

Appendix 9 Other Comments

Any additional comments or concerns about dogs and their owners?

Open-Ended Response

I have experienced issues regarding the behaviour of dogs and dog owners in public places: when I am on public footpaths. I have had issues with behaviours of dogs on an area of private land where I used to walk the public footpaths. On 20 January 2022 at 09:15 I have had to run from the Chiltern Way footpath in Little Gaddesden to the safety of the road away from a large Caucasian Shepherd dog which was off lead and running towards us. Its owners were not on site and returned in their vehicle shortly after this took place. The reason I was frightened was that on previous occasions since the dogs arrived on the fields in Little Gaddesden and I have walked the paths I would see and hear the dogs growling, barking and yanking their tethers very close to the footpath as I have walked it with or without my dog. This is very uncomfortable and has stopped me from walking them. I very occasionally try to walk across when the occupiers are away from site and when the dogs are tethered further away from the footpath. This is still very uncomfortable and I prefer not to. I do not believe large dogs should be tethered or loose close to a public footpath as this can be intimidating for people and other dogs. On 19 February 2022 at c11:25 am following a meeting at the Church I walked from the Church to the playground in Little Gaddesden on the public footpath across the same private land. The occupants of the land saw me enter the lower field containing their encampment. At all times I was on the public footpath. They rushed from their accommodation vehicles to their pick up truck - quite a distance - they then hurriedly encouraged one of their large dogs to approach the footpath by one of them running towards the path and they then started throwing the ball towards to the footpath their dog to fetch as I sought to walk past on the path which meant the dog about barking and yanking at their tether which felt very close to me and I felt very uncomfortable. At the same time one of the occupiers filmed the dog and me walking past; their other dog joined in the barking. I was intimidated and frightened. It felt it safer to keep my head down with my phone against my ear and keep walking and not to engage with them and hope that the tethers held and that the dog was sufficiently engaged with the ball. I wonder what the video will be used to demonstrate. The dogs have been chained up outside and bark. If their owners are not on site the dogs bark even more. The noise the dogs make carries, day or night, and is not appropriate. It doesn't feel fair on the dogs either. I do not think dogs should be allowed to bark unrestrained or unchecked even if they on private land the sound travels across fields, roads, gardens, into houses and affects people and the enjoyment of their homes and the enjoyment of the public spaces. Dogs barking now and again is reasonable dogs barking creating a backdrop of noise most of the day and at times during the night is unacceptable.

Something that frustrates me is dog walkers meeting up. So you'll get two people walking several dogs, but they're chatting away to each other and not paying attention to the dogs they're in charge of. Especially when the dogs are off lead. I have one well behaved dog who hates being surrounded but other dogs, so in this situation they all bound up to us and the people in charge are miles away not paying attention.

Guidelines could be posted for dog friendly lead/no lead areas with number of dog limitations. Examples are in use by e.g. wildlife trust. Local dog walker professionals seem to handle more than 5 dogs at once without dog personality assessment, therefore quickly create stressful out of control situations within their group affecting outsiders. It would help if they qualified to walk in specific Dacorum areas by complying with local rules about multiple dogs.

Even in "appropriate" areas, dog owners should train dogs not to approach other people or dogs without invitation. Others have a right to use public areas without being worried about other people's dogs.

Out of control dogs having a negative impact on the wildlife and ecosystems in the area as well the massive increase in dog fouling all over the borough.

Owners seem to think it OK for their dog to run up to you as they 'know' it is just being friendly. But I can no longer assume that. Puts me off walking across Boxmoor.

There are so many dog walkers now with too many dogs that they cannot control them properly or they are too busy speaking to other dog walkers and just let their dogs run riot in the fields.

As a tenant in a flat in a Housing Association I am suffering from the aggression of a neighbour's dog, his fouling of the communal ground and urinating in front of my door. I can never enjoy the backyard behind my flat as the neighbour has made it his dog's toilet. I suffer from the smell in summer when it is very hot and cannot leave my windows open because of it. The dog has also been very aggressive towards me and also I contacted the police and the landlord about the matter the neighbour does not care and continue behaving in a very unsocial manner. I have to be careful, watching my back everytime I come out of my flat. I would appreciate it if there was some law to stop dogs fouling communal areas so we the tenant could enjoy the land safely and in a clean space.

Is it possible for jobs to be offered to people that do not mind collecting the dog poo in bags that has been left on the pavement, thrown into bushes etc.

I think that dogs should be kept on a lead in any built up area, especially in shopping areas. I think that there are many people who have dogs, but have no respect for other people and let their dogs foul anywhere, they don't carry bags, and before aggressive if asked to do something about it. Enforcement is the biggest problem.

With awareness now regarding dog fouling and the ability to purchase bags and clear mess up and take home/put in dog fouling bins there is no excuse for dog owners to not clear up after their pets. I live in a road that is a main route to a primary school and am astounded with amount of dog mess left on the pavements. On the spot fines should be introduced and adhered to

I don't like dogs jumping up. Unfortunately many owners are very relaxed about the behaviour of their dog and excuse/turn a blind eye to their bad habits.

I hate it that dog owners hang sacks of dog poo from trees and bushes. This is disgusting

I walk my dog on a daily basis, on and off lead, depending on circumstances, and always clean up his mess. It's a shame that a small minority of dog owners don't follow this. For cleaning up pet poos, what steps are being taken in respect of cats, as we regularly find cat poo in our garden but it is never addressed?

Sounds like the beginning of a police state. Dog owners do need to be responsible... Picking up the poo is the right intuition but the wrong level - why can anybody get a pet if they are unable to look after the animal and take care of the impact on their community..

Q13 depends on the size of the dog. 4 miniature dachshunds is very different to 4 Rottweilers. Unsure where is National Trust Land. But Public Footpaths and nearby open areas along new Road in Berkhamsted have far too many dog poo bags just left behind. Is that covered by this?

Any more than 2 dogs are not manageable. It doesn't matter how small they are

Please take action to prevent commercial dog-walking companies from invading our village. there is only so much local people can do to protect our environment. There have been several instances of villagers being physically assaulted by the commercial operators.

I person only has two arms and therefore can only suitably manage one dog per arm. There should be dog bins provided at all entrances to Nicky Line. You only have one between the Industrial estate and St Albans border.

I have seen dog walkers walk 6 dogs off the lead on commons where there are deer and a dog could easily chase a deer and the walker would not be able to stop or go after them. However, this question really depends on if the dogs are on lead and if the person is in control of the dog. A small child with a large dog would be unreasonable.

Yes a lot of people when walking their four lagged friends are on their mobile phones not keeping an eye on what their pet is doing ie squatting for a poo and they just keep on walking. Or people are in groups nattering away not paying any notice to their dog.

Fully agree with no dog in play areas, obviously. Otherwise, the issue is less the location and more the control people have over the dog. Goodness knows how this can be monitored!

Depends on the size of the dogs and capability of individual to control them. I would say 1 person equals one dog. I've seen up to 7 dogs get out of a small car, run wild, do their business, get put back in the car and taken home.

The answer to the previous question only applies where the dog walker exercises proper control and behaviour

I'm a dog handler working from Scotland down to Somerset every day, it's not the number of the dogs that is important but the level of control one has over the dogs which is more to the point. If you can evidence that you can manage with compliance BS8517 that you can manage 3/4/5 dogs great as opposed to not being able to manage 1 that's what should be being asked.

These new strict rules will only be reasonable if the council then provide secure dog parks for people to use.

Randells park Highfield hemel, needs patrolling as there's a couple of dog owners who refuse to pick up after their dog and letting their dogs to roam around the children's play area and weeing up the play equipment

Large frightening dogs kept in a field in church road Little Gaddesden which is intimidating and prevents the footpath being used as it has always been used hitherto.

