

**A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY BOARD  
WAS HELD ON 8 MARCH 2017 AT 6PM**

*Subject to approval*

The Mayor (Councillor Mrs Hook) (ex-officio), Councillor Hook (ex-officio) (P), Councillors Mrs Batty (P), Bateman (P), Burgess (P), Earle (P), Mrs Huggins (P), Hylands (P) Mrs Jones (P), Miss Kelly (P), Mrs Morgan (P), Murphy (P), Ronayne (P), Scard (P), Mrs Wright (P), Wright (P)

**30. APOLOGIES**

There were none.

**31. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY BOARD HELD ON 25 JANUARY 2017**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting of the Community Board held on 25 January 2017 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

**32. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**33. DEPUTATIONS**

A deputation had been received on Item 6 of the agenda.

**34. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no public questions.

**PART II**

**35. DOG CONTROL PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER**

Consideration was given to a report and addendum of the Borough Solicitor which advised the Community Board of the responses received to the consultation exercise on the proposed Public Spaces Protection order (PSPO) for the control of dogs (Dog PSPO).

Mr Forehead was invited to address the Board and advised Members that he was a professional dog trainer based in Cooperage Green. Mr Forehead thanked the Council for their willingness to listen to members of the public throughout the consultation process and advised that he welcomed most of the proposals and that they did please the majority of people.

Mr Forehead advised the Board that it was well documented that dogs played an important role in people's lives and provided companionship. Mr Forehead added that most responsible dog owners had at one time or another picked up other irresponsible dog owners dog faeces and felt that as a Council more engagement was required to educate people. Mr Forehead further added that he felt Gosport Borough Council failed to show a visible presence to deter people from not picking up their dog faeces.

In conclusion, Mr Forehead asked that the Council look into schemes to promote dog ownership so that people could enjoy open spaces and encourage the town to be dog friendly, which he felt would create extra tourism.

Members were advised by the Legal Officer that there was nothing further to add to the report however an addendum had been circulated which highlighted some further changes to Appendix A. These changes were:

- Paragraph 3.3 would now read: "Not being aware of the defecation or not having a device for or suitable means to removing the faeces shall not be a reasonable excuse for failing to remove it"
- Paragraph 8.1 (a) to now read: "he has a reasonable excuse for doing so".

A Member queried what policing would be in place to enforce the new proposals and the Chairman of the Board advised that Gosport Borough Council Enforcement Officers would visit problematic areas more frequently and issue fixed penalty notices to people caught in the act of not picking up faeces. The Chairman further added that members of the public could work with the Council and contact streetscene at any time to report instances of dog fouling.

Following a question regarding responses received from non-dog owners on the maximum number of dogs to be taken on a lead the Legal officer advised that this breakdown had not been collated.

The Chairman of the Board advised that the Council had listened to members of the public and were happy for dogs to be permitted in local areas and only excluded from enclosed children's play areas which had fixed playing equipment or apparatus installed. He further advised that the general consensus of the consultation had indicated that members of the public were happy with the proposed plan to restrict the number of dogs a person may exercise at any one time from six to four.

A Member raised concerns with the proposal to restrict the number of dogs that a person was allowed to exercise and stated that different dogs had different temperaments and that there should be no arbitrary number to the controlling of dogs. He therefore proposed an amendment to the report as follows:

That any person when exercising or walking a number of dogs would be required to have sufficient control, such that the dogs did not represent a danger or cause harm to themselves, the person walking the dogs or other members of the public. This proposal was seconded.

Following the proposed amendment a discussion took place and it was felt by Members that a balance was needed in order to protect both the public and dog owners. It was also recognised that Gosport was a high density populated area and that 1 in 4 households were dog owners. It was further discussed that encouragement should be given to dog walking to improve health and wellbeing.

Following Members debate a Member put forward a proposed amendment to the report as follows:

That Gosport Borough Council investigates the possibility of an education scheme for responsible dog ownership

Members took a vote on the first amendment and this was subsequently lost.

Members took a vote on the second amendment and it was subsequently agreed that investigations take place to support a dog education scheme.

Councillor Hylands asked for it to be noted that although he agreed with the other proposals suggested, he could not agree to the restriction to the maximum number of dogs a person may exercise at any one time.

**RESOLVED:** That the Community Board:

- notes the responses received in response to the consultation exercise on the proposals for a Dog PSPO.
- adopts a Dog PSPO commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2017 for a period of three years (in the form of Appendix A) with the same dog control measures proposed in the consultation save:
  - i. dogs shall be only excluded from sports pitches whilst in use for organised events;
  - ii. dogs shall only be excluded from enclosed children's play areas which have fixed playing equipment or apparatus installed NB this shall not extend to local areas for play;
  - iii. there shall be no requirement for a person in charge of three or more dogs to keep no more than two off lead at any one time
- The Borough Solicitor shall have delegated authority to take the necessary steps for the Dog PSPO to take effect including publicity requirements and correction of any clerical errors; and
- Investigates an education scheme for responsible dog ownership.

### **36. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business

The meeting concluded at 18:38

CHAIRMAN