

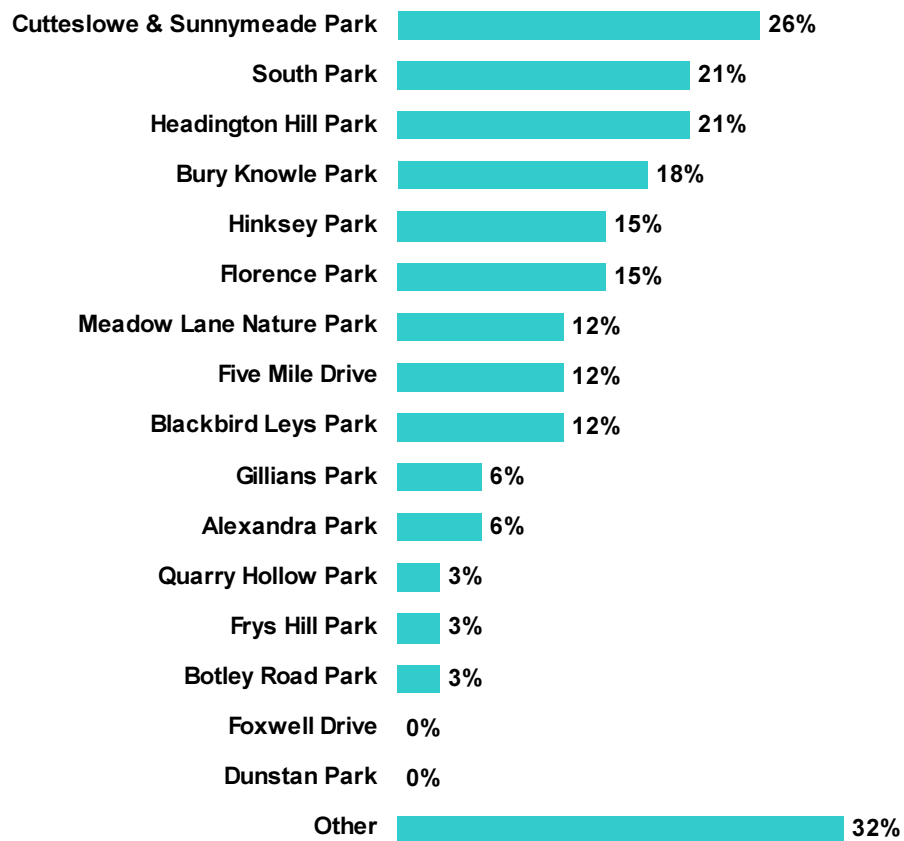
## Appendix 1 – Summary of Consultation Responses

### Talk Back Survey Results

Overall, 14% of Talkback panellists confirmed that they own a dog. Of dog owners, over two-thirds said that they use a local park to walk their dog/s (69%).

