

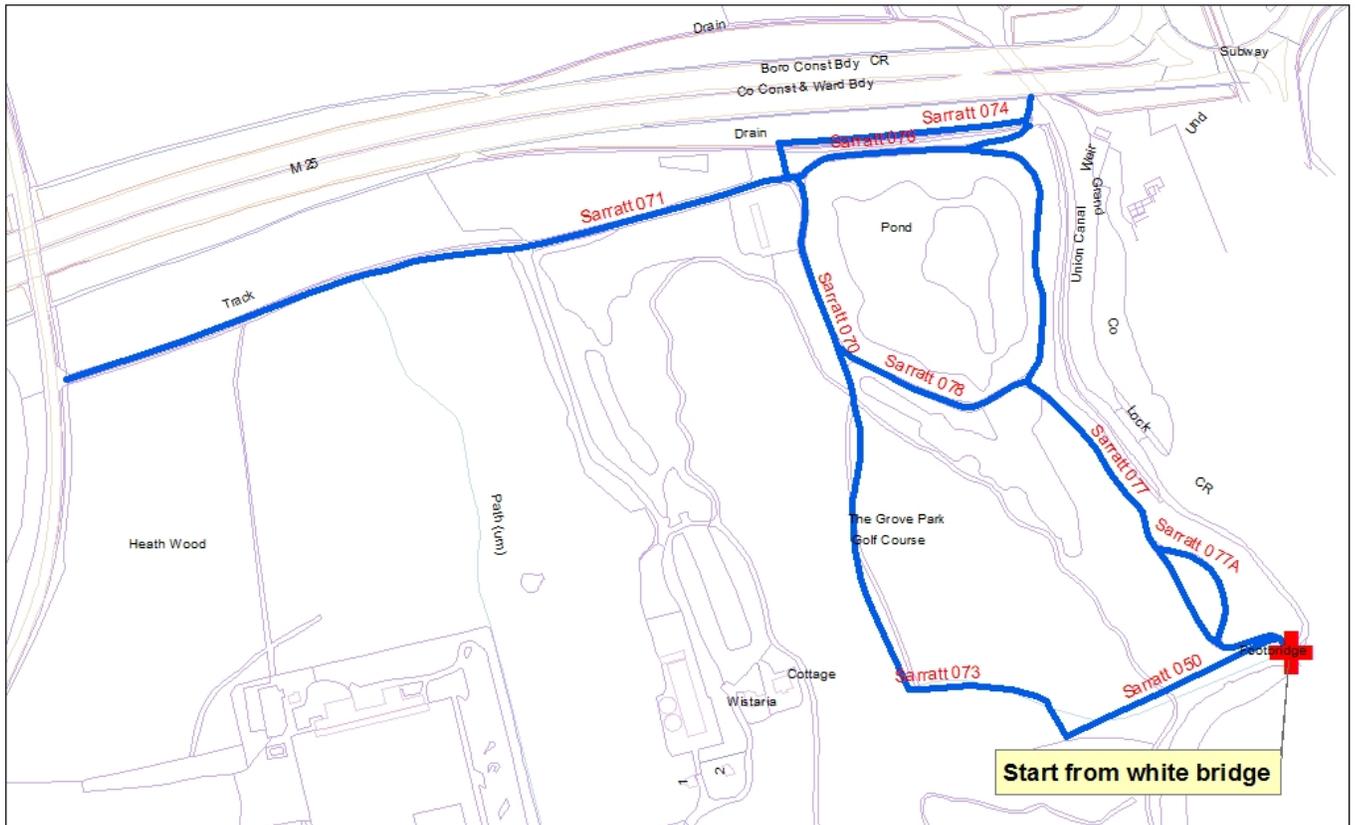
Consultation
Three Rivers District Council

Dog Control at The Grove

July 2018

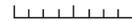
Background and review

Following a number of attacks on the public by dogs off the lead on footpaths at the Grove, Three Rivers District Council proposed a variation to the existing Public Spaces Protection Order (with restrictions relating to the control of dogs), by expanding the 'dogs on leads' ruling to include these footpaths at the Grove. Please see the map below which outlines the footpaths at the Grove under consideration.



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Objectives

- To ascertain whether users of the footpaths at the Grove agreed or disagreed with an expansion of the 'dogs on leads' ruling of the existing Public Space Protection Order to include said footpaths.