Relating to people walking too many dogs. Last August I was knocked off my feet by a Bull Mastiff being walked off lead by a dog walker, who had at least another four dogs - three on leads and another one off the lead. This was at the Water Meadow in Great Gaddesden. I sustained a sprained ankle. I chose not to report this to the police as I was spending time with my children who were returning to Bristol the following day. I don't think the problem necessarily relates to the number of dogs on or off leads. It's whether the dogs are under control. Had the Bull Mastiff been on a lead, the dog walker would not have been able to control it, due to the sheer size of it. She certainly wouldn't have been able to manage all the different sized dogs together on leads. Personally, I feel three smaller dogs on leads or two large dogs at the most.

More enforcement for dog fouling

Why is the council so unfriendly towards dogs, You could take lessons from Cornwall who welcome dogs practically everywhere, is this another money making scheme?

There is absolutely no excuse for livestock worrying by loose dogs or importantly, the weaponisation of an aggressive dog on a lead to stop walkers using a perfectly legal footpath.

Only the comment already made about dogs in Church Road.

Control over x number of dogs is very subjective as depends on the person and the dogs

Your 3 metre exclusion zone is hard to police or defend yourself as a dog owner. In gadebridge Park it stresses me that there is an exclusion zone outside the fenced children's area which is not marked eg with football pitch lines. So I could be unjustly fined unless officers carry a tape measure. Please mark clearly the exclusion zone or place barded wire along it so my dog doesn't stray into an invisible exclusion zone outside a fenced children's playground.

Dig fouling has increased dramatically

Many dog walkers still assume that farmed land or open land used for hay crops or grazing is not covered by this. The fouling, which also includes dangerous worming chemicals, ruins hay crops and poisons grazing stock. Can more emphasis be given to that. The message should be - if you can't be bothered to pick up them don't have a dog! Are there fines for the idiots who throw their filled bags up tree? Finally - dog owners will communicate and queue up to fill this in - how does the council ensure that the vast number without a dog get to see this? THANKS FOR PERSEVERING WITH THIS - IT IS STARTING TO TAKE EFFECT

Less of a problem with private dog owners but some still ignore signage for livestock etc. Most problems are from commercial dog walkers

No.

Yes, they all say there Dog is friendly and this is clearly not the case.

I am a dog owner. I have a large dog that is always on a lead around children, town, roads etc. I am so annoyed by people that do not clean up after their dogs. I have experienced on a daily basis owners of small dogs who do not believe the rules apply to them. Small dogs running lose in children's play areas. Small dogs sitting on tables within the splash park area. Small dogs running free, not being monitored, pooping in the sand pit. Barking at other dogs, attacking other dogs. This attitude that little dogs don't need to obey the rules is the biggest problem.

Small toddlers are often frightened by dogs, especially if the dogs approach the child or jump up, even on a lead. Their owners always say something like " He's only being friendly" but this can still worry small children (more of whom are now walking to school or near their home because of the benefits of walking)

Owners of dogs that repeatedly attack need to be made to keep their dogs on leads and muzzled. It is not fair for responsible owners to be scared of walking their dogs for fear of being attacked by selfish owners dogs.

Think it would be useful to have more enclosed dog areas available for owners to exercise, socialise and train recall safely

Most dog owners are decent, law abiding people who love their pets. It's just the few who think the laws do not apply to them who spoil it for us all. I have lost count of the amount of times I have walked across fields in Berkhamsted with clear notices that dogs should be kept on leads which some owners have just disregarded. These seem to be the same owners who have no recall when their pets are chasing livestock.

The number of dogs being walked depends on size of the dog and more importantly how well trained they are.

Dog bins are not cleared often enough and overflow and there is simply not enough bins around

Professional dog walkers are not able to control all of the dogs. They are often let loose in grade ridge park and they are not able to see where they are fouling. I think unless you own all of the dogs and they live together you shouldn't be able to walk more than two dogs.

Too many aggressive dogs about Not enough bins Have never seen a representative from council about No idea who to contact at council when there is a problem

No comments about dogs and owners but, sadly, it's the behaviour of the minority that prompts the need for these controls. There is nothing in this survey that asks for positive experiences when meeting dogs and owners or how they may benefit the community. Dogs enable and encourage many many people to get out and exercise promoting good physical and mental health. Dog walkers check cattle and other wildlife, pick up rubbish, reports issues, look out for each other and are an integral part of neighbourhood watch, noticing anomalies in the community. It's a shame that the survey is quite focussed on excluding dogs. I often meet parents with children who are delighted to stop and say hello, often an opportunity to teach their child about good ways to greet a dog. While I generally support the order, it would be nice if the language used around dogs and dog ownership didn't feel quite so negative.

Lack of knowledge of what the dog warden can do and their powers of enforcement following an altercation.

The massive increase in the number of commercial dog walking businesses. This gives rise to large numbers of dogs not under proper control and where fouling is inevitable. These businesses are benefiting from the use of public land and should have to pay a significant fee to compensate for the damage and nuisance that they cause.

Larger fines for repeat of offences. Owners should show respect and consideration when allowing their dogs to relieve themselves in peoples front gardens.

no

There is an increased amount of dogs since lockdown. More fouling; more not picked up; bins become full quickly and are not emptied frequently enough any more. This causes bags of foul to be left lying around. Bags of foul left on the ground, on trees, hedges etc. This is particularly unpleasant on pathways.

I think all dog owners should do training courses in respect of controlling their dogs.

the number of dogs a person can walk depends on the size and breed of the dogs, and their temperament around others. Instead of imposing arbitrary rules which restrict the lives of your tax payers, instead focus on behaviours and enable shared community interactions in our community spaces

I think dogs should be allowed in the park as long as they're on a lead & under control. The rules as they stand make it difficult for people with children to walk their dog & watch their children

Does depend on the size of the dogs as to how many.

Unfortunately dog owners do not appreciate that not everyone loves their pooch or wants to be jumped on by it, if you try to speak to the owners they are generally rude and aggressive. I have become very nervous when I am out in the countryside following a frightening confrontation with a large stocky dog. The owner of which had no recall and did nothing to calm or retrieve the dog. This happened on the moor behind Water End cottages adjacent to the Nettleden Road about 18 months ago. My freedom to roam has been curtailed by this experience and spoil what used to be my love of enjoying the outdoors.

As i have said most people respect others and take care of their pets. It is not safe to have dogs off the lead by roads shops busy places, only the countryside and parks. it is good to have seperate childrens play areas for all concerned. most of us pick up the dog poo. some men can be very abusive if asked to put their dog on a lead. we want clean streets and nice areas for all.

They should respect the roads and parks curated for people to use and stick to separate dog only areas. Children and adults should have the right to walk and run in a park without feeling initimidated.

It is clear to all dog owners that a small minority of owners should not be allowed to have dogs. They aren't exercised properly and are out of control. Crack down on these people not the majority. Dog exercise is not only good for animal welfare it is good for humans too. Get the cyclists off footpaths and leave more space for people with or without dogs. Will you have a similar survey on cyclists?

Professionals have a better idea of behaviour in groups. Lots of times private owners with 1 or 2 dogs have less control than dog walkers with higher numbers. Perhaps that's because the group are occupied amongst themselves so don't seek out other attention / socialisation

Dog walkers need to be registered, many are out of control.

All dogs need to be kept on leads on public footpaths, children and other dogs are often confronted by large dogs which is often frightening for them.

I have much more of an issue with "professional"! dog walkers rather than individual dogs and owners who are largely very responsible. Dog walkers simply do not pick up the dog poo and often have multiple large dogs off lead.

Dogs are controlled easier on lead, unless the dogs is highly trained...long leads for exercise should be implemented, I have seen dogs run after footballs that children play with.....dogs are focused on the ball..it could one day be a child's hand....maybe a rule of in lead in public parks where children are present.