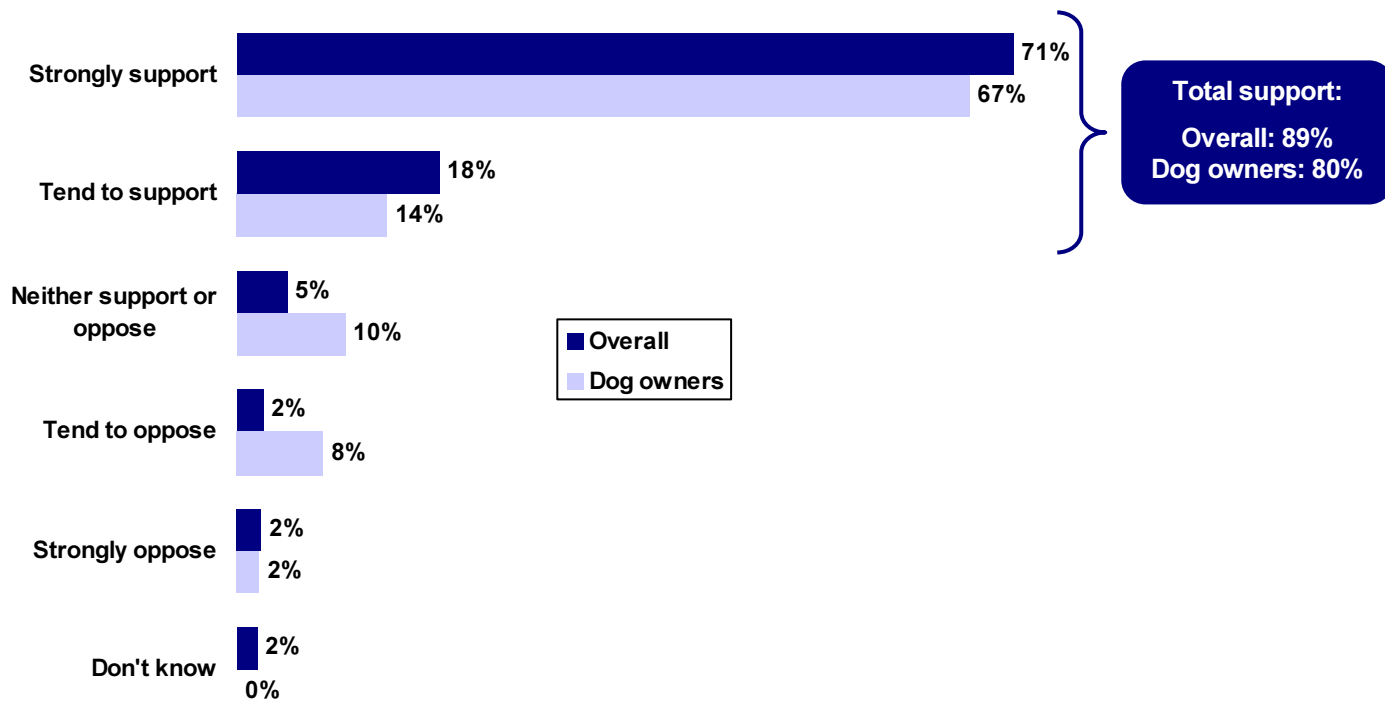
The most popular park for dog owners to use is Cutteslowe and Sunnymede Park (26% of dog owners use this), Headington Hill Park (21%) and South Park (also 21%).

**Fig 23 Local parks used by residents to walk their dogs (Q1b)** *Percentage of respondents who own a dog and use a local park to walk them, stating they use each park (1b)*



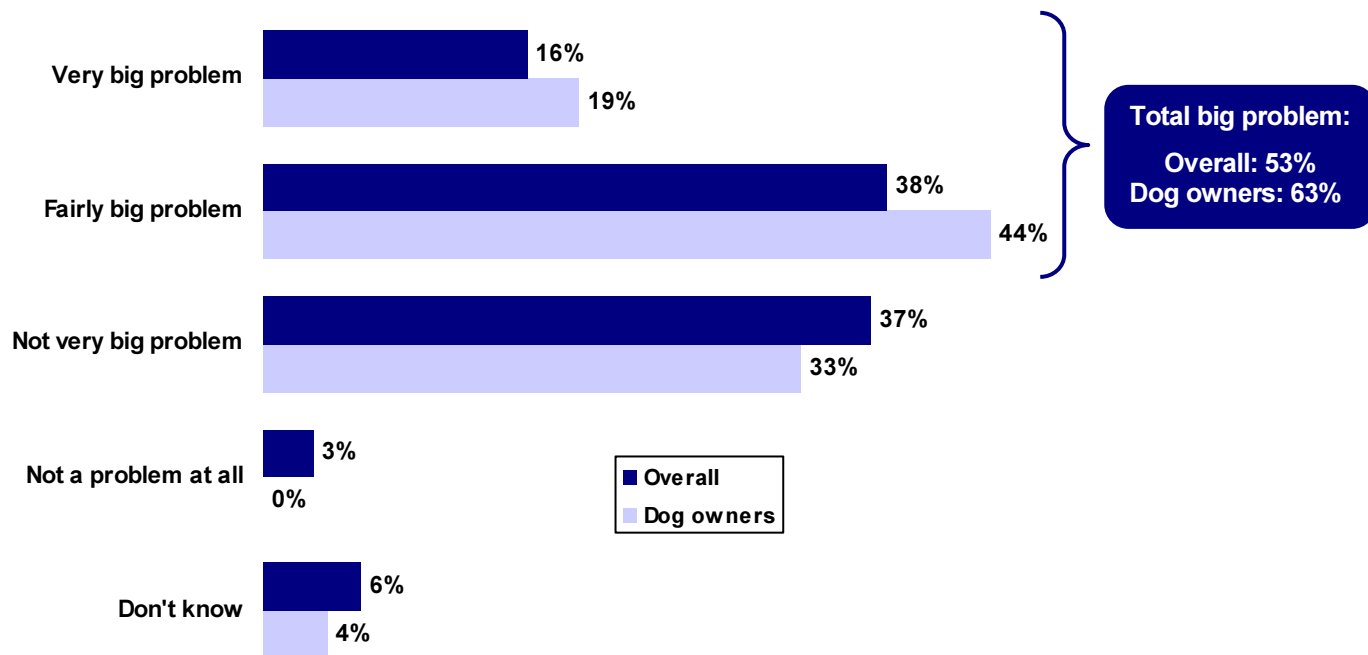
Overall, 89% of residents support the proposal to increase the fine for dog fouling from £50 to £80. 71% said that they 'strongly' support this proposal. Amongst the dog owners, overall support was 80% for this proposal.

