

REPORT ON

THE RESPONSES RECEIVED FROM

THE CONSULTATION PROCESS ON

THE PROPOSED PUBLIC SPACES

PROTECTION ORDERS IN RESPECT

OF DOGS

ACROSS THE NOTTINGHAM CITY

COUNCIL'S ADMINISTRATIVE AREA

REPORT COMPILED BY
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DATE 9TH FEBRUARY 2016

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NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
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Nottingham
City Council

Report

This report outlines the responses received following the consultation process which commenced on 16th October 2015 in respect of:

- The proposals to revoke the Nottingham City Council Dog Fouling Order 1998
- The eight Dog Control Orders implemented at various times and in various parts of Nottingham City
- Replace these with four Public Spaces Protection Orders:-
 1. Nottingham City Council Dogs on Leads by Direction Public Spaces Protection Order 2016
 2. Nottingham City Council Dogs on Leads Public Spaces Protection Order 2016
 3. Nottingham City Council Dogs Exclusion Public Spaces Protection Order 2016
 4. Nottingham City Council Fouling of Land by Dogs and Requirement to Produce Devices for or Other Suitable Means of Removing Dog Faeces Public Spaces Protection Order 2016

The consultation ended on 22nd January 2016. During this period, over 1000 people who live in, work in or visited Nottingham engaged in the consultation process and responded to the questionnaire. A copy of the consultation document is attached as appendix 1

Chapter 2 Section 72 (3) of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 states that

72 (3) a local authority must carry out the necessary consultation and the necessary publicity, and the necessary notification (if any) before –

- (a) Making a public spaces protection order,
- (b) Extending the period for which a public spaces protection order has effect, or
- (c) Varying or discharging a public spaces protection order.

72 (4) in subsection (3) –

“the necessary consultation” means consulting with –

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- (a) The chief officer of police, and the local policing body, for the police area that includes the restricted area;
- (b) Whatever community representatives the local authority thinks it appropriate to consult;
- (c) The owner or occupier of land within the restricted area;

“the necessary publicity” means –

- (a) In the case of a proposed order or variation, publishing the text to it
- (b) In the case of a proposed extension or discharge, publicising the proposal;

“the necessary notification” means notifying the following authorities of the proposed order, extension variation or discharge –

- (a) The parish council or community council (if any) for the area that includes the restricted area;
- (b) In the case of a public spaces protection order made or to be made by a district council in England, the county council (if any) for the area that includes the restricted area.

In satisfying the requirement to consult with the Chief Officer of Police for the policing area, an e-mail was sent to SUPT Mike Manley of Nottinghamshire Police who is the Policing representative for the Nottingham City Council’s administrative area. This was followed up by a meeting between Steve Stott, ASB Manager for Community Protection and SUPT Mike Manley whereupon SUPT Manley confirmed his support for the proposals verbally. Additionally, in satisfying this requirement, an e-mail was also sent to the Police and Crime Commissioner’s Office who responded stating

“On behalf of the Commissioner I can state that he supports these proposals. He has made a commitment to reduce ASB (which also includes this form of antisocial behaviour) and supports the use of all available powers to enforce such breaches.”

In satisfying the requirement to consult with community representatives within Nottingham City, on 16th October 2015 I sent letters by 1st class Royal Mail to all schools listed across Nottingham. I also sent letters to all the Community Centres listed across Nottingham. I sent letters to all libraries listed and all Sports Centres listed across Nottingham. I have also sent e-mails via the Nottingham Parks Association to all Park User Groups including copies of the consultation paperwork for them to respond to the consultation.

Additionally, we set up an online questionnaire for citizens to log into the City Council’s website and respond to the consultation.

