



**The Mid Devon (Public Spaces Protection)
(Dog Control) Order 2021**

**Section 59 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime
and Policing Act 2014**

DRAFT

Contents

1. Introduction
2. Scope
3. Duration
4. Title
5. Dog Fouling
6. Dog on Leads
7. Dogs Excluded (Enclosed Play Areas)
8. Limit on number of dogs
9. Offences and Penalties
10. Exemptions
11. Appeal
12. Validity (Severance)

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Introduction

Pursuant to Section 59 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

Mid Devon District Council (in this Order called “the Council”), in exercise of its powers under Section 59 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (“the Act”) and of all other enabling powers, after consultation carried out in accordance with the Act, and being satisfied that uncontrolled and irresponsible dog walking in public places has a detrimental effect on the quality of life of the local community and that the conditions set out in Section 59 of the Act are met, hereby makes the following Order.

1. Definitions and Interpretation

1.1 In the following provisions of this Order, the following terms shall have the meanings hereby respectively ascribed to them:-

“Authorised Officer” means a person who is authorised in writing by the Council for the purposes of this Order

“District of Mid Devon” means the land shown edge red on the plan marked “District” and referred to in Schedule A

“Person in Charge” means the person who has the dog in his possession, care or company at the time the offence is committed or otherwise, the owner or person who habitually has the dog in his possession

“Plans” means the plans attached to the Schedules to this Order

“Police Constable” means any person lawfully designated and authorised by a Chief Officer of Police to exercise the powers and duties of a Police Constable

“Public Spaces” means land within the District of Mid Devon, which is open to the air including covered land which is open on at least one side and to which the public are entitled and permitted to have access, with or without payment, with the exception of Forestry Commission Land

1.2 Except when the context otherwise requires, the singular includes the plural and vice-versa; and the masculine includes the feminine and vice-versa.

1.3 Reference to an Act of Parliament, statutory provision or statutory instrument includes a reference to that Act of Parliament, statutory provision or statutory instrument as amended, extended or re-enacted from time to time and to any regulations made under it.

1.4 References to articles and Schedules are to the Articles and Schedules of this Order.

1.5 Where land is listed in a Schedule the location and extent of the land is shown in the corresponding Plan referred to in the Schedule.

2. Scope

This Order applies to the Public Spaces, public parks, public cemeteries and churchyards and enclosed play areas cited in this Order within the District of Mid Devon, and shown on the plans to Schedules A, B, C and D hereto.

3. Duration

This Order shall come into effect on [] 2021 and shall remain in force for a period of 3 years from this date, unless extended by further orders made under the Council's statutory powers.

4. Title

This Order may be cited as "The Mid Devon (Public Spaces Protection) (Dog Control) Order 2021"

5. Dog Fouling

5.1 In any Public Spaces -

5.1.1 If a dog defecates at any time, the Person in Charge must remove the faeces from the land forthwith; and

5.1.2 A Person in Charge of a dog must have with them an appropriate means to pick up any faeces deposited by that dog, and must produce this if requested to do so by an Authorised Officer or Police Constable.

5.2 For the purposes of Article 5.1.1 -

5.2.1 Placing the faeces in a receptacle on the land which is provided for the purpose or for the disposal of waste, shall be sufficient removal from the land; and

5.2.2 Being unaware of the defecation (whether by reason of not being in the vicinity or otherwise), or not having a suitable device or means of removing the faeces shall not be a reasonable excuse for failing to remove the faeces.

6. Dogs on Leads

6.1 In any public cemetery or churchyard or part of it listed in Schedule B to this Order, any Person in Charge of a dog, at any time, must put and keep the dog on a lead and under proper control.

6.2 In any public park listed in Schedule C to this Order any Person in Charge of a dog, at any time, must put and keep the dog on a lead and under proper control.

6.3 Subject to Articles 6.1 and 6.2 in all Public Spaces a Person in Charge of a dog, at any time, must put and keep the dog on a lead and keep it under proper control when directed to do so by an Authorised Officer or Police Constable.

6.4 For the purposes of Article 6.3, an Authorised Officer or Police Constable shall only give a direction to put and keep a dog on a lead if such restraint is reasonably necessary to prevent a nuisance or behaviour by the dog likely to cause alarm, distress or disturbance to any other person or animal or bird on the land.

7. Dogs Excluded (Enclosed Play Areas)

A Person in Charge of a dog is prohibited from taking that dog onto, or permitting the dog to enter or remain on any enclosed play area listed in Schedule D to this Order.

8. Limit on number of dogs.

No person in any Public Spaces shall be in charge of more than 6 dogs at any time. This Article does not apply to enclosed play areas referred to in Article 7 as dogs are prohibited from the said enclosed play areas.

