

Public Space Protection Order Consultation –Dacorum Borough Council Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)?

A: PSPOs were introduced in October 2014 by the Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and are designed to allow a Council to deal with a particular nuisance or problem behaviour in a particular area (a public space) that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life, by imposing conditions on the use of that area which apply to everyone. The order will specify those behaviours or conditions that are designed to ensure the law abiding majority can use and enjoy the public space, safe from anti-social behaviour.

Q: Why do we need a dog related PSPO in Dacorum?

A: It has been identified by Dacorum Borough Council and partners and that there are a number of dog related issues that are having a persistent negative impact with people who live, work or visit Dacorum. These issues have been identified via complaints made to the Council from the public, businesses and other interested parties.

Q: How is the PSPO going to be enforced?

A: Enforcement of the PSPO will be undertaken in the main by the authorised officers of Dacorum Borough Council with assistance from the police where required. The PSPO is not intended to target any particular person – it will apply to all persons whose behaviour or dogs behaviour is considered unacceptable

Q: What happens if I breach the PSPO?

A: Where a person breaches the PSPO, an authorised officer will have a number of options open to them and will exercise discretion in how they handle any situation. Depending on the nature of the breach the authorised officer can issue a verbal warning and require an immediate cessation of the behaviour causing the breach of the PSPO. Authorised Officers could issue a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) either at the time or at a later date or to report that individual for consideration of legal proceedings.

In any case where an individual fails to pay a FPN issued by an authorised officer for a PSPO breach within the specified timescale, Dacorum Borough Council will review the evidence obtained and where appropriate commence legal proceedings for the original breach.

Q: When is the consultation taking place and how do I get involved?

A: The consultation will close 14th September 2018 you can respond by completing the survey questions and by submitting any other information you consider is pertinent.

The survey is available on our website www.dacorum.gov.uk/consultation and you can respond by completing the on-line survey, or by sending in your survey response via email to dogpspo@dacorum.gov.uk or by posting it to the Public Space Protection Order consultation, Environmental & Community Protection, The Forum, Marlowes, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 1DN

Q: What will happen to the information I provide as part of the consultation

A: The data collected will be analysed to help determine whether the correct conditions are being included in the PSPO. The data will not be shared outside this consultation but will be made available for Cabinet reports. Names or other personal data will not be published unless permission is specifically given by the consultee.

Q: How will the decision be made whether or not to implement the PSPO?

A: The survey responses will be analysed with the results and any proposed amendments reported back to local councillors at the next suitable Cabinet meeting of Dacorum Borough Council. A decision on whether or not to implement the PSPO will then be made.

