

MINUTES OF PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER SCRUTINY SUB-GROUP

21 NOVEMBER 2017

PRESENT:

Members of the Task Group:

Councillors Sandison (Chair), Douglas, Mrs O'Rourke and Mrs New

Also in attendance:

PS Stuart Powell (Warwickshire Police), Ryan Webster (BID Manager, Rugby First Limited), and Sam Leighton (BID Supervisor, Rugby First Limited)

Officers:

David Burrows (Regulatory Services Manager), Verna Zinclair (Principal Environmental Health Officer), Claire Baldwin (Warden Supervisor) and Linn Ashmore (Democratic Services Officer)

6. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2017 were approved and signed by the chair.

7. DISCUSSION ON WAYS TO IMPROVE THE CURRENT SERVICE

At its last meeting, the group decided that the focus of this meeting should include the gathering of evidence from external partners. Invitations were extended to representatives from Rugby First Limited and Warwickshire Police to discuss the current situation, and where improvements could be made.

A lengthy discussion took place during which the following points were made:

- A lot of joined up partnership work already took place between the council, the police and Rugby First Limited.
- The current PSPO in relation to alcohol has proved to be effective.
- CCTV evidence produced by Rugby First in relation to street drinking offences was passed to the Courts to support prosecutions.
- The use of CCTV evidence was important to support potential prosecutions
- A police operation had taken place targeting street drinking and exploring solutions to drinking in the town centre. This included work with Hope 4.
- The police had identified that members of the Eastern European community were the most persistent offenders in relation to street drinking and some behaviour orders had been issued.
- Three people involved in criminality had been deported.
- St Andrew's Gardens was an area of particular concern for local residents. Two months ago the level of substance abuse reached epidemic proportions and drug-taking equipment was found nearby.
- Dramatic cuts in funding for social care meant there were fewer resources available.
- A re-tendering process resulted in the needle exchange service moving across to Hope 4.

- The council had carried out some works to the trees around St Andrew's Gardens to lift the crowns and improve visibility, but there were still issues with the view for CCTV cameras.
- There were three cameras in the vicinity of St Andrew's Gardens but the views were blocked by tree branches. There were similar issues in other areas of the town centre.
- It would be helpful if tree branches could be cut back to below camera height to enable operators to see into the churchyard area.
- The lighting in the churchyard area is very poor.
- The contract for the maintenance of trees was taken back in-house by Warwickshire County Council (WCC). It was reported that external partners had experienced difficulties addressing the issues with officers from WCC. This could be due to a lack of resources.
- In the past Rugby First had a good working relationship with the tree surgeons and there were no issues with trees blocking camera views.
- Behind the Warwickshire CAVA offices on North Street was another area where drinkers congregated. Cutting back of the greenery or trees would help to open this up and improve visibility. The Great Central Way was an area where groups of youth congregate.
- It was suggested that the council's Arboricultural Officer should be asked to carry out a review of the trees in the town centre.
- The Regulatory Services Manager undertook to liaise with WCC on the concerns raised.
- PSPO's were considered a useful tool because nuisances such as street drinking were not covered by other legislation. Tools available to tackle criminal behaviour included the power to arrest and issuing of tickets
- Without the current PSPO's the town centre would be a worse place.
- The current PSPO (alcohol) only covers a limited area but there were other locations outside the town centre that would benefit if this could be extended.
- One area of concern was Craven Road where drinking and possible drug taking had occurred. Police issued a dispersal notice but the group then moved to Millennium Green.
- Problems caused by street drinking included intimidation of members of the public (whether deliberate or not) and creating an environment which deters people from visiting and using the shops or entertainment areas, anti-social behaviour, litter and low-level crime including shoplifting.
- The BID Rangers respond to a number of incidents but have no powers to take formal action. They will use their knowledge and expertise to educate individuals, give information and signpost to sources of help but dealing with persistent offenders was a huge challenge. Having PSPO's would help give BID Rangers more authority.
- BID staff and police were often on the receiving end of abuse and threatening behaviour.
- Members heard harrowing accounts of the amount of clearing up that took place on a daily basis as a result of the actions of street drinkers, drug users and homeless people.
- Members were keen to see the extent of the situation for themselves and it was agreed that an invitation would be extended to join the BID Rangers on an early morning patrol.
- Members requested that evidence and photographs of incidents be shared. The Democratic Services Officer will liaise with Rugby First on this.
- A few hard-core individuals were very challenging to deal with and were resistant to change.
- Advice was available from the Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust and the Recovery Partnership Team on dealing with persistent substance abuse users, but sometimes these approaches had little effect.

- Educating local businesses would help discourage nuisance behaviour.
- The use of ShopNet allows CCTV operators, BID Rangers and police to share information and track offenders. Council officers had no links to ShopNet.
- Concerns were raised that council officers working in dangerous situations, or dealing with challenging individuals, could be at risk and additional protective clothing and equipment should be considered. Officers commented that a balance was required and equipment should not hinder the work of the wardens or the interaction with individuals. Clothing or equipment may only be necessary in rare situations.

Some suggested recommendations included:

- The police and Rugby First BID Rangers should be given powers to take action.
- A risk assessment should be carried out alongside any enhanced PSPO's.

A range of different tools was required, in a collaborative, comprehensive approach to the problems identified, based on engaging with and involving key partner agencies.

