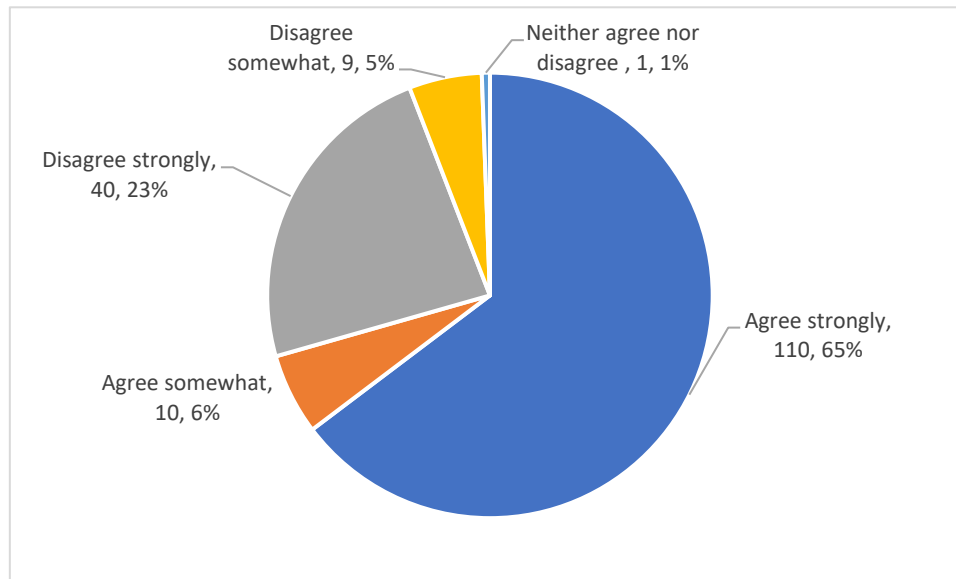


Appendix F – Consultation Response Summary (Somerset West)

Blenheim Gardens

Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed amended restrictions provide the right balance to enable both dog owners and people who do not own a dog to enjoy the public space?

The proposed restrictions are to implement a dog ban in Blenheim Gardens.



Agree Strongly:

1. Also Blenheim gardens no dogs should be in there we need at least one dog free area in the town, it used to be a lovely area before dogs could go in there "
2. Until the PSPOs expired, there were only two areas in the whole of Minehead which were dog free: Blenheim Gardens and the Millennium Rose Garden. Surely the needs of those who prefer not to have dogs everywhere there should be taken into account?
3. There must be places in the town which remain dog free for people to enjoy, without being concerned about encountering dog fouling or roaming dogs? Just because there's a dogs on leads order does not mean dog owners adhere to the rules, the vast majority don't.
4. It appears the only consideration in this consultation is for dog owners. Please have some consideration for those whose physical and mental wellbeing would be affected by having dogs everywhere."
5. We certainly need children's play areas and Blenheim Gardens to be kept dog free to ensure children can play safely.
6. Dogs are currently running around in Blenheim Park and on Minehead beach. There is dog poo everywhere, what's more important dogs or children!!!! Can we please revert to no dogs in Blenheim Park at any time of the year.

Unfortunately responsible dog owners have to have these restrictions because of the few irresponsible dog owners who seem to think that everyone loves their dog and it can poo/wee /run anywhere it likes and owners don't pick up. What is more important, dogs or children and their health and safety??????

