

Appendix 6

Do you agree or disagree with continuation of the order that dogs should be prohibited from all children's play areas?

If you do not agree, please tell us why in the box below.

Sometimes there will be a public footpath going through these areas and this must be taken into account.
Families with dogs don't get to use playgrounds unless tethering dogs on outside of play area. It excludes access.
Its awkward because it's down to individual people. I feel that dogs should be kept leashed on short lead if in a child's play area with their owner while their child plays (may be a single parent) otherwise the child could miss out. The dog owner should know their dog and whether it's safe for all concerned. Needs to be individuals accountability. Maybe should be no dog if they can't be calm and collected in that environment.
All play areas should be securely fenced.
It would be nice to have benches outside of the play area instead of inside so dog owners can sit whilst the children play
All children's play equipment should be in an enclosed area. Dogs are unable to understand that they must stay 3 meters away from play equipment that isn't enclosed
Where is the provision for family outings, this council is not animal friendly
However, 3 metres is not ideal if you have children inside the play area
The exclusion zone around unfenced designated play areas need to be clearly signposted
within 3m of unenclosed play equipment - hard to manage if a dog is running. Hard to police
I would like to be able to supervise my children and have my dog close by. He is calm, gentle and I no would ensure he has done his business elsewhere before entering a play area.
These zones should be extended to exclude dogs
Agreed but children play areas should have sufficient fencing around to discourage this
Lots of mums want to walk dogs and take children to the park at the same time. Keeping 3m away from unenclosed empty play equipment at all times is unnecessary and restrictive
Play areas, slides etc should be adequately and securely be fenced off. It's not like you have adults only areas in a park.
The two parks nearest to me are Bunkers Play park and Barnacres. Both these areas have large green spaces and an area with equipment. It's unrealistic for a parent to bring children and a dog but not bring the dog inside the park. The enclosed space also provide a safe area for dog training (very few spaces exist for this purpose) so it's such a shame to completely exclude dogs. I do agree with excluding dogs from small playgrounds within a larger park area though as there is additional space for dogs.
It's hard when you walk a dog and have kids, so I think dogs should be allowed but not allowed to foul or urinate on the equipment, they should be on a short lead

If parents are attending parks and play spaces with their dogs, leaving them 3m away would not be workable - especially with dog thefts on the rise. This excludes a segment of the community from these spaces. Dog's on leads in these areas = fine, but distancing is disproportionate and not an appropriate way to treat members of a family (which dogs are to most owners)

If dog is well behaved and under full control, if users of playground don't have any objections, I see no problem having dogs around children play area (except play area)

Families have dogs. They should be on a lead there. Where would ne put a dog while your children are playing? If a dog fouls then it needs to be picked up.

How are you ment to know how far 3 meters is away from the equipment

Ok if on lead. Eg Mum with children

Better to exclude the children

If a dog is off lead in the vicinity of a children's unenclosed play area there is every possibility that dog may wander within 3 meters of the area - dogs have no understanding of measurement! A public space is just that - by definition it should be accessible to all members of the community, including animals that are safe to be in that public space. Children's play areas should never be in an open public space also visited by animals for obvious health and safety reasons!

All areas should be enclosed

It's important for children to play and understand animals

I don't agree with the 3m rule around the unenclosed play equipment. Unenclosed play equipment should be enjoyed by all, including families with dogs. You might as well just enclose the play equipment.

If fenced off yes - however a shared space that has a family which the dog is part of should allow the family as a whole to enjoy

My dog has better manners than a lot of children who play at these parks, 3 metres is too large an exclusion zone.

We need to get along

I think if a dog is on a lead and walking through an area to avoid dark alley or similar then that should be permissible.; but not staying and off lead.

I agree with most of the in Dog Exclusions statement but being part of the previous Dacorum consultation and as a responsible dog owner as raised then it is the same now as it may be difficult to apply a rule where no physical barrier exists. Dogs not being permitted within 3 metres (correct spelling) of any unenclosed play equipment can be identified with signage but not enforced, specifically where the parkland allows dogs off the lead. As stated I am a responsible dog owner but, I also know that if my dog is off the lead the dog could and would treat a climbing frame like a tree or a lamp post. I will also add I do not allow my dog off the lead near park equipment for this reason.

More thought should be given to sports pitches in the borough. 3 new football pitches at the top of Durrants Lane Berkhamsted, opened last Sunday and were used all morning. One of the pitches had been fouled by a dog and had to be cleared up. Those pitches are being used by dog owners from the new estate at the top of Durrants Lane as a park. there should be signage prohibiting dogs to use the land as a toilet.