**Fig 24 Level of support for increasing the fine for dog fouling from £50 to £80 (Q2)** *Includes 'Don't know' responses (Q2)*



Despite this, just over one half of residents said that they thought dog fouling was either a very or fairly big problem in the city (53%). Dog owners were more likely to say that dog fouling is a problem (63%).

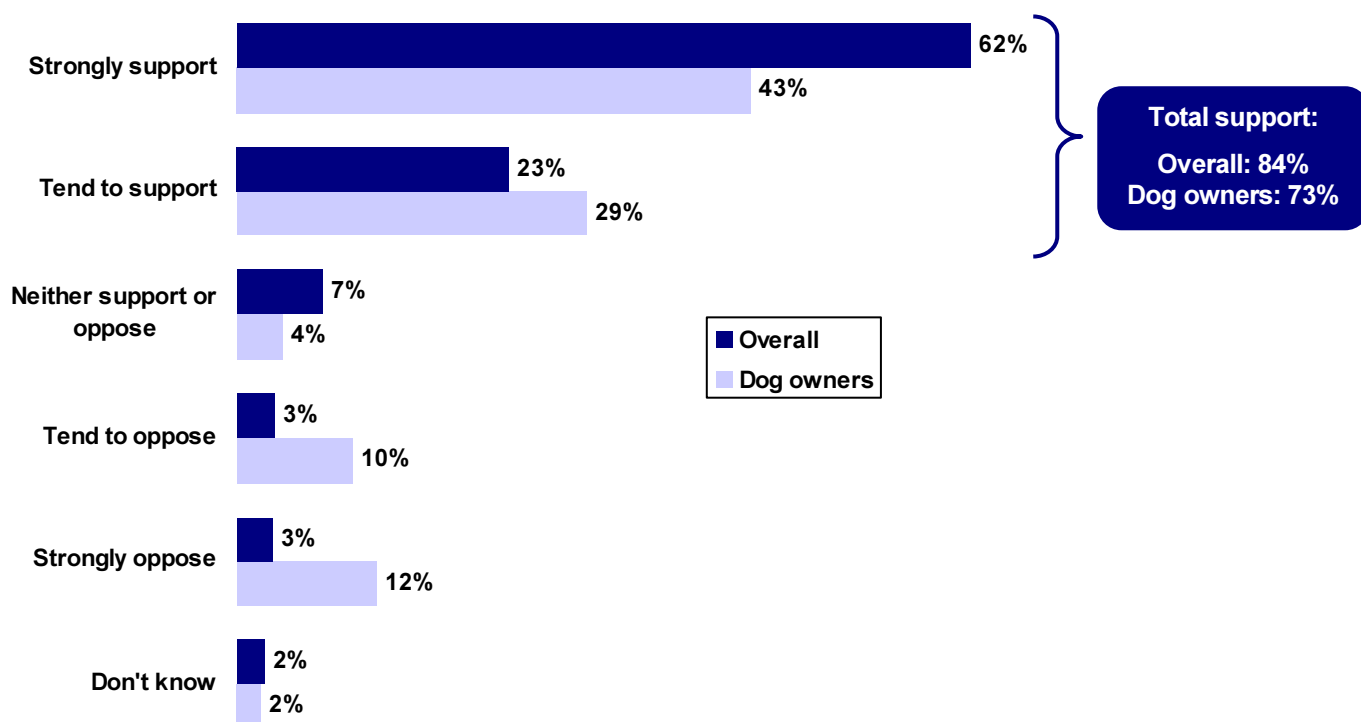
**Fig 25 Extent to which residents consider dog fouling to be a problem in Oxford (Q3)** *Includes 'Don't know' responses (Q3)*



There was also strong support amongst the general population for the proposal to give authorised officers the power to request that a dog to be put on a lead. 84% of all residents said that they support this proposal, with 61% stating that they ‘strongly’ support it. 73% of dog owners said that they support this proposal, and just 43% said they ‘strongly’ supported it.