There are lots of dog poo bins in the area

It does depend on the walker and how they are able to manage the dogs.

It depends on the dogs breed, character, training, temperament, the person in control, how the dogs react to each other and other dogs not in their group. Some people can't control 1 dog. And others can happily walk 6!

As a wheelchair user my greatest bug bear is owners not picking up dog poo I am forever reporting dog poo on pavements and have had countless times where dog poo has been on my wheels it then gets transferred to my coat and gloves it needs to be stopped as I can't leave my wheelchair outside my house it has to be cleaned at a great effort and expense including the house

Obviously there is someone in the council that doesn't like dogs! Better to spend your time and tax payers money considering planning applications to build on our precious green belt (where we also walk our dogs). Shame on you for even commissioning this survey.

So much dog poo everywhere in Chipperfield

Some time ago a dog which was not on a lead and obviously out of control left the adjacent public right of way, ran on to our land, and then caught and killed my neighbours cat.

Dogs should be put on the lead if they approach a small child. Fines should be issued on the spot for not picking up dog mess.

Dependent on breeds. Some dogs can terrorise other dogs, e.g. some greyhounds, even if not "dangerous" to people. Those dogs should not be allowed off the lead anywhere on public land. Some dog breeds should always wear a muzzle when outside their owners property.

Not all dogs that are off lead are 'out of control' Dogs should only be off lead in appropriate settings All situations should be individually assessed

There is an increase in professional dog walkers on footpaths. Often 5- 6 dogs . I have 2 dogs . It is quite difficult to pick up dog waste and manage 2 dogs at the same time. I fail to understand how these dog walkers can do so for more than 4 dogs . Our footpaths are spoilt by dog fouling. A large group of dogs generates fear in mine ; particularly if they are big dogs .

People who have dogs off lead who don't actually watch their dogs, many don't even know that their dog has done their business

If children don't grow up respecting dogs and other animals then they will fear them. Mixing is important

Yes, they seem to have an air of entitlement about themselves and their dogs. We have become too tolerant about bad behaviour in all public spaces. I think dog owners behave responsibly only when they are being seen by other members of the public. Otherwise there would be no dog faeces on the pavements and parks if dog owners behaved responsibly.

as in q 11 The alley walk ways in general around lever stock green, long field etc have become a dog and school litter mess, its the responsibility of the school young person, and dog owner. but sadly some just don't care. Good luck in sorting that out.

I come across many dog owners who are friendly, well behaved people & animals that in the main clean up & feel the priority should be clearing up our parks from all the plastic pollution that is far more prevalent than dog faeces

This survey is biased in that it only deals with parts of the issues dealt with.

I think it's probably all right for a person to walk 3-4 dogs off the lead in open ground like Tring Park.

Dog walkers who offer a dog walking service often walk 6 or more dogs off lead and considering the amount of dogs they are walking I do not see them carry poo bags, full or not ! The woodland around Gadebridge and Halsey nature field are particularly popular with people who offer these dog walking services and are now areas which I have to avoid with my nervous dog.

Even on leads some owners are not under control of their animal

The vast majority of owners are responsible but, I do believe that there are a lot of new dog owners who do not understand their responsibilities and are ignorant of others whether, that is them leaving mess which includes rubbish in the park or street as well as dog mess. There appears to be an attitude that someone else will clean it up. If I caught them and had the local authority to do so I would fine them and then also place them on picking up duties. This could serve as a deterrent to future events. I have seen dogs let out of of dwelling on the boundary of parkland to walk themselves. This is fin in your own garden but not if its your park where everyone should be able to use , enjoy and safely.

See previous comments

People taking the trouble to collect dog excrement in a plastic bag, and the dumping the plastic bag in the open space.

The number of dogs you can control depends on the dogs size and temperament.

Random checks should be carried out to ensure that dogs are microchipped

My comment in 13. relates to dogs being walked by their owner or a dog walker they are familiar with. If the dog is a puppy or recently acquired, then 1-2 must apply

Free dog owning training classes for potential owners, this to be a legal requirement prior to registering when dog is purchased and microchipped. 1/ certificate of owner training attendance - validated. 2/ dog can only be sold once certificate validated. 3/ certificate details to be registered with dog. Penalties for breaching dog owning rules.

Owners walking dogs on lead whereby the dogs are big, strong and exhibit aggressive tendencies that the owner can only just maintain control with some difficulty.

Anti-social dog behaviour (ie dog waste not being picked up) tends to be more prevalent in the less dog-focused areas. (ie, paths near the highstreet, alley ways, greens of communal buildings) rather than in places people tend to go for the sole purpose of exercising their dogs. As such, I am in favour of community engagement with those bringing a dog into the high street, on a school run etc, but not those who are responsibly exercisign their dog in the out-of-town areas which have a much larger dog population at any time. (parks, estates, tow paths etc).

I don't think that this order should apply Borough wide or on private land. Areas it applies to should be fenced off with adequate signs. Dogs and their owners have as much right to be in public spaces for their enjoyment.

Please stop dog walkers as a business to use farm lands to walk and let the dogs loose, dog walkers should take the dogs on leads for a long walk have 3 max instead of letting them run around in a pack and then attacking other dogs which I have witnessed and had it happen to my dog on our land.

No

The above question would be 1-2 if large dogs. People using extendable dog leads should have to keep them shorter when walking on public footpaths along streets, they should only be extended in places where people can safely pass without having to go near the dog

I think they should ALL be muzzled, on leads all the time , Suggestion.... Ensure the signage is bigger, bolder., brighter, warning them not ot enter these restricted areas .The current ones are are not prominent enough

My concern is the councils attitude to responsible dog owners. This survey is very biased so that you can get the results you want. When there was a problem with an individual and his dog, it was never dealt with until he upset Mike Pennings wife!

My answer to Q13 (up to 6) takes account of professional dog walkers and boarding kennels who may need to walk as many as they can manage, but it depends on the competence of the dog walker and how well trained/big/strong the dogs concerned are. They should probably be allowed as many as they can safely control without danger of the walker being pulled over.

It should be a legal requirement to have insurance.

I think most are great but I would concentrate on the wrong ones human kids littering in Chaulden fields

Most of the dogs and walkers that I meet on my daily walk have complete control over their dogs. The fowling that I see on my daily walks are from the very few inconsiderate individuals.

As above

In Germany and Scandinavia, dogs must be kept on leads when being walked in public parks, on public footpaths and fields used for sport. They may only be unleashed in designated dog exercise areas. The same should apply in Britain.

Some Doggy daycare businesses walking multiple dogs at a time in Ashridge/Northchurch common area.

I love dogs, they really are 'man's best friend'. I worry that those people who will not clear their dog mess in public places are probably also unkind and uncaring of their dog. I'm disappointed that we scrapped the old dog licence policy as it gave the owner a sense of responsibility.

Zero bikes zero dogs. No compromise. Zero tolerance.

Concerned there will be unreasonable demands for dogs to be on leads everywhere in the Borough.

Generally 1-2 dogs seems reasonable, but if the temperament of the dogs is appropriate and being looked after by an experienced dog handler, or similar, then 3-4 could be acceptable

Dog walkers employ

No lead etiquette. No respect for an individual walking a dog on lead for their dogs well-being. Uncontrolled dogs but disinterested owners. 'Oh they are just being friendly'. Owners admitting they have let their dogs off lead to run in Ashridge but don't know exactly where they are.