8. RESPONSES TO THE CONSULTATION QUESTIONNAIRE

The report summarising the responses to the consultation questionnaire was circulated to members. A copy of the latest version is attached at Annex 1 to the minutes.

The Principal Environmental Health Officer reported that 53 responses had been received so far. The information in the report had been based on the paper copies and emails returned. Members were updated on the main points from the 26 online responses as follows:

Question 1 On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is not a nuisance and 5 is a significant nuisance, to what extent do the behaviours listed below cause a nuisance in public places near to you?

The highest nuisance behaviours identified were:

- Dog fouling
- Smoking, drinking or drug use at or near children's play areas
- Destruction or vandalism of trees, nature areas or public space equipment

Ball games near housing received a low score.

Question 3 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the behaviours listed below should be restricted in public places near to you?

- Dog fouling
- Motor bikes or hacking/horse riding in public spaces
- Camping, caravans or trailer use in public spaces (including travellers)
- Smoking, drinking or drug use at or near children's play areas – this was selected by 39 out of all 53 responses and comments included that this was poor practise and not a good behaviour for children to witness.

Question 4 A public space protection order can give the police and council more powers to deal with behaviours that cause a nuisance, including issuing warnings, fixed penalty notices and, in some circumstances, summonses to court. To what extent do you agree or disagree that these are reasonable penalties for the behaviours listed below?

- Dog fouling
- Dogs off leads in cemeteries
- Smoking, drinking or drug use at or near children's play areas
- Destruction or vandalism of trees, nature areas or public space equipment

Only two comments relating to dog training were received.

The majority of comments referred to anti-social behaviour and vandalism.

During discussion the following points were made:

- There was a need to educate people about putting dogs on leads, but not necessarily all of the time. Some form of order or direction could be put in place and signage or fencing could be installed.
- Some examples of enclosed and open play areas included:
 - Open – GEC Recreation Ground, Newbold Recreation Ground
 - Enclosed – Whinfield Recreation Ground, Heath Way Play Area, Hillmorton Recreation Ground
- There was some confusion about how to define an enclosed play area, and whether to allow dogs was questioned. An example of this was the Dickens Road Playground which is bounded by a small fence or short wall.
- It could be viewed as reasonable to ban dogs from enclosed play areas and the use of zoning could be considered for larger open spaces. This would need to be dealt with on a site-by-site basis.
- From the responses received so far, and discussion held, it was clear there was a need to extend the current PSPO's, or introduce new ones focusing on where existing powers or legislation were weak. Consideration should also be given to different tools and approaches to tackling nuisance behaviour, which could include community protection warnings and notices.
- Some examples included, not carrying equipment to clean up after a dog being made the offence, rather than catching them in action, and exploring ways of educating people about keeping dogs on leads, and behaviours in parks.
- Any approach should be balanced and reasonable and based on education rather than enforcement. In general people were respectful of the issues and would often share knowledge by word and spread the messages.
- Problems relating to professional dog walkers had become less of an issue because they had to moved to using enclosed fields.
- There had been cases of dog fouling in cemeteries reported in the local press. This was likely to be an issue at Whinfield and Clifton Road Cemeteries which were used as cut throughs by dog walkers.
- Dogs off leads was an issue at Rainsbrook Crematorium as they were disturbing the memorial gardens and pond.

Other issues identified included:

- Horses along the Great Central Way and riders should be directed to bridle ways.
 - Nuisance use of motorbikes was a problem across the borough, particularly illegal bikes. The police had some potential to address this once training has been introduced.
 - Problems on cycle routes on Burnside/Wentworth Road.
 - Begging in the shop doorways of the town centre.
- Signage may be helpful in addressing some of the issues but enforcement was the problem. Refreshing signage and messages would help raise public awareness.
 - Managing public expectations would be a challenge as there would be an assumption that PSPO's should result in enforcement action.
 - PSPO's were only one possible tool. Action could only be taken if there was responsibility for a particular open space. The group should focus on a small number of PSPO's and explore other options for alternative approaches to address nuisance behaviour.
 - A pro-active approach and training would allow agencies to signpost people to the right areas of sources of support.
 - Flytipping and green flytipping were raised as being other areas of concern. The group were informed that this was covered as a separate review topic by Brooke.
 - Flytipping was a separate area of enforcement and was covered by existing prosecution powers. Dealing with flytipping was very resource heavy.

The current alcohol PSPO was due for review in 2018. This review would be included as a topic for discussion at a future meeting of the group. The Principal Environmental Health Officer will look into the timeline needed for this.

It was agreed the consultation should continue. WCAVA had agreed to share the press release and questionnaire with the voluntary sector.

Rugby Central shopping centre had been contacted, and they had offered to provide a pitch but suggested a Monday or Friday. However, members' preferred day was a Saturday.

Officers undertook to contact the Communication, Consultation and Information Manager and request a follow-up press release and publicise the review and the consultation more widely on social media.

The representatives from Rugby First offered the use of a gazebo to be situated near the Swan Centre.

It was agreed the consultation exercise would be carried out at 11am – 1pm on Saturday 9 December and members would cover the stand on a rota basis.

Rugby First and the police would share the details on their own social media sites and drop off copies of the questionnaire at key shops or locations.

9. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

It was agreed the next meeting would be held in January and the date would be arranged by email.

CHAIR

Members Consultation and Engagement Event to tackle nuisance behaviour.

A task group of Rugby Borough Councillors are looking how the council could use Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's) to tackle nuisance behaviour. The recent joint community forum (4 November 2017) provided an opportunity for members to provide a public consultation questionnaire; the same is accessible on RBC website.

The data tables and information detailed below has been gathered from the received consultation questionnaires. Information is relative for the period up to 17 November 2017; members are advised there is an expectation we will receive more comments and online questionnaire results. The information is intended to assist Councillors in considering the types of orders that could be implemented to address nuisance and anti-social behaviour and to consider the extent of potential coverage; for example, orders can be Borough wide, may cover all RBC land or individual locations.

PSPOs are intended to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a particular area that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life, by imposing conditions on the use of that area. These can apply to everyone who uses that area or can be specifically structured to apply only to certain groups or categories of person, at different times or in specified circumstances. The Council is responsible for making a PSPO although the police also have enforcement powers.

Note: Behaviour must be having, or likely to have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality; be persistent or continuing in nature and be unreasonable.

The scale may assist in directing officers on the relative priority i.e. 1 no nuisance ←————→ 5 significant.

Question 1

1- On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is not a nuisance and 5 is a significant nuisance, to what extent do the behaviours listed below cause a nuisance in public places near to you?

<u>Behaviour</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>%</u>
Dog fouling	3	8	12	12	16	
Dogs off leads in open spaces	16	9	6	8	10	
Dogs off leads in cemeteries	22	8	8	2	5	
Motor bikes or hacking/ horse riding in open spaces	16	4	7	10	10	
Camping, caravans or trailer use in public spaces	19	2	5	8	13	
Smoking, drinking or drug use at or near children's play areas	7	6	6	12	17	
Destruction or vandalism of trees, nature areas or public space equipment	9	8	7	6	20	
Ball games near housing	35	5	5	1	2	

% demonstrates the highest number of responses received, data based on 53 respondees

Question 2

2- For each of the behaviours listed below, please identify where these behaviours have caused you a nuisance.

<u>Behaviour</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>
Dog fouling	Bawnmore Park, Charlesfield Road, Black Path, Buchanan Road Park, Harborough Magna, Ashlawn Recreation ground, Whitehall Recreation ground, Alwyn Road/ Recreation ground, Addison Road/ Recreation ground, Diamond Wood, Abbey Street, South Street, Bracken Drive, Rokeby, Boughton Leigh School area, Cambridge Street, Clifton Road, Murray Road, Dunchurch Road, Shakespeare Gardens, Thurlaston, Pailton, Cawston Park, Cawston Woods, Coton Park, Central Park Drive, Swift Valley Nature Reserve, Great Central Walk, Trinity Graveyard, Burnside, Ryton Rec, Long Lawford parks, Featherbed Lane area & borough wide
Dogs off leads in open spaces	Overslade, Harborough Magna, Whitehall Recreation ground, Addison Road, Caldecott Park, Cambridge Street, Clifton Road, Rainsbrook Crematorium, Coton Park, Centenary Park, Featherbed Recreation ground, Burnside, Alwyn Recreation ground, Ashlawn Recreation ground, Ryton Recreation ground, Great Central Walk, Oxford Canal tow path, Larkspur area, playing fields, Long Lawford parks, sports fields & borough wide
Dogs off leads in cemeteries	Wolston, Rainsbrook Crematorium, Monks Kirby, Clifton Road Cemetery, Ryton, Long Lawford, Whinfield Recreation ground,
Motor bikes or hacking/ horse riding in open spaces	Butlers Leap, Buchanan Road Park, Cawston, Criss Cross Park, Wolston, Addison Road, Technology Drive, Thurlaston, Dunchurch, Burnside, Coton Park, Whinfield Recreation ground, Great Central Walk, Larkspur area, Long Lawford parks, playing fields & borough wide
Camping, caravans or trailer use in public spaces	Whitehall Recreation ground, Alwyn Road, Addison Road, Park End Park, Whinfield Cemetery, QDJC, Coton Park, Brownsover, Central Park, New Bilton, Aldi car park, Trinity/St Andrew's churchyard
Smoking, drinking or drug use at or near children's play areas	Millennium Green, Buchanan Road Park, Newbold, New Bilton Addison Road, Caldecott Park, Rokeby Play Area, Monks Kirby churchyard, Coton Park Play Area, Foxon Barn Park, Newbold Quarry, Whinfield Recreation ground, Featherbed Recreation ground, Cawston Park, Bawnmore Park, Ryton, Long Lawford parks & play areas
Destruction or vandalism of trees, nature areas or public space equipment	Charlesfield Road, Buchanan Road Park, Cock Robin Wood, Burnside, Addison Road, Criss Cross Park, Newbold Quarry, Trinity Graveyard, Millennium Green, Featherbed Recreation ground, Handley's Close, Long Lawford parks & borough wide
Ball games near housing	Charlesfield Road, Larkspur area, Handley's Close

Question 3

3- To what extent do you agree or disagree that the behaviours listed below should be restricted in public places near to you?

