

Appendix E - Other Comments PSPO Aberavon Beach

1. Some dogs are not guide dogs but are therapeutic for people with a wide range of mental disabilities which the council should consider
2. You need to ban people leaving litter, needles and plastic polluting the area
3. I'm not sure if there is a typo in questions 13 & 14 as it's says "continue to make it an offence..." but the dates are from March, not May, which would be new and not continuing as before. If it's a typo, I would agree instead of disagree.
4. Long leads should not be used Short lead only
5. It's such a shame when dog owners allow their dogs to foul on the promenade where there is a heavy foot print, and not remove it.
6. Consider a protection order during the same dates stated with regards to reducing litter, bad language and anti social behaviour
7. Humans make more mess than dogs or people walking on the prom letting their unattended dog on the beach these are generally the dogs who's mess isn't picked up not us responsible dog owners
8. If we need to continue to have an excluded dog area during the summer months it would be good for harbour beach (little side) to be made no dogs with the larger side of the beach (right of the pier) allowing dogs. I think this will attract more visitors to the town and give dog owners more space. Allowing dogs only in this small area during the summer months increases the risk of issues between dogs and their owners as it is always too busy. Dogs should be exempt from walking the promenade during the summer months as unfortunately not all dog owners are responsible and walk their dogs along the promenade in extreme heat. Humans seem to be causing the ASB issues at our beach at the moment and littering not the dogs or their owners. Unfortunately due to dog owners not respecting that our dog is on a lead we are unable to enjoy the lovely space of the beach as much as we would like but do visit when weather conditions are poor so it's less busy.
9. I would prefer the exclusion zone to end short of the "memo beach "coffee shop giving customers from there easier access to the beach . It's nice to have a small area

where you could sit on the concrete steps down to the sand and have a coffee with your dog by you.

10. We are very fortunate that our beach is a large space and most owners I see on my walks are responsible people who know their dogs comfort and limitations and would not put them in a situation where they could be reactive in big crowds. The prom However can get very busy at peak season and I would be concerned for safety of dogs were on or off leads there due to the number of children/adults on bikes that could either get caught in leads or wander out on to their path. We tend to avoid the prom in high season for this reason
11. Most dog owners are sensible this is something the council need to considerbut cant see many using the beach now you will be charging car users to park down in a free beach
12. I notice on Councillor [REDACTED] Facebook page someone has commented in favour of banning dogs. Cllr [REDACTED] has written underneath encouraging the writer to complete this survey. However, lots of people have written on the councillor's page opposing the banning of dogs. Not once has Cllr [REDACTED] encouraged these people to complete this survey. So, it's pretty easy to see Cllr [REDACTED] bias and work out how he will be voting. Shame.
13. I believe anyone can make a mistake for the first time walking the dog between the months of May and September so a chat would be sufficient, repeat offenders and spotting a dog owner not clearing up after the dog(s) should be fined.
14. I am struggling to understand the connection between walking my dog and my sexual/ religious/language orientation , absolute political correctness nonsense
15. The restrictions and good for owners who haven't trained their dog but if someone has trained their dog to walk perfectly to heel with no leash they should not be prosecuted. Educate people not restrict them.
16. For goodness sake, stop demonising dogs. Trust people to know if / when their dog needs to be kept on a lead. Trust people to pick up after their dogs. You have a dog warden to monitor this anyway. Maybe take a harder line with feral teenagers drinking and swearing on the beach in the summer instead if you are so bothered about "protecting local residents and visitors".

