

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
DRAFT DOG CONTROL ORDERS FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Subject of Order - Removal of dog faeces	
Locations	Justification
On all public open spaces in the Borough Council's ownership	Dog faeces is a known carrier of the roundworm toxicara that can cause blindness. The Council has a duty under the Litter (Animal Droppings) Order 1991 to endeavour to keep public open spaces clear of dog faeces. This Control Order follows similar powers given to the borough under the (Dogs Fouling of Land) Designation Order 1997.
Subject of Order - Keeping dogs on a lead	
Locations	Justification
Tonbridge Cemetery – at all times	Due to the sensitive nature of the site, it is already the Council's policy to require dogs to be kept on leads within the Cemetery grounds. This approach has been adopted to avoid disturbance to mourners during burials and whilst visiting graves.
All closed churchyards in Borough Council ownership, subject to consultation with the respective churches, (this only includes St Stephens and St Peter & St Paul's, both in Tonbridge)	As highlighted above this will avoid disturbance to mourners whilst visiting graves.
Haysden Country Park Car Parks	This is for the safety of the dog itself and other users of the site in an area that has high vehicular traffic.
Leybourne Lakes Country Park – in the car park, along the path from the car park to the windsurfers' cabins, and the area from the windsurfers cabins to the first internal gate	Within the car park this is for the safety of the dog itself and other users of the site in an area that has high vehicular traffic. The path from the car park to the windsurfers' cabins has also been included due to safety concerns presented by the adjoining main vehicular access road for the Watersports operator. In regard to the area along from the windsurfers' cabins, this is the current location of the refreshments facility and on numerous occasions it has been reported that food has been stolen out of the hand of children and the infirm by uncontrolled dogs.

Subject of Order - Keeping dogs on a lead under direction	
Locations	Justification
On all public open spaces in Borough Council ownership	It can be a problem if dog owners allow their dogs to cause a nuisance, annoyance or disturbance to others using the area or to wildlife. This power will allow officers to address these specific incidents requesting owners to put their dogs on a lead should such a disturbance occur.
Subject of Order - Maximum number of dogs allowed (Maximum limit set at four dogs)	
Locations	Justification
On all public open spaces in Borough Council ownership	DEFRA state that 'this is the maximum number of dogs which one person can control, expert advice is that this should not exceed six'. In coming to our proposals we have taken into consideration the views of DEFRA, User Panels, and the Borough Dog Warden. Whilst we realise that the number of dogs an individual can control will vary from person to person, and with the type of dog, we feel that our proposals offers a balanced view.
Subject of Order - Land on which dogs are excluded	
Locations	Justification
Anson Road play area, Kings Hill Arundel Close play area, Tonbridge Audley Rise play area, Tonbridge Blake Drive play area, Larkfield Brindle's Field play area, Tonbridge Brionne Gardens/Hectorage Road play area, Tonbridge Frogbridge play area, Tonbridge Haysden Country Park play area, Tonbridge Masefield Road play area, Larkfield Scotchers Field play area, Tonbridge Tilton Road play area, Borough Green Tonbridge Farm play area Tonbridge Racecourse Sportsground play area	Excluding dogs from play areas is established best practice across the whole country and follows the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents guidelines. The reason for this is that dogs can become over excited and have been known to chase and bite children if allowed to roam freely in children's play areas. Allowing dogs into play areas also increases the risk of fouling and so the infection from toxicara. It is therefore already our practice to exclude dogs from equipped children's play areas for these reasons.