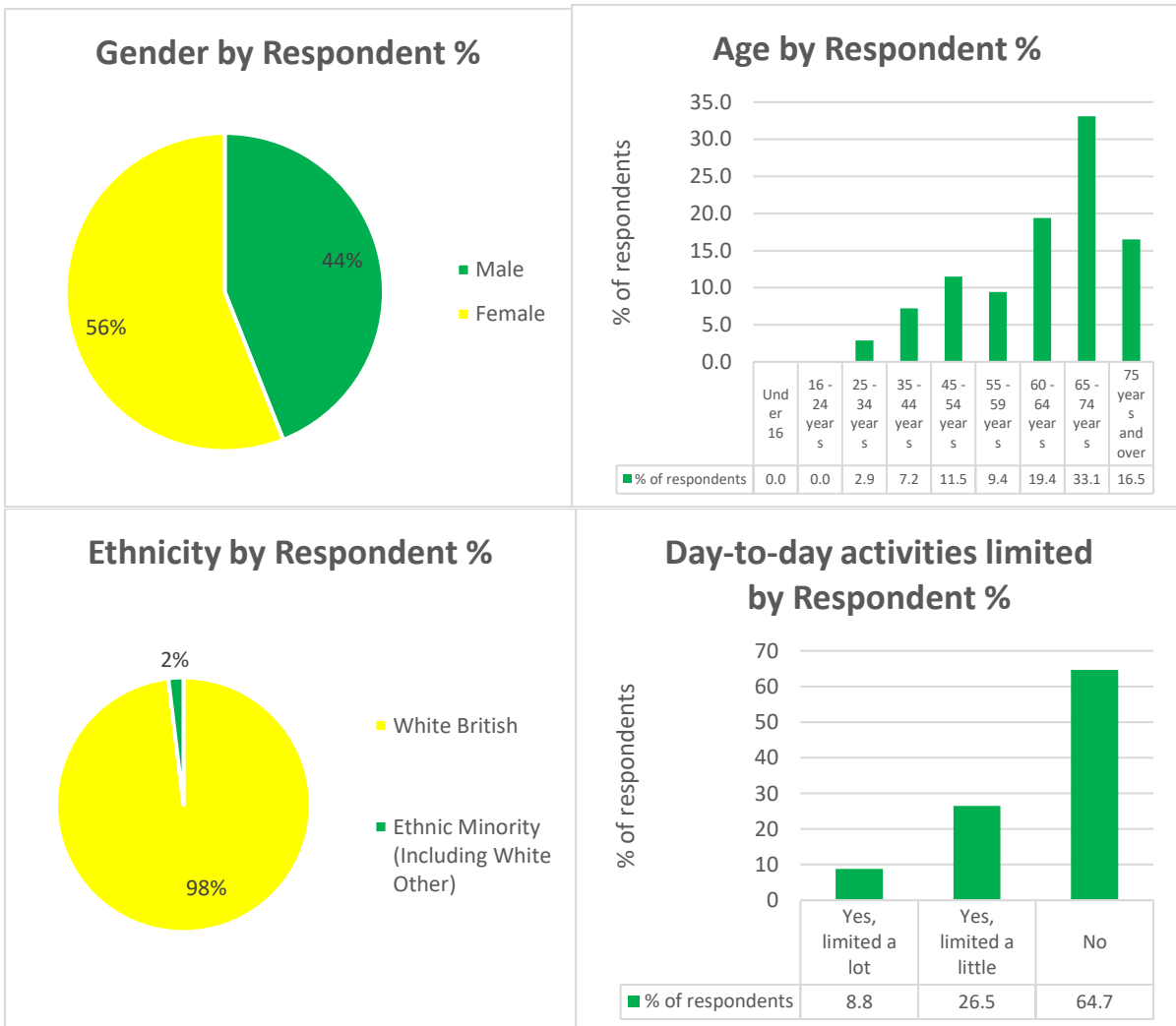
Respondent Profiling Information

Key demographic information was captured in the survey to help build a respondent profile and assist with equalities monitoring. A table of results is included below together with the summary of key points below which compares this information to the district’s profile taken from the 2021 Population Census.