9 Offences and Penalties

9.1 Any failure to comply with the requirements or prohibitions imposed in Articles 5, 6, 7 and 8 of this Order shall constitute a criminal offence, unless:

9.1.1 The person has a reasonable excuse for failing to do so;

9.1.2 The owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to his failing to do so; or

9.1.3 The person is exempt under Article 10 of this Order.

9.2 Any person guilty of an offence under this Order shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale (on the date of this Order, this is set at £1,000).

9.3 A Fixed Penalty Notice may be issued by an Authorised Officer or Police Constable to anyone believed to have committed an offence under this Order. The Fixed Penalty shall be £100.00. Payment of the Fixed Penalty of £50.00 within 14 days from the date of the Fixed Penalty Notice will discharge the liability for prosecution.

10. Exemptions

10.1 The requirements and prohibitions imposed by this Order shall not apply to any person who:

10.1.1 is registered as blind, sight or hearing impaired under the National Assistance Act 1948, or any other legislation;

10.1.2 has a disability which affects his mobility, manual dexterity, physical coordination, or ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects, in respect of a dog trained by a registered charity and upon which he relies for assistance;

10.2.3 is using a working dog for purposes of law enforcement, military duties or statutory emergency services (search and rescue); or

10.2.4 is using a working dog for agricultural activities or exempt hunting as set out in Schedule 1 of the Hunting Act 2004.

11. Appeal

Any interested person (defined as an individual who lives in the restricted area or who regularly works in or visits that area) may question the validity of this Order, pursuant to Section 66 of the Act, on application made to the High Court within 6 weeks from the date of the Order.

12. Validity (Severance)

If any provision of this Order is held invalid or unenforceable for any reason by a court of competent jurisdiction, such provision shall be severed and the remainder of the provisions of the Order shall continue in full force and effect as if the Order had been executed with the invalid, illegal or unenforceable provision eliminated.

