

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

2022/23
Decision No.
2418

Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 6 March 2023

Portfolio	Health and Public Protection
Subject:	Proposed Changes to Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order
Report of:	Director of Leisure and Community
Corporate Priority:	Protect and enhance the environment; Strong, safe, inclusive and healthy communities

Purpose:

The report sets out a proposal from Bird Aware Solent regarding an additional dog exclusion zone at Hill Head beach. The report explains the reasoning behind the proposal and the associated benefit to residents if approved.

In April 2022 the Council's Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) was due to expire and therefore the Council proposed to extend the PSPO for a period of three years. As part of the process required, a consultation was conducted on a draft PSPO.

Alongside the Executive report, a tabled item detailing a consultation submission from Bird Aware Solent was presented at the meeting. Bird Aware Solent (BAS) are a partnership of local authorities, including Fareham, working alongside conservation groups to help safeguard the future of internationally protected geese, ducks and wading birds. Governed by the Partnership for South Hampshire Joint Committee, BAS act on behalf of the local planning authorities.

According to statistics presented by BAS, Hill Head is ranked 3rd out of 87 sites for the highest number of disturbance events. Of the 105 site visits where bird disturbance was noted at Hill Head, 86 visits (81.9%) featured disturbance related to a dog's presence or behaviour. Disturbance at 80 of these visits (76.2%) could be attributed to dogs that were off the lead.

Reducing the disturbance to birds increases their chance of survival. Birds are an integral part of the surrounding natural environment and help ensure that the area is vibrant and healthy. Natural environments are an important aspect of human health and provide benefits both physically and mentally. The protection of birds would ensure that residents' health and wellbeing continue to be enhanced by protecting the natural environment.

Taking into account the impact of dogs on birds during the winter season, it is reasonable to propose an additional restriction on dogs between 01 October and 31 March, in the exclusion zone at Hill Head, as identified in Appendix A to the report.

Options Considered:

Councillor S D T Woodward declared a non-Pecuniary Interest in this item as he is the Council appointed representative and Chairman of the Partnership for South Hampshire Joint Committee which oversees the work of Bird Aware Solent. Councillor Woodward remained in the room and took part in the debate and decision.

Deputations were received in respect of this item from Shona Jenkins, Dog Initiatives Officer and Thomas Marceau, Coastal Bird Project Monitoring Officer.

As recommendation.

Decision:

RESOLVED that the Executive agrees that:

- (a) officers consult on the proposed amendment to the Dog Control PSPO to include an additional dog exclusion area at Hill Head; and
- (b) delegated authority be given to the Executive Member for Health and Public Protection to authorise the making of a PSPO to include this dog exclusion area following consultation.

Reason:

To allow wildlife in the area to have a safe space to feed and rest, therefore, increasing their chance of survival and to ensure that residents' health and wellbeing continue to be enhanced by protecting the natural environment.

Confirmed as a true record:

Councillor SDT Woodward (Executive Leader)

Monday, 6 March 2023