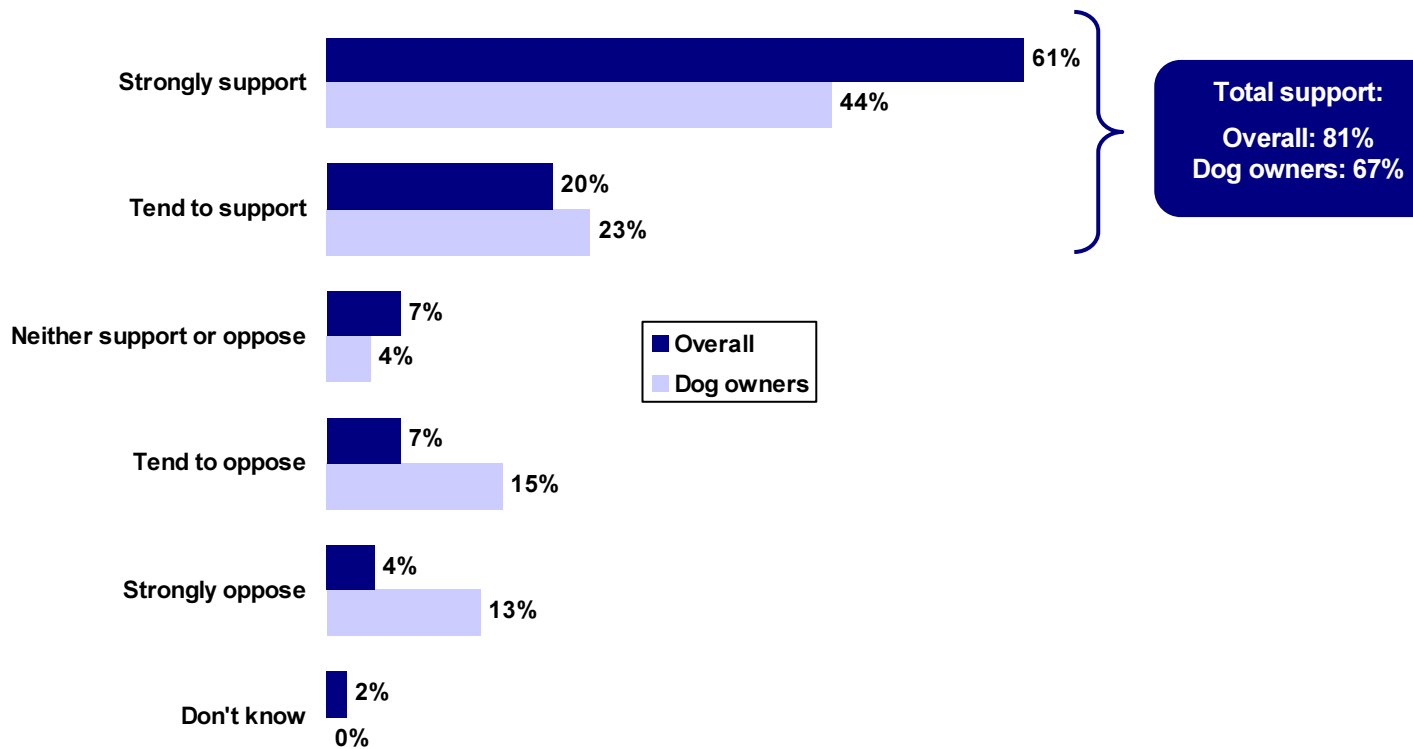
**Fig 26 Level of support for giving authorised officers the powers to request a dog(s) be put on a lead(s) (Q4)**

*Includes ‘Don’t know’ responses (Q4)*



Support levels were also broadly similar for the proposal to ban dogs from children’s play areas (81% of residents support this, with 61% saying that they ‘strongly’ support it). Two-thirds of dog owners (67%) were supportive of this proposal.