3 meters is too close to small children for an unpredictable dog

The borough has failed to provide enough accessible open green space suitable for exercising dogs (amongst other uses.) Childrens play areas tend to have priority, but where the council has failed to provide perimeter fencing, this excludes dogs from central green spaces. If all childrens play equipment was fenced or if there were suitable alternative places for young dogs to be exercised/trained off lead then I would support the order.

If dogs need to be kept out of an area - build a fence

And for that reason they come to piccotts end and allow dogs to run riot over the land and private fields which is set aside for wild life and they are destroying it

A blanket ban seems a bit extreme. Most dogs are well-behaved.

I agree for dogs to not be allowed in enclosed children's play parks. Dogs should be allowed to be walked on a lead in the general park area.

This prevents dog owning families enjoying the play area PLUS I must say that the decision to prevent dogs from entering the cafe area is pretty pathetic. Gate off the splash park so the cafe is an area that can be used by dog owners, plus we do not want irresponsible parents and badly behaved children running around up to us

You should start with appropriately fencing off children's play areas

I think it is enough that dogs in play areas should be on a lead under close control

They live in kids gardens trust 99% of dog owners to sort it and stop wasting my money

I do agree that all dogs should be banned from enclosed play areas however it is very difficult to keep a dog 3 m from an unenclosed play area for example in Gadebridge park

Some people need to exercise their dogs when they take their children out. With the huge increase in dog theft of late they should be allowed to take their dogs on leads into the play area , keeping their children and pets safe and under control

Parents may need to supervise children as well as holding a dog on a lead

I think they should be allowed in if on a lead

People will keep their dogs away from this areas

If you do not want a dog to go in areas prohibited to them then fence the areas off. We can paying thousand to move a river in a park then a fence cannot be much more. At the end of the day a dog likes to run and exercise just as much as human, but a dog cannot read exclusion signs.

Because DBC should not be in the fascist state business

I agree in dog free spaces but Plse can dog owner residents of Berkhamstead have a dog park like to one n apsley

dogs are part of the family too. Socialisation with dogs is great for building bonds, forming compassion and understanding for animals, and generally teach children responsibility.

It will only be acceptable if the exclusion zones are very clearly marked at regular interval around their perimeter.

Dogs should only be excluded from unenclosed play areas if the exclusion zone is clearly marked and suitably signed.

I see too many dogs left tied to the fence while adults entertain their children. This is a green light for dog thieves to get away with one. I think they should be allowed into the park with the owners as long as they are on a short leash.

I agree with the enclosed order, but not the enclosed order, how do you access the 3 meter rule. Enclose any enclosed play area,s.

I agree, but feel that all childrens play areas should be fenced/partitioned off from areas i agree with inside the play area, but not to stupid 3 metre rule outside the play area

Some but not all who decides?

I agree to a certain point, but I would like to point out that as a frequent visitor (every day with my dog) that there are only a few notices put up and the majority of people have no idea that their dog is not allowed in the area. Example is a man in his eighties was on a bench where the swings are with his dog on a lead and his young grandson on the swings. He was fined £80. He had no idea of these new laws, therefore if they are enforced there needs to be more signs. I have told more than 20 people of this and they had no idea. If dogs are to be 3 meters away, why not save all the complications and fence off the area.

Done dogs can be an asset

Ideally they should be fenced off.

Yes but not within 3 metres as a dog could be tied to the railing on the outside whilst the parent and child are on the inside so this rule does not make sense, but on the inside where children run around yes

If the dog is behaved well then it's fine

Only if the area is fenced

I don't see an issue with dogs on as long as they are leashed and under control. I have both dogs and children.

Because if you have a child and a dog you can't watch both

If you want to separate a child's play area then fence it. Why should dogs suffer the restrictions because your to tight or lazy to protect the area with a fence. Children can have more freedom with the adult knowing they can't escape or someone can't grab a child. Yes you are meant to keep your eyes on your children but it only takes 2 minutes. Some people have 3 maybe 4 children plus bikes are just as dangerous riding through a play area all this would be hard if the area is fenced

dogs when off lead do not know how to use a tape measure so unenclosed play equipment should not be included or should be enclosed

I agree all dogs should be excluded from enclosed play areas, these are clearly designated fenced spaces for children. I disagree with 'dog exclusion zones' that are unfenced especially in Gadebridge Park, many residents have complained about the lack of fencing around the new park.