7. Blenheim Gardens, I firmly believe there should be at least one place in town that dogs are completely banned (other than service dogs) there are many people who have a fear of dogs and just want somewhere their children can play without dogs being present, this area is and should continue to be a dog free area, but there should be more enforcement to make sure the rules are stuck to, all too often dogs are seen running about under no control in the gardens, can't there be just one area in town that can be dog free, and watched/enforced?
8. "Blenheim gardens should not allow dogs under any circumstances as with children's play areas and school /public sports grounds.
9. I think dogs needs to be banned from the main beach area (Jubilee Cafe to Golf Course) during high season when that part of the beach is likely to be busy - though it's probably easier to understand and enforce if the area from the harbour to the golf course is included in full. The start date of the ban could probably be moved to end of May as the beach doesn't get very busy in May, and you could possibly allow dogs before 9am and after 9pm the whole year but that still risks irresponsible dog owners leaving mess on the main beach when it's going to be busy. Blenheim Gardens, the rec and all other parks and play areas should have a permanent full time ban.
10. "Please keep restrictions in place. The whole world has become very pro dog but not all dog owners are equal.
11. Dogs should not be where children are playing in public spaces. I don't want my children swimming with dogs or relaxing in Blenheim Gardens where dogs have urinated. It doesn't mean I hate dogs, I just don't want them included everywhere."
12. "Introducing dogs to Blenheim Park would destroy the peaceful atmosphere of the park .At the moment young toddlers can play safely in the park. Also, squirrels,birds and other animals that frequent the park would be disturbed. Some dog owners think that it is o.k to let their dogs foul wherever and that could be dangerous for toddlers.
13. "Vital that there are dog free areas like Blenheim Park where the disabled, elderly with mobility problems and vulnerable children can feel safe from dogs jumping up at them or bounding towards them. They deserve a safe space where they can meet. So many dog owners are oblivious to the fact that some people are scared of dogs or simply do not want them close.
14. I think without question there should be no dogs at all in any children's play area or, and most importantly, Blenheim Gardens or Parks Walk (Parkhouse Rd to Periton Lane). Dogs on Leads restrictions don't work with a percentage of people. To them it means dogs permitted to run free. Our park staff work incredibly hard to maintain beautiful, relaxing spaces for members of the public to enjoy. These park areas are the Jewel in our crown. Let's keep them that way without the fear of anybody stepping in dogs poo, or having it flicked over you as the staff frequently have to endure whilst grass cutting. We live in an area where there are miles and miles of unrestricted woods, moors etc. for people to take dogs. I have always lived in Minehead and no dog restricted areas have ever caused me any problems. Maybe because I love and respect our area and the people working within it.

15. Blenheim Gardens should be free of dogs at all times. Dogs on beach should be on leads.
16. There is no need for dogs to be let of the lead in Blenheim gardens - there is the whole of Exmoor and North Hill around the corner!
17. Dog owners are more considerate generally than in the past, but restrictions ensure that they remain considerate. Dogs come in all sizes and a larger dog running around the beach can scare people enjoying this amenity or barking dogs disturb their peace. Blenheim gardens is an absolute asset to the town, so dogs must be excluded. Other areas just make sense surely - children and dogs should not share areas that are put there for children!
18. Equally, Blenheim Gardens is delightful without dogs. Please reinstate dog exclusion here, as well.
19. Although, I have classed myself as a visitor, I spend a great deal of the year in Minehead, being an active member of the community, volunteering and belonging to various groups and classes. My family visit regularly, as well. we all enjoy spending time here but this last year with dogs all over the place has spoilt our enjoyment of certain areas."
20. "Blenheim Gardens is a beautiful, peaceful space. This summer many young families have been seen playing on the grass, picnicking and enjoying the putting.
21. Dog faeces and urine are toxic and contain many bacteria. Dogs should not be allowed into this place"
22. "I am totally against dogs in Blenheim Gardens and Irnham Rd and King George Rec
23. "Restrict dogs all year around in Blenheim gardens- plenty of other places they can go. Especially as the cafe is back open- I enjoy going there with my toddler however have recently experienced dog poo.
24. Having dog free areas to enjoy, such as play areas and Blenheim Gardens is paramount. We've had to deal with poo coating the buggy wheels, our daughter's shoes and toys in places we should not have to worry about. Having a child who is physically developmentally behind, I've been afraid to allow him to explore as he is unable remove himself from situations if an over boisterous or aggressive dog approaches him.
25. Blenheim gardens and the main beach area need to be a sanctuary for the people who don't like or are scared of dogs. The faeces issue is nothing short of tiresome and a well known health hazard. Not all owners pick up and if no dogs are allowed in these limited areas there is a guaranteed safety zone for safe play for children
26. If I had the choice- I would make Blenheim gardens dog free again but the beach I would allow dogs before 10.30 and after 4 or similar.
27. "I think that dogs should be excluded altogether from Blenheim Gardens and the Recreation ground. Dog owners are currently bringing their dogs into the gardens specifically in order for the dogs to relieve themselves. This is a major health hazard, as dog faeces and urine on the grass causes health issues for any adult or child sitting or lying on the grass.