<u>Behaviour</u>	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree/Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	%
Dog fouling	1	2	1	4	40	
Dogs off leads in open spaces	3	4	9	18	13	
Dogs off leads in cemeteries	1	3	11	7	24	
Motor bikes or hacking/ horse riding in open spaces	3	1	11	13	20	
Camping, caravans or trailer use in public spaces	3	1	3	16	25	
Smoking, drinking or drug use at or near children's play areas	1	1	9	6	39	
Destruction or vandalism of trees, nature areas or public space equipment	1	3	5	8	33	
Ball games near housing	10	3	22	8	5	

% demonstrates the highest number responses, data based on 53 respondees

Question 4

4- A public space protection order can give the police and council more powers to deal with behaviours that cause a nuisance, including issuing warnings, fixed penalty notices and, in some circumstances, summonses to court. To what extent do you agree or disagree that these are reasonable penalties for the behaviours listed below?

<u>Behaviour</u>	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree/Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	%
Dog fouling	1	2	1	11	32	
Dogs off leads in open spaces	4	4	11	13	13	
Dogs off leads in cemeteries	1	3	11	13	17	
Motor bikes or hacking/ horse riding in open spaces	2	1	11	13	20	
Camping, caravans or trailer use in public spaces	0	1	7	15	21	
Smoking, drinking or drug use at or near children's play areas	0	1	0	10	35	
Destruction or vandalism of trees, nature areas or public space equipment	1	2	2	11	33	
Ball games near housing	7	8	18	8	4	

% demonstrates the highest number responses, data based on 53 respondees

Question 5

5- Are there other behaviours that cause a nuisance in a public space near to you, and that you would like the council to enforce with a public space protection order?

Please identify the problem behaviour and the public space where the nuisance takes place.

<u>Problem behaviour(s)</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>
Homeless people sleeping rough	Town centre
Graffiti, loud motorcycles	Cawston
Speeding motorbikes on estate roads	Hillside & Rokeby
Bicycles on pavements	Clifton Road, town centre & borough wide
Vehicles turning at the top the hill	Deane Road
Drug taking	Monks Kirby churchyard
Noise, swimming, smoking & drinking	Newbold Quarry
Legal highs	Featherbed Recreation ground
Pavement parking, loud motorcycles	Clifton Road & town centre
Large groups using alcohol/drugs	Trinity Graveyard
Speeding/dangerous vehicles	Featherbed area
Parking causing damage to verges	Burnside
Inappropriate use of mobility scooters	Town centre

6- Is there anything else that you would like to tell us about nuisance behaviours on public spaces?

Lorry drivers parking on roads and using verge as a toilet
The huge rise in illegal gypsy camps across Rugby. Over a week to evict in some cases
Littering
Travellers aren't being dealt with quickly enough

General comments

Horses on pavements and not grassed area, although disagree it needs a PSPO.
Only need PSPO for motorbikes, not horses
Riding bikes on footpaths through open spaces
Riding cycles in Town Centre and Clifton road
Camping and trailers, if legally there then not a problem
Drug taking in Catholic Church yard, Monks Kirby
Lorry drivers parking up, using verges as toilets
Smoking in all public areas is a poor role model
Educate for dogs off leads, not PSPO
Homeless people sleeping rough, acknowledge the problem, penalties are not the answer

General comments from emails received:

Some comments relate to the Dog Control – PSPOs (change over from Dog Control Orders)

No consideration of countryside waste/dumping issues. Categorising Motor bikes and horse riding together, should be separate issues and therefore categories. Feels most people will tolerate horses

GEC Hillmorton Rd and changeover from DCO to PSPOs - several points on signage, GEC listed as dog on lead? As is Caldecotte Park, Childrens play area signage?

RBC Officer

There had been previous discussions between Parks and EPT about the rules about 'enclosed play area' not being sufficient/specifically defined, and also what rules might be sensible for 'non fenced' sites within large open spaces (a set distance from any play equipment to keep dogs away from, or dogs on lead and kept on path?), in order to address the issues caused by deliberately contrary/irresponsible people and to where the line should be drawn to have rules most people would agree were sensible and therefore likely to comply with.

(such as the person not attending with any children with their dog on a lead in Caldecott walking their dog around in the sand of the play area, technically not breaking the rule but undoubtedly not very sensible). There are a number of sites of smallish size which are enclosed on all sides of their boundaries consisting of a (non fenced) play area and small area of grass which is used for informal football and other games (Dickens Road, Pantolf Place, Dewar Grove, Heath Way etc...) and therefore where it is likely to be sensible to not allow dogs to prevent what is in effect a dog in a cage with children to avoid dog attacks, (Asshetons also has perimeter fencing and therefore enclosed and has old metal 'no dogs' signs on site, wasn't named specifically in the old DCO, and whose size feels between the smallish enclosed sites and large open spaces and as a result felt rather left in limbo as to what rules should apply)

In relation to the other larger sites, the suggestion in the discussions was that a general universal distance rule of keeping dogs 10 or 20m away from play and exercise equipment might be sensible, and/or site specific rules where constraints of path layouts etc might make other rules more sensible and practical (different rules for either side of a path etc).

Really not sure what the consensus, if there is one, on sports pitches is.

