

Appendix 2

Consultation on Extension of District Wide Dog Fouling Public Space Protection Order

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a PSPO?

Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) relate to activities taking place which are or may be detrimental to the local community's quality of life. The PSPO for dog fouling and dog control is aimed at preventing and reducing this anti-social behaviour and to help promote responsible dog ownership

What does the Dog Fouling PSPO involve?

The order requires people in charge of dog(s) in any public open space in West Lindsey to:

- Pick up immediately after the animal has fouled.
- Dispose of the waste appropriately - in a public bin, or at home.
- Carry something to pick up dog waste with, showing it to the enforcement officer if asked, regardless of whether the dog has fouled

How will the PSPO be enforced?

Any individual observed by an authorised officer breaching the PSPO will be issued with a fixed penalty notice of £100. Residents will be able to report issues with dog fouling to the Council, who will then carry out targeted patrols of that area.

How will the enforcement work in practice?

The PSPO is not aiming to “catch out” responsible dog owners. Any officer enforcing the PSPO will take a common sense approach and base this on the risk to the public. For example, we may choose to approach dog owners who are walking dogs in areas on the same open land as children’s play parks.

Will signs be erected across the District?

Only in problematic areas. Electronic copies of signs will be provided to all Parish Councils or community groups who will be able to put them up in any areas they wish.

How many dog bags should I carry?

There is no set limit. You should carry enough to ensure that you can clean up after your dog. We believe that most responsible dog owners carry a supply of bags. Running out of bags or forgetting to pick one up will not be deemed as a reasonable excuse for failing to comply with the Order.

What does carry a device or other suitable means to remove dog waste mean?

Usually this will mean that you carry dog bags to remove waste, however other pieces of equipment are available and may be carried by dog owners. Suggesting that you would use your hands would not be deemed a reasonable excuse for failing to comply with the order.

Where should I dispose of dog waste?

If your dog defecates on public land, the bagged waste can be placed in any public litter bin, dog waste bin or household waste bin. It is always the responsibility of the owner or person in control of the dog at the time to dispose of the waste responsibly.

I've bagged my dog's mess but there is no bin nearby. What should I do?

If there are no bins nearby you must keep hold of your bagged dog waste until you reach a public litter bin or dog waste bin, alternatively it can be taken home and put into your household waste bin.

Can I come back and clear the mess later or collect the bag I have hidden or left?

No, the mess deposited by your dog must be cleared immediately and any bag containing that mess must be removed without any delay.

I did not see my dog foul, is it still an offence?

When you are out walking your dog it will be your responsibility to watch your dog at all times and to ensure you clean up after it. Being unaware of the defecation (whether by reason of not being in the vicinity or otherwise), will not be deemed as a reasonable excuse for failing to comply with the Order.

Are there any exemptions to the order?

Certain areas of land are exempt, such as roadside grass verges where the speed limit is above 40mph. Also agricultural land and any land that is private property where there is no right of public access.

Dog owners who are registered blind or partially sighted will be given exemptions. Likewise, exemptions may be given to dog owners who have physical or mental disabilities.