Methodology

On-line survey

An on-line survey was open from **17 May to 22 June 2018**. The survey was promoted using '**door drops**' on houses in the vicinity, **signs at the Grove site**, **social media**, the **home page of Three Rivers website**, through **local Councillors newsletters** and **Sarratt Parish Council website**.

Sample size

135 respondents completed the survey.

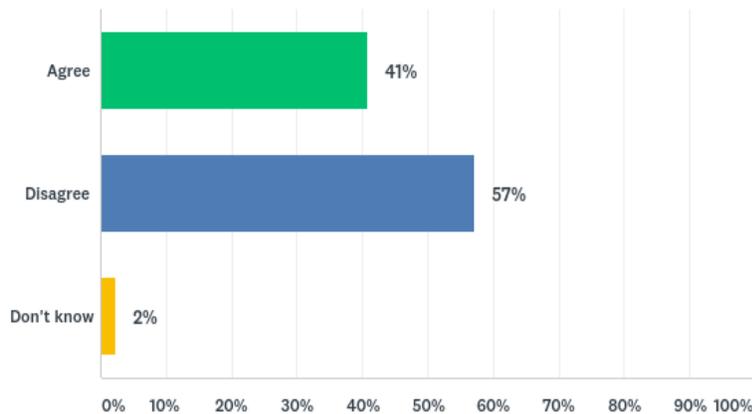
Results

Dog Control Opinions and Experiences

The majority of respondents (57%) disagreed with the proposal to keep dogs on leads on all the footpaths at the Grove. Agreement levels differed depending on whether respondents walked dogs at the Grove, however even the group that didn't walk dogs were marginally disagreeing with the proposal (50% disagree; 48% agree; 2% don't know). For the dog walkers at the Grove, 84% were in disagreement with 'dogs on leads' on these footpaths.

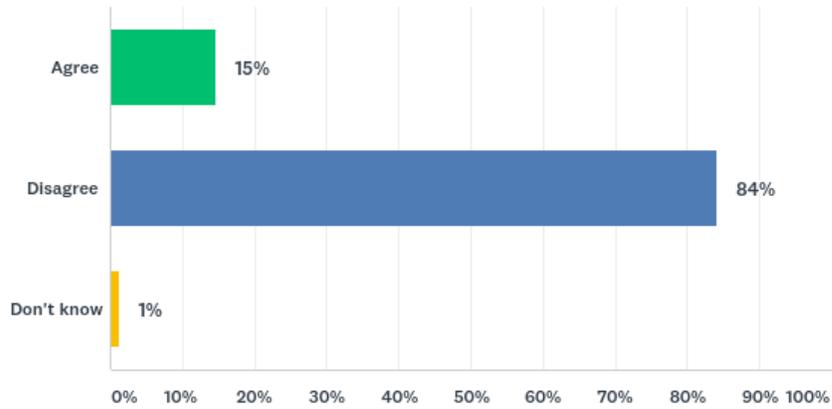
All respondents

Q1 The Council is proposing that a person in charge of a dog must keep it on a lead on all the footpaths at the Grove, Watford (as shown in the above map). Do you agree or disagree with this proposal?



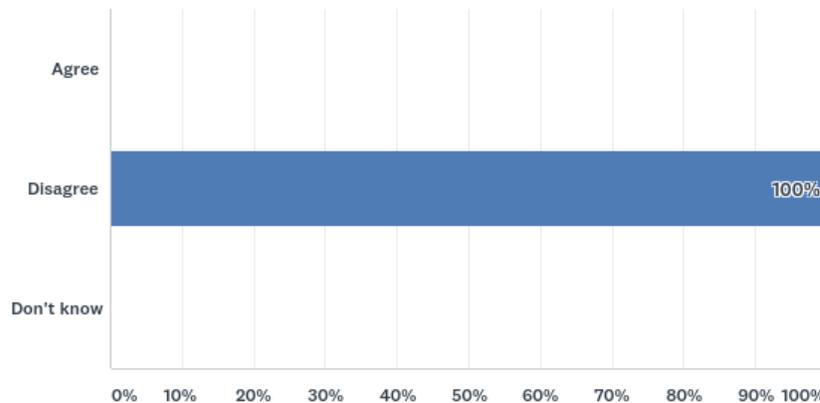
Respondents using the Grove footpaths for dog walking

Q1 The Council is proposing that a person in charge of a dog must keep it on a lead on all the footpaths at the Grove, Watford (as shown in the above map). Do you agree or disagree with this proposal?