RBC Officer

From:

Sent: 03 November 2017 11:35

Subject: PSPO Dog Controls

Dear all,

Have we considered a specific consultation exercise including named locations like the one referenced below? It would be helpful if there was a list readily publicly available of all named areas in the borough where dogs can be exercised off the lead and those where they have to be on the lead plus those areas where dogs are not allowed at all. Appropriate allowance should be made for the disabled and elderly who have pet dogs. They may not be able to get to a site which is some distance from their home.

I have had a query from a resident who has a dog and a disabled child who needs constant attention. She cannot leave the child alone to walk the dog but she cannot take the dog with her when she takes her child to the play area where he can get the exercise he needs. The description referencing fenced off play areas is not specific enough. There are fenced off areas consisting of grassed areas within which there are play areas which are not separately fenced off. Take as an example the Dickens Road play area on Hillside. Does that constitute a fenced off play area? A comprehensive list as I mention above would avoid uncertainty for the users and those enforcing the PSPOs.

[http://www.kidderminstershuttle.co.uk/news/15523779.Residents back council s proposed dog control measures in Wyre Forest/](http://www.kidderminstershuttle.co.uk/news/15523779.Residents%20back%20council%20s%20proposed%20dog%20control%20measures%20in%20Wyre%20Forest/)

I hope this is helpful.

Regards,

Rokeby & Overslade Ward

From: RBC Officer

Sent: 13 September 2017 11:08

To:

Subject: notes for LSP

Community Development Officer, RBC

Newbold Quarry.

Newbold-on-Avon Community Partnership.

- RBC has a SLA with N-o-ACP and as part of this agreement the community partnership produces a community audit that identifies the community issues in the area.
- The community partnership identified that the Newbold Quarry issues included in the Community Audit 2017 are the issues most affecting the area and in need of priority consideration.

Issues.

- Newbold Quarry is often used as a location for large gatherings, often late at night. The wider community, mainly the residents of Avonmere Close are often affected by the noise and the groups meeting by the disabled parking bay. Access is 24hrs via multiple access points.
- The majority of the problems are caused by people from outside of the local area which has resulted in the local community being fearful of using the area.

Management of Newbold Quarry.

- Warwickshire Wildlife Trust manages the site as a conservation area on behalf of RBC (the landowner) and does not manage the ASB issues.
- Warwickshire Wildlife Trust are recruiting Conservation Volunteers to work at Newbold Quarry from Sept 2017 to Feb 2018.
- NoACP identified in the community audit that there is need to identify how they can become involved in the management and upkeep of Newbold Quarry in partnership with WWT and RBC. At the NoACP AGM the RBC Community Development Officer identified that NoACP could apply for a grant to visit other open spaces that are managed in partnership between community and statutory bodies.
- Avonmere Close and Pantolf Close residents want to identify a way forward that restores the quarry as a nature reserve and not as a picnic / recreation area.

Intervention Report 2015.

- Safety concerns at Newbold Quarry are well documented by Community Safety Partnership and include - excessive public drinking, using adjoining fields as toilets, BBQ's/Parties (including late night), swimming in the quarry, sunbathing on the disability fishing platform, general intimidation.
- Community Safety have written (January 2015) an intervention report and recommends improved signage, locked pedestrian gate at night, improved picnic area and the addition of mini motor bike inhibitors.
- Since January 2015, warning signs in dual language and new direction signs have been erected and a new picnic area has been developed.

- There is no longer a WCC Community Safety Officer to implement the intervention report and the outstanding recommendations.

Signage Survey 2017.

- Summer 2017 – community safety wardens have surveyed the area and documented over 20 signs that are spread over the three levels of the quarry site
- The survey identified that the signs are –
 - hidden and covered by vegetation
 - in the wrong positions
 - contradictory, relating to fishing permits and where fishing can take place (the quarry is not kept stocked with fish)
 - referring to byelaws that are not enforceable
 - warnings that are unenforceable

Recommendations / Options.

- Identify long term sustainable improvements to Newbold Quarry.
- Develop the Newbold on Avon Community Partnership to identify how it can support and improve the site.
- Identify best practice of open spaces that are managed in a partnership with community groups, the voluntary sector and statutory bodies.
- Develop a Trust or similar partnership body made up of RBC, WWT and NoACP plus others to manage the site.

- Collate incidents reported in 2017 to make a business case for the adoption of a Public Space Protection Order ready for 2018.
- Adopt 'Public Space Protection Orders' that could prohibit - swimming, dogs in water, open fires, BBQs, fishing, motorbikes, drinking and would be enforceable by the community safety wardens with penalty fines.

Emails between officers in relation to Aqua Place complaint

From: xxxx

Sent: 09 November 2017 11:52

To: xxx

Cc: xxx

Subject: RE: Aqua Place Play Area / Dog rules PSPO

xxxx, the DCO orders had to be replaced with PSPO's by a certain date. It was a straight forward flip-over. The PSPO process/consultation has now started with the Cllr working party; this is the opportunity to address all related issues, there is a consultation form on the website for people to express their views as part of this process.

xxxxx – I have included you in on this email as you were off Monday and the call was passed to me.

xxxx – is there a list of sites/parks where there are no dogs allowed? Was the developers sign replaced to warn public there are no dogs allowed when the fence was removed?

Kind regards RBC officer NST

Suspect the bouncing around between WCC and RBC was due to confusion of unrelated works at entrance of Aqua Place/Mill Road, the site is an enclosed play area and therefore should be dogs excluded.

