

**Extension of the Public Space Protection Orders for dogs and for anti-social
behaviour
Public Consultation 2020 – summary of results**

1. The consultation

The council propose to amend and extend the existing Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) for dogs and for anti-social behaviour related to street drinking. The current PSPOs expire on 19th October 2020 and are proposed to be extended for 3 years. As part of the proposed changes a public consultation was undertaken to gather views from the local community and key stakeholders.

The consultation ran from 24th June 2020 to 30th July 2020. Because of the restrictions in place due to the Coronavirus pandemic responses were gathered online only. The consultation was promoted by the communications team via social media and key stakeholders including dog walking groups and parks groups were notified.

The council received 233 responses to the consultation. 98% of respondents stated they lived in Islington.

2. Responses to consultation questions

2.1 Dog Fouling

Question: Do you support the current order regarding dog fouling being extended for a further three years?

Yes: 95%

No: 4%

Don't know: 1%

2.2 Dogs on leads by direction

Question: Do you support the current order regarding dogs on leads by direction being extended for a further three years?

Yes: 89%

No: 8%

Don't know: 3%

2.3 Dog exclusion

Question: Do you support the current condition regarding dog exclusion being extended for a further three years?

Yes: 79%

No: 20%

Don't know: 1%

2.4 Key issues raised regarding the PSPO for dogs

Several respondents were concerned that there is too little space in Islington for dog owners to exercise dogs and were against further dog exclusion areas.

Several respondents suggested that dogs should not be excluded from entire parks but only from specific areas and made the point that excluding dogs from certain parks/ gardens can put pressure on and exacerbate problems at other nearby sites.

There were several calls for more information around how decisions on dog exclusion areas are made, and examples were given of similar parks and gardens having different rules around dog exclusion.

Several respondents called for tighter enforcement of the orders to reduce dog fouling and increase compliance around uncontrolled dogs.

There were also many comments related to specific parks including:

Myddleton Road - which 12 respondents requested be made dog free because of the dog fouling and out of control dogs.

Packington Gardens and Canalside Park where 8 respondents expressed concern about a lack of dog-friendly spaces and requests for Canalside to be made dog-free.

Whittington Park where 5 people expressed concern that the Pavillion was also being made dog-free.

In addition there were specific comments made about:

- Wray Crescent
- Southgate Road
- Penn Road Gardens
- Duncan Terrace
- Highbury Fields
- Shaw Court

The responses from the consultation have been shared with the council's parks team. The council tackles dog fouling and other dog issues in a range of ways. Members of the public can report dog fouling using the [Clean Islington app](#) and can

report concerns about a dog's behaviour in a public area online through the My eAccount or by calling the council's customer service number who can alert the ParkGuard patrol. The police, ParkGuard patrols, ASB patrols and animal wardens are all able to enforce PSPOs and can issue fixed penalty notices.

The council advises and educates dog owners about responsible dog ownership through sessions run in the park by the ParkGuard patrols. Signs that highlight the laws and penalties are placed on all litter bins and in parks and estates. The ParkGuard and ASB teams also look out for dog owners breaking the law during their patrols.

Dog exclusion areas are generally used to stop dogs from entering certain areas, like children's play areas and sports courts. A number of additional areas have been added to the schedule of exclusion areas in recognition that it required updating.

The dogs on leads by direction gives authorised council officers the power to request that dogs are put on leads where they are not under the appropriate control of their owner, or where they are causing damage or acting aggressively.

2.5 Street drinking

Do you support the existing PSPO to tackle anti-social behaviour related to street drinking being extended for a further three years?

Yes: 92%

No: 4%

Don't know: 4%

2.6 Key issues raised regarding the street drinking PSPO

The most common comment regarding the street drinking PSPO was a call for more enforcement of the order. Many respondents raised issues about specific locations in Islington where they feel street drinking and ASB are a real problem these included:

- Holford Gardens
- Finsbury Park
- Andover Estate
- Highbury Fields
- Treaty Street
- Archway Station
- Dartmouth Park

The responses from the consultation have been shared with the council's ASB team who work closely with partner agencies, such as the police and other local housing associations to tackle crime and ASB. The Nightsafe Patrol Service have the capability to respond to a wide range of night-time issues, such as drinking in the street and members of the public are encouraged to report ASB related to street

drinking via the council's online [ASB reporting form](#). Dog fouling can be reported via the council's [Clean Islington App](#) and if members of the public have information about **who** is causing this type of offence, the council can investigate the matter and take enforcement action if there is evidence to support it.

Several respondents were concerned about the potential impact on the homeless and street drinkers who might be criminalised by this order.

The council has a robust strategy for supporting the street population and those rough sleeping. The council offers a range of tailored support to anyone rough sleeping in Islington and will continue to look at innovative ways to help them into safe and secure accommodation. Anyone who is regularly on the street in Islington will have been approached by one of our services, had an initial assessment and been offered support. Our specialist team works with them to tackle issues like substance misuse, mental health and homelessness.