Respondent Characteristic	Overall Respondent Profile %	% Population Figures (2021 Census)
<i>Gender</i>		
Male	44	49
Female	56	51
		-
<i>Age Group</i>		
		(age % as proportion of 2021 population aged 16+)
16-24 years	0	10
25-34	3	13
35-44	7	13
45-54	12	17
55-59	9	9
60-64	19	8
65-74	33	16
75 & over	17	14

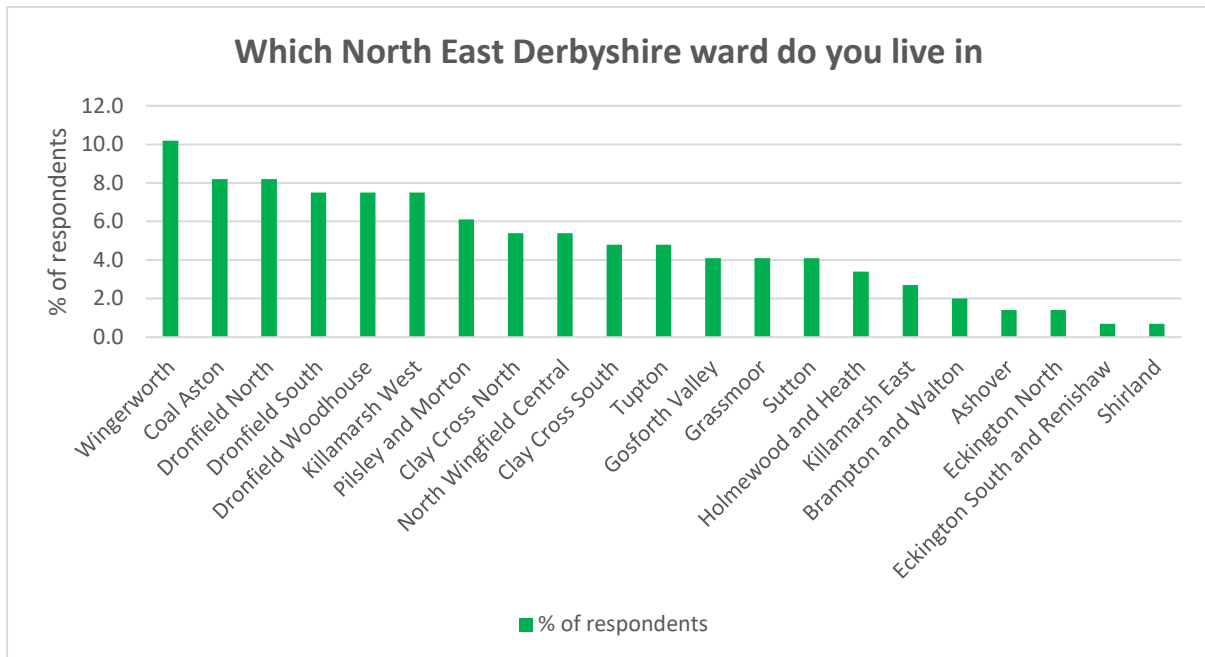
Ethnicity		
White British or Irish	98	96
Ethnic Minority (including white-other)	2	4
Disability		
Yes, limited a lot	9	11
Yes, limited a little	27	11
No	65	78

The gender profile of respondents was over representative of females and under representative of males when comparing to % population 2021 census figures. The survey was over representative of age categories 60-64 and 65-74 and 75 years and over and under representative of age categories under 24 years, 25-34, 35-44 and 45-54. Ethnic minorities are underrepresented within the survey, whilst people who stated they had disability limitations to a lesser extend are over represented and no disabilities under represented when benchmarked against the 2021 census.