Aqua Place used to have bow top fencing as well as wooden fencing and hedgerow around the outside, a needless duplication with the only risk to children (cars) being sealed everywhere apart from the gap with the access path, and

restraining a play area which doesn't meet RBC policies or national guidelines due to insufficient play opportunities. There was a sign put on by the developers when the play area was built saying no dogs. During the summer, the wooden fence rotted off in the gap where was no hedge, so the needless play area fence was removed with some of the panels and maintenance gate recycled and moved to fill the gap to the road and a self-closing pedestrian gate added. Making the site secure to unauthorised vehicles, reducing further any low risk re traffic, and allowing space for future additional play equipment to get the site to meet minimum requirements.

The current PSPO notice is attached to the metal fence panels.

Mrs xx complained wouldn't be allowed to use for dog walking. I pointed out the site's primary function is as a children's play area, the rules say no dogs in enclosed play spaces, so no dogs are allowed, and that the vast majority of Parks and Open spaces dogs are allowed including numerous sites very close to her address. At times she claimed xxx and/or xxx said she could take the dog in as they had read through the rules displayed together (to which I said I would discuss if so as they may not be aware it is an enclosed play area and therefore no dogs), and said she would take it in anyway - to which I told her not to as it is an enclosed play space.

She wants to complain about the rules as basically she wants to use this site near to her house rather than travel a few extra meters to other open space. Regards

Green Spaces Officer, RBC

I'm not aware of a list of what were the rules under the DCO, which I think just named Caldecott for leads and then 'enclosed play areas' to be no dogs. Some of the sites had had Bye Laws prohibiting dogs, and some had No Dog Signs dating from before, and/or during the DCO. Most sites are/were clear whether they are 'enclosed', but a few no one seemed certain.

Below list of all our current Play/youth sites, with notes from top of my head identifying some of the sites which fall into the grey area, or rules/signs/nature of the site.

Google images best to look at them as cartology so out of date, especially for new or refurbished sites.

RBC Play Area Locations

1. Alwyn Road Recreation Ground (Bilton), Alwyn Road, CV22 7RD

(fenced area due to being next to car park)

2. Apple Grove (Admirals and Cawston), Apple Grove, CV22 7TW

(fenced play area adjacent to pathway through open space)

3. Aqua Place (Newbold and Brownsover), Aqua Place, CV21 1BY

(small enclosed site)

4. Assheton Rec (Bilton), The Green, Bilton Village, CV22 7LY

(one for a decision? Old Metal No Dogs signs on site. Perimeter fencing around site, medium size park)

5. Avon Mill (Newbold and Brownsover), Newbold Road/Fosterd Road, CV21 1DE

(non fenced play area by WCC footpath in medium/large site that is also flood plain)

6. Bawnmore Road (Bilton) off Edyvean Close near to No 25, CV22 6LD

(non fenced play area within smallish site enclosed by boundaries to properties, takes up most of site with WCC footpaths through. One for decision - Dogs on lead on footpaths?)

7. Bilton Pavilions (New Bilton) Prior Park Road, CV22 7GA (opposite Lidl)

(New site. Park has perimeter fencing, non fenced play area takes up most of the site, major desireline paths through. One for decision – Dogs on lead on paths?)

8. Brindley Road (Hillmorton), Brindley Road, CV21 4BJ (next to number 21)

(enclosed small site of paly area and grass. Residents locking scheme – believe has always been No Dogs allowed since byelaws)

9. Brooklime Drive (Coton and Boughton), Brooklime Drive, CV23 0SF

(fenced play area adjacent footpath in long linear open space)

10. Buchanan Road (Rokeby and Overslade), next to Overslade Community centre, CV22 6AZ

(One for a decision? medium size enclosed site by boundary perimeter fencing, large play area takes up most of the site)

11. Caldecott Park (Benn), Park Road, CV21 2QZ

(specifically named for dogs on leads. Small enclosed Play area, large non enclosed play area)

12. Cave Close (Admirals and Cawston), CV22 7GL (Play area on open space behind properties)

(fenced play area in large space next to pond)

13. Cawston NEAP (Admirals and Cawston) CV22 7GU (play area on open space to rear of primary school)

(New site. large non fenced site in large site with numerous footpaths. One for decision - No dogs inside triangle of footpath around? dogs on leads on path nearby?)

14. Centenary Park, Parkfield Road Former Allotment Site (Newbold and Brownsover), entrance via Meadow Road, CV21 1ER

(New site. non fenced large play area in enclosed park with perimeter fencing, WCC right of way in part of site by the River)

15. Charwelton Drive (Clifton, Newton and Churchover) CV21 1TU (play area in open space beyond 5 bar gate)

(fenced play area)

16. Clifton Links (Eastlands) Ridge Drive (end of, adj. to no.52) CV21 3FE

(fenced play area, but non fenced grass kickabout area adjacent at end partially enclosed bit of open space. Decision – no exercising dogs near the goals?)

17. Coton Park NEAP (Coton and Boughton) CV23 0WE (play area on open space to rear of factory accessed off Central Park Drive/Coton Park Drive, maintenance access opposite 89 Coton Park Drive)

(New site. Large non fenced play area with small fenced sand section. One for decision - No dogs play area side of the path, leads when nearby on path?)