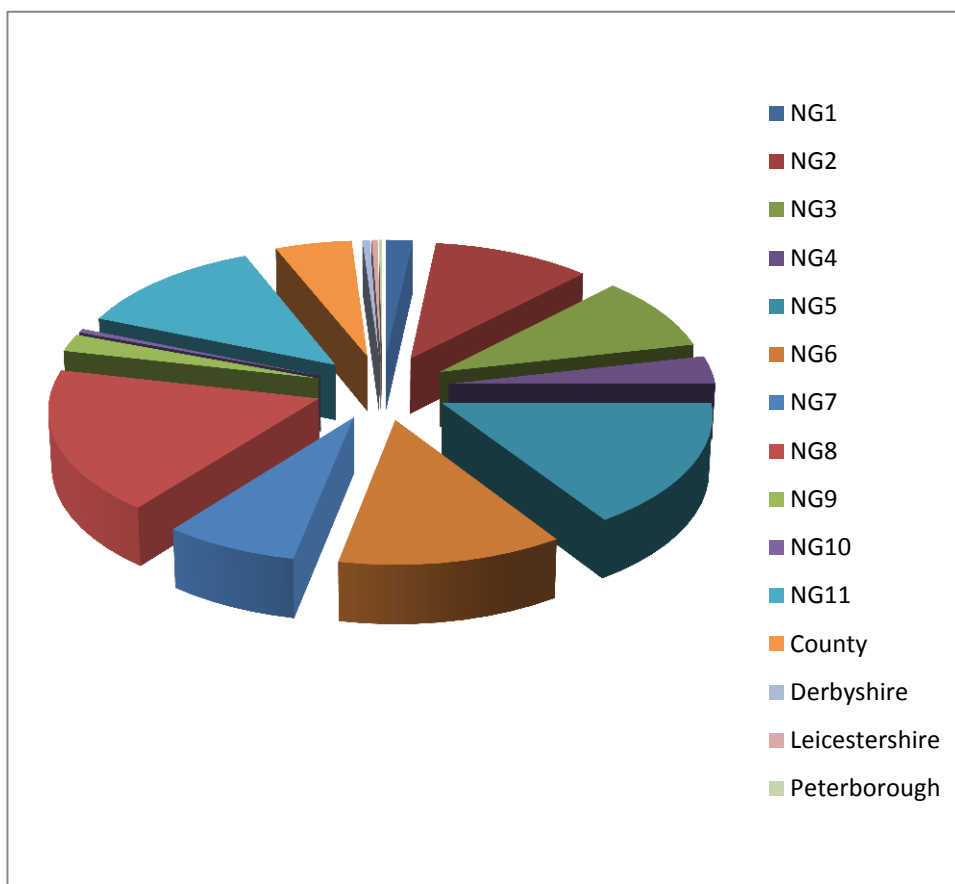
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In addition to the above, Nottingham City Council's Community Protection Officers carried out a significant portion of the consultation by visiting the local towns, libraries, community centres and speaking with members of the public out and about around Nottingham to ask their opinion on the proposals.

In total, well over 1000 citizens responded to the consultation.

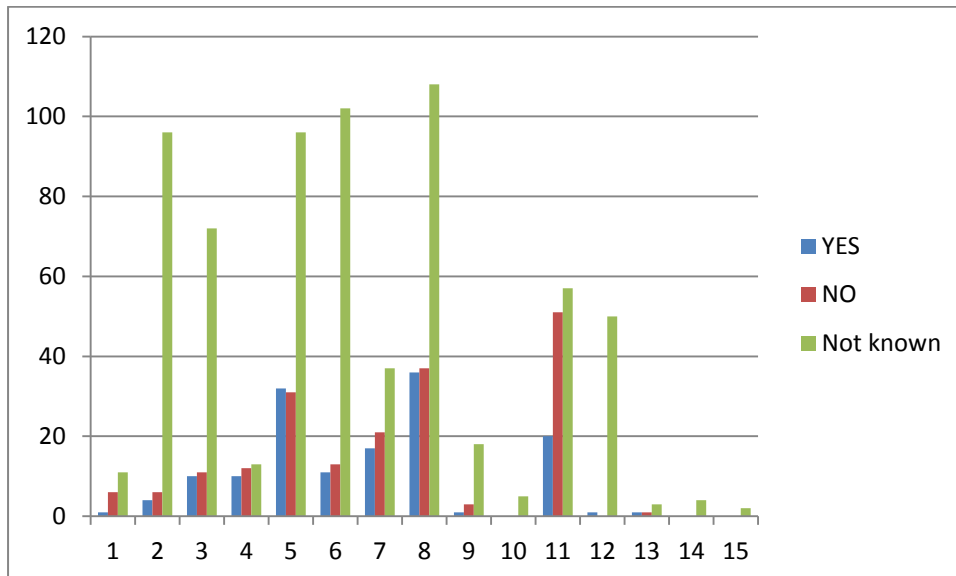
The below graph shows the area in which the respondents reside. As can be seen by this graph, there is a good spread of respondents from across the city including some from the County and even some respondents from Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Peterborough. It is likely that these respondents work within the City Boundary.



Although not forming part of the original consultation questionnaire, the Community Protection Officers asked respondents whether they had a dog or not. I found this to be very useful in assessing whether we were targeting dog owners or getting a good representation of respondents across the board.