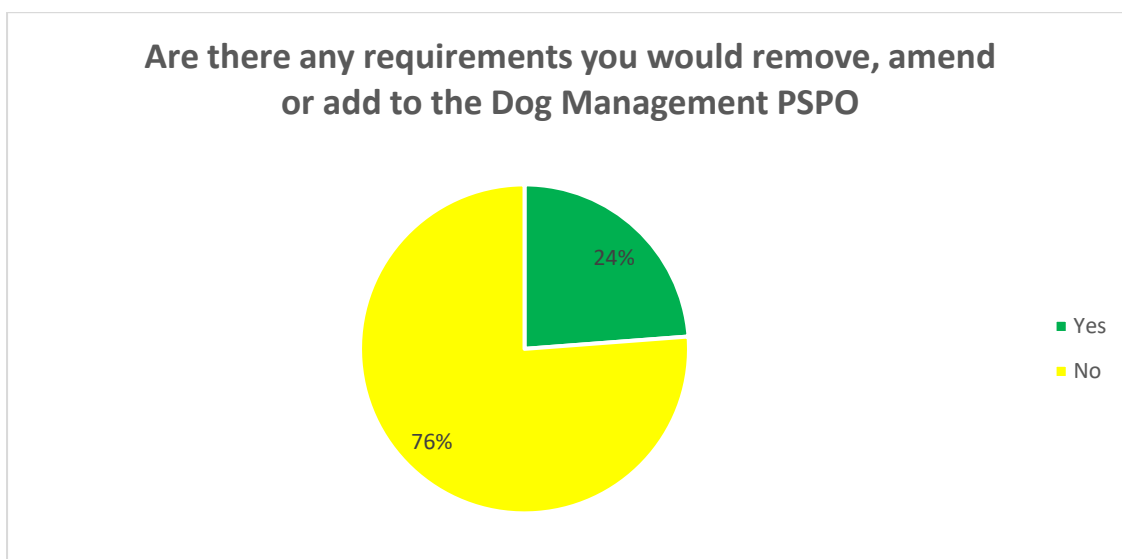


Survey Response Detail

The 147 respondents were spread over 21 North East Derbyshire wards, with the most responses from Wingerworth with 15 responses (10.2%), Coal Aston and Dronfield North with 12 responses each (8.2%), and Dronfield South, Dronfield Woodhouse and Killamarsh West with 11 responses each (7.5%).



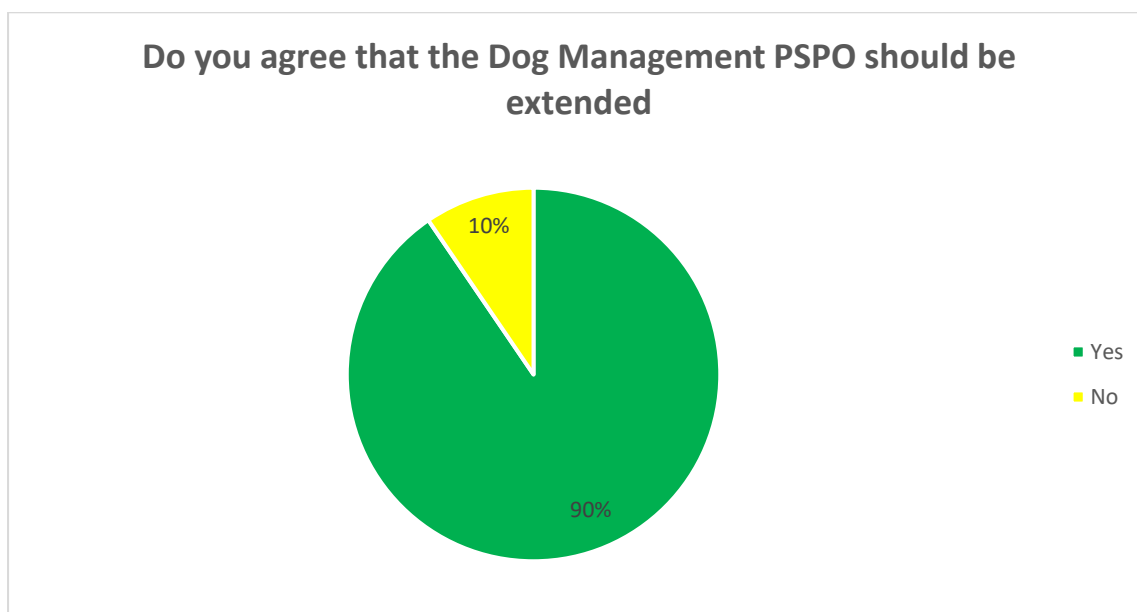
When asked if there were any requirements that respondents would remove, amend or add, of the 147 respondents, 35 (23.8%) said 'Yes' and commented on the question. The most commonly cited responses being comments regarding 'dogs off leads', 'enforcement and fines' and 'reduce the number of dogs permitted to walk at one time'.



