

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014, (SECTION 59)

BOROUGH OF TELFORD & WREKIN DOG CONTROL PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER 2021

STATEMENT OF REASONS

The Borough of Telford & Wrekin Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order 2021 is proposed across the Borough to prevent, manage and tackle recurring dog fouling issues and inadequate control by some dog walkers. Once established the proposed Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) will enable authorised Council Officers, constables and Police Community Support Offices to request a number of actions to be undertaken by the dog walker / owner and to take enforcement action where necessary through use of the power to issue Fixed Penalty Notices.

In order to ensure a consistent standard throughout, it is intended that the PSPO would apply to all public spaces within the Borough.

It is estimated that nationally that there are over 8 million dogs producing more than 1,000 tonnes of dog fouling every day in the UK.

Across the Borough between January and December 2020 there were 326 separate incidents of dog fouling reported by residents, mainly in relation to public open spaces and playing fields. The 326 reports provide an average of over 6 incidents being reported every week.

Dog fouling is unpleasant for all those seeking to enjoy our public open spaces. It also poses health risks, with direct contact potentially leading to toxocariasis (a dangerous infection affecting humans that can cause dizziness, nausea asthma and even blindness or seizures).

Whilst the occurrence of such infection is generally low, there is still a need to

consider how we best mitigate such risk and this proposed PSPO would ensure that dog walkers take full responsibility for removing dog waste and ensure that their dogs are prevented from fouling close to children's play areas and public open spaces linked to sporting activities (where the risk of exposure to toxocariasis is greater).

The Council previously dealt with dog fouling through enforcement of controls under the Dogs Fouling of Land Act 1996. However this legislation is no longer in force and in any event only related to removal of dog waste. The Council's proposal to implement a PSPO provides an opportunity to review, explore and expand the current regime. A PSPO allows for greater responsibility to be placed upon dog walkers when in public spaces, ensuring green public open spaces are both free of dog waste and safe for all to enjoy.

Before the expiration of a three year period the impact of the PSPO would be reviewed by the Council.