

Place and Resources Overview Committee – 21 September 2020

Agenda item 5 – Public Participation

Statement from Lyme Regis Town Council

Lyme Regis Town Council is resolved:

“ that the town council takes all opportunities available to express its wish to see a dog ban on the Front Beach all-year-round “

The town council is extremely proud of the front beaches in Lyme Regis, particularly the smaller sandy front beach and believe they should be enjoyed by members of the public without dogs present all year round. Dogs can be walked along the parade on a lead or on other beaches either side of the town where there is no restriction, which are within easy walking distance of the front beaches.

Events where dogs have attacked children on the beach and defecated/urinated on the beach and belongings have informed the town council's view.

The shoulder months of April (Easter Term) and October (half term) need particular consideration when setting any dates. On a sunny day in those months the beaches in Lyme Regis fill up with children building sandcastles which are often then urinated on by dogs.

As the Pearl of Dorset we want to live up to that title and trust you will take our view into account when formulating the future PSPO to keep our Front beaches clean and safe.

Statement from Lorna Jenkin

I only have experience of conditions pertaining to dogs on the beaches of Lyme Regis, not the rest of West Dorset.

I am content with your proposal as far as the Front Beach and Harbour are concerned.

However I would hope that you will continue to allow dogs off leads on beaches to the east (Church Beach and to the boundary with Charmouth) and also continue to allow dogs off leads on Monmouth Beach all year round. I walk these areas frequently and there does not appear to be any conflict by allowing people to exercise themselves and their dogs in these areas.

However it is important to have the area of Front Beach, Sandy Beach and the harbour where families with young children (and adults fearful of dogs) may play and exercise without risk of stepping in dog faeces or meeting a dog not on a lead. I have an adult grandson with special needs who is terrified of energetic dogs and small children can be overwhelmed with meeting a dog which towers over them or appears unfriendly or undisciplined.

You will need to have more helpful signage alerting dog owners to the existence of dog-friendly beaches.

Thank you for your deliberations.