18. Dewar Grove (Paddox) CV21 4AT (play area up footpath adj. to no.2)

(enclosed site with one long alleyway entrance only. Believe always been no dogs and Very old sign states no dogs)

19. Dickens Road (Rokeby and Overslade), Norton Leys, CV22 5RT (footpath adj. to no. 81 or adj to no. 70 Chaucer Rd)

(enclosed site with two long alleyway entrances. Old metal no dogs signs on site and always been no dogs, but some flaunted rules. Resident locking scheme)

20. Freemantle Road (Admirals and Cawston) CV22 7HY (rec. Grd on Opp. Side of road to no.138)

(Play area takes up most of site/enclosed by boundaries and brook(?) but desireline to continue into Cornwallis Open Space. One for decision - Dogs on leads away from play area, then Cornwallis open space can run free?)

21. Frobisher Road (Admirals and Cawston) CV22 7JE (adj. to the shops and Henry Hinde School)
(small enclosed site)
22. GEC Recreation Ground (Paddock) Hillmorton Road, CV21 5AR, Lower Hillmorton Rd CV21 3TN
(New since DCO. one for decision – large play area enclosed by large mounds. Alternative path routes outside of play area. One for decision)
23. Glaramara Close (Newbold and Brownsover) CV21 1JE
(enclosed play area)
24. Heath Way (Paddock) CV22 5JA (entrance next to no.16)
(enclosed site only accessible by one long alleyway. Residents locking scheme, always been no dogs as per very old sign)
25. Hillmorton Rec aka Featherbed Lane (Hillmorton) Deerings Road, CV21 4EN (car park adj. to no.1)
(non fenced site on large open space, constrained by immediately next to WCC footpath and protected historical mound.)
26. Hollowell Way (Newbold and Brownsover), Parkend, CV21 1NP (car park Opp. No.1)
(enclosed play area. Decision for Grass kickbout area enclosed by hedge?)
27. Holly Drive, Ryton (Dunsmore), Opposite 61 Holly Drive, CV8 3QA
(small enclosed play area)
28. Lennon Close (Hillmorton), CV21 4DT (end of road Opp. No 82)
(small enclosed play area)
29. Millennium Green (Benn), Craven Road, CV21 3JY
(one for decision – had dog grates on entrances since its creation prior to transfer to RBC being sole trustee suggesting no dogs. Small to medium site enclosed by perimeter boundaries. Grass football area very bad for fouling...)
30. New Bilton Rec (New Bilton), Addison Road/Long Lawford Road CV22 7BG (park entrance Opp. No. 31)
(enclosed play area, within medium size open space with perimeter boundaries)
31. Pantolf Place aka Brownsover Road (Newbold and Brownsover) Newbold, CV21 1HL
(smallish site of play area and grass kickabout enclosed by perimeter boundary. Very old No dog signs been in place at gates and enforced)
32. Rokeby Rec (Rokeby and Overslade), Southbrook Road, CV22 5NS (Opp. No 24)
(unfenced in larger open space – due for refurbishment next capital year and likely to change significantly)
33. Sorrel Drive (Coton and Boughton), CV23 0TL (gate to open space adj. no 15, follow path round to left)
(enclosed play area within large open space)
34. Turchil Road (Admirals and Cawston), CV22 7FW (approx. ½ way along road)
(enclosed Play area. Also has dog grates at entrances the developer put in)
35. Union Street (Eastlands), East Union Street CV22 6AJ (follow road round to open space, next to Bradby Boys Club)
(One for decision – Large unfenced play area taking up most of open space with small fenced sand area, with WCC footpath through it. No dogs play area side of the WCC footpath? Dogs on lead and kept to footpath only?)
36. Waterside (Newbold and Brownsover), Thomson Close, CV21 1XJ (Opp. No 14)
(small enclosed play area (and dog grids by developer))

37. Whinfield Rec (Eastlands), Clifton Road, CV21 3QZ (Entrance Opp. No. 309)

(enclosed play area within large open space)

38. Whitehall aka Rugby Rec (Eastlands) Bruce Williams Way CV22 5LJ (on rec. Grd on approach to Diamond Leisure Centre)

(about to undergo major refurbishment – proposed designs for consultation shortly)

39. Woodlands (Bilton), Falstaff Drive, CV22 6LL (slip road next to no. 12 & on left)

(one for decision? Small site with play spread through it and small grass informal area, enclosed by boundaries to properties and wooden

knee rail and been subject to long debate by residents with opposing views)

40. York Street (New Bilton), CV21 2BS (adj. to no.101)

(very small site enclosed by metal railings, assume would be classed as enclosed)

Facilities for Young People (F4YP)

1. Addison Road Rec (New Bilton), Parkour and Gym equipment, CV22 7DA (Opp. No.113)

(Non enclosed in large open space)

2. Alwyn Road (Bilton), Gym equipment toward car park/pavilion, Alwyn Road Recreation Ground CV22 7RD

(non enclosed gym equipment just off footpath)

3. Avon Mill Rec (Newbold and Brownsover), ½ MUGA by pitches, Newbold Road/Fosterd Road CV21 1DE (Opp. No.13)

(1/2 MUGA between WCC footpath and hedge to Newbold Road – one for decision, no dogs MUGA side of footpath?)