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Out of the 1010 respondents, 144 of those stated that they did own a dog, 192 stated that they did not own a dog and 674 either did not wish to state whether they owned a dog or the Community Protection Officer did not ask for the information



PSPO 1 the Nottingham City Council Dogs on Leads by Direction Public Spaces Protection Order 2016.

On looking at the first proposal, the “Nottingham City Council Dogs on Leads by Direction Public Spaces Protection Order 2016” we can see that out of the 1010 respondents that were interviewed by the Community Protection Officers, 988 respondents stated that they agreed with the implementation of this proposed Public Spaces Protection Order with only 22 respondents stating that they did not agree.

Having read through the responses carefully I have noted that the only concerns that are being raised in respect of these proposals are those where some respondents have raised concerns about the opinion of the Officer at the time. When it has been explained to the respondent that an Officer would discuss the concerns being caused by the dog being exercised off lead in the park prior to asking the dog walker to put the dog on the lead and it would only become an offence if the dog walker refused to comply with this request, the respondents were satisfied and responded in favour of the proposal.

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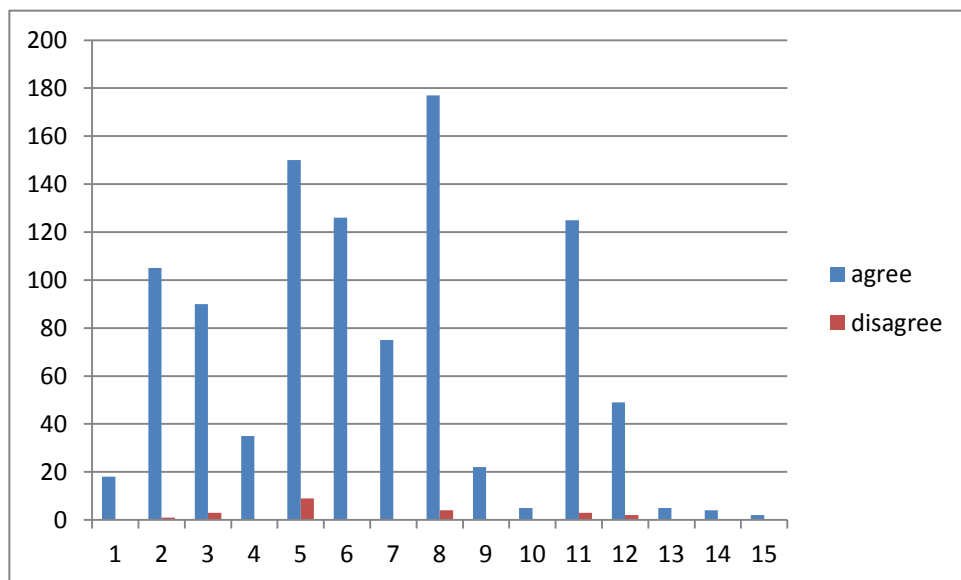


Some other comments made in the negative included

- “It’s the council wanting even more control of people. It will be CCTV in every corner soon”
- “I don’t agree with any of it as it’s all about control”

Some of the Positive Comments included

- It seems a good idea and one I would go along with
- Sounds a very useful power
- It’s the first I have heard of it but I agree it is useful
- A good idea if we have it brought in
- Very good, the sooner this is done the better
- Please get this done ASAP
- I agree with it as a way of making the owner responsible
- This sounds a good idea on the face of it
- A good idea if it stops bad owners
- This sounds a good idea
- I would support the idea if it targets the right people
- My dog’s been attacked by other dogs and owners have refused to put them on a lead
- Big dogs should be on the lead as I’m very scared of dogs
- As long as the authorised officer is only challenging irresponsible dog owners who cannot control their dogs



PSPO 2 Nottingham City Council Dogs on Leads

On looking at the second proposal, the “Nottingham City Council Dogs on Leads Public Spaces Protection Order 2016” we can see that out of the 1010 respondents

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that were interviewed by the Community Protection Officers, 982 respondents stated that they agreed with the implementation of this proposed Public Spaces Protection Order with only 29 respondents stating that they did not agree.

