

## 2023/24 Annual report of activity in relation to Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO) Activity at Burnham Beeches

1. At the September 2023 meeting of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee, following all necessary public consultation, members resolved to extend the effect of the existing Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) at Burnham Beeches, with 2 minor variations, for a further three years from 1 December 2023.

2. Public consultation responses in 2023 were as follows:

Order 1 – 100% support to extend the PSPO for a further 3 years

Order 2 – 88% support to extend the PSPO for a further 3 years

Order 3 – 100% support to extend the PSPO for a further 3 years

Order 4 – 94% support to extend the PSPO for a further 3 years

Order 5 – 194% support to extend the PSPO for a further 3 years

3. The PSPOs currently operating at Burnham Beeches are as follows. **Map 1**

**Order 1.** Failing to remove dog faeces. Applies to 100% of the site.

**Order 2.** Not keeping a dog on a lead (max length of lead 5m). Applies to the area **marked 2** on the map

**Order 3.** Not putting and keeping a dog on a lead when directed (told) to do so by an authorised person. Applies in the area **marked 3** on the map.

**Order 4.** Permitting a dog to enter land from which dogs are excluded. This applies to the area **marked 4** on the map i.e., the immediate vicinity of the Burnham Beeches café.

**Order 5.** Taking more than the specified (allowed) number of dogs (which a person may take) onto the land. The specified number of dogs previously approved by this committee is a maximum of 4 and applies to 100% of the site.

At the Epping Forest and Commons Committee on the 11 September 2017 Members requested that annualised Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) figures are presented to the Committee each year.

The table 1 below shows annualised PSPO (and previous Dog Control Order) incidents dealt with at Burnham Beeches since April 2015 – March 2024.

**Table 1**

<b>Incidents detail</b>	<b>15/ 16</b>	<b>16/ 17</b>	<b>17/ 18</b>	<b>18/ 19</b>	<b>19/ 20</b>	<b>20/ 21</b>	<b>21/ 22</b>	<b>22/ 23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>
Order 1 - Fouling	11	11	7	7	3	7	7	3	8
Order 2 - Dogs off lead in the on-lead area	453	329	285	264	213	524	286	259	469
Order 3 - Dogs not under effective control in the off-lead area	46	30	27	16	19	27	16	40	66
Order 4 - Dogs taken into the dog free area	4	16	15	1	7	1	9	2	6
Order 5 - More than 4 dogs/person	3	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0
<b>Total DCO/PSPO incidents</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>549</b>
Number of incidents resulting in a formal report/investigation	8	15	15	16	14	16	8	12	9
Number of formal written warnings issued	2	8	9	10	10	7	3	3	5
Number of FPN issued	0	0	0	4	0	1	1	0	0
Number of prosecutions	0	0*	1*	0	1**	0	0	0	0

Incident occurred in 16/17 – prosecution through magistrate court 2017/18

\*\* Incident occurred in 18/19 prosecution through magistrate court 2019/20

2019/20 visitor numbers estimate - approximately 488000 people visits/annum

2021/22 visitor numbers estimate – approximately 625000 (just 10 months)

2023/24 two new Community Engagement Rangers increased Ranger patrol time by approx. 90%

1. The figures in Table 1 indicate that the overall number of incidents dealt with reduced year on year up until 2022/23. But this is consistently the case for all areas covered by the PSPOs. In addition, figures in 2020/21 undoubtedly reflect the unusual visitor numbers as a result of the covid pandemic.
2. Until 2020/21 there had been a steady decrease in the total number of PSPO incidents dealt with, year on year. In 2021/22 and 2022/23 that general pattern of decline returned in most areas. However, in 2023/24 two new, externally funded, Community Engagement Rangers increased ranger patrol time at Burnham Beeches by around 90%. This increase in patrol effort was responsible for 236 (42.98%) of the 549 PSPO incidents dealt with in the last 12 months and as such the overall increase in incidents recorded.
3. Even with the 2023/24 increase in overall PSPO incidents recorded, the number of them requiring a more formal report/investigation has remained relatively low. throughout the entire period 2015- 2024 – with 57 written warnings, 6 Fixed Penalty notices issued and 2 prosecutions to date.
4. The approved PSPO and preceding DCO enforcement protocols made it clear

that when enforcing the Orders, the City of London Corporation will not take a zero-tolerance approach to DCO/PSPO breaches. This means that, in the majority of incidents, the person concerned is asked to put the matter right, clean up after their dog, put it on lead, remove it from the dog free area and if they comply no further action is taken beyond logging of the incident detail. As a result, the vast majority of incidents dealt with require no more than visitors being given information and or guidance by the Ranger team. However, where a breach is by someone who is well aware of the rules, a repeat offender, or where the person is unable or unwilling to put the matter right these will result in more formal investigation and action including final written warning and or FPN/prosecution.

- The figures reflect that the majority of breaches of the PSPOs were not deliberate or repeat offences and were simply dealt with by the Ranger team through explanation and information.

Map 1