As a guide dog owner/user, one of my biggest problems is dogs (often more than one dog and it has been as many as four) being walked off leads on a road (old fishery lane and under the A41 and railway line is a good example) that come bounding up to me and my dog. It is quite a frightening experience as I can't read the dogs' pictures/expressions. All I can hear is barking. The owner will say that their dogs are friendly. They might be but my dog is in a harness and can't run away if they turn out not to be. I can usually get my dog to keep on walking but we have been surrounded in the past. When walking along a pavement and roads, I expect dogs to be on leads as is the law. Dog fouling is also a problem.

I think that dog owners on the whole are quite defensive. Some are great but many are not and I tend to get nervous when walking past people with dogs as I don't trust how well their dog is trained.

Why not have some specific dog and non dog areas? These work well in many seaside places? For example East Gadebridge Park, dogs only on leads, West Gadebridge Park dogs allowed off lead.

The majority of dog owners/ walkers act responsibly. However, some dog owners show no consideration for others who use public spaces or local residents. Frequent incidents occur of: Allowing dogs to bark uncontrollably early in the morning or late evening; Allowing dogs to run around 'off lead' and unsupervised; Allowing dogs to defaecate on pathways; Owners dumping used dog waste bags alongside pathways or in gardens.

Some owners don't understand that not everyone wants their dogs jumping up then or Thier children and can then be quite aggressive when challenged. My children are frightened of dogs as we have had a few incidents now where my children have been jumped on by dogs off of the lead. Also gadebridge playpark seems to have a lot of dog owners with thier children and they enter the park with thier dog. The dogs always seem to be in the lead but it's so frustrating that they feel they can do this when there are signs everywhere saying not too. Often people cutting through the park with their dogs too.

'more dogs than they can control' questions would depend on how well behaved the dogs are. There has been daily fouling on some roads in Woodhall farm:Bayford close, Shenley Road and Cuffley Court. There has been regular fouling on the pathway outside brockwood school in Woodhall farm. Obviously children walk these paths multiple times a day. I would like to see pcsos around this area more often to deter owners who are not picking up their dogs mess or cameras etc.

There should be a reasonable behaviour code for dog owners/walkers.

What about comments of a lack of concern? Your wording is encouraging bias!

Yes owners with big dogs like German Shepherd etc, find it's acceptable to chase down smaller dogs . They are not interested in controlling their dogs. Oh I'm sorry was your dog distressed , I did not realise.really!.

I think there should be a limit of 1 dog per household and dog licensing should brought back(I realize the council probably has no powers to reintroduce dog licensing though) and all dogs owned in Dacorum area should have to be chipped.

I'm a dog owner myself and have been for years. The idea that you'd have a dog and not pick up it's poo is a total anathema to me. I think people should have to pass a test in order to get a dog, or get a dog licence, that involves them agreeing to certain standards of welfare for their dog, and for always picking up its poo. There should also be more public awareness of how act when you see another dog on a lead and yours isn't. If I see that I always call out if they want me to put mine on a lead. Good dog owner etiquette!

I have recently noticed full poo bags left on pavements in various parts of HH and assume this is the natural progression from the 'poo trees' that have sprung up in the countryside in recent years. Would also be great if owners prevented their dogs from chasing horseriders which may not only cause a serious accident but lead to injury or death of the dog from an iron shod hoof.

The answer above is dependent on the size and behaviour of the dogs.

Surely the above last question depends on the dogs and the walker?

There should be designated areas such as parks where dogs can be exercised off lead. Everywhere else, including pavements, children's areas, residential areas, all dogs should be kept on leads

I don't allow my dog off lead but she has long lead I always pick up her poo and bag it and place it in bins provided I am proud to say but near my local school Tudor and the paths Ann grass verges are full of Pooh and for me it's annoying when my dog walks in Pooh from another dog

Dog owners should be responsible for the behaviour of their dogs at all times and appreciate that not everybody likes their dog like they do.

more than two dogs off lead is almost impossible to monitor there actions pooing ect

I believe it's necessary to have a dog on a lead in all public places including open parks. But there should be designated areas for dog owners to let their dogs off their leads safely. These areas should be marked clearly.

Dog owners need to put dogs on leads when they meet others on footpaths/common land. I have been the victim of aggressive dog behaviour in the last month due to dogs off lead.

Most dog walkers I tend to meet are very responsible and the dogs well behaved, but over playful. I have only ever met 3 muzzled dogs with their owners, the same reason given for the muzzle was OK with people, but didn't get on with other dogs.

Owners/Dog Walkers not able to control the dog nominally under their charge. Usually because the dogs have never been properly trained in the first place. Dog training classes should be compulsory.

Not everyone likes to be jumped at by someone else's dog.

Question 13 does not cover dog types where someone could walk 4 very small dogs or 4 very large dogs where obviously 4 small dogs would be easier to manage

I have marked the above question relating to the walking and monitoring of dogs as 1-2 assuming that person is an owner/untrained person. I feel it is appropriate for trained and insured dog walkers to be in control of many more dogs than this.

People are clearly still letting their dogs foul in public places, on verges and pavements and not clearing up after them - there should be specific enclosed areas where dog owners can exercise their canine at a modest cost which is policed by staff/security to ensure they clean up their dogs faeces. An animals behaviour cannot be predicted and all dogs if off their lead and not in a specific enclosed exercise area for dogs should wear a muzzle. This would make children and people in general feel safer and prevent any unwanted and possibly life changing incidents. Dogs should not be allowed to bark continuously, be let out early in the morning and late at night which is what happens where I live. The dogs are just left in the garden for this to happen and are a constant nuisance 24 hours a day.. I do not have a dog nor do I like them and so why should I have to listen to someone elses at 2am in the morning! On a different note all together, there should also be similar regulations for cats. People have a cat and then let it roam and foul in everyone's else garden and there is no way to stop this. More importantly they are also the cause of road traffic accidents and the driver gets the blame when the cat should not be roaming anyway. In Australia they are bringing in a law that all cats should be home cats and not able to roam freely, which would be considerably safer.

I believe all dogs should be kept on leads whilst being walked unless they are in fenced off areas and are non aggressive. Too many people allow their off-lead dogs to approach children or dogs who are nervous. Also more dog bag receptacles should be provided.

More dog areas to be built dog parks which is quite common in the US.

It can be quite intimidating when you come across people with too many dogs. I really do not think people can control all the dogs. Dog walkers should be licensed, like the one I use. Our dog walker is insured, is inspected and the care our dog gets is amazing.

Fouling is increasing and becoming a menace are as out of control dogs, we need many more dog wardens and dog wardens and police responding to public concerns in an active manner. I have seen small dogs attacked by bigger ones with attacking dog owner totally unconcerned

Leave them alone. Spend my council tax on something else. This is the 2nd time this survey has been sent. Stop.

It does depend on how well behaved and in control the dogs are. I have seen one person with five dogs walking in total control recently and yet another time I've seen one person with one dog out of control; so it does depend. I have a nervous dog, kept on a lead and yet there are dog walkers who can not control their loose dog. I choose to take him to enclosed areas, specifically for dog exercise when I can. I often see dog owners on phones and ignoring what their dog is up to.

The shouting of dog owners, particularly early morning, causes a nuisance.

Dog fouling is the most urgent issue and at times a lack of bins

Dacorum needs more entirely dog-free zones for children and families to walk and play.

I don't think question 13 is fair as it is entirely subjective.

Most dog owners are thoughtful and considerate but a small minority spoil it for everyone. Dog owners should recognise not everyone loves dogs and that one person's 'playful' dog may be another person's nightmare.

As a responsible dog owner I have often come across and train dogs that show aggressive tendencies and seem to be hard to restrain by their owners who brush it off saying the dog is not aggressive it is quite gentle only wants to play. As I have own dogs (well trained) for many years I can see that they haven't got full control over their dogs and it is an accident waiting to happen having been attacked by a Rottweiler and having to defend my dog a few years ago I can see that this would be an extreme problem has it been a child walking a family pet. Dogs that are reported to behave in this manner should have a restraining order against them saying that they can only be taken out when muzzled

See above comment re professional dog walkers. This industry has exploded over the last few years. Walking 4 of your own dogs is very different to walking 4 owned by other people. I believe that professional dog walkers should be limited to 4-6 dogs per person. I don't believe there should be any restrictions on numbers for dogs being walked by their owners.