Consultation response category	No. of comments
Concerns regarding dogs off leads	13
Concerns as to how PSPO will be effectively enforced/policed	4
Concerns as to how many dogs can be walked by an individual	4
Responses suggesting dogs on lead requirements should be reduced	3
Suggestions that signage should be increased	3
Concerns regarding dog fouling	3
Concerns regarding excessive dog barking	2
Concerns regarding children's play areas	2
Requests for regulation clarifications	2
Requests for more dog waste bins	2
Provide designated dog exercise areas	1
General concerns of PSPO	1

See Appendix 1 for full list of respondent comments.

133 of the 147 respondents (90.5%) said that they supported the extension of the Dog Management PSPO in North East Derbyshire District, with 14 of the 147 respondents (9.5%) stating they were against the PSPO extension.



The consultation asked if respondents had any further comments relevant to this PSPO, comments regarding 'concerns/queries with how the PSPO will be effectively enforced and policed', 'concerns regarding dog fouling' and 'concerns regarding dogs off leads' being the most frequently cited: -

Consultation response category	No. of comments
Concerns as to how PSPO will be effectively enforced/policed	24
Concerns regarding dog fouling	17
Concerns regarding dogs off leads	10
Provide designated dog exercise areas	5
Requests for more dog waste bins	4
More communication / information regarding PSPO	4
Comments opposing PSPO (general)	4
Comments supporting PSPO (general)	3
Responses suggesting dogs on lead requirements should be reduced	1
Concerns as to how many dogs can be walked by an individual	1
Suggestions that signage should be increased	1

See Appendix 2 for full respondent comment details.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Are there any requirements you would remove amend or add.

Concerns regarding dogs off leads

All dogs should be on a lead when approaching another dog or children.

Sometimes even when a dog is on a lead on the public footpath the lead is extended so far in front of the dog handler that its unsafe, as you come in contact with the dog before the person.

Dogs should be on a lead in ALL public spaces including, for instance, the School Lane, Dronfield playing field. Irresponsible dog owners, who continually tell you that "he's never done that before" or "he's really very friendly" when you're knocked to the ground or your on-lead dog is attacked, are everywhere and turn what should be a pleasant outing into a nightmare.

Enforce all dogs should be on a lead on multi-user tracks/paths with improved signage for dog owners, unless under control. Large amounts of dogs in this area with many off lead and chasing nesting birds etc. in the wildlife areas.

I would add as below, a requirement that persons with dogs off lead are required to prevent them from joining dogs on lead or other people.

Amend to say a dog must be under close control when on roads, pavements etc - not specifically on a lead, but under whatever form of close control will work.

Extending leads are widely used now and they do not always give close control.

Dogs should always be on a lead in public (and muzzled if 'dangerous'). People just walk ahead of a free dog, leaving it to mess where they then act as though they never saw it. (They are usually staring at a mobile phone anyway and paying their 'beloved' pet absolutely no attention at all).

I would like "Dogs on leads" in ALL public places.

Dogs should be on leads in country parks and in all parks. I'm forever having dogs jump on the kids and owner saying, 'it's ok, he's friendly'.

Dogs that are lead only or nervous. Not to go to the few areas where dogs can be off the lead to run.

I suggest installing cameras in certain areas in Killamarsh. There are a lot of dog walkers use the small estate where I live in Killamarsh and not all of the dogs are on a lead. Also, there is a tenant who has a dog that regularly runs around the estate and invariable finishes at the back of leisure centre. If there are any NEDDC officials or RYKNELD personal in the area she'll have the dog on a lead, otherwise she has a disregard to the Tenants Agreement and other tenants.

The PSPO should also include Bridleways & Byways. Bridleways & Byways are used by horse riders, walkers, cyclists, people with push chairs etc. Dogs should be kept on leads on ALL public footpaths & Bridleways. Byways for the same reasons as you are proposing, they should be kept on leads in other areas. The same rules should apply to all Bridleways, Footpaths & Byways.