THE COMMON SEAL OF Mid Devon District Council

was hereunto affixed

in the presence of:-

Authorised Signatory

DRAFT

THE SCHEDULES

List of Plans

SCHEDULE A District of Mid Devon

Plan 1 – Map of District

SCHEDULE B Public Cemeteries and Churchyards

Plan 2 – All Saints Church Cemetery, Culmstock

Plan 3 – Cemetery, Black Dog

Plan 4 – Blank

Plan 5 – Blank

Plan 6 – Blank

Plan 7 - Burial Ground, Cheriton Fitzpaine

Plan 8 – St Matthew's Church, Cheriton Fitzpaine

Plan 9 – Methodist Cemetery, Copplestone

Plan 10 – St John the Baptist Church, Cove, Tiverton

Plan 11 – Cemetery, Crediton

Plan 12 – Cemetery, Cullompton

Plan 13 – Cemetery, Culmstock

Plan 14 – Cemetery, Halberton

Plan 15 – Cemetery, Hemyock

Plan 16 – St Andrew's Church Cemetery, Colebrooke

Plan 17 – St Andrew's Church Cemetery, Cullompton

Plan 18 – St George's Church, Tiverton

Plan 19 – St Mary's Church Cemetery, Hemyock

Plan 20 – St Mary's Church Cemetery, Uffculme

Plan 21 – St Mary's Church, Willand

Plan 22 – Cemetery, Tiverton

Plan 23 – Cemetery, Uffculme

Plan 24 – Cemetery, Wembworthy

Plan 25 – Cemetery, Willand

SCHEDULE C

Public Parks

Plan 26 – Amory Park, Tiverton

Plan 27 – Skate park, Lords Meadow, Crediton

Plan 28 – Newcombes Meadow, Crediton

Plan 29 – Skate park, Meadow Lane, Cullompton

Plan 29A – Ploudal Road Play Area, Cullompton

Plan 30 – Recreation Ground (Jubilee Field), Gables Road, Willand

Plan 30A – Victoria Close, Willand

Plan 31 – Skate park, Bolham Road, Tiverton

Plan 31A – Marley Close, Tiverton

Plan 32 – People’s Park, Tiverton

Plan 32A - Priory Road, Tiverton

Plan 33 – Westexe Recreation Ground, Tiverton

Plan 33A - Logan Way, Hemyock

Plan 33B – Play Area, Westleigh

SCHEDULE D Enclosed Play Areas

- Plan 34 - Play Area, Station Road, Bampton
- Plan 35 – Play Area, Landboat View, Cheriton Fitzpaine
- Plan 36 – Play Area, Coleford
- Plan 37 – Play Area, Fernworthy Park, Copplestone
- Plan 38 - Play Area, Sunnymead, Copplestone
- Plan 39 – Play Area, Barnfield, Crediton
- Plan 40 – Play Area, Fulda Crescent, Crediton
- Plan 41 – Play Area, Newcombes Meadow, Crediton
- Plan 42 – Play Area, Headweir Road, Cullompton
- Plan 43 – Play Area, Knightswood, Cullompton
- Plan 44 – Blank
- Plan 45 – Play Area, Rivermead, Cullompton
- Plan 46 – Play Area, Stoneyford, Cullompton
- Plan 47 – Play Area, Tufty Park, Cullompton
- Plan 48 – Play Area, Hunter's Hill, Culmstock
- Plan 49 – Play Area, Lower Town Halberton
- Plan 50 – Play Area, Logan Way, Hemyock
- Plan 51 - Play Area, Longmead, Hemyock
- Plan 52 – Play Area, Millhayes, Hemyock
- Plan 53 – Play Area, Wood Lane, Morchard Bishop
- Plan 54 – Play Area, Puddington
- Plan 55 – Blank
- Plan 56 – Play Area, Silverton
- Plan 57 – Skate park, Silverton
- Plan 58 – Play Area, Grand Western Canal, Canal Hill, Tiverton
- Plan 59 - Blank
- Plan 60 – Blank
- Plan 61 – Play Area, Westexe Recreation Ground, Tiverton
- Plan 62 – Play Area, Wilcombe, Tiverton
- Plan 63 – Play Area, Wembworthy
- Plan 64 – Play Area, Gables Lea, Willand
- Plan 65 – Play Area, Mallow Court, Willand

Plan 66 – Play Area, South View, Willand
Plan 67 – Play Area, The Orchards, Willand
Plan 68 – Blank
Plan 69 – Play Area, Worcester Crescent, Willand
Plan 70 - Play Area, Amory Park, Tiverton
Plan 71 - Harpitt Close, Willand
Plan 72 - Chestnut Drive, Willand
Plan 73 - Buttercup Road, Willand
Plan 74 – Blank
Plan 75 - Pippins Field, Uffculme
Plan 76 – Pathfields, Uffculme
Plan 77 - Highland Terrace, Uffculme
Plan 78 - Culm Valley Way, Uffculme
Plan 79 - Ashley Rise, Tiverton
Plan 80 - Banskia Close, Tiverton
Plan 81 - Coles Mead, Tiverton
Plan 82 - Everett Place, Tiverton
Plan 83 - Hawthorne Road, Tiverton
Plan 84 - Orchard Leigh, Tiverton
Plan 85 - Palmerston Park, Tiverton
Plan 86 - Popham Close, Tiverton
Plan 87 - Spencer Drive, Tiverton
Plan 88 - Starkey Close, Tiverton
Plan 89 - Trickey Close, Tiverton
Plan 90 - Waylands Road, Tiverton
Plan 91 – Ellerhayes, Silverton
Plan 92 – Cornlands, Sampford Peverell
Plan 93 - New Buildings, Sandford
Plan 94 - Mill Lane, Sandford
Plan 95 - Town Barton, Sandford
Plan 96 – Greenaway, Morchard Bishop
Plan 97 - Church Close, Lapford
Plan 98 - Play Area, Holcombe Rogus
Plan 99 - Hollingarth Way, Hemyock
Plan 100 - Ash Drive, Cullompton

Plan 101 - Bockland Close, Cullompton
Plan 102 - Bullfinch Close, Cullompton
Plan 103 - Chaffinch Drive, Cullompton
Plan 104 - Conifer Close, Cullompton
Plan 105 - Crossparks, Cullompton
Plan 106 - Dove Close, Cullompton
Plan 107 - Hanover Gardens, Cullompton
Plan 108 - Haymans Close, Cullompton
Plan 109 - Haymans Green, Cullompton
Plan 110 - Linden Road, Cullompton
Plan 111 - Linear Park, Cullompton
Plan 112 - Saxon Close, Cullompton
Plan 113 - Siskin Chase, Cullompton
Plan 114 - Spindlebury, Cullompton
Plan 115 - Starlings Roost, Cullompton
Plan 116 - Water Meadow, Cullompton
Plan 117 - Windsor Close, Cullompton
Plan 118 - Beech Park, Crediton
Plan 119 - Beacon Park, Crediton
Plan 120 - Cromwells Meadow, Crediton
Plan 121 - Kirton Drive, Crediton
Plan 122 - Lords Meadow, Crediton
Plan 123 - Monks Close, Crediton
Plan 124 - Queen Elizabeth Drive, Crediton
Plan 125 - Spinning Path Gardens, Crediton
Plan 126 - Tuckers Meadow, Crediton
Plan 127 - Walnut Drive, Crediton
Plan 128 - Glebelands, Cheriton Bishop
Plan 129 - Bray Close, Burlescombe
Plan 130 - Barnes Close, Bradninch
Plan 131 - Townlands, Bradninch
Plan 132 - Godfrey Gardens, Bow
Plan 133 - Iter Park, Bow
Plan 134 - St Martins Close, Bow
Plan 135 - Village Hall, Bow

Plan 136 - Morebath Road, Bampton

Plan 137 - Play Area, Chawleigh

Plan 138 - Recreation Ground, Chawleigh

Plan 139 – Recreation Ground, Oakford

Plan 140 – Recreation Ground, School Close, Shobrooke

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