Councils should hold DNA for the dogs. Paid for by the owners and made to register them. No problem then in tracing offenders.

A golfer was attacked by a dog off the lead in private property at Berkhamsted golf club. Some dogs are off the lead when there is a notice that they should be on the lead at Berkhamsted golf club. Dogs defecate on grass verges in Chipperfield rd Kings Langley Dogs foul in fields off the Chipperfield rd, on a footpath but it is land used by cattle so fouling is a health hazard. The farmer has notices requesting walkers to pick up their dog poo.

Depends on the behaviour of the dogs how many can be walked together. Dog walkers often do more.

I live in Little Gaddesden and have witnessed dogs chasing and worrying deer

Big dogs should be muzzled

Provide more bins and teach your staff how to use common sense, most wardens take the job because they are small insignificant beings that crave power

The vast majority are very responsible and many even pick up other people's dog muck when it is somewhere that is likely to be trodden on.

Also depends on the size and strength of the dogs and if the Walker, and how much control the Walker has

There clearly is a problem with untrained, badly behaved and out of control dogs in the parks. It is now unusual to see well behaved dogs and considerate owners (they're in the minority). We almost need a national education programme on the basic responsibilities of dog ownership.

1. Reinstating dog bins would greatly reduce excuses (and discarded and rot proof bags) 2. Too many owners simply do not understand how to socialise their dogs (or not)- ask first! 3. Please publicise which bins are legal for dog waste- I never use general litter bins What about waste in garden- Are garden green bins legal??

Some people have no intention whatsoever in picking up dog poo and regularly walk their dog in the same area every day leaving poo on the pavement and park every single day and it is disgusting and spoils it for everyone else

Dogs are great

I feel there has been a relaxation of the rules on dog control and fouling over the past few years. It has become usual behaviour for some dog owners to regularly foul our streets and public spaces. I welcome any initiative that makes our streets safer and allows more enjoyment of our public open spaces.

It is concerning how many people with limited mobility take dogs with them. If you can't get out of a mobility vehicle easily how can you pick up after your dog? This needs some thought as one wouldn't want to penalise someone with a disability. Some runners will run with a dog alongside them. I have frequently had a dog run towards me whose owner is some way behind, the dog may be beautifully behaved but in the dark the runner is not able to see if the dog stops for a toilet break. I suspect most fouling is done in the early hours or after dark. Enforcement will not work if patrols don't consider this fact. There is a lack of disposal facilities in some areas, particularly Boxmoor Trust land. You can walk along Stoney Lane in Bovingdon to Bury Woods and there are no bins along that route. Basically some people are just lazy, I hate it when people come to a full bin and then hang the bag on the lead area or force it into an already full bin. The waste team should not have to pick up other peoples poop. You could do with making it more widely known that general waste bins are now okay for dog poop.

Non dog owner council members must not make rules for dog owners. No plastic bags should be taken on National trust land whether for faeces or for other use. You are creating a problem, not alleviating one with regards to force people to carry disposable plastic bags if you are walking a dog on National Trust land - and I'm not a dog owner!

The dog fouling around ebbens road and the paths up to Belswains Lane and the flats is out of control. It is a health hazard and owners should be responsible for clearing up on lose their right to own a dog.

When walking near children's play equipment it needs to be clearly marked with a 3 meter exclusion zone. Your appointed officers need to use common sense and not being paid or incentised by payments. They have been getting poor community feedback and this comes back to DBC.

Too many dog owners do not pick up after their dogs supposedly because the public footpath they use is in the countryside (Water End for example). Too many commercial dog walkers do not pick up after the dogs they look after making paths "treacherous" (off Dodds lane for example).

To question 13, it completely depends on how well the dogs are trained and the competency of the owner. There is a lady that runs though the Ashridge estate with over 9 dogs (off lead I might add) and they all do exactly as they are told, and yet you can have someone with no clue and 1 dog that causes no end of nuisance and is a liability. I would like dog on dog attacks to have some sort of consequence for the owners. Plenty of dogs around this area have been attacked and severely injured by other dogs, and yet no authority will do anything about it. I also think it should be easier to get help for dogs that are being mistreated. The dog warden should have more authority when it's clear that abuse or neglect are taking place. I've seen plenty of local Facebook posts about dogs being left out in all weathers, left to roam, kicked when walked etc. and yet the warden is restricted in what she can do about removing the dogs from harm and in what actions she can take against these so called owners.

Most dog owners seem to have their dogs off leads no matter where they are and just say it's ok he's friendly. The trouble is they jump up and get others dirty and the owners don't care they just say oh sorry. It's the same when bike riders are cycling and the dogs chase them, the dogs then go too far and once they owners eventually catch up they have a go at the bike riders for not stopping, when it's not their job or responsibility to. When in summer the dogs run over families especially when having picnics the owners don't rush to stop their pets they say sorry or that it's friendly. They have no cares for anyone with a fear of dogs either. Witness these things very regularly in Dacorum, all of this could be stopped if owners had to legally keep dogs on leads. The dogs mess is awful just seems to get worse every year, nothing works it seems.

Most owners are responsible, some feel their dogs are entitled to bother other people, and can be quite aggressive when asked to restrain their dogs.

If someone has more than 2 dogs they all need to be on a lead

Question 13 is highly dependent on the training of the dogs and the walker. Not sure if its a great question as it would also depend on where they are walking them, the size of dog and breed etc. Professional dog walkers for example would be comfortable with more than 2. Thanks again for addressing dog fouling, this is a really important topic that requires more education and enforcement. I think there is a need for dog owners to be better educated about owning dogs. Short of having a license to own a dog (which should be the case), if there could be a way of ensuring that new dog owners are pushed to attend classes or to learn about what is expected that would be fantastic.

Most owners are responsible. Don't make rules that would make dogs suffer due to there shitty owners. Dogs are like children they need to deplete thier energy some breeds need more exercise than others. Shame there are not more dogs parks.

I would like to see all dogs having to wear a muzzle in any public areas. This would not harm the dog but would greatly reduce anxiety in the many people who are wary of them.

i have experienced issues with cats fouling everywhere including residents gardens who do not own a cat they kill song birds and other wildlife, running across roads causing drivers to swerve. when is the council going to do something about them. i.e house cats only or must be walked on a lead like some other places do large parts of Australia enforce this very successfully.

Depending on the individual.

Most dog owners are happy to comply and are aware of the regulations, there will always be exceptions, some people who are new to dog ownership may not be aware of all the regulations but usually other owners will enlighten them. There are times when a dog may be out of sight and foul, this sometimes happens. Dogs that are aggressive to other dogs or potentially people, the owners need to keep them muzzled. In Gadebridge Park a couple of years ago a homeless man was living in the carpark for the best part of the week with an aggressive dog (Akita) that had attacked other dogs unprovoked, the dog was on a long lead or was off lead at the time, this happened several and complaints were made to the police but this owner and dog remained in the area for some time, concerning and frustrating other dog walkers and residents, we would do our best to avoid walking anywhere near it, the owner didn't care about other park users and clearly he wasn't deterred by the police warnings.

Dogs who are likely to jump up , nuzzle or lick strangers should be kept on a lead.

