

Thank you, Mr Chairman

Fellow Councillors, as you know Cllr Woodcock and I have for the last 12-18mths been encouraging dog walkers to pick up after their dogs. We have provided posters and containers with donated bags at various points around the town.

During this period, we have engaged with many fellow dog owners and one subject that keeps cropping up is 'Why can dogs not be exercised on the QE Recreation Field'? Good question.

Having this item on our Agenda gives an opportunity for discussion and decision making which will then be on public record.

The Anti-Social Behaviour Crime & Policing Act 2014- Public Spaces Protection Order Control of Dogs Order has recently been agreed and committed to by SHDC Executive and will apply for 3 years from 25th March 2021. This 10-page document can be found online to be read in full.

This Order relates to:

All land which is in the administrative area of the Council and which is open to the air (which includes land that is covered but open to the air on at least one side) and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access (with or without payment)

Schedule 1B shows Areas where dogs must be on leads and this includes:

*Marked sports fields whilst organised sport **IS IN PROGRESS***

Schedule 1D Dog Exclusion Areas lists areas such as children's play areas, bowling green, tennis court, skateboard/BMX park, putting green, **any sporting or recreational facility pitch when sport is in play**- all provided they are fenced, hedged or walled.

No specific area in Modbury is listed. We therefore believe that MPC is in breach of these regulations.

All other local Recreation Fields allow dogs-Bigbury, Kingston, Loddiswell, Aveton Gifford, Ermington and Ivybridge. Everyone is welcome and enjoy the facilities. Indeed, on Saturday there were several football matches taking place at Ivybridge and dogs were being walked around the perimeter on leads.

Modbury Association of Recreation & Sport is a facility of which we are proud of and very lucky to have. We certainly appreciate the work involved-mostly by volunteers- to maintain its upkeep. However, those council tax paying members of our community who do not play sport but walk their dog as their recreation and healthy activity are effectively excluded from using it.

Can I ask what is different in our parish? And when was the decision made, and by whom?

Our attention has been drawn to the health risk relating to toxocariasis. Cllr Woodcock and I ourselves are grandparents and are fully aware of this concern. However, we now have 3 amazing very safe, dog free fenced children's playgrounds, with another facility planned for the Memorial Hall area. The tennis courts, and the MUGA area will of course remain dog free.

There have also been many comments stating that there are plenty of areas to run dogs in the town. Incorrectly people have been directed to the Battlefield at the top of Galpin Street, Swanbridge Meadow and the field behind Ayleston Park. Apart from the inaccessibility to those in the community who are less agile or have mobility issues, all these fields are private property, and although commonly used as an 'exercise field' the only legal access is using the Public Footpaths that cross them. Additionally, these fields periodically contain livestock.