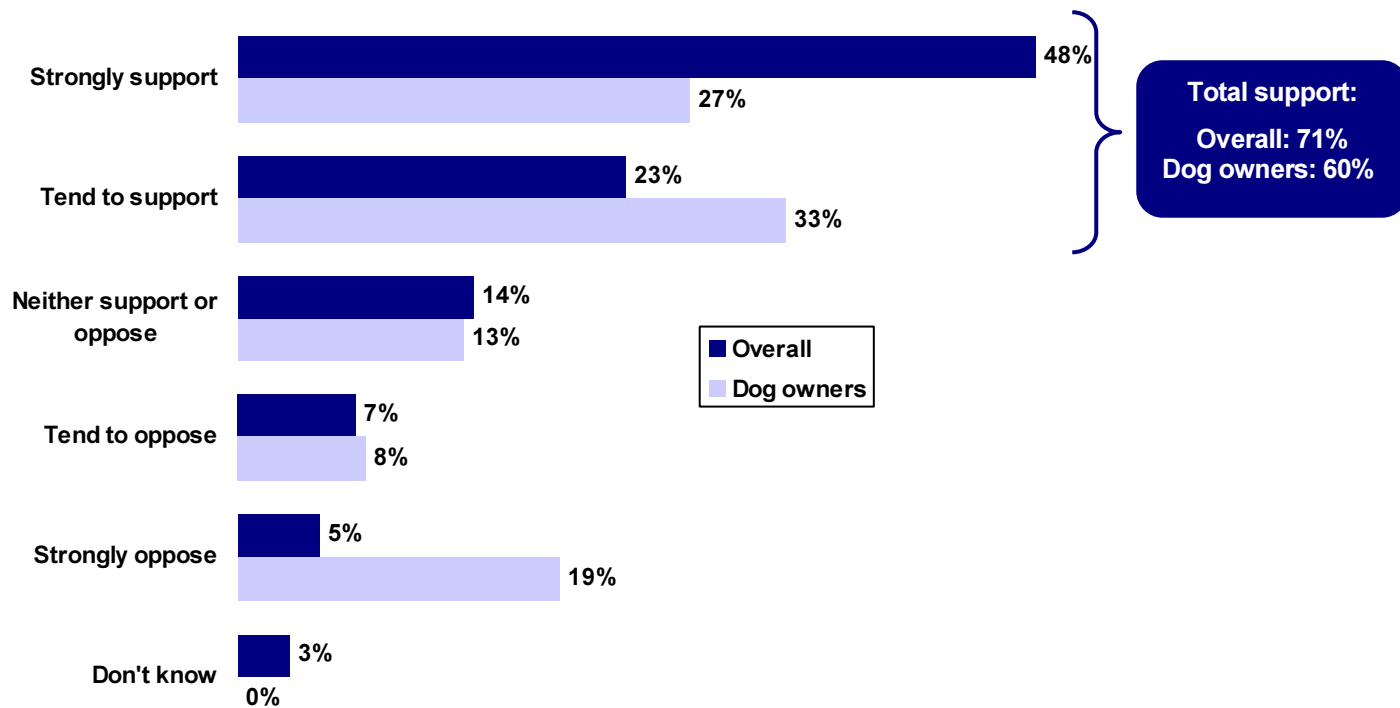
**Fig 27 Level of support for proposals to ban dogs from children’s play areas (Q5)** *Includes 'Don't know' responses (Q5);*



Relatively speaking, support for the proposal to limit the maximum number of dogs that any one person can be in charge of in public was more modest. 71% of all residents said they support this proposal, with less than one half (48%) stating that they 'strongly' support this idea. Support amongst dog owners was even more modest (60% overall and 27% strongly in support)