As a responsible dog owner I see both sides of the problem. The wardens should be more evident to stop owners who can't be bothered to pick up their dogs mess or indeed bag it and throw it on the floor or into a hedge. It's no good putting signs up and then not doing anything. Also do something about people who discard rubbish and don't put it in a bin. It's not just dog owners who ruin public spaces. Also cut the grass more often. Some parks are not cut until grass is up to nearly 4-6 inches long. It then becomes difficult to pick up the mess and some owners can then not be bothered.

Generally I believe dog owners to be responsible and the presence of dogs in our community to be a good thing. The emphasis should therefore be on proportionate management of the rare exceptions, rather than blanket bans etc.

Some dog walkers are walking way to many dogs they can not control them all and some are pooing and they did not even notice .

As dog owner my self I feel dogs should be kept on leads exercise on long leads safety of dogs and if dog dosent social very well for any reason a muzzle should put on safety of your dog and other dogs and for being responsible owner care safety love of your pet

Good luck enforcing this, you've done a bad job at it so far

Of course these measures are only good if they are enforced. They are absolutely pointless if not. Like many other things such as speeding, littering, bad parking and behaviour they are not. So I find the measures pointless without enforcement. Offenders will just laugh at them. Sounds good on paper and notices, but pointless without enforcement.

Being end house on XXXX and back on to football pitch. My lads club play all there games there up to under 18s. Dog mess is terrible. Plus no dog bins my side . As I have had a stroke my 3 bins are used by people as dog waste and the stress when confronted.

It entirely depends on the dog, who is walking then etc etc

Dog walkers with about 6 dogs off lead at the common

Larger dogs that are a bit hypo can cause distress to smaller dogs and other dog owners

Many owners fail to understand their responsibility for keeping, training and maintaining pets, and especially dogs while out in public places. The owners often need more training than the dog!

I have seen dog walkers with packs but the dogs are generally well behaved and seem pretty happy walking as a pack

No 13 very much depends on the individual walking the dogs and their level of experience and expertise.

This questionnaire is biased against dog walkers as is Dacorum Borough

Dogs in fields chasing sheep and deer, and chasing swans and geese by canals and reservoirs

I own multiple dogs who are under control and constant supervision when out for walks. They are not allowed to approach other people or their dogs as they have been trained so (we come from a show background so manners are instilled from a young age). We rarely go to heavily populated areas, such as Gadebridge park, as we find it too stressful and upsetting for our dogs especially when children/other dogs come up to them without our permission. There is also the risk they will pick up food/litter that has been left. Whilst I agree with a cap on how many dogs someone can walk at one time, you usually find people with multiple dogs have more control than most people with just one dog.

People need to be educated, specifically around the law and the dangerous dog act. In particular that if there dog is out of control and someone is upset by their dog they could get a very harsh sentence. I don't believe any of the walkers i see know this.

Again Licencing of all dogs is the only solution. Pass it thru the Parliament

If your a dog walker you need to be aware of all the dogs you have with you especially if meeting up with other dog walkers!!!

The amount of dogs an individual can walk/monitor is largely down to the owner being responsible and a good handler. I think the average person could do 1-2, however experienced dog owners may be more than capable of more. The biggest issue I find is dog fouling. We frequently walk over the farmland near where we live. The amount of faeces is disgusting and dangerous to the livestock, it seems the farmer has stopped putting them in certain fields for this reason.

It is most important that appropriate control of dogs in area where children play is enforced. It is also important to recognise that there are problems with dog fouling in grassy areas and on grass verges and pavements throughout the town.

There should be 3-4 dogs being walked on leads, owners whose dogs are running around to the side or behind them do not notice their dog fouling and walk off in front. They don't like it being mentioned and some become aggressive so the best policy would be to insist dogs are kept on a lead in public parks

Why as a dog owner am I not allowed to use the cafe in Gadebridge Park. This is clearly discrimination against dog owners. As a Dacorum rate payer I resent being told I cannot buy a coffee when I have my dog with me.

As above I was in a local park where dogs are taken for walks, I turned a corner to be confronted by three rottweilers. For a few seconds I was horrified and would not have stood a chance if attacked. A child or some others would panic and the dogs could also panic and attack. Separate large areas needed for dogs and general public for safety and hygiene. In large park areas make sure you put 2.5m paths all the way around perimeter and criss cross the center, this will give lots of good clean walking space that can be used the whole year round for all.

There seems to be increasing ignorance particularly from newer lockdown dog owners about keeping their dogs under control - letting them run up to other dogs who are on leads without checking whether the other dog is friendly and can cope. Just because their dog is fluffy and friendly doesn't justify them causing problems. Lots of dogs off lead in fields of livestock, with no control from owners - or comprehension that chasing sheep is dangerous. Re. Number of dogs one individual can monitor. I think a normal person, 2 or 3, whereas a professional, sensible, experienced dog walker with a balanced pack can manage 5 or 6

Since covid and the rise in dog ownership, I have noticed people with a dog do not appreciate that not everyone likes dogs. Walking alone when a dog bounds up to you can be frightening. The owner will always say "it is a friendly dog and won't hurt you" but even friendly dogs can turn nasty.

My daughter has been jumped on by a dog on the moor in Boxmoor. We regularly have to avoid piles of dog poo around the moor and pavements in Boxmoor

A physically fit person should be able take no more than two dog's out at one time, depending on size and the breed. However some dog owners have several dog's.

Please make some areas safe for dogs who want to be off lead It could be clearly marked to let non dog walkers know what's its main usage is and might allow more areas to be dog free. Dog walkers are people who mainly only want the best for their animals and happy to follow any regulations

Professional dog walkers I have seen walking between 6 and 10 dogs at one time off the lead Out of control it I'd quite ridiculous.

Above number depends on size of dogs.

No

All dog owners think everyone loves dogs and want to cuddle and make a fuss of them.

ALL DOGS MUST BE ON THE LEASH!!!

Most owners that I meet are very good with their dogs and it is only the few that spoil it for the rest of us, therefore I don't not want to see an increase of dog exclusion zones. I agree completely with the play areas, but would include areas like the football pitches at Gadebridge.

as a dog owner i am often upset about poor owners

Many owners seem incapable of understanding that not everyone likes dogs and some people are scared of them. They let their dogs run free, can't control them and let them jump up and put muddy paws on other people and don't stop them and if you protest just say it won't hurt you!

Most dog owners use their dogs as threats to others which is definitively inappropriate. The UK is the only country where I see dog owners using their dogs as weapons not as pet!!

depends on size of dog and physical condition of handler. Two German Shepherds are a handful for a fit adult male

I am a dog owner and have been for 25 years. I have recently come into contact with a number of dog owners who are not responsible. Their dogs are aggressive and should be muzzled or at least placed on a lead when around other dogs. This is not happening. Responsible dog ownership is about having control of your dog at all times and picking up after it and either taking the poo home to dispose of or placing it in appropriate bins.

Q13 is meaningless - two Great Dane puppies would be harder to control than six or eight elderly Corgis - also the age and skill of the human(s) is relevant

Question 13 really depends on how well the dogs are behaved/trained, the number would differ depending on the dogs and the walkers ability. One size/rule does NOT fit all situations.

Professional dog walkers can have far too many dogs to control properly. Not enough action taken against owners of dogs that seriously attack other dogs, there seems to be little interest unless a human is seriously injured. The reasonable amount of dogs question is difficult to answer because there are owners with several dogs who have them well trained and under control but equally there are owners who don't control a single dog well.

Dog Fouling- there are not enough bins for owners to deposit their dogs mess. On the manor estate (areas behind Shearwater Road) there is only 1 bin-which is full most of the time. This is popular walking route with most of the neighbourhood walk their dogs around there. If you want to resolve the dog fouling issue placing more bins in popular areas will give owners no reason to leave behind their dogs mess.

