

Appendix F Proposed Order Five

A person in charge of a dog in a public space within the borough of Dacorum Borough Council is prohibited from allowing the dog to enter the “Dog Exclusion Zones” these include fenced children’s play areas, adventure playgrounds and splash parks defined in Schedule 1 hereto;

Question 6: Do you agree or disagree with the proposed requirement that dogs should be prohibited from all children’s play areas?

Responses

Gadebridge

- I think that if you are with your children in a play area you should be able to take your dog with you as long as the dog is on a lead and that you clean up any deposits. Gadebridge park is now one huge play area that is not fenced - you should be able to take your children and dogs out with you at the same time.
- I agree. However a problem is present when certain parks open up with no boundaries. Such as the new climbing area in Gadebridge Park. This area will need to be enclosed.
- I do agree but why on earth is the new park in Gadebridge not enclosed? I like dogs, my children like dogs but lots of kids are scared of them and it's not appropriate. Speaking to dog owners they'd prefer to be able let their dogs run around Gadebridge park without being concerned that they run over to the park equipment and started weeing on it - which is an entirely natural thing for them to do.
- But what about the open play area at gadebridge park
- Gadebridge park is shrinking by the day with so much walking area taken over by skateboard, childrens play area and other activities that once it was a pleasure walking your dog in the park has now become more and more difficult. It is now being catered for "yummy" mummies and teenagers but not for the elderly or dog walkers.

Fenced

- I'd like to also mention the new play are in gadebridge Park should be enclosed , I've personally witnessed dogs roaming freely off leads in the equipment on the equipment and children running scared from dogs on an occasion , 2 it's also very hard to keep an eye on small children when it is so busy and all open with access to many parts of the park it doesn't feel safe. Putting up a fence or something would not only stop the dogs but also keep children enclosed so parents with more than 1 child can be a bit more relaxed knowing they can't wander off in any direction.
- I agree but I think that like playgrounds these areas should be fenced off
- Agree with fenced play areas . Splash park areas should be fenced as well as many dogs enjoy playing in water . If there fenced as well it would protect that area as well from dogs and owners would know that by it being fenced it was a no go area for dogs as well . So everyone happy
- I agree with the proposal for dogs not being allowed in enclosed playgrounds. I do not agree to whole areas having a dog ban, e.g. if the dog is under 'effective control', such as on a lead, just because it is used by children or there is an in enclosed children's playground. If the council is so concerned with children's safety then it should fence ALL children's play grounds/areas in the borough. Taking the principle of your proposal into consideration, should the Council also be looking at

banning children from areas which are frequented by owners to walk their dogs? I believe your other proposals 're picking up dog faeces and no dogs in enclosed children's play grounds are sufficient to address the overall objective of the proposals.

- I disagree as the new play area in Gadebridge Park which is not fenced up should also exclude dogs
- I agree in principle but the new play area in Gadebridge Park has no fencing and the area for exercising dogs seems to shrink all the time. Play areas should all be fenced off, it has been done around the splash pool, so why not around the play area.
- As a responsible dog owner I do my best to keep my dog out of children's play areas. My dog is excellent at recall, but I cannot guarantee that my friendly and inquisitive dog won't try to approach people in these areas if they are not fenced off. It is safer and better for all parties if areas where dogs are prohibited are fenced.
- This should include all play areas, fenced and those without e.g the new park at Gadebridge Park
- I do agree with the proposed requirement for dogs to be prohibited from all children's playgrounds AND by extension this should mean that all children's playgrounds should be FENCED. The playground at The Moor, Mill Street, Berkhamsted has been refurbished by DBC but the playground has not been fenced - allegedly because of insufficiency of funds - and this should be corrected.
- Very disappointed that (a) the proposal does not include UNFENCED/UNENCLOSED DBC play areas such as the Moor in Berkhamsted (also I understand it is the current view amongst many local authorities and play specialists that play areas should NOT be enclosed so DBC may end up removing some enclosures). Also the new play area in Gadebridge Park is unfenced. Also the Splash Park is unfenced (that is separate to the new play area). (b) does not provide for instances when DBC take over responsibility of new play areas installed by housing developers. There is one in the offing in Aspen Park (adjoining Manor Estate, near Featherbed Lane, Apsley). The wording of this provision needs to be redone - perhaps to forbid unleashed dogs within (say) 5 metres of play equipment in play areas owned by DBC. We should not be limiting the prohibition to just ENCLOSED play areas.
- If the area is not fenced off and is in a public space I don't think it's fair to force dogs to not be allowed there
- In my local area there are fenced areas where dogs are not permitted. There are never children playing when I take my dog out as they are at school. The fenced area would be perfect to take my dog off lead to play knowing they could not be run over by accidentally chasing a toy too far. If a child arrived I would put my dog back on lead and leave. It seems a shame we cannot share these areas.
- Although I do agree with this, it is essential that ALL children's play areas are fenced off to keep dogs out - there will be times in the day when enforcement is not in place and irresponsible owners will allow their dogs to roam freely!
- Only in fenced areas. Dogs should be allowed to run free if properly supervised on green open spaces. This question is poorly worded and misleading on this survey as it 'includes' children's fenced play areas. It also seemingly includes all open spaces other than children's play areas. Dogs must be allowed to run free on all green open spaces if suitably supervised.
- Agree - In little Gaddesden the Church Road children's play area is not fully fenced off but the PC agrees with the principle

