

FOI Ref
12617

Response sent
16 Mar 23

(CCC) Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order

With reference to the Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order 2017 survey dated

27 February 2023 - 31 March 2023 seeking opinions on various rule changes at coldhams common re dogs:

I would like to see copies of documents including minutes, correspondence and emails where a decision was made to make the proposals in the survey, how it was put together and showing why (in response to what) these proposals survey has been started.

In addition :

How many complaints have been received by the council:

1. In relation to dog mess on the sports pitches at coldhams common
2. In relation to dogs off lead on the sports pitches at coldhams common
3. In relation to aggressive dogs on the sports pitches at coldhams common
4. In relation to people walking more than 4 dogs on the sports pitches at coldhams common

In the last 5 years.

Please include details of the complaint, the outcomes, and the breed of dogs involved.

Response

Please note that most communications regarding the decision around the PSPO are not written documents but either discussions between officers' face to face, or meetings via Teams. There are no written minutes or correspondence, or recorded forms of media that detail a decision about the proposals in the current consultation. It is not possible to provide details of officer discussions or conversations over the three-year PSPO review period as part of this request (January 2020 to January 2023 regarding the consideration of restrictions at Coldhams Common).

Emails requesting officer contribution, which relate to the current proposals are detailed below and have been attached as a single PDF document.

- Email 1st September 2022 13:49 hours – email from Wendy Johnston regarding PSPO review (sent to City Homes, Streets and Open Spaces – Operations, Streets and Open Spaces – Development teams)
- Email 1st September 2022 14:22 hours – email from Guy Belcher Biodiversity Officer regarding suggestions for PSPO restrictions
- Email 2nd September 2022 06:40 hours – email from Bree Donovan enforcement officer regarding suggestions for PSPO areas
- Email 9th September 2022 13:05 hours - email from Bree Donovan enforcement officer regarding suggestions for PSPO areas

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Please note the term complaints does not just mean a written formal statement logged on the council's complaint system - it can include verbal statements and comments made to officers, requests for service and communications received that are not recorded as complaints through the council's complaint system. This is reflected in the minutes from the committee: "A Public Spaces Protection Order would be in place for up to 3 years. It could be reviewed or renewed any time. Officers tended to review how a Public Spaces Protection Order was working in order to recommend amendments for the next one. Public Spaces Protection Orders were considered for all City Council owned open spaces. If one was considered necessary Officers would observe an area, then write reports using public comments as evidence to ensure recommendations reflected how people wanted the area to be used."

<https://democracy.cambridge.gov.uk/documents/g4124/Printed%20minutes%2019th-Jan-2023%2017.30%20Environment%20and%20Community%20Scrutiny%20Committee.pdf?T=1> .

Only written reports have been detailed in the request below, and it is not possible to provide details of verbal comments made to council officers over the five-year period as part of this request.

Details of the complaints and the outcomes for questions 1-4 are detailed below:
4 April 2019- East Area Committee – Environmental Report – Coldhams Common - One fixed penalty notice issued for breach of the Public Spaces Protection Order for dog control, where the dog owner/handler failed to pick up dog faeces immediately in November at Coldhams Common.([Environmental Report Sept 2018 to Feb2019.pdf \(cambridge.gov.uk\)](#))

4 April 2019- East Area Committee – Environmental Report – Coldhams Common - On Coldhams Common, one report received of a dog on dog attack, where the suspect was report to be with an intimidating dog identified. Outcome: Given advice and education including a referral to Wood Green outreach team along with an instructional warning letter issued to keep dog on a lead and under control in a public place at all time, which has been complied with..([Environmental Report Sept 2018 to Feb2019.pdf \(cambridge.gov.uk\)](#))

4 April 2019 - East Area Committee – Environmental Report – Coldhams Common - Second report for Coldhams Common received, regarding a report of dogs out of control, patrols have been increased but to date unable to trace suspect ([Environmental Report Sept 2018 to Feb2019.pdf \(cambridge.gov.uk\)](#))

16 April 2020 18:30 hours – report by resident regarding people not adhering to social distancing guidelines and walking dogs' uncontrolled off lead. Outcome – officers attended the area and spoke to those walking dogs. Signs developed around guidance and put up at all open spaces.

11 June 2020 15:31 hours – report that a resident was attacked by a dog on the common whilst cycling through the common. Report that the resident felt worried the dog was going to injure them, that it was out of control and the owner was not able to control it. Outcome – customer reported issue to Cambridgeshire Police.

17th September 2020 - East Area Committee – Environmental Report - Common Sports Pitches – A high volume of dogs walked in this area. Regular patrols conducted and despite this and poo bags being handed out to dog walkers there is often fouling present. One report of a dog intimidating a cyclist received and

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investigated.

(https://democracy.cambridge.gov.uk/documents/s51290/Environmental%20Report_March%20to%20August%202020.pdf) Outcome – officers attended the area and spoke to those walking dogs and liaised with Cambridgeshire Police.

18th March 2021 - East Area Committee – Environmental Report Coldhams Common – Dog on dog attack. No suspect has been identified.

<https://democracy.cambridge.gov.uk/documents/s55231/Environment%20Report%20Sept%202020-Jan%2021.pdf> – Outcome – officers unable to identify the culprit, no direct action possible.

18 September 2021 14:17 hours – report of an off-lead dog running at a group of residents on the common and colliding with a resident. Resident requested that the dog be on a lead and the owner was uncooperative. Dog reported to have then damaged cones belonging to park run. Resident reported the dog as being out of control. Outcome – officers unable to identify the culprit, no direct action possible. Officers attended the area and spoke to those walking dogs
Please note breeds of dogs in these cases have been specified where known

Further queries on this matter should be directed to foi@cambridge.gov.uk