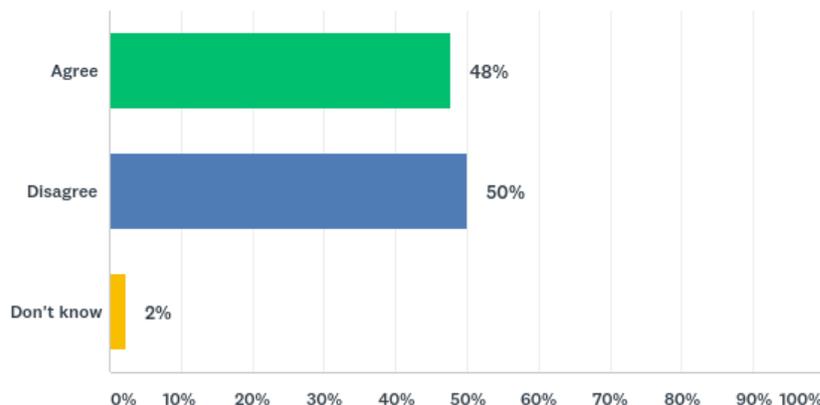
Respondent using the Grove footpaths for professional dog walking (1 respondent)

Q1 The Council is proposing that a person in charge of a dog must keep it on a lead on all the footpaths at the Grove, Watford (as shown in the above map). Do you agree or disagree with this proposal?



Respondents using the Grove footpaths who do not walk dogs there

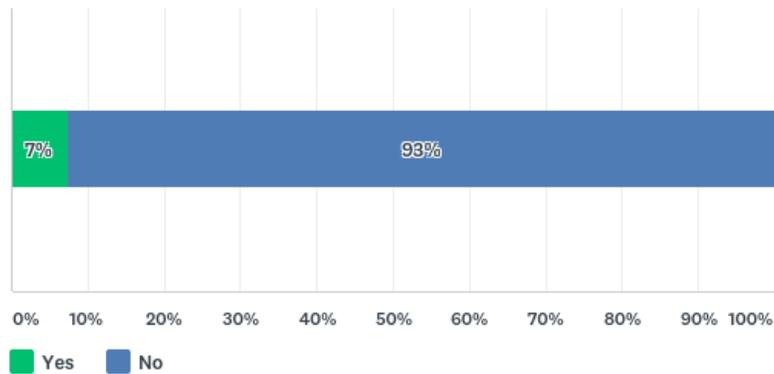
Q1 The Council is proposing that a person in charge of a dog must keep it on a lead on all the footpaths at the Grove, Watford (as shown in the above map). Do you agree or disagree with this proposal?



Worrying experiences with dogs

The vast majority of respondents (93%) had not had worrying experiences with dogs on the Grove footpaths, however, looking at the comments, there was some fear relating to hearing of negative dog experiences of others.

Q5 Have you had any worrying experiences with dogs off the lead when using the footpaths at The Grove ?



Comments

Fear of possible trouble with dogs

"I have heard of all the trouble with dogs and this puts me off going there"

"I personally haven't had any worrying experiences but because of the incidents I've heard about I feel that I could be at risk and this prevents me and my family from going there"

Dog behaviour issues

"Dogs jumping up and owners not controlling them "

"Dogs come running up and my little one gets scared"

"Dogs running up and frightening my children. Owners laughing and saying 'oh, they're just playing'.

"Intimidating barking on several occasions and worrying close attention from dogs running at you. Usually more than one dog at a time. Owners seem not in control of dogs and letting them run wild and in small groups, or just could not care less what their dogs get up to!"

"A dog jumped at my friend growling. Owner couldn't call it off"

"Only in that a young cocker poodle was off the lead and owner had no control. Dog kept jumping up in my dogs face and I could see hackles rising"

"People who just let their dogs off lead with no control over them"

Training dogs

“We own and train working dogs. They are walked on and off the lead. We challenge those who display poor ownership wherever we witness it”