I don't think dogs should be allowed off a lead on Hyde Park field at Hilltop. My son likes to play and run around on this field, and we don't feel we can with so many loose dogs.

Concerns as to how PSPO will be effectively enforced / policed.

There needs to be better enforcement and higher penalties.

Make it a fine, but not a criminal record.

Greater enforcement, as there are too many people who do not follow the order and there appears to be no consequence.

Increase penalties for fouling.

Concerns as to how many dogs can be walked by an individual.

Change to no individual should be in charge of more than 4 dogs. We have observed problems with professional dog walkers exercising 5 or more dogs., we have sometimes seen a person with 7 out of control large dogs.

Six dogs are too many!

Reduce maximum number of dogs under control of one person to four.

I also consider that a maximum of 6 dogs is unrealistic & the limit should be 3 dogs. It would be impossible for a sole person to actually control 6 dogs especially if they were large &/or lack training. We need to consider more strongly the safety & wellbeing of our residents & fellow responsible dog owners who walk their dogs on leads.

Responses suggesting dogs on lead requirements should be reduced.

There is no need for dogs to be on a lead in many of the proposed spaces. It becomes impossible to exercise dogs adequately which causes other issues.

Dogs on lead should be more relaxed, some dogs are excellent on recall and walk to heel, this is penalising dogs that have been trained to a high level of competence.

Dog on a lead aspect requires clarification or removal

Suggestions that signage should be increased.

That provision for dogs to run free on a fenced area are placed in every park.

Also, particularly in parks where children play, the requirement for dogs on leads along with failure penalties should be prominently displayed.

Increased signage in public parks and green spaces about the requirements of the Public Spaces Protection Order.

Concerns regarding dog fouling

After owning a dog for a while, it seems that walking the dog is a chore to be completed (i.e., letting it mess in public) as quickly as possible.

Add that grass / greenery in public area / spaces are kept well maintained as it's difficult to pick up dog mess in grass longer than a couple of inches or painful when nettles or bramble are present.

Increase penalties for fouling.

Concerns regarding excessive dog barking

Excessive barking, especially at anti-social hours.

Constant noisy dogs barking should be issued a warning as it really can disrupt home life of neighbours, leading up to a fine if not dealt with.

Concerns regarding children's play areas

When visiting Penzance in Cornwall recently I was delighted to see the children's play area was cordoned off with a gate, not only was this preventing dogs from entering this area and fouling it was also excellent protection for the children. Your item 5 clearly mentions dogs not being allowed in the children's play areas, but Derbyshire CC have done nothing to protect this area at Eastwood Park, Calow. As I have 3 great grandchildren this is important to me.

Particularly in parks where children play, the requirement for dogs on leads along with failure penalties should be prominently displayed.

Requests for regulation clarifications

There needs to be clear information of what constitutes a public space. School playing fields in particular.

Definition of authorised officer - this isn't clear to the public carrying disposal bags - they may have used those already carried when challenged the wide range of the areas where dogs must be on a lead - the current definition seems unreasonable.

Requests for more dog waste bins

Provide more dog poo bins, there aren't enough.

Dog waste bins with dog bags.

Provide designated dog exercise areas.

Provide safe, fenced off areas for people to exercise dogs.

General concerns of PSPO

It is too blanket and restrictive, should not be necessary as a blanket order.

Appendix 2 – Do you have any further comments.

Concerns as to how PSPO will be effectively enforced / policed.

More enforcement officers needed!

Irresponsible dog owners should be punished.

While being mindful of the pressures on public finances, the Council can pin up as many 'warning' posters re fines etc. as you like, but if the situation in public spaces isn't being monitored and action taken, then irresponsible dog owners will continue to ruin it for everyone else.

There are still a lot of people who do not clear up after their dog but there seems to be a shortage of dog wardens to implement fines.

I very much hope this will be enforced rigorously, with no exceptions.

Should be enforced more frequently.

Not enough enforcement carried out to be a deterrent, the odds on winning the lottery are higher than being caught. It should be funded by fines and cost of clean-up work, make it not worth risking being caught.

Ensure it's enforced at all times.