Walk

- I thought that has always been the case but how about the council putting in some fun Zones for dog walkers. fixed agility zones. safe zones for dogs too in the parks. again other councils do this. Dog owners with or without children pay council tax you should be supplying facilities for this too. Ask people who are dog owners not the ones that are not

- If the dog owner is responsible by having the dog on a lead and it is under control and clears up after a dog I think they should be allowed. Many families have young children that they wish to take into the play area but also like to walk the dog at the same time. There is then a problem of tying the dog up outside and run the risk of having them stolen. I do understand the problem is people with the attitude they will do as they wish whether a sign is up or not and most people are too frightened to approach them so whatever you do ban them from the area or not they will not take any notice.
- I agree to keep the dogs away from the area in Schedule 1 but am considering parents who try dog walk and kid's play outside all one go. Is there any chance to build the area they could leave their dog while they attend their kids to play ?
- Try putting your effort into repairing our paths and walk ways rather than dreaming up ideas of how to persecute people.
- I agree with this as long as similar 'dog only' enclosed areas are also provided. Safe spaces to walk dogs are limited and often dogs cannot be walked off lead due to children running around in open areas. For example, parents often bring their children into the enclosed dog park in Apsley, which is one of the only safe enclosed spaces in the area to walk dogs. An increased number of enclosed dog parks would prevent owners from taking their dogs into children's play areas.
- Provide a dog walking/exercise area in our parks

These pets exercise areas are provided on motorways' rest areas or in parks on the continent. They seem to be popular and reduce other problems linked to dogs in public places.

Lead

- Dogs should be on leads in play areas but parents often take their children and dogs to the park together so it could be difficult for a parent and you don't want children or dogs unattended.
- I think that dogs should be kept on leads within these areas but to ban them means that parents and carers who want to walk their dog with their children are unable to do so. Family pets are the pets of the children too - not just the adults and children enjoy the benefits of going out with their pets too.
- Not all dogs are out of control and can be trusted with small children... Even on a lead in a child's playground as there are many families that enjoy taking their children and dog out at the same time and would love to sit in a child's play area with their dog whilst the child plays. This should be basic free rights to do.
- Dogs on short leads should be allowed in play areas
- Provided they are on a lead, and cleaned up after, it should be ok. They are, after all, a family member.
- If a dog is on a lead I see no problem with this
- I think they should be allowed in but on leads - I have a dog and I worry about her being taken with all the horrible stories you read. I don't ever leave her tied up without me being there.
- For families who have children and dogs and wish to exercise both together, this makes it difficult. There are too many dog thefts in the borough already so expecting families to tie their dogs up outside a children's play area is not practical or safe. Perhaps it might be a better idea to insist that dogs allowed in a children's play area are kept on a lead at all times. Also that anyone seen allowing their dog to foul within the play area without clearing it up should be fined.
- As long as the dog is on a lead all the time it's in the park.
- While I do agree with enclosed dog spaces. If a play area is not fenced off it is difficult

to keep dogs out completely. If you have small children, it is also difficult to supervise them if you cannot have the dog, on a lead, in the playground.

- I think that if children are playing in the play area that dogs should be under control. Some children take their dogs to the park. Some dogs are small and not likely to be a problem and it would restrict dogs from being with their young person owner, some disabled autistic/ epileptic people feel more confident with a dog by their side, however not all dogs that provide this support are registered as assistance dogs due to shortages of available, trained dogs.
I think that it would be wise that dogs are on a lead in a children's play area. However there are play areas where some pathways are through the play area, and as long as there are no children playing (later in the evening), AND owners pick up faeces whilst walking through, I do not see a problem.
- For single parents to be walking their dog and child to the park this has a negative impact. Possibly dogs should be on shortened leads and not left unattended with all faeces cleaned immediately
- If you are banning dogs from children's areas will there be optional safe areas where we can take dogs with out kids being in the way too?!

I can't see any reason why a dog is a problem in a play area especially given your new lead rules. How does a parent take their whole family out if the four legged child is prohibited?

What if your child falls off the swing and you have to run in to the park, I take it you aren't encouraging people to recklessly tie a dog up unattended (especially given the recent spate of dog theft) and that you would allow a parent to enter a park with a dog so as not to leave the child or dog unattended?