Agree Somewhat:

1. Blenheim Gardens should definitely be dog-free as children play there. Make the beach area near Butlins dog free in the summer for the same reason but allow dogs all year round at the harbour end which is less frequented by families. Not everyone likes dogs, so a compromise is needed.

2. "Firstly I am a dog lover ...I have had had dogs all my life. I also have adopted and been a foster carer for one of our main dog rescuers in the UK. As for Blenheim park def leads only and would prefer no dogs due to the cafe being a most lovely space for mums with young children to relax with a Coffee with their children free to use the ride on toys without dogs running at them. Two of my grandchildren have had the privilege of playing safely in Blenheim park over the last few years.
3. This summer I have seen quite an increase in people walking dogs through the park not picking up the dog mess along dogs not on leads ."

Neither agree nor disagree:

Disagree somewhat

1. "With regard I agree that dog Access be limited in Blenheim Gardens. However that means many people cannot enjoy concerts and much needed trade for the cafe is lost.
2. Perhaps dogs could be allowed on a lead on areas adjacent to the perimeter paths but not on the main grass areas."
3. A fair split of designated areas of the sandy part of the beach would satisfy all parties as you can't rely on dog owners picking up after their pets and I would hate it if my child or I stood in or found dog poo on the beach.
4. The no dogs rule in Blenheim Gardens is ridiculous and archaic, but how you would enforce lead usage is beyond me. Dogs on leads would be better in my opinion."
5. 2. Allow dogs in Blenheim Gardens on leads, on footpaths only, restrict any access on grassed areas. 3. Provide more dog waste bins - plenty in The Parks, very few elsewhere so no wonder that people don't pick up and leave bags dumped on ground"
6. But perhaps there is a case for allowing dogs on leads in local park areas such as Blenheim Gardens. But this would interfere with the freedom and safety of children around the cafe."
7. I think that dogs should be allowed on the beach between the jubilee cafe and the harbour all year round but the rest of the beach should be dog free in the summer months. I also believe that Blenheim gardens should have no dogs in all year round.

Disagree strongly:

1. I don't agree dogs should not be able to go in Blenheim Gardens. Yes on leads. I have attended with no issues with my dog several community events there. Dogs on leads posed no issues. Other parks in towns such as Vivary and Wellington do not ban dogs why Blenheim Gardens.
2. Blenheim gardens - Dogsshould be allowed on leads. As a dog owner I am often excluded from activities in the gardens which is annoying as every other animal can wander in and defecate and these animals are not cared for (wormed etc).
3. I think there is an opportunity to consider whether dogs are causing any worries, currently. My problem withmaking these exclusions is that considerate owners will obey and the others will not anyway."
4. Blenheim Gardens should be available to dog owners at all times.

