

Have Your Say!

On the rules for controlling Dogs in public places in Rhondda Cynon Taf



Please tell us what you think by the 3rd August 2020.

How can I have my say?

- **Visit:** www.rctcbc.gov.uk/DogFoulingConsultation for more information or to take part in the consultation.
- **Email:** consultation@rctcbc.gov.uk
- **Telephone:** 01443 425014
- **Write to:** Freepost RSBU-HJUK-LSSS, Research & Consultation, Public Relations & Strategy, The Pavilions, Cambrian Industrial Park, Clydach Vale, Tonypany, CF40 2XX.
- Take part in a public drop in session over the internet

What does the Council want to do?

In 2017 we made new rules for controlling dogs on public land in Rhondda Cynon Taf under what are known as Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs). We must check on these rules every 3 years. The Council would now like to keep using the rules for the next 3 years and we would like to know what you think about this.

Why are the Council doing this?

Most people have liked the rules we have put in place and agree with the idea. A report from Keep Wales Tidy (2019/20) shows that dog mess on RCT streets is at its lowest level ever.

However, despite the introduction of the orders in 2017, there remains a small number of dog owners who do not clean up after their dogs or keep them under control.

Dog mess is really unpleasant to look at and can lead to a serious illness in humans. This disease can be stopped if dog mess is cleared up straight away. Some of the playing fields also need to be checked quite often for dog mess before they can be used.

What does this mean?

The rules in the Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) help the Council make sure that people keep their dogs under control in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

They help us control the harmful things that irresponsible dog owners may do and allows the responsible dog owners to continue to exercise their dogs without unnecessary limits.

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What are the rules?

The original order, which we want to extend was based on the following rules being enforced:

- Dog owners **MUST** clean up their dogs' mess immediately and dispose of it properly.
- Dog owners **MUST** carry means to pick up dog mess (i.e. bags) at all times.
- Dog owners **MUST** follow a direction from an authorised officer to put a dog on a lead.
- Dogs are **BANNED** from all schools, children's play areas and marked sports pitches maintained by the Council.
- Dogs **MUST** be kept on a lead at all times in Council maintained cemeteries.

You can see the 2017 rules here - [Dog Fouling Public Spaces Protection Order\(s\) in Rhondda Cynon Taf](#)

What if people don't follow the rules?

People will continue to be charged a £100 fine if they do not follow the rules. This is the maximum amount of fine that the Council can issue.

Which areas are covered?

The public spaces that are included are shown on a number of maps – click on the link below to see these:

<https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/PSPOsMaps> (Download 60mb)

Aberdare Park

In addition to the rules above there are separate rules for Aberdare Public Park.

In Aberdare Park you must keep your dog on a lead at all times.

What happens next?

After this consultation we will write a report about what people said. Council Cabinet Members and senior officers will then think about this and make a decision about what the rules should be for the next 3 years.