



Please,  
clean up after your dog



Dog Survey  
February 2017

Please complete and return to  
Ilminster Town Council  
Council Offices North Street  
Ilminster TA19 0DG

By 31 March 2017



Ilminster Town Council wants to hear YOUR views on the control of dogs in the town. Whether you are a dog owner or not, if you have something to say about the issue then please read on.

The council is aware of the views being expressed by residents, including on social media, over the fouling of public open spaces by dogs. This can be on our recreation grounds, on Herne Hill or on our streets.

So the council is carrying out this comprehensive survey to try and find a fair way for all to try and tackle the issue. The aim is to incorporate a dog policy for Ilminster into a new Public Space Protection Order for South Somerset which is being revised by South Somerset District Council this year.

The aim of the order is to protect public health and public amenities such as open spaces at the Rec, sports pitches on the playing fields - but at the same time to try and find a way that dog owners can still adequately exercise their pets.

Dog fouling on sports pitches is a particular issue - this can cause blindness and even death, especially in young children. Another issue is whether the children's play area should be fenced off and segregated from all dogs.

It is clear that there is a problem and it is not fair on our children, our sports men and women and our open spaces staff to be faced with this illegal practice and its inherent dangers.

The council stresses: these are ideas for discussion, they are NOT decisions - it is an exercise to find out views so that we have a wide consensus of option before taking any decisions. And please remember: there is no quick fix to this problem, which will cost the council - and that is YOU the council tax payer - considerable finances to put into action.

That could involve items such as fencing, extra bins, extra staff. Please be patient.

We thank you for your time in reading this leaflet and hope that you can take part in the consultation exercise.

Answer some or all of the questions overleaf. Please add further information on a separate slip if required.

Please fill in your details so that the council can ratify the returns are genuine. Your details will not be passed to any third party or used for any purpose other than the questionnaire.

Once you have completed the form please send your comments to: Dog Policy Survey, Ilminster Town Council, Council Offices in North Street. This questionnaire will also be available in local shops.

### ILMINSTER DOG POLICY SURVEY

- 1 Are you a dog owner?..... Yes / No
- 2 Do you think there is a dog fouling problem in Ilminster?.....Yes / No
- 3 Do you think dogs should be kept on a lead at all times on all of the town's open spaces? .. Yes / No or  
do you think some areas should be free of dogs and others where dogs can roam off the lead but under control?  
Please think carefully about this question and bear in mind where children's allocated play areas and any formal sports pitches are situated. Please give details  
.....
- 4 For the protection of children from fouling and from potential attacks, should dogs be prevented from access to some areas? Yes / No . Give specific areas if possible  
.....
- 5 Do you think the children's play area in the north east of the Rec should be fenced off and no dogs allowed inside? .....Yes / No
- 6 Do you think there is problem with dog fouling of official formal sports pitches at the central recreation area? .....Yes / No
- 7 Do you think there are enough doggy bins in the town? .....Yes / No
- 8 If the answer to 7 was No, please state where you believe extra bins are required  
.....
- 9 The town does not have its own dog warden but the town is covered occasionally by a shared official. Would you as a council tax payer be prepared for the town council to employ its own dog warden and the costs involved to help eradicate the problem of fouling? ..... Yes / No
- 10 The council will be considering the level of fines for dog fouling - at what level do you think fines should be? .....£100 / £200 or other .....
- 11 Do you think that fines raised should go towards providing a dog warden for the town?  
.....Yes / No
- 12 Should there be fines for people walking dogs who are unable to produce a dog poo bag? .... Yes / No
- 13 If it is not possible to pay for a dog warden, how do you think the dog fouling problem should be tackled? Please give sensible suggestions  
.....
- 14 Do you think there should be more posters around town warning of fines for dog fouling? .. ..... Yes / No
- 15 Would you be prepared to challenge or report any individual you found not exercising proper control of their dog when fouling a public open space? ..... Yes / No
- 16 Do you have any other comments or suggestions to make about this issue which could be helpful to the public consultation. Give details:  
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**REMEMBER: It is the responsibility of a dog owner to take their pet's waste away with them, or place it into a bin if one is provided.**