17. I am a cold water dipper at Aberavon so use the sea all year round and there seems to be more dogs on the beach during the evenings during the prohibited times than in the Winter, this year specially there has been more dogs running on the sand
18. I think the North West boundary line of the exclusion zone should be reduced to give dog walkers access to the North side of the beach, with the current boundary line I as a disabled dog walker can not get access to the North side of the beach without using the exclusion zone to get there. There is no access from the prom to the North side area with a dog, If the boundary was reduced slightly dog walkers could walk down to that part of the beach from the prom and not subject to being fined trying to get there.
19. Dogs should be kept on leads in public spaces at all times out of respect large dogs have to be but others don't it not fair
20. I think that common sense should prevail most responsible dog walkers would nt take there dogs onto a packed beach
21. The parking restrictions of 2 hrs should be relaxed during winter months.
22. Unfortunately the council only do things that make their lives easier and it's not dogs that make the majority of the mess on the beach but the visitors There is not enough rubbish or recycling bins available
23. As a dog walker I do get angry with people who do not pick up their dog litter. Fine these people as well.
24. The local community will be up in arms if you ban dogs from the beach, local businesses will suffer.
25. Common sense needs to prevail. Owners need to be responsible for their pets. On leads is the safest option for all users and clean up after them. That said adults should be the same and clean up after them and their children.
26. What are poorly designed questionnaire. What has sexual orientation and the use of the Welsh language to do with dogs on the beach & promenade. Surely it's more a matter of health & safety.
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29. Are you serious? You are worried about a few people who may fail to pick up after their pet when eater companies are pumping sewage into the sea. Don't like dogs, do you?
30. I don't think allowing dogs on the beach is a problem but I can appreciate families with children using the beach to play/paddle/picnic find it easier and more relaxing when there are no dogs. However I look forward to the Autumn when we can once again walk the dogs on the long stretch of the beach because the parking is quite limited when we are only using the dunes/fair ends. However I strongly believe all dogs should be on leads on the promenade at all times and more patrols should be enforcing cleaning up after toileting. Thank you for giving us responsible dog lovers a voice
31. What are poorly designed questionnaire. What has sexual orientation and the use of the Welsh language to do with dogs on the beach & promenade. Surely it's more a matter of health & safety.
32. The big problems are humans leaving their mess behind and broken glass it's disgusting
33. I find it much easier as a disabled person having the free rein of the beach to walk my dog
34. What about people who leave bbq's and rubbish on the beach, also horses who mess far more are you going to ban them?
35. I think it's ridiculous that you're planning to ban dogs down the beach altogether. People use the prom as a place to exercise, socialise and use local businesses. Most of the businesses are dog friendly which proves how popular the area is. You then segregating us dog owners for what?
36. Ban retractable leads on the prom. Make the dog owners have more control over the dog/dogs
37. The amount of dog mess on the promenade and on the walkway below the promenade is absolutely awful. You spend most of your time looking where you are walking. On busy days, it is a concern on the amount of dogs around Francos/Remos who are with owners but out of control. Owners often struggle to control them. These are high footfall areas, with lots of children around, who like to run, shout and are unpredictable.

We have witnessed on many occasions dogs who are visibly overwhelmed and shouldn't be at the beach in these busy times.

38. Maybe consider extending the length of the beach available for dog walkers I.e start the ban from the steps just after the skate park towards la memo coffee shed.
39. If I can't walk the dog there during the winter months. Then any money I spend in the locality will be spent elsewhere.
40. Dogs should be on SHORT leads on the prom as extended leads cause a hazard.
41. While I agree to the restriction, I would like the access to the beach (currently unofficial? via the last set of steps), to include the last 2 sets of steps (coffee kiosk and toilets). This would give dog owners, and non dog owners better access to the toilet and coffee kiosk. It would also allow families with children and a dog, to be on the beach, and have access to facilities.
42. You should do a survey about what the locals feel about the BBQs, rubbish, glass and food waste left behind by beach visitors which is regularly removed by us dogwalkers every morning.
43. Many people who walk their dogs are law abiding it's a shame that the ones who are not ruins it for the rest
44. All this , I think will bring more mental issues because of the Covid thing.
45. It's because this issue could become an aggravating racial thing . A lot of ethnic communities do not like dogs .
46. There is a need for manual beach cleaners when the beach is busy. Just as dangerous as dogs/ dog poo on the beach is dirty nappies and broken glass left on the sand despite there being bins just yards away. Beach cleaners could police the dog issue and also hand out fines to irresponsible be each users leaving litter on the beach which
47. Need to clarify if whole beach or no including dune end this would have a massive impact if it was the whole beach area the questions are not clear about this
48. I used to enjoy walking along beach and tides shallow water bare footed. But after stepping in dogs faeces several times I have had to abandon this practice. This happened in any season, and helped with my joint pains. I've seen dog owners chatting for extended periods whilst leaving their dogs run around out of their sight resulting in the inevitable toileting not observed, besides pestering other people.
The prom on leads is a very good idea, except when on the extended leads are left to

tangle around peoples legs, as well as endangering cyclists using their lane but shared with a dog on a 15ft lead. I have been tripped up by a lead whilst the owner was not paying attention to their charge

and was told to look where I was going by an obnoxious owner.

