

Advanced Questions relating to the PSPO – Keep your dog on a lead in Tilgate Park raised by Cllr Tina Belben – Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Commission and responses by Cllr Chris Mullins – Portfolio Holder for Wellbeing

Qu 1) Have considered what other councils are doing regarding this . I know Horsham's Southwater Park, similar size to Tilgate, is strict ALL dogs on leads April to September but Banstead / Tandridge and Mid Sussex both have PSPO whereby Dogs owners have to put on a lead if requested by authorised official . Walthamstow have one area in their Lloyd park where dogs are allowed off lead for No Charge whatsoever .

Ans 1) A PSPO is specific to each individual area aimed at addressing concerns highlighted at a local level, each District and Borough would have their own reasons for introducing a PSPO or additional measures as necessary. Some research was undertaken in the early stages regarding the wording of a PSPO where it became apparent that responses varied greatly dependant on the challenges being faced.

Qu 2) Which brings me on to option 4 this is your preferred option . Does this implied that dogs can be exercised off leads in the woods and THAT it will not be a formal Hound Pound that has a Charge for its access.

Ans 2) Outside of the restricted area, dogs can be exercised off lead. There will still be a hound ground that people can pay to use, this is aimed at those who want/need to exercise their dog off lead but in a secure area, with exclusive use.

Qu 3) Have we given the managers of the golf course enough time to reply as their stance on this could be interesting for Members to know before deciding what the Commission thinks is the best option to recommend to Cabinet.

Ans 3) The golf course were sent a letter via email regarding the proposed PSPO and consultation. The following statement has been received from Glendale's General Manager at Tilgate Golf Club;

Thank you for your email. As we discussed our position is based on two factors which are the overall safety of both players and the wider public and secondly the playing experience of our customers.

The issue of dogs being off the leads clearly does impact on both of the above whilst on the playable areas of the course. We do however not have any reason to take issue with dogs off leads on the perimeter pathways as these are a sufficient distance away from any possible danger from golfing activities.

I hope this clarifies our position.

Qu 4) Does 5.7 contain all the consultation dataas I have had members query this.

Ans 4) Yes, a copy of the consultation can be provided, if required.

Qu 5) The statistics are also vital about the numbers of incidents but perhaps be good to know are these rising ?and How our numbers compare to national stats ?

Ans 5) In 2021 there were 10 formal reports involving dogs off leads in Tilgate Park. Between 2018 – 2021 there were 22 dog related reports made to Sussex Police. The severity of each incident is an important consideration regarding the proposal, alongside the actual number of reports.

Qu 6) Did we set up a web link where residents can easily report incidents as recommended by OSC in January?

Ans 6) A 'report it' function specifically relating to the PSPO will be investigated if the PSPO is introduced. Current dog related activity is reported directly to the Community Wardens and residents are also encouraged to report such incidents to Sussex Police and are provided with the relevant information at such time.

Qu 7) What was the response from the Police over the proposed PSPO?

Ans 7) Sussex PCC response – *this was considered and there were no issues.*

Sussex Police response – *Nothing further to feedback*