



Appendix 2 - Comments and FAQs

Questions

1. I wish that people would not hang poo bags from trees and bushes. What can be done about that? There doesn't appear to be any sense in doing so.

If witnessed by an authorised officer this can be dealt with as a littering offence and the individual will be issued a fixed penalty notice accordingly. Additionally, if a member of the public witnesses this offence, knows who the individual is and is willing to supply a witness statement the penalty notice can also be issued.

2. What can be done if a person refuses to show a bag etc? The officer would have no right of arrest and is likely to suffer abuse. Further it is a gross infringement of a person's liberty to badger them when they are doing nothing wrong. Talk about a police state!

Failure to produce a device or other suitable means (i.e. a dog poo bag) of removing dog faeces would then result in a breach of the PSPO and a fixed penalty notice would then be issued.

3. I would support a PSPO requiring to produce a poo bag however what happens if the person has just used their last one? How many should you carry? Common sense needs to be applied by an officer trying to enforce. This shouldn't be used as a way to keep all dogs on leads. Free running exercises is good for an animals wellbeing and ensures they are socialized at an early age.

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.

4. Who will police this process and where would the funding come from to oversee this public order.

WLDC's enforcement team will Police this process and forms part of the existing structure.

5. All responsible dog owners comply with instructions about picking up and

disposing of their dogs waste. However, there are still owners in this area (Upton) who allow their dogs to foul pavements, footpaths and country lanes. It's all very well introducing PSPO's but how will it be monitored and enforced in a way which is an improvement on existing rules? I agree with the thinking behind this but doubt whether it can be properly enforced.

West Lindsey District Council has a small team of enforcement officers who routinely patrol hotspots around the district, including early mornings, evenings and on weekends. All staff, members, residents and visitors are able to report issues for investigation. The team are all always ready to report and respond where necessary.

People report incidents to us regularly, so residents, businesses and visitors can also play a part in helping us tackle a problem where it is seen and reported.

6. If the dog poos on a path or verge which people walk on however sometimes dogs will poo in the farmers field- should that be cleared up? More dog bins need to be readily available with spare bags so that there is no excuse (sometimes you could put the wrong coat on) .

Dog fouling occurring on any land which is open to the air, and to which the public have a right or entitlement of access to, whether paid or unpaid, within the District of West Lindsey, must be removed immediately by the person at that time in control of the dog. Additional waste bins can be requested via our Waste Service team.

7. Although this is a step in the right direction how can the irresponsible owner who walks their dog after dark and does not clear up its mess be challenged? The open grassy space next to my property is used in this way.

If this is a regular occurrence, report it to our enforcement team and we will arrange for a patrol of the area.

8. If the 'policing ' of this policy will take funds away from current services then I may prefer to live with a bit of dog poo. Are there any alternatives to the dog poo bin that are more environmentally friendly?

Not at this current time.

9. I support the PSPO. However I have concerns of how it will be enforced. There are already measures in place re: enforcement for dog fouling (although the PSPO would strengthen this). I feel the issue is more about witnessing and catching offenders. It's difficult to enforce anything once the act has been done i.e. dog foul on the ground with no dog/owner etc. Would the PSPO help in this regard? Are more patrols planned?

This is an extension of the existing Dog Fouling PSPO for the district – Enforcement can only take place if the offence has been witnessed by

an officer, no action can be taken where there is a stray animal. Patrols will continue in hotspots and areas where there are reported issues.

10. Fouling locally appears to vary & I suspect is related to school holidays when youngsters are at home & given the task of walking the dog. There have been a number of attempts to highlight the poo problem in the village through social media, marking the offensive item & posters. Also the Brownies placed bags in a number of positions around the village so there was no excuse for people not to pick up. Q 4 Does this mean a general public waste bin or carry home? Q5 suggests that someone walking a dog could be asked to pick up another dog's mess which is not on. I do not have a dog but occasionally dog sit & always have poo bags in my pocket which I am willing to give to others if required.

Reg Q.4 – This refers to the public general waste bin, but waste can also be taken home to be disposed of.

Reg Q.5 – To clarify this is for your own dog only.

11. Please ensure authorised officers are patrolling regularly and not just between 9 & 5. Early and late dog walkers abound. An obvious and regular presence may help deter.

Where reports are received that offences are being committed out of hours we will arrange for patrols to do done at those specific times

12. Will this apply to all communities, with regard to an authorised officer or just the market towns?

This order covers the whole district of West Lindsey.

13. My only reservation is about the cost - How many enforcement officers are likely to be needed, and can the authority afford the cost?

This work falls in line with the current structure and resources.

14. Could keeping the dog on a lead and not allowing it to run free into peoples drives and defecate be included?

This can be reported as a separate issue to our Anti-Social behaviour team.

15. Its not just dogs that are the problem. Cats are just as bad worse in fact because there is little we can do about them.

There are no specific laws aimed at cats fouling.

16. Provision of more waste bins particulatly in rural walks. The "authorised officers" should not be on any bonus scheme or target scheme otherwise it will alienate the public.

Additional waste bins can be requested from our Waste Service Team.

17. Limiting the proposal to only roads under 40mph is not helpful. Roads just outside our village for example are national speed limit, but have no footways so pedestrians are obliged to step onto the verge when vehicles approach where many dog owners do not remove dog faeces currently. This is the case in many other villages and needs addressing.

This restriction relates to the health and safety risks posed in dealing with this issue in these areas.