

Have Your Say!

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



Please tell us what you think by the 18th August 2023.

How can I have my say?

- Visit: www.rctcbc.gov.uk/CurrentConsultations 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.

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). In 2020 after consultation the Council renewed the PSPO. The orders need to be renewed every 3 years, so we are now seeking views to extend the orders for 3 years from the 1st October 2023.

Why are the Council doing this?

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.

A report published by Keep Wales Tidy entitled 'An Analysis of Local Environmental Quality in RCT 2022-23' shows that the presence of dog fouling on streets in RCT has remained consistent (at 10.9%) when compared to the period the PSPO was last renewed in 2020. It is worth noting however that in 2021-22 the presence of dog fouling was recorded on 8.9% of streets – so the most recent report does unfortunately evidence an increase. Prior to the original introduction of the PSPO in 2017 this figure was around the 18% mark. Therefore since its introduction in 2017 the PSPO has led to a reduction in the presence of dog fouling on the streets of RCT but also highlights it still remains an issue.

However, despite the introduction of the orders in 2017 and the extension in 2020, there remains a small number of dog owners who do not clean up after their dogs or keep them under control.

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.

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 2020 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 currently 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/DogFoulingPublicSpacesProtectionOrders>

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.