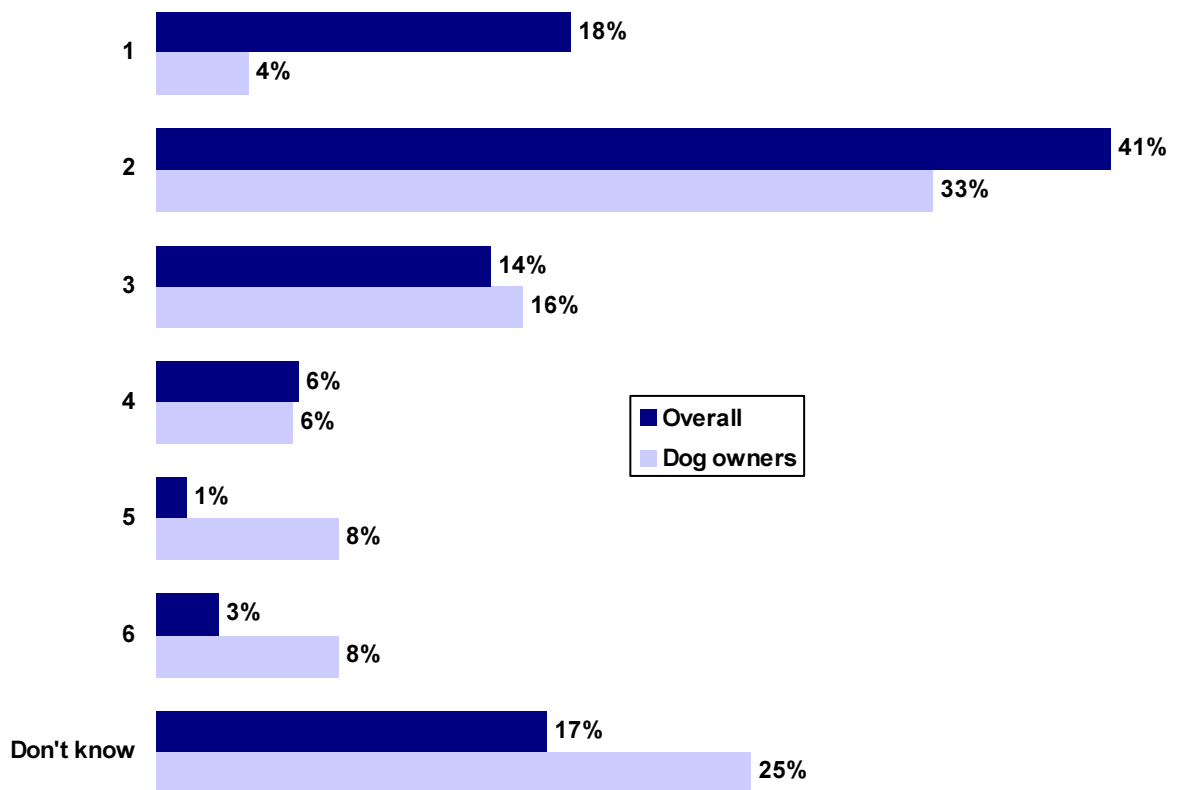
**Fig 28 Level of support for proposals to limit the maximum number of dogs any one person can be in charge of in public (Q6)**

*Includes 'Don't know' responses (Q6);*



A follow up question asked people what they thought should be the maximum number of dogs any one person can be in charge of in public. One half of residents who gave a valid answer, said they thought two dogs should be the maximum (49%), 21% said it should be one dog, and 17% said it should be three dogs.

**Fig 29 Maximum number of dogs residents think any one person can be in charge of in public (Q)** *Includes 'Don't know' responses (Q7)*



## Online Consultation Summary Results

This page shows the summary of the responses that have been received.

### 1A

Do you own a dog(s)?

Yes 50% (34)

No 50% (34)

### 1B

If yes, do you use a local park to walk your dog(s)?

Yes 74% (29)

No 26% (10)

### 1C

If yes, which park(s) do you use?

Alexandra Park 1% (1)  
Blackbird Leys Park 1% (1)  
Botley Road Park 1% (1)  
Bury Knowle Park 8% (7)  
Cuttleslowe & Sunnymede Park 17% (14)  
Dunstan Park 1% (1)  
Five Mile Drive 1% (1)  
Florence Park 11% (9)  
Foxwell Drive 0% (0)  
Frys Hill Park 1% (1)  
Gillians Park 0% (0)  
Headington Hill Park 12% (10)  
Hinksey Park 7% (6)  
Meadow Lane Nature Park 6% (5)  
Quarry Hollow Park 2% (2)  
South Park 14% (12)  
Other (please specify) 15% (13)

### 2

The fine for dog fouling at the moment is £50. We are considering increasing this to £80 so that it is in line with litter fines. How strongly do you support or oppose this proposal?

Strongly support 79% (54)

Tend to support 12% (8)

Neither support or oppose 6% (4)

Tend to oppose 1% (1)

Strongly oppose 1% (1)

Don't know 0% (0)

### 3

How much of a problem do you consider dog fouling to be in the city?

Very big problem 34% (23)

Fairly big problem 34% (23)

Not very big problem 31% (21)

No a problem at all 0% (0)

Don't know 1% (1)

### 4

We are considering proposals to give authorised officers the powers to request a dog(s) be put on a lead(s). How strongly do you support or oppose this proposal?



Strongly support 63% (43)  
Tend to support 24% (16)  
Neither support or oppose 3% (2)  
Tend to oppose 4% (3)  
Strongly oppose 4% (3)  
Don't know 1% (1)

**5**

We are considering proposals to ban dogs from childrens play areas in the city. How strongly do you support or oppose this proposal?