No

If the dogs are well behaved I think 3-4 is OK but will depend on the dog.

dogs should be required to be on leads on any public footpath

How can this disgusting habit of hanging poo bags in trees be stopped?

it depends on the size of the dogs. If they are large to medium then 1-2 if the are small dogs the 3-4

It depends on the degree of control the person has over the dogs under their control

I am concerned by dogs in pubs sometimes. Some owners just let them off the leash and leave them to roam in the pub. I've seen them sniffing round food etc. on tables and this is a hygiene risk at the very least.

No just that there should designated enclosed dog parks.

Comments as before. Additionally, it's all well and good having these rules but they need to be enforced. Particularly dogs off lead and dogs around children's play areas e.g. Gadebridge

They should be made responsible for clearing up after their dogs

Advice for residents on how to effectively report dog fouling, or how best to capture and submit evidence of it to authorities (so action can be taken, and be seen to be taken) would be massively helpful "Max fine of £x,xxx" signs are good. But it's obvious that offending owners don't think they have any real chance of being caught, so continue offending without further thought for the impacts they're having in the neighbourhood, or that their actions constitute antisocial behaviour. Thank you for listening.

Dogs continue to foul on Belmont Road without the owner/ carer clearing the mess leaving it for residents to remove- children stepping in it as in the middle of pavement

More then one dog is instantly a pack. And can attack another dog.

Maybe the council should consider some dog only parks for dog walking

Dog fouling is particularly bad around Belmont road and stonelea road

Dogs fouling and owners not picking it up is a continuous problem in Belmont Rd.

Please do not penalise good dog owners .. there are more good ones than bad.. it's a handful which are a problem.

Dogs running up to people.

This is all very anti dog, I would like to see some comma around dog etiquette. Meet lots of new dog owners who are ignorant of basic dog walking manners - don't just let you're dog run up to other dogs who are on lead, if you haven't got a good recall keep your dog on a lead. It would also be nice if there were more enclosed dog spaces like the park in Apsley.

Dogs being allowed off lead in public areas (such as our local park) when the dog has no recall. I would like to note, dog fouling does not seem to be a problem in the places we go for walks. I am very impressed by the amount of doggy waste bins around the area.

my main concern is professional dog walkers with in excess of 6 dogs, often with half of them off lead. Can't possibly have proper control. Also not picking up poop from these dogs - some areas regularly used by professional walkers extremely unpleasant due to this problem - eg walk from Dodds Lane, Pickotts End. Unfortunately, there also seems to be a lot of "lockdown" dogs which did not get adequate socialisation/training during pandemic and their owners do not seem to understand how to control their dogs in open spaces shared with other dogs. No understanding of dog behaviour and how this affects their dog's interaction with other dogs. I often see people walking their dogs off lead on busy roads - this is highly dangerous both for dog and other road users. Incorrect use of flexi leads - where lead is fully extended on a busy road.

Although dog fouling is very unpleasant, so is littering, possibly more so. Please can you also focus on this. I recently saw one of the Dacorum green and clean employees drop his cigarette but on the pavement.

There are some people who think they can do what they want and are aggressive when approached. However this dog control policy is a very good idea as it will help to some extent.

Regarding question 13 it may depend on the size and breed of the dog as well as the physical characteristics of the walker.

Surely it depends on the dogs and the person?

Hanging plastic bags of dog faeces on bushes or other places and not disposing of them properly.

How many dogs a person is in control of depends on the dogs behaviour. One person could have control of 10 well behaved dogs but may not have control of one badly behaved dog

More bins please as a lot more dogs in area now

I have two dogs and can honestly say even that can sometimes be challenging to truly manage if a dangerous situation arises. However, I think 3 possibly 4 dogs if one of them is your own can be managed depending on their personalities.

I could control a pack of 7 dogs aged 14 . I think it depends on the level of training and the individual how many dogs they can control. To blanket number is ridiculous. To blanket ban people from letting their dogs offlead in fields or woodlands in an area as huge as you have is ridiculous. If someone's dog bites another dog punish them only and not every other dog owner. I think the people littering the town needs to be tackled more than dog mess at least dog mess is biodegradable.

I have come across many owners walking their dogs and many dog walkers walking groups of dogs in Dacorum. More often than not I have more of a problem with the solo walkers dog not having recall and pestering me and my two dogs. Owners lack awareness & are far too laid back, I often get "my dog is friendly" whilst failing to retrieve their dog from running over and bothering me and my dogs. Dog walkers on the other hand are often very respectful & will walk in areas away from the general public & move out of the way if they see you approaching. Professional walkers will have groups of dogs together that they know and can control, I don't necessarily think it is about the amount of dogs in their control as walkers should know their own individual limits and dogs behaviour and temperaments.

I would say 3/4 if not all off the lead at the same time. Large dogs often get blamed for retaliation when smaller dogs run up and bark or attack them. One of my labradors was attacked by two jack Russell's running up to her and attacking her, when she defended herself I was shouted at by the owner, my dog did not go up to them and I had to pull her off. My point here is if a dog is large or small it should not be let off lead if the owners cannot recall.
Stricter policy on dog walkers and the number of dogs they can walk
I think dog licences should be reintroduced. Dog training should be compulsory, and a certificate issued.
The number of dogs depends on the owner and the dogs
I am a dog walker who takes out a maximum of 3 dogs. More than this and it is impossible to pick up their poo or be in complete control. I would welcome a County wide maximum number of dogs per person. I often see people with 6+ dogs, who never have bags for the dog bin at the end of their walk.
It depends on the individual how many they control or monitor. I think only professional dog walkers should walk more than 3.
99% of dog walkers are very considerate and behave appropriately.
The majority of owners and dogs are fine, it is the minority that cause a problem.
Lots of " professional " dog walkers taking too many dogs at one time and can't possibly control them all
Just the aggressive behaviour if owners if you ask them to put their dog on a lead if its bothering my on lead dog. Yelling, its friendly, from a large distance away doesn't help matters
As above, just mainly concerns with dog walkers. Since the lock down there is now double if not treble the amount of dog owners who need dog walkers, I do believe they should be excluded from certain popular dog walking spots like Bunkers Park/Boxmoor etc and go to quieter locations with no so many dog walkers, so many problems
Generally they are fine occasional bad apples let down the crowd.
I think question 13 depends on the person walking the dogs, the breed of the dog and how well they have been trained
I suspect off lead dogs are more likely to be fouling on pavements (and towpaths)- as owners aren't always paying as close attention and not watching them/picking up after them. We really need more bins, especially close to fields where dogs are typically walked, as this will prevent some of the issues of bags being left on the ground
As I said above, people with dogs that let them come bounding up to you, I, I had a nasty fall due to this and was very shaken and bruised . I wont walk over the halsey wildlife area now because I'm scared, which is wrong, i should be able to enjoy walking my dogs. I'm 65 and exercise is good for me, would be better in a lovely countryside environment.
I will change direction to avoid off lead dog when it's owner is concentrating on their phone. I ask politely that they call dog back if it insists on following us but often ignored or their dog has no recall
Dog poo on the pavements in Tring is becoming more frequent.
Any offence should only be prosecuted if there is accompanying body cam video footage.
All large breeds should be muzzled when off the lead in public.
Clear restrictions on the use of 'Extender Leads' in public places, on footpaths and pedestrian areas.

Some dog owners seem to think it's ok for dogs to be 'friendly' & jump up on people. My son & sister have large dogs so i'm familiar with them but they are well trained & would never do that with a stranger. The tables are turning but people & children must come before dog owners freedom to behave however they like. Before lockdown professional Dog walkers seemed to have taken over Boxmoor common & it became quite unpleasant.

Some dog owners with dogs off the lead allow them to jump up at people. They may not be dangerous but it is not pleasant.