- I'm a responsible dog owner that have grandchildren and a dog when I take the grandchildren to the park I would love to take the dog too, who I would keep on a short lead.
- All parks are enclosed and gates should be kept shut not held open with prams as I have seen. Also what if a parent has a dog and a child. Surely as long as the dog is on a short lead within play area then the children can enjoy the play area and the dogs wont get stolen.
- What if I want to take my dog and children to the park at the same time. As long as on a lead and faeces picked up they should be allowed
- This would in some cases unnecessarily prevent responsible dog owners - with dog on lead - taking their dog and child to a playground.
- Some owners have Children under 5 and dogs, they can't be in both the play area which excludes dogs and keeping an eye on the children who may require help on certain pieces of play equipment. So long as they are kept on a short lead I don't see why they can't be in the play area.
- They should be allowed but always kept on a lead .
- I don't agree because it said dog is on a lead and you are picking up their poop etc then why can't they be in these areas? It's down to the children's parent/career etc to tell the children not to go up to the dogs etc. Or better make friendly children free dog areas.
- Some parents want to tire out pets and children at the same time . Make the rule be lead and muzzle & pick up poo
- I understand children can be frightened of dogs and no one likes dog poo in the children areas, but a lot of families have dogs and children and I don't see why we can not have our well behaved dogs on leads in these areas. I have two children and a dog and when we are out together it's hard for me to supervision my children properly in the park as I have to stand outside with the dog. A lot of dogs are better behaved than the children, people moan about dog poo (which I always pick up) but the mess,

rubbish and even vandalism left by there children is worse!

- Should be on lead in all public areas
- Dogs in children's play areas should be kept on a lead. If I took my children/grandchildren to a park while also walking the dog this would prevent my entry to the park to supervise the children at play. Any considerate dog owner would do this. You would be punishing the majority because of the minority. Also, I do not approve of fenced in play areas. What have the children done to deserve to be imprisoned.
- A mother who takes her young child and the family dog to a play area will need to be inside the area with her child. Is she to leave the dog outside without control or leave her child unattended. Common sense she's she can control both the dog (on a lead) and her child better and safer by being in the area. Obvious this sort of restriction is drafted by officials who have more thoughts of control than common sense
- Dogs are often considered part of the family and kids like to play and be involved with them. They shouldn't be excluded because they aren't human. It should be a requirement that your dog be controlled on a lead at all times and any poop should be picked up. If the owners can't do that, then they should not take their dog in
- Dogs are part of normal society. However, it is the dog owners responsibility to ensure that whilst in the play areas they are kept on a lead. I can see the benefits of having this type of clause but would not want to restrict responsible owners from allowing children the interaction of dogs within the play areas.

Other

- Yes and no
If a parent has a child and a dog and they are sat in the play area this is fine
If it is a person with no children then no
- This could be difficult for a single parent with a well behaved and trained dog to look after their child(ren) in a designated area, as the dog would need to be left behind.
- Make sure you implement new laws with a fine and community service IE clearing up and monitor.
Don't just bring new law in.
- Some parks are not fenced off so it's not that black and white
- I think dogs should be allowed as long as it has a mussel on.
- These areas are not always cordend off from other open spaces where dogs are allowed.
Also there are certain times of the day, I.e. early morning or late evening when there will not be children in these areas, so it should not be an exclusion 24/7.
- Children should learn how to behave around dogs. Again, too many petty, fussy rules.
- But then will this increase dogs being tethered to railings around said play area unattended while an owner is with their children at the play park !
- Only if parents are responsible and keeps their unruly children's in the play area and not let to roam free a park chasing a dog for fun.
94% of dog owners are responsible but can't say the same about parents with children's !
- Enclose areas for dogs not children.
- If the dog is not causing a problem then they should be allowed there. I see 2 dogs last week in the town centre playing with the water alongside children and they were playing together. Dogs were under control at all times.
- As long as t is still ok to tie a dog near to the park etc
- This makes it difficult for families to take yheir dog and children to the park together
- There too many complaints about dogs locally but the council have not made areas secure for both children and dogs.
- This would prohibit families with both children and dogs from using the play area.

Could there be a requirement to tie the dogs to a specific place inside the area instead?

- I agree with the proposal, but am curious to understand why we are only concerned with the well being of children. Too many dog owners abdicate responsibility for their pets. All dogs should be micro-chipped. All owners should have to attend classes on how to be a responsible pet owner.
- some dogs especially toy older ones love going on the swings themselves
- If the dog is friendly then yes, however if a dog is temperamental then no as it is not worth the risk of injuring anybody, child or not
- Yes I agree that dogs should be prohibited from Children's Play Areas, unless of course, a Blind Dog or similar.
- It may be that the dog owner takes the dog when his children go to play
- However, I have seen many dogs in shade ridge park in the hot weather tied up to fencing in boiling heat with shade for far too long
This should be addressed by making more shaded areas