I realise the monetary restraints on the Council, but feel a more conspicuous presence of enforcement officers, publication of the figures and fines issued on the website, magazine etc. would be beneficial.

Enforcement of the restrictions should be stricter especially on public playing and sports fields.

How are these regulations enforced, as there are major issues in Dronfield with dog fouling and owners not keeping their dogs on leads and under control.

The only issue I can see relates to the identification of breaches to the order.

Without proactive enforcement the PSPO will not change people's behaviour.

Secondly, the £100 fine is woefully low and is not sufficient to change attitudes and behaviour.

Any law is only ever any good when enforced. Please ensure the law is enforced or it's just a waste of time.

Further enforcement of this is necessary, not only for those without dogs, but to protect those with dogs that follow the rules.

It's all well and good having the legal rights to enforce breaches of the order. I have not seen any evidence of enforcement. It would be useful to have updates on any action/ enforcements made via social media. I must admit I haven't seen any such updates. I have however seen updates on litter enforcement on social media.

£1000 fine is too heavy. There are real problematic crimes that go without adequate punishment or investigation. House and car theft is rife.

Suggest better enforcement required, stronger messages put out regards the consequences and more publicity to name & shame the culprits.

Notice of people served with these orders so other people can see it will be done.

I still see poo around Coal Aston, obviously you have rules, but resources don't allow you to police so there needs to be more communication.

In favour of extension but pretty useless without enforcement so more resources needed there.

Really needs enforcing.

Enforcement required on public footpaths which are used by residents as their dedicated dog toilet without picking up.

I know it's probably difficult to be in the right area at the right time, but any laws or orders are only any good when robustly enforced. On a personal level, I would like to hear via social media when people have been fined.

I don't feel this matter is monitored and have witnessed multiple rules being broken on a weekly basis. If there is nobody to enforce the rules, then the penalties seem a little pointless. I appreciate that there can't be eyes everywhere, but I don't think dog owners have any regard for the rules and think they will never be penalised.

Concerns regarding dog fouling

Dog fouling is particularly prevalent, and it seems that nothing is enforced. Owners hang their waste bags on trees, cameras should be installed, videos placed on social media, owners fined, and if persistent dogs should be removed from owners and re-homed.

Dog fouling on the streets in Danesmoor is disgusting, especially on Cemetery Road and Springvale Road.

Have someone check dogs foul is being picked up, I find some people don't.

On rural footpaths dog owners appear not to understand the need for dog waste to be cleared up.

There are still a lot of people who do not clear up after their dog, but there seems to be a shortage of dog wardens to implement fines.

I find significantly fewer piles of poo now, than before the order, so it seems to be working.

Dog fouling is still a big issue in Coal Aston / Dronfield North area.

Roughly scraping up dog mess with a bag is not really acceptable. It leaves (sometimes copious) excrement in a public place - often grass verges or parks where children play. Owners should carry a disinfectant spray and proper 'scooper' to clear it all up.

There are major issues in Dronfield with dog fouling, as a dog owner myself I find the fouling disgusting and no excuses as there are plenty of bins around.

I have had several dogs poos deposited on the pavement outside my house. Last week.

Fed up with seeing people not picking up their dog's mess.

Dog fouling on the Holmewood section of the Five Pits Trail as it runs from Devonshire Terrace to behind the cricket field has become an increasing problem in the last three months. Discarded 'poo bags' too.

Dog poo on pavements is a problem. People walk the dog at night and do not pick up mess in the dark.

Dog fouling still happening despite this PSPO being in place. Regular fouling in vicinity of my house despite there being a dog bin only metres away.

Dog owners still not picking up after their dog. We see it every day all over the town.

I still see poo around Coal Aston.

After a series of dog poo-related incidents that my family and I experienced ourselves, and also others that we found out about anecdotally from family and friends, I instigated and facilitated a discussion about the topic on the local Facebook community group, 'Dronfield and District Forum'. There were dozens of comments in response to my post. I understand that NEDDC will have a great deal of expertise about this already, but wanted to share the thread in case it contains anything new that we could adopt here in North East Derbyshire.

Concerns regarding dogs off leads

Dogs off leads on farm property where livestock graze, if they attack pregnant ewes they abort.