There is a big difference between dog owners and dog walkers which this survey does not address: a dog owner should be able to control all dogs in their ownership because they are the pack leader. A dog walker probably will not be able to control all dogs, even if they are on a lead, because they are not the pack leader. There should be different rules for owners and walkers, with more stringent rules for dog walkers.

I'm really pleased that Dacorum is taking seriously the nuisance that some dogs, and some dog-owners, cause for lots of local residents. Renewing this PSPO is a good start, and then putting robust enforcement measures into place will help.

dog owners should obviously clear up after, but there needs to be lots more bins around

I think the most important thing is legislation which allows owners to be asked to put their dogs on leads if they are not under their control. Also dogs on leads in certain areas for example where children are playing would perhaps be more useful than complete exclusion around play equipment

I have a concern FOR dog owners where football teams (& individuals) leave food & drink rubbish which dogs can pick up and eat and in some circumstances make them unwell. Also motorbike racing across fields where dog owners walk their dogs with no concern for the safety of the dogs or their owners.

Please see complaints already lodged with Dacorum about the person occupying Church Road. I have ridden on commons and woods and come across professional dog walkers with up to 5 dogs which the person was struggling to control. Once dogs get into these sort of numbers the pack mentality kicks in and they can behave very differently and can be difficult to control. Another classic example of this are the Canny runners. The horses react to the baying and excited hormones being released as though it was a pack of wolves and their flight instinct kicks in. Half a ton of horse bolting is not a safe situation for anyone. Although I should add that they do try now to be considerate around horses.

Most dog owners in Tring behave very responsibly.

I believe that there are strong arguments for reintroducing mandatory paid-for dog licences for every dog, of two kinds. First, one that is valid for the first six month of dog ownership; second, one that is only available if the dog owner can demonstrate their ability to control their dog(s). During the last 6 months there has been a noticeable increase in dog excrement on pavements in Hemel Hempstead, something that used to be very common, but has been almost completely absent for the last 10-15 years.

An owner can handle more dogs on lead safely than off lead.

I feel that the length of lead is an issue. Where dogs are exercised on or near footpaths they should be on a short lead and not on one of the extending types. Also the disposal of 'poo bags' in the environment and not in an allocated bin is a real problem.

I would like you to a question to ask about the benefits. Stop looking for negatives. There are many positives. There are two sides to everything. Have you seen families with dogs able to all come out and play together? have you seen children get to pet dogs who do not have any of their own? have you seen children who have learnt about animals and how to care for them from their owner? have you seen how much joy and smiles the dogs have created in your local park? Has your dog been able to meet and socialise with other dogs? have you been able to walk your dog more since the park became more inclusive?

3-4 if the dogs are on leads 1-2 if the dogs are not on leads One particular owner who lives nearby quite often lets their dog out of the house unsupervised. The dog will roam about the local area, often fouling. The owner is not present to clear up the mess.

I am a dog owner and religious about picking up my dogs business - unless stick and flick is appropriate. There are still a number who don't. I haven't seen them as I would tell them, but there are still too many dog faeces around.

Dogs to be chipped and registered

q 13 is subjective ..I have 3 small dogs and can handle them, but would I be able to control 3 large dogs or 1 large dog ?!!! I have seen able-bodied people unable to handle 1 dog .

They need training more than their dogs...

Dogs should be on leads in car parks . Especially at Bridgwater monument

The answer to question 13 is unsubstantiated and hard to enforce. It would depend on the nature, breed, temperament, and how they interact with others. However I would consider anything above 5 to be too much for 1 handler.

Signs at dog foul bins which more prominently say to take your bags home when the bin is full or ask them to report the full bin.

Most owners I have observed are reasonably behaved. Dogs peeing up ornamental trees which are taken into shops at night seems wrong. It's difficult to control dogs peeing in front of shops in towns but should be discouraged.

If there are deer around dogs should not be let off their leads as the behaviour I have witnessed has shown that once a dog starts to chase a deer the dog owner has no control over the dog whatsoever. I had the extremely upsetting experience of watching two dogs attacking an injured deer with the owners calling ineffectually in the distance.

Generally most dog owners are really good in their manner and behaviour when walking their dogs and collecting any excrement thereafter, but it is the minority of owners who appear to think or believe that they are not responsible for their actions, which causes the issues.

We met an aggressive dog that jumped up to a small child - out of control

Dogs must have responsible owner and be under the control of an adult whether on or off the lead.

Whilst I am NOT a dog owner, I have not much fear of dogs on leads; however, dog owners seem to assume that other folk MUST be dog tolerant and allow their pets to leap-up (even on leads). Also, often owners walk their dogs on very long (adjustable length) leads so the pet can run into the road whilst the owners remain on the pavement, tethered to their dog.

Please remind the public- especially dog owners- of the rules about dogs

I am concerned about the practice of some dog owners who pick up their dogs' faeces, put it in a bag and then leave the bag on the ground or hang it from a tree or bush.

Dog frequently seen in town without collar or tag which I believe is a legal requirement .

I have a dog and when chatting to other dog owners I regularly hear reports of aggressive dogs that have not been controlled and no action had been taken to address this. It is a worry when I am out walking my small dog it makes me quite wary of loose dogs and certain dog breeds such as Staffordshire bull terriers. I have also noticed that dog fouling pavements and park areas is worsening. I often see piles that have not been picked up giving all dog owners a bad name.

They can be threatening when offering dog poo bags. Dogs owners should be licensed, registered and be held responsible for dog fouling and aggressive dog behavior. What should the public do when they see antisocial behavior in regards to their dogs and dog fouling? We need enforcement of any dog fouling laws. I have lived in Gadebridge, Hemel Hempstead for over 30 years and this topic has gotten worse along with littering in the hedging, Spring Valley Playing Fields, Gadebridge. Are there any enforcement officers, if so, what are their powers, when are they policing the areas etc.?

Owners need to recognise when a dog is on lead they should keep their dog away until the other party has confirmed all is OK.

I have been attacked by a Japanese Fighting Dog who floored me and tried to get to my very small dog, I was able to get up and eventually get away from the animal this was opposite side to me on canal by Stephenson Wharf, this was reported. My main concern is lack of dog bins from Hempstead Road through to London Road and Apsley.

If requested by member of public dog owners should put their dog on a lead - the same as if asked by policeman or authorised officer

Question 13 I think depends on the dogs and their level of training and also the dog walker and their level of experience/training

Tarring every owner with the same brush is unexpected

I also object to moving flow of river Gade as again there is even less park to walk my dog, the other side of the river is exposed to a very busy and dangerous fast moving road and I therefore will need to walk on the swing park side of the park- no doubt forces into your stupid exclusion zone

None of the above. The majority of dog owners are considerate, well behaved and act in the interests of the community. The way dacorums third party "environmental agents" (security thugs) behave is the problem and is detrimental to our community.

I think we should have more dedicated dog spaces for dogs to exercise off the lead. In Hemel we only have a tiny park near Duttrants Road. The council needs to think of positive encouraging ideas as well as fines. The council has a poor record of discouraging dog fouling in residential areas. This is a real menace. Catching someone in the act is hard unless you stalk them in town. The council should be doing more to educate and enforce in residential streets. You can't reduce dog fouling across Dacorum with a handful of town based officers.

See above.

I have witnessed dog owners walking their dog after dark and when their dog fouls the pavement, they do not pick it up as they assume nobody has seen it.

Dogs off the lead Every one is not comfortable with dogs when we see a dog off the lead naturally we get scared, The owners always tell us don't worry it's a very friendly dog. We are strangers for their dogs when they come closer to us we get we scared of them. Once my son ran away the dog also ran after him and he felled down the stairs. Then the owner said you shouldn't run he is friendly.

My response to Q.13 is based upon an averaged sized dog. Two very large dogs would be the maximum too, or six tiny ones.

Dogs and dog owners are not number 1.