In winter and when play areas are not in use these environments are perfect for training the dog outside but contained by fences

It might be nice to have some seats for dog walkers at the suitable distance in case they have dogs and children

Because my dog does not know what 3 metres is. I now have to put my dog on a lead in the area where previously there were no childrens playthings and he was allowed to run free. Dacorum Park hates dogs and dog owners and rather than put a fence up it harresses dog owners, frightening them and fining them. Also dogs are not allowed in the area of the cafe where dog walkers would benefit from a warm drink and be able to meet people

It is unfair that I cannot take my grandaughter to the park without my dog. My dog is her best friend and shouldn't be left at home just because it's not allowed near the play area

There should be MOT for the dogs annually by VET

If we are walking our dog with our children and come to a play area, often they want to go in. Currently, they cannot do this as the dog is not permitted inside and we would not feel comfortable tying the dog to the railings. I believe dogs should be permitted but they must be on a lead with a maximum length of 1m and under control at all times..

I often go to the park with my dog and grandchildren. When in the vicinity of the play areas I always keep the dog on a lead, or carry her. This order discriminates against dog owners

Gadebridge park should be split into half for dogs and half dog free. That way kids, adults, parents with push chairs or the disabled can play on grassed areas without worry of being covered by dog poo

Families have dogs, also people who are trying to train their puppies need secure location to practice recall training so that when the dogs are walked in open spaces they're safe to themselves and the public. Such as the parks on Belswaines before nash mills

Consideration is needed as some dog owners do not have gardens or secure/safe areas to exercise dogs.

The order allows you to add areas at will, it even makes me an outlaw if I want to buy a drink where the cafe is not located in a splash park or children's area.

This is not always possible. If a lone parent/relative is walking a dog and child together it is not possible to allow the child access to play facilities without the accompanying dog. Which should be on a lead and under control.

only those areas that have fences and are clearly marked - playing fields etc. must be excluded from any such orders

This would depend on the individual and or the behaviour of the dog. A blanket ban is lazy and penalises those that would benefit from being allowed in these spaces. I would like to walk my dog AND take my daughter to the park at the same time. Having a ban on dogs in these areas makes this impossible. It suggests that I am capable of being a responsible dog owner OR a responsible parent, believe me when I say I can be both.

All areas should be enclosed

However if a single person is taking their dog & children for a walk, can the dog enter the zone if on a lead?

Eventually you'll end up with very limited places you can take your dog. It will become like USA with dog parks which just don't work for so many dogs.

I do not agree all play areas. I feel there should be some family members with dogs can take the children too.. have ones like one near me when a dog walk is one side and the enclosed park in the other but some parks need to permit dogs but be patrolled and the sanctions where an owner must have the dog well under control at all times and on lead in these areas be implemented be .

Pointless endeavour.

The children's play area should be fenced and dogs not allowed in it, rather than left unfenced.
I agree with the prohibition of dogs from enclosed play areas but to attempt to prohibit dogs from a distance of 3m from unenclosed play areas is impossible to police - people can't easily determine 3m and there will be conflicts
Dogs should only be excluded from fenced areas. It ought to be very clear.
At Gadebridge Park please put fences up around the play areas!
Agree with enclosed play areas but may be difficult with unenclosed area without plenty of notices
As especially Gadebridge there isn't a fence in which to exclude dogs from entering the "park", also is the fence surround the rest of the parks including or excluding the 3 meter rule? It's not very clear whether they are allowed to sniff the fence surrounding or be 3 meters away
Very hard to keep dogs out if unenclosed play areas. All play areas to be enclosed
I agree with play areas but not the cafe area if outside you should be able to buy a cup of tea and sit and drink it if your dog is on a lead
Dogs do not know 3 metre rules, I agree that dogs should not be allowed in enclosed child play areas but very occasionally a dog may run towards an unenclosed area and the owner not be aware of this rule. They should be given time to get the dog on a lead without these authorised people waiting for the 3 metre rule to be broken as seems to be happening in Gadebridge park.
Families take there dogs in so surely anyone can if unoccupied
I agree childrens play areas if that is all it is ie not football pitches and general playing fields
Think your policy down at Gadebridge is a joke. Money scam that has swindled some old and vulnerable people out of money. Disgrace!
But ideally play area should be within a fenced area.
I think it could be ok if the dog is on a lead and is not agressive
More dog parks required like apsley
But please make sure they have locks on as my dog pushes the gate open
If I have my dog with me, and my niece is in the enclosed play area, adding 3metres to the distance between us would be difficult. If a dog is on a lead, and sitting beside the railings, outside of a park, causing no bother, surely this is enough? What's the scientific reason for the 3m exclusion zone, when railings are usually a way away from the play equipment anyway.
I think all the play areas should be enclosed.
Responsible dog owners can be parents
Gadebridge Park is not enclosed
I agree but I think there needs to be improvements in the provision for dog friendly areas too eg secure dog fields which are properly gated off (much like children's playgrounds) so that dogs can be exercised safely off lead (especially puppies)
I think dogs under control and on leads should be permitted in play areas; this will increase the health of children who families own dogs as they will be able to use to equipment more often.,