My dog while on lead got attacked by 2 dogs off lead on 31/7/23. This occurred in an area where it states dogs should be on a lead. I have personally been very affected by this. My dog was injured as a result of the attack and required an operation.

I know this is difficult.... But shouting he's friendly, is irrelevant as yours may not be, on a lead.

There are quite a few dog walkers use the street where I live, Stanley Street Killamarsh, and an odd one or two never have a dog on a lead, but the main culprit seems to have a complete disregard to the PSPO.

I've seen people with dogs off lead around Danesmoor on pavements alongside the road, which is a risk to the dog too. Even a well-behaved dog may suddenly bolt which may end badly.

Dogs should be on a lead in all public spaces.

Last week, I drove along Ashover Road and passed an owner with his dog trotting 30 metres ahead of him. He had the lead in his hand, but it was not attached to the dog.

Fed up seeing dogs off leads.

A lot of dog walkers use Stanley Street and not all dogs are on a lead and that includes dogs living on Stanley Street.

Also, certain dogs should be on the lead at all times, no matter where they are. I regularly see on Facebook that /other dogs have been harassed/attacked by large breeds and it's not fair to owners like me that follow all the rules.

Provide designated dog exercise areas.

If this order is extended, then there should be provisions for dog owners to exercise their dogs off lead e.g., dog parks.

Dog walkers are the biggest users of parks. They are there 365 days of the year. Dog walkers pay council tax. There are zero facilities for dog owners except the rare dog poo bin. Please therefore provide adequate facilities for dog walkers to exercise their dogs off the lead. A fenced off area should be provided in every park.

As dog walkers are the primary users of all parks, why not provide some facilities for them. They use the parks every day of the year yet they're lucky if they get a poo bin. We need fenced off, safe areas for exercising dogs. Areas that have lights and dog poo bins.

Designated dog play/run areas.

Being a dog owner there needs to be designated green spaces where you can have dogs off the lead.

Requests for more dog waste bins

Can you put a poo bin on Matlock Road by the entrance to Walton Woods?

Perhaps the installation of more bins so that dog owners can easily deposit their bags?

Please can more poo bins be provided, I always pick up my dog's waste, but often find no bin to put it in. (I do take it home in case you were wondering), but two weeks' worth of poo is pretty smelly and unpleasant for the refuse collectors.

I think that more dog poo bins should be put in place, and dog owners fined more for not using them.

More communication / information regarding PSPO.

Due to increased volume of dog ownership, I think it is important this remains in place long term and to inform NED residents of this, as I'd not heard of this legislation until now.

Reminders of this policy need communicating every year. Through the council tax invoice information leaflet, the internet and a few well-placed signs (pet food shops, dog bins, entrances to children's play areas etc.).

As a nondog owner I don't know how this order is made known to dog owners, I hope that it is publicised widely.

These rules should be advertised, policed & monitored better in order to be at all effective. The PSPO has been in force but no-one who I have spoken to over the years, is at all aware of the PSPO! You should put posters & signs up everywhere possible, notice boards (re-affix the posters on regular basis), lamp posts, footpath signposts, on dog poo bins, seats/benches, bus stops i.e., everywhere possible.

Comments opposing PSPO (general)

I think allowing local councillors to make rules that can result in a criminal offence is a recipe for fascism. Wholly against this, for the punishments proposed.

Maybe you should concentrate on all the drug dealing in the village instead of poor dog owners.

This causes so many arguments.

The restrictions for dogs should mirror the restrictions imposed on children. People should be in charge of their children at all times, they should not cause harm or harassment to the public. Until this happens, dog owners should not be victimised as we pay our council tax for these public spaces too.

Comments supporting PSPO (general)

Due to increased volume of dog ownership, I think it is important this remains in place long term.

Very important that this order continues.

Surely this order should become permanent.

Responses suggesting dogs on lead requirements should be reduced.

Dogs should not always need to be on a lead.

Concerns as to how many dogs can be walked by an individual.

I think 6 dogs at one time is too many, I don't know how one person can control 6 dogs!

Suggestions that signage should be increased.

Needs better signage, original signs put up and disappeared over time and never replaced.