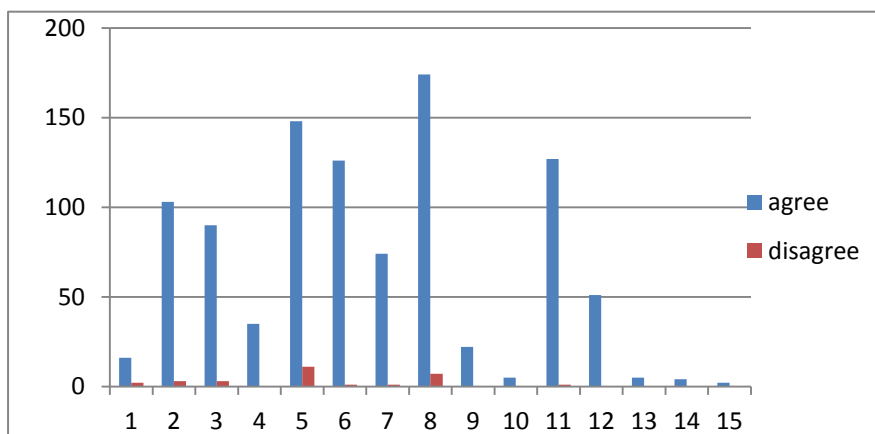
Having looked carefully through the responses given by people who disagreed with this particular proposal, it is clear that the largest proportion of those particular respondents did not understand the proposals. Many of the respondents stated that they did not agree with the proposal because they felt that the dogs should have somewhere to exercise. They did not understand that the proposals were in respect of the urban highways, town centres and pavements with the open spaces and parks being the proposed areas designated as areas where dogs can be exercised off lead. When I have questioned the respondents and explained this in greater detail, they have changed their opinion and stated that they would now be in agreement with the proposals being introduced.

Several of the respondents did not comment as to why they did not agree with this proposal however one of the comments where the respondent did not agree included

- Disagree – they should be on leads in town centres but if they're well trained they should be allowed off the lead on estate streets

Positive comments included

- I agree, I do think dog walkers should have bags and leads for the safety of the dog and the public
- My dog's been attacked by other dogs and owners have refused to put them on a lead
- Big dogs should be on the lead as I'm very scared of dogs
- As long as the authorised officer is only challenging irresponsible dog owners who cannot control their dogs
- I would not have an issue with anyone telling me to put my dog on a lead
- They should have to be on a lead by Law
- Forest Fields have dogs I am scared of and I hate it when they aren't on a lead. A lot of the community complain about this



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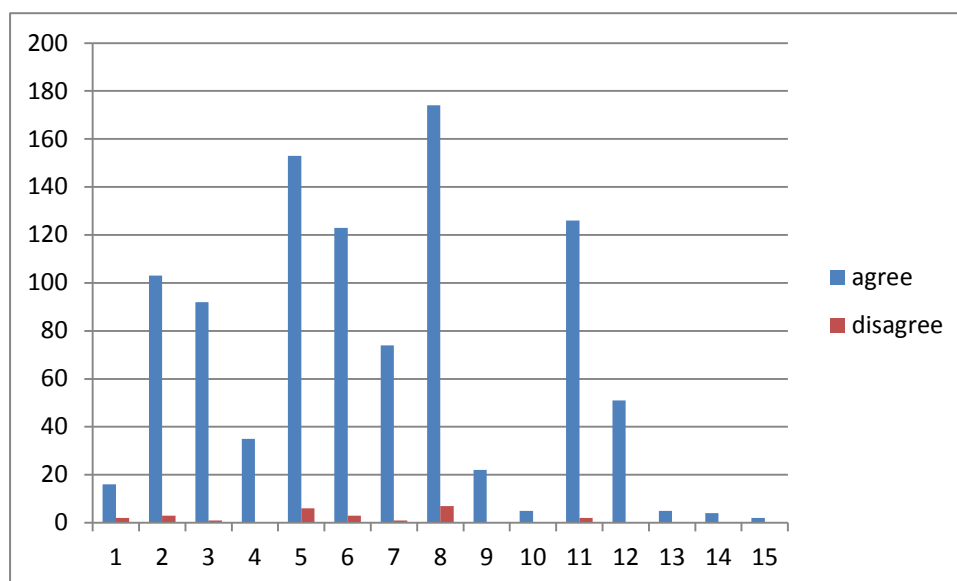
PSPO 3 Nottingham City Council Dogs Exclusion Public Spaces Protection Order 2016

On looking at the third proposal, the “Nottingham City Council Dogs Exclusion Public Spaces Protection Order 2016” we can see that out of the 1010 respondents that were interviewed by the Community Protection Officers, 985 respondents stated that they agreed with the implementation of this proposed Public Spaces Protection Order with only 25 respondents stating that they did not agree.