Strongly support 56% (38)  
Tend to support 26% (18)  
Neither support or oppose 3% (2)  
Tend to oppose 7% (5)  
Strongly oppose 6% (4)  
Don't know 1% (1)

**6**

We are considering proposals to limit the maximum number of dogs any one person can be in charge of in public. How strongly do you support or oppose this proposal?

Strongly support 46% (31)  
Tend to support 25% (17)  
Neither support or oppose 10% (7)  
Tend to oppose 10% (7)  
Strongly oppose 9% (6)  
Don't know 0% (0)

**7**

What do you think should be the maximum number of dogs any one person can be in charge of in public?

1 13% (9)  
2 37% (25)  
3 21% (14)  
4 13% (9)  
5 0% (0)  
6 3% (2)  
Don't know 13% (9)

Is there anything else you would like to add?

I have a small dog that is always under control and I always clean up after him. I am very concerned that a lot of big dogs that are not trained and generally out of control are the main problem, to not just people, but also other dogs. I hate dog mess on the pavements and play areas, but I feel it would be wrong to stop responsible dog owners from access to parks because of the few inconsiderate dog owners. I think allowing dogs on leads in public places would be a good compromise - and also it is easier to observe when the dog evacuates. Also maybe the kennel club 'good citizen' could be used as a bench mark and dogs may be allowed free and unfettered access if the dog is proven to be safe and trained.

The biggest problem with dogs is not those in parks - it tends to be the ones on the streets, with young owners using the animal as a symbol of social status. The dogs are often poorly trained and sometimes used to intimidate passers-by. Im not sure that the measures you are suggesting will help with what appears to be a human behaviour issue. More should be done to strengthen the law regarding care and management of dogs, giving the police and the RSPCA more powers to remove animals they consider to pose a risk, or those who are at risk.

Q 4. There is insufficient information regarding the circumstances under which an authorised officer could require a dog to be on a lead. Powers can be misused and it is important to animal welfare that dogs have the opportunity to exercise off lead. Powers should be limited to specified areas and / or circumstances (e.g. on roads, dogs causing a nuisance etc).

Q5. If this is limited only to fenced off children's' play areas then I would strongly support. However, it is important that dog owners have places they can exercise their dogs off lead, so I would oppose restrictions that apply to whole parks just because part of the park is a children's play area. More detail is required to answer this question accurately.

There is no point in raising the fines if there is nobody to enforce it, we have had a problem round here (The Lakes) for some years, and I have contacted the local councillor about it and prior to that the dog warden, but it hasn't changed, I am just fed up of reporting it and nothing happening. Our walk to school is punctuated by me shouting 'mind the pooh!' every couple of minutes, we occasionally have a day when i don't have to say it, but please feel free to come with me and I will show you the problem. And of course it just gets tramped into school where they all sit on the floor, then have their snacks, and I think we can all imagine what happens next.

Regarding parks - it is all very well that dogs are banned from certain parts of the play areas, but not everybody closes the gates and dogs can't read, and you still have to walk through a potential minefield of dog pooh before you get to the fenced off bits. Takes the pleasure out of letting the kids go for a long run through the grass.

If "authorised officers" are to be empowered "to request a dog(s) be put on a lead(s)" then responsible owners should be given appropriate reasons/explanations/alternatives - most responsible owners in my experience are well aware of their dog(s) behaviour patterns and act appropriately - it would be a travesty of natural justice if responsible owners were to suffer because of an irresponsible minority - much the same if school children playing traunt are a public nuisance - should all children/parents suffer ?? Before embarking on implementing such a measure the Council should (1) hold public discussion meetings rather than a disappointingly limited survey as above and (2) publish what training/powers "authorised officers" are intended to have and (3) publish the information that led to this idea being aired so that dog owners can examine the evidence and the 'logic' and (4) publish whether there will be transparency and uniformity on the part of the "authorised officers" and how these aspects will be monitored (or appealed against !!), (5) consider whether such a measure should be applicable in all the park areas (eg large open land areas) and whether similar restrictions will apply to other (nominally) unsociable activities - such as flying kites, riding motocross bikes etc - and how these activities will be 'policed'. Finally, can someone explain the outcome were any individual to refuse to abide by a "request a dog(s) be put on

a lead(s)" ?

I do understand the principle but I do not feel reassured that the proposed legislation has been well thought through.

Is there an opportunity to appeal in advance of the proposed implementation?

