

Renewal of Public Space Protection Order

In October 2021 a dogs on leads public space protection order was implemented at the Lake and another was implemented at the Recreation Ground.

The orders are due for renewal, although they are now called Public Space Protection Orders.

These orders give enforcement powers to the District Council and Police to act against anyone who does not keep their dogs on leads in these areas.

The reasons for the public order are listed below;

- There was an instance at the lake some timeback when a dog was attacked and nearly killed, the Police and Street Warden are very aware of this. Should the order be removed we will have more of this happening, some dogs are only under control when on a lead.
- We have a children's play area at the lake, we need to ensure that dogs are under control and cannot run into the play area, to annoy the children, and use that part for their toilet.
- The lake is also used for fishing. Fishermen do not encourage dogs running over/interfering with their equipment.
- Wildlife habitats are all around the lake, we have had a swan and baby ducks killed by dogs in the past.
- The council staff cut the grass, there is a serious health and safety issue with dog fouling already. There have been several incidents when the person cutting the grass has been covered in dog mess due to inconsiderate dog owners not picking up after their dog. Should dogs be running free then the owners will not notice when the dog creates a mess, this will make the situation worse.
- Regarding the Recreation Ground. This is used for ground sports, Rugby sometimes football, and for other recreational activities, Again, we receive complaints regarding dog fouling on a regular basis, this would be worse if all dogs were running free. The Rugby Club have reported that they have to spend 30 minutes before any training sessions and games to clear the pitch of dog mess.

Proposal

The Council requests the Forest of Dean District Council to renew the Public Space Protection Orders for dogs on leads, to cover the Lake and Recreation Ground.

If the Council approves the proposal, Forest of Dean District Council Officers will submit a report to Cabinet for consideration. A public consultation would commence before the Orders is approved.