This surprised me somewhat as dogs are excluded from Children’s Play Parks regularly by request due to the dangers that dogs and dog faeces pose to children. I therefore questioned a number of these responses and it became clear that many of the respondents were answering by rote purely in a facetious manner. It became apparent that some respondents did not appreciate being asked questions by a “uniformed officer” as they perceived this to signify that they were causing problems personally. Some people were even concerned about being seen speaking with a uniformed officer. As a result, they “disagreed” with everything that was being proposed

Positive comments made include:-

- School land Yes, not sure about the others
- Agree
- Agree – Especially in areas with kids
- Get this approved
- I have always wanted something along these lines implemented I hope it happens
- I’m surprised this isn’t in place already. It’s common sense



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PSPO 4 Nottingham City Council Fouling of Land by Dogs and Requirement to Produce Devices for or Other Suitable Means of Removing Dog Faeces Public Spaces Protection Order 2016

This is perhaps the most contentious of the four proposed Public Spaces Protection Orders and I was particularly interested in the responses received in respect of these proposals however I was pleasantly surprised to note that many people are actually in favour of this proposal, particularly the requirement to have the means of removing dog faeces with several of the respondents narrating how they have been affected by dog poo when out on the streets of Nottingham.

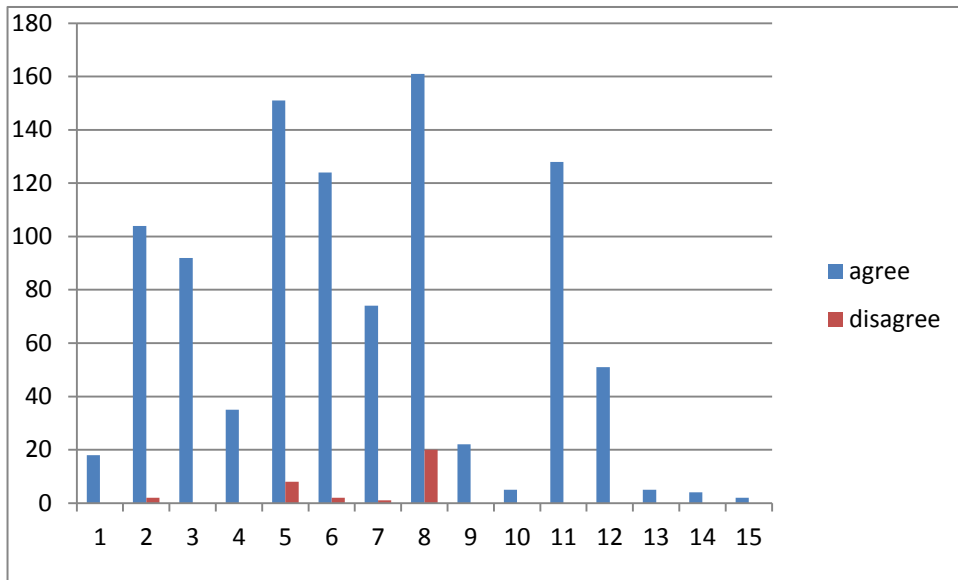
One of the main disagreements to come out of this included a comment in respect of the requirements to produce a device or other suitable means of removing the dog faeces and the comments made included several people questioning what would happen if they had used up all of the dog poo bags during the walk and they were on their way home.

- Disagree they may have forgotten them or used them all up (dog poo bags)

This proposal was discussed in detail with the respondents and when suggestions were made that they take more than one dog poo bag out with them and always ensure that they keep dog poo bags affixed to the dog lead as a constant reminder to take dog poo bags out with them, respondents appeared to accept this. Many respondents stated that:-

- My area has dog mess problems so I see it as a good idea
- Will make parks etc cleaner
- I agree, I do think dog walkers should have bags and leads for the safety of the dog and the public
- Think responsible dog owners would have bags anyway
- Agree – Dog poo bags should be attached to bins
- Very good proposal on the whole – disagree if the owner has used up their bags and is close to home it wouldn't be fair
- I wouldn't be offender to be asked to produce a bag and think this should be the law

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Responses to the online survey

The online survey responses showed that 38 people visited the web site during the consultation period and completed the questionnaire.

Out of the 38 respondents, 31 of them stated that they were dog owners and 7 stated that they were not dog owners.

The online survey was slightly different to the public consultation questionnaire and the report from the online survey is attached in the background documents section of the main report

Overall, a significant proportion of the citizens in Nottingham responded to the consultation via a variety of methods and the responses have been overwhelmingly positive with the small proportion of those not initially in agreement, changing their views once they have been provided with more information and the proposals have been made clearer to them.

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