4. Boughton Road/Butlers Leap (Newbold and Brownsover), BMX dirt pump track, opposite Prospect way, CV21 3UU.

(non enclosed dirt track in large open space)

5. Buchanan Road (Rokeby and Overslade), MUGA next to play area, CV22 6AZ

(One for decision - MUGA and Play area take up vast majority of site which is enclosed by boundaries)

6. Caldecott Park (Benn), MUGA behind cafe, Park Road, CV21 2QZ

(enclosed MUGA – presumably should be dogs excluded)

7. Cawston NEAP (Admirals and Cawston), Gym equipment around play area, CV22 7GU (open space to rear of primary school)

(non enclosed in perimeter paths around play area. One for decision, no dogs inside path triangle, dogs on lead in vicinity and on paths?)

8. Centenary Park, Parkfield Road (Newbold and Brownsover), MUGA and outdoor gym equipment

(new site, description as per play area as above as adjacent to the play area)

9. Coton Park NEAP (Coton and Boughton), MUGA next to play area , CV23 0WE (on open space to rear of factory accessed off Central Park Drive, maintenance access opposite 89 Coton Park Drive)

(new site, description as per play area as above as adjacent to the play area)

10. Freemantle Rec (Admirals and Cawston), MUGA next to play area (rec. Grd on Opp. Side of road to no.138)

(As per play area, Play area takes up most of site/enclosed(?) desireline to continue into Cornwallis Open Space. One for decision - Dogs on leads away from play area, then Cornwallis open space run free?)

11. Freemantle Open Space (New Bilton) CV22 7HY, MUGA and Gym equipment in field with football pitches (opposite side of Cornwallis Road to the play area)

(MUGA doesn't have side panels so semi open, gym equipment enclosed by wooden knee rail)

12. GEC Recreation Ground (Paddox), Gym equipment, Hillmorton Road, CV21 5AR

(non enclosed gym equipment located on perimeter pathways)

13. Hillmorton Rec (Hillmorton), Skatepark, Deerings Road, CV21 4EN (car park adj. to no.1)

(now partially enclosed by hedging preventing dogs running in)

14. Hollowell Way (Newbold and Brownsover), MUGA and Skatepark, Parkend, CV21 1NP (car park Opp. No.1)

(MUGA high panels all around so enclosed. Skatepark one for decision as not enclosed itself, but enclosed amongst planting)

15. Jubilee Street (New Bilton), ½ MUGA, Bridle Road CV21 2JH

(1/2 MUGA so panels only on one side. Decision - no dogs MUGA side of path?)

16. Millennium Green (Benn), Mini MUGA, Craven Road, CV21 3JY

(New Mini MUGA panels all round it is enclosed. Decision re wider site as above)

16. Rokeby Rec (Rokeby and Overslade), ½ MUGA by play area, Southbrook Road, CV22 5NS (Opp. No 24)

(as above due major refurbishment)

17. Trussell Way (Admirals and Cawston), 6 a side MUGA style goals on grass, to left at end of road, CV22 7GW,

(soon to be temporarily removed, probably to be relocated elsewhere due to nearby development)

18. Whinfield Rec (Eastlands) MUGA by play area, Clifton Road, CV21 3QZ (Entrance Opp. No. 309)

(MUGA with end panels, no side panels)

RBC, Green Spaces Officer

From: xxx

Sent: 07 November 2017 13:38

To:>

Subject: PSPO

Dear

I note with interest you are championing the latest PSPO and have launched a Consultation on Environment Enforcement. Whilst the issues raised are more than appropriate for a town when it comes to a more specific larger area like the Great central Way and Jubilee Wood I feel it's misguided in understanding Country side issues. Littering/dumping of waste is something that really does have an impact on an animal's environment yet there is no mention of this. What also concerns me is that you have a distinct lack of understanding on horse power, having seen fit to categorise motor bikes and horse riding together. These are completely separate issues and should be treated as such by having separate categories for each. I think you would be surprised to hear most people more than tolerate horses but not motorbikes.

Regards

Thanks

We will add this to our evidence base .

From:

Sent: 06 November 2017 11:18

To: Cc: Subject: RE: PSPO Dog Controls [NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Thanks xxx

Can you explain the new signage on the Great Central Way was this signed off by the portfolio holder or under the instruction of the former head of service ?

Does it just cover the existing bylaws or will it incorporate potential PSPO currently out for consultation?

Has this signage been erected elsewhere ?

Best Regards

Response: Sent: 06 November 2017 12:57

To:

Subject: RE: PSPO Dog Controls [NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Presumably referring to the signage below (screen grab from draft proof)?



It includes info re the volunteers and their work, and visuals to point out non acceptable behaviour which were problems particularly at the time, and was liaised with and agreed with various partners including Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, Rugby Wildlife Group (the volunteers) and RBC officers. Fouling remains an issue along the GCW, but I understand motorbike use has reduced following issuing of Section 59 notices, and have had differing feedback on horse issues but general suggestion is of decline since an alleged serious assault by a horse rider on a pedestrian was investigated by the police. (no specific feedback on arson at GCW, but do seem to be having quite significant town wide issue with clearly pre-planned fires/disposal BBQ damage)

The new signage has been erected at numerous sites due to improvement works, Fields In Trust protection, planting, or just to ensure providing contact details/site name but believe a number are still on the 'to do list' -

Regards, Green Spaces Officer

Rugby Borough Council