Fine for enclosed play areas but not for unenclosed areas. Or provide enclosed areas for dogs to be exercised in

When out and about walking dogs and taking children to the park it can be a hindrance to have this separation. You end up having to choose to tie a dog up and leave it which reduces its exercise and causes anxiety. Or leave the child in the playground unsupervised whilst caring for the dog. Written rules and common sense should be applied.

some play areas are not cordoned off in parks, therefore dogs can't read and wouldn't know not to go in a certain area. I think the council needs to strongly fence off play areas

Dogs on Leads should be allowed closer than 3 m to unenclosed play equipment, as often parents with dogs and children wish to sit close to where the children are playing

Whilst I believe dogs should not be allowed in enclosed children play areas I don't agree with an exclusion zone around open space play areas. If you want dogs to be kept out put fences around them. We also need a drinks kiosk outside of the fenced area in Gadebridge Park to enable dog owners to buy a drink without having to leave their dogs unattended.

Dogs are not a threat to public health, kids have more germs than dogs. I don't understand the need for this prohibition

A parent should be able to supervise their children on play equipment whilst also taking their pet out for a walk

This is hugely problematic. It means mothers with young children are now unable to walk their dogs and supervise their young at the same time and have to pick between the two. There is a log near the playground (a few metres away) where mothers meet, one has a small puppy and now she is not allowed to sit with us (as this is deemed play equipment). The children loved to pet the dog. Now the dog has to be left at home. There are numerous problems with this overzealous order. I believe it is not 'reasonable or proportionate' to affect families and friends in this manner. Not enough emphasis has been placed on the benefits of introducing children responsibly to dogs or including them as part of a family. This order does nothing to stop irresponsible owners with dangerous dogs who ignore such signs and who will let their dogs foul morning, noon and night when no officers are about. Being on a lead within 3 metres should be enough of a restriction. Thank you.

But play areas should be enclosed so that boundaries are clearly visible to all .. also it is very difficult to walk a dog off lead when there is a play area in the middle of a park with no fencing around it !!

Because dogs are a vital part of family life and often parents will walk the dog and visit the play centre. They should be able to take the dog in with them.

families have dogs so long as they are on a lead and under control and they do not go to toilet within that area

I think that dogs in children's play areas should be on a lead, with relevant muzzle as necessary and supervised by the owner/handler. Children should have access to dogs so it doesn't hinder or damage their relationship with them. If the owner/handler knows the dog is jittery, unfriendly or known to be scared around crowds/lead noises then they shouldn't take them to those areas

Some dogs are not a danger to children no more than cats.. Children will often be out with their dogs and when playing. Only problem dogs should be kept away.

NO COMMENT

Sometimes footpaths leading from car parks to public foot paths are within 3 meters of play areas which may need to be better explained if this is an offence.

This could prevent use of open spaces with unenclosed child areas as how can you stop a dog from running to within 3 metres?

In certain instances a responsible owner can ensure their dog behaves appropriately. Families with dogs face difficulties when exercising their dogs and wishing their children to play on a play area.

Responsible owners already do this. There is not sitting arrangements around these areas for those who are taking dog and children for walks and exercise

Particularly Gadebridge Park- you are excluding dogs more and more and it annoys me a lot- I can walk near the swing park and my dog loves to chase the squirrels in the nearby trees without going anywhere near a child or equipment yet your 'exclusion zone' extends to these trees- it's unfair and ridiculous. I should also be able to sit at a table at the park cafe with my dog on a lead as civilised St Albans Park allows...you appear to have it in for dog owners wishing to use the park

As before.

I ticked no so I could comment as you only seem to allow comments for disagree. Of course dogs should be kept from children's play areas in case of fouling but you need to look at the 3m rule. If you proceed with it you need much better communication and huge signs and a warning process before people are fined. Lots of negative experiences on Facebook from people in Jarman Park.

My dog likes to run in the play area. And if I'm the only one I. There I don't see a problem. He would never wee or poo in there