I can only comment about dogs in Hinksey Park. They are a nuisance. Dog owners do not appreciate that people do not like dogs jumping up them ["they're only trying to be friendly" is the invariable remark], with their paws usually dirty. Owners never apologise when their dog snaffles a biscuit or cake from picknickers. Dogs chasing around could easily injure a pedestrian should they collide. I've experienced all these. In addition dogs are allowed to defecate on the sports pitches which should never be permitted and not all owners follow the correct procedures afterwards. I am not anti dogs, only inconsiderate owners.

With regard to question 4 I consider that dogs in parks should be kept on a lead at all times. The authorised officers are only available infrequently.

Update 14 Jan. Today swans were harassed by unleashed dog with owner taking no action to prevent. Surely this is illegal. Have seen this happen to the ducks and geese.

Publicity campaign please - ditto for cigarette stubs, which the city council considers to be littering (and rightly so) but no one seems to be aware of.

Many people walk their dogs off-lead in all the West Oxford parks throughout the day quite harmoniously with children playing football, cycling etc. It would be a very bad thing if entire parks were closed to dogs and would create a big problem for a lot of dog owners as most dogs need time off-lead everyday. Dogs should off course be kept out of enclosed play areas, as they are now, and I am all for raising the fine for dog fouling, but it is totally unacceptable that responsible dog owners should be banned from parks.

I personally think that the dog owners that do not consider others need to be targeted rather than blanketing every one. Also I have never seen any one confront a dog owner in the city with regards to dog fouling. If you are going to make these changes, they must be used correctly.

There are too many dogs and too many badly trained dogs. Many dogs are a threat to children and other vulnerable people. In addition to fouling, which is a minor issue compared to many other including: dogs frequently attacking livestock, chasing cyclists, causing road accidents and barking endlessly.

Perhaps neighbours should be consulted before people buy a dog.

Many dogs are kept in very poor conditions, without access to space and freedom during the day. They are outdoors animals and are not suited to urban or sub-urban living. Obesity is a problem for dogs as well as their owners.

Dog ownership is a very sensitive topic with many people regarding it as an untouchable right. The dog ownership issue needs a proper open debate and it is time for a radical re-think.

## SS Mary & John Church Yard Online Questionnaire Summary Results

This page shows the summary of the responses that have been received.

### 1

Do you own a dog(s)?

Yes 71% (5)

No 29% (2)

### 2

If yes, do you walk your dog in SS Mary & John churchyard?

Yes 40% (2)

No 60% (3)

### 3

If yes, how often do you walk your dog in SS Mary & John churchyard?

1-2 days per week 0% (0)

3-4 days per week 100% (1)

5-6 days per week 0% (0)

Everyday 0% (0)

### 4

Oxford City Council is proposing to ban dogs from SS Mary & John churchyard in order to combat the anti-social use of dogs in the area. How strongly do you support or oppose this proposal?

Strongly support 29% (2)

Tend to support 14% (1)

Neither support or oppose 14% (1)

Tend of oppose 29% (2)

Strongly oppose 14% (1)

### 5

As an alternative to banning dogs from SS Mary & John churchyard, Oxford City Council are considering a dog control order requiring owners to keep their dogs on a lead when in the area. How strongly do you support or oppose this proposal?

Strongly support 71% (5)

Tend to support 14% (1)

Neither support or oppose 14% (1)

Tend to oppose 0% (0)

Strongly oppose 0% (0)

## 6

Is there anything else you would like to say?

The amount of green space available for dog walking in the area is very limited, and the loss of amenity would penalise those who use the churchyard responsibly, without necessarily preventing those who use it for anti-social purposes. Dog walkers can also act as a deterrant for other, non-dog related, ASBs. I also believe that banning dogs from the churchyard would be nearly impossible to enforce.

It seems a topsy-turvy way to control what sounds like very specific anti-social behaviour in a very specific location. Surely there must be other remedy or civil or criminal law that could be brought to bear?

Its sad that a blanket approach is being considered rather than targetting those causing the anti social behaviour. If a dog owner is in control of his/her pet, good recall, not aggressive etc and the owner cleans up after it there shouldn't be a problem. Likewise ensuring the animal sticks to designated paths and doesn't go where its not supposed to.

There should be signs in public places reminding dog owners that it is an offence to have a dog off lead on a highway.

Problem dogs are mostly associated with problem drinkers, and both are very off-putting to other users of the churchyard. Drinking alcohol in the churchyard is already prohibited but despite good efforts the police do not manage to effectively enforce it. I would suggest the final choice between the 2 options outlined above is made in the light of which the police think would be easier to enforce.

Maybe banning only the owners with the dogs that are causing the problem would be fairer than banning all dogs. owners must be responsible for their own dogs, which mostly is the case.

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