My wife and I don't need this hassle being in our seventies, so we now limit our visits for fear of both these reasons.

I hasten to add we both are dog lovers as our children are dog owners, but we are not so keen on the irresponsible owners.

49. It would be hypocritical to stop dog walkers using that side of the beach during the summer months. Aberavon is thriving, with a high percentage of customer being dog owners. Francos and the Front allow dogs at their facilities so they will be impacted. People will go to Swansea instead which will mean less people will be going to Aberavon. At the moment, people who do not like dogs have access to the main beach. I have never heard of witnessed any issues with dogs on the beach and I would say there's a bigger issue with people littering. In regards to dog fouling making the water dirty for other beach users, tonnes of waste is flushed into the ocean every day! I would be more concerned about the Steel Works!
50. It would be nice if the dog friendly areas were made clearer please .. maybe pointing people towards them! Prom is busy all year and near the road so should be dogs on leads all year
51. Seems like a pretty empty and pointless consultation,when the whole summer I have witnessed dogs on the beach daily during the May to September expulsion order..on leads and off leads and the promenade is a disgrace with dog mess,..promenade and lower steps .The dunes end is even worst with dog bags scattered all over the dunes
52. Why are you asking questions about sexual orientation/gender reassignment and language in terms of dogs accessing the beach? Come on?!
53. Aberavon is one of the few beaches that are truly accessible in the area (for those using wheelchairs and pushchairs).
54. More fines for people littering the beach not responsible dog owners
55. Fine humans for littering the beach they are more harmful than dogs
56. You are targeting people who generally are responsible people. There are those who will always let their dogs foul. Also the police are too busy as it is.

57. This appears to be a tick box exercise only to say that you have done the consultation and to check it doesn't affect any of the legal challenges you might face banning dogs from the beach
58. I don't agree with dogs running around on the beach in the summer when it is full of people and children but some days if the weather is bad and the beach isn't being used then there is no reason why the dogs can't go on there. Also you need to tighten up on the people using the beach and leaving a mess and lighting fires and barbecues on the beach. Most responsible dog owners clean up after them, but the dog mess on the prom during the winter is disgusting, can't you enforce this more inter
59. Environment act 1990 states that it is the duty of the dog owner to clean up after their dog. Humans make more mess than animals and they do not clean up after themselves, 70% of humans are dirty.
60. the amount of dog mess along the promenade is disgusting. there should be a total ban on dogs not on leads 12 months of the year.
61. everytime i visit the prom and or the beach i am constantly dodging the mountains of dog shit it is totally disgusting i dread to think what the result is to young children who may come into contact with it
62. Dogs should be banned all year around off the main beach. and a lead should be no longer than 5ft
63. I think respectful dog owners should be allowed, those with no respect of the law don't follow the rules anyway
64. The pay and display parking machines initialise in welsh language, many people do not know how to obtain english language instructions, as the machines instructions are unclear. why not have english or welsh message at the very begining as presently it confuses and delays people leading to frustration.
65. More dog bins in the area in general. 1 lost at the end of channel view since the new houses were built maybe one by the cinema sign and petrol station. Dogs are not the ones causing the mess it's the owners who don't pick up after them . Animals need exercise and should be allowed to run off lead as long as under control and good behaviour.

66. The dunes side of the beach is open all the year. Perhaps sign posting to Scarlett Ave car park saying dogs are welcome on the beach here would help those who are not regular visits to the area.
67. People who don't pick up after their dogs should be prosecuted more rigidly and/or banned from owning dogs.
68. Why can't there be a permit system to allow you to walk your dogs on the beach at any time? The cost of this permit could go towards the beach area upkeep and keep everyone happy. Also, couldn't they use the beach by permit either early mornings or late evenings to reduce any issues visitors might have?
69. Possible reduction of the ban period to school holidays period as during a lot of other weeks when the beach isn't used especially during poor weather
70. I'm a pensioner and have mobility issues and excluding my dog and therefore myself from the central part of the beach means I have no access to any of the cafes or facilities .