Dog fouling

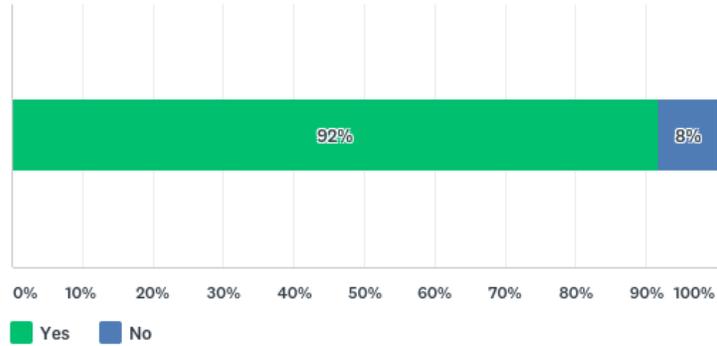
“This should be the case all over Hertfordshire, especially Rickmansworth and Mill End. Dogs pooing everywhere. Owners don't pick up the poop. Camera should be installed to catch the offenders”

Area covered by PSPO

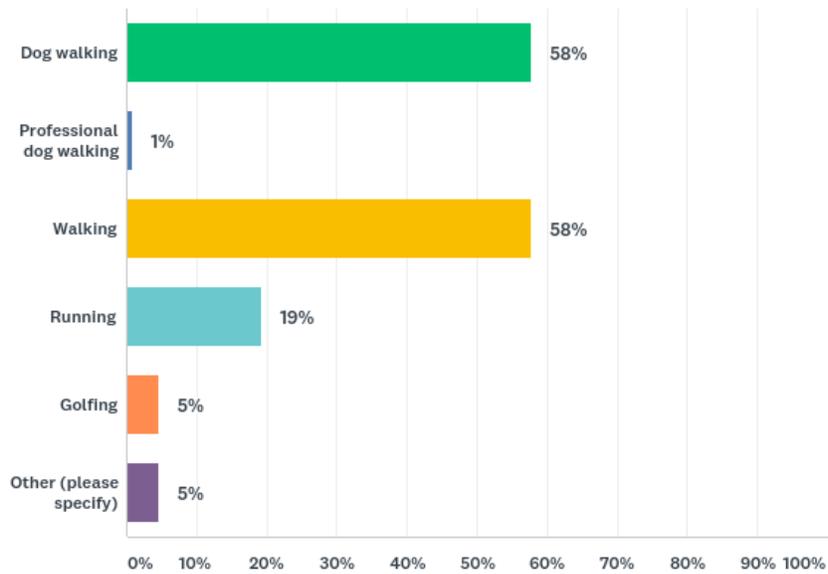
“I can't see from the map if this includes the two cricket club fields, which is where we walk the dogs. Thought these were owned by ALPC and Herts CC/Schools”

Usage of the Grove footpaths

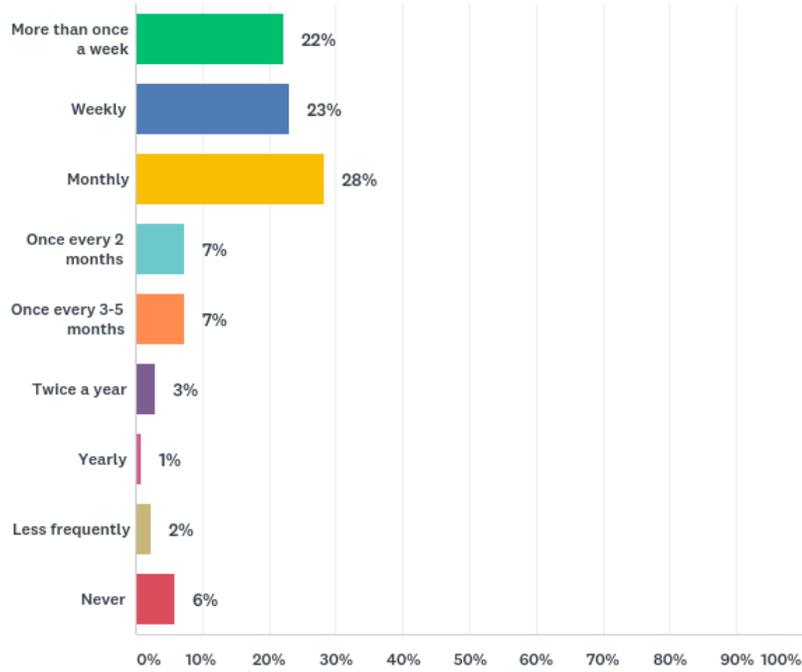
Q2 Do you use any of the footpaths marked on the Grove map (above)?



Q3 For what reasons do you use The Grove footpaths (tick all that apply)?



Q4 How regularly do you use The Grove footpaths?



Q6 How near do you live to the Grove footpaths?