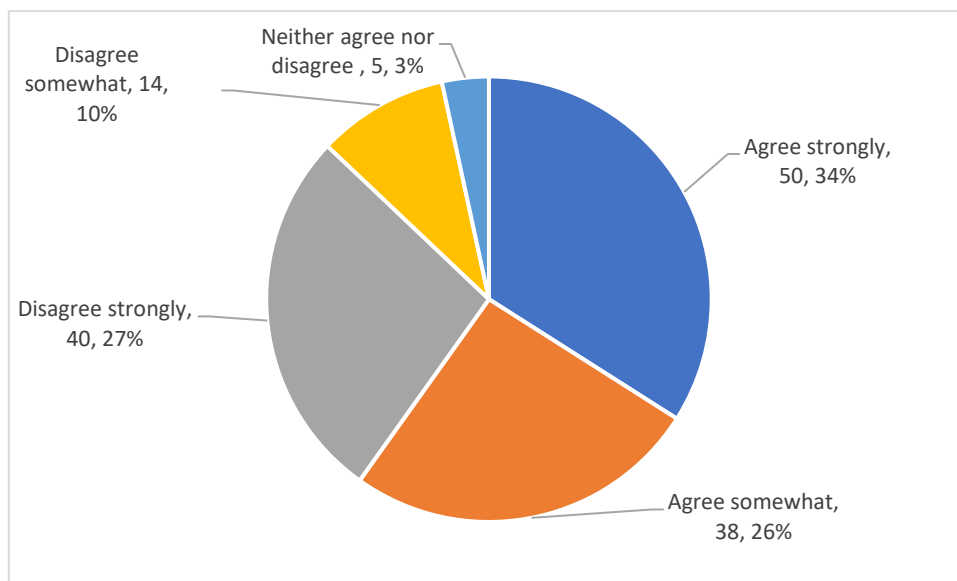
5. Blenheim gardens- since having a child we have rediscovered Blenheim gardens and it is beautiful but it is such a shame we cannot visit with our dog. I understand that there would need to be restrictions in place, for example dogs on leads at all times. We work in the week so leave our dog then so we don't like to at the weekend, it would be so nice to go for a picnic, enjoy the cafe or the live music that has been on the bandstand with our dog and family. So many times we've wanted to walk through the gardens but we can't as we have our dog. It's a shame as Vivary park, the parks in Minehead and other sea side towns we've visited allow dogs in the parks on a lead but we can't enjoy Blenheim gardens. It's such a nice family place but a lot of people miss out due to a dog ban
6. I hope that some of the restrictions the town has with dogs could be eased a bit and we we can enjoy the town even more"
7. Minehead is ideally situated for visitors with dogs who come to the area for walking / coastal holidays. Banning dogs from the beach in the summer and Blenheim Gardens all year round sends a message that dogs, their owners and their tourist £££ are not welcome or wanted.
8. As a frequent visitor to Minehead at all times of the year to visit family, I can see that many holidaying families would be deterred from visiting and staying in the town as it is not particularly dog friendly. I think it is an excellent idea to enable dog owners to use the harbour end of the beach during the summer months. Not sure why Blenheim Gardens has a total ban on dogs all year round, surely the park is there to be enjoyed by everyone. I always feel like a second-class citizen when I'm excluded from enjoying the delights of the park with my dog. Maybe letting dogs in on leads only would be a good compromise?
9. "My personal preference would be for a 'dogs on leads' order for Blenheim Gardens and the adoption of the amended proposal for Minehead Beach. It is important to provide easy access exercise areas for dogs in Minehead, and Culvercliff and North Hill carry a strong risk of tick infestation (a risk for both dogs and owners).
10. The beach is big enough to provide for all and as such dogs should have access to some part all year round."
11. Allow dogs in Blenheim Gardens, Minehead, on leads only.
12. As to Blenheim Gardens I can see no real reason to exclude dogs at all times.
13. In years gone by you could take your dog in and enjoy the gardens. The previous ban did not allow this.
14. I feel dogs must be on leads in this area, but NOT to the point of a total dog ban. Responsible dog owners always clear up after their pets, of which I am one."
15. The restrictions on the whole of Minehead beach from a visitors view point during the summer and into autumn period puts people off from staying in the resort. There is also no point advertising that there is a cafe in Blenheim gardens on the main road in Minehead when once you get to the actual gardens boundary the signage informs of no dogs allowed. The cafe must have alot less custom with this restriction in place. Also more dog bins need to be provided throughout Minehead.
16. I strongly feel it's ridiculous and narrow minded to completely exclude a slice of society and the very animals we humans have held captive for years from just simple joy.
17. As I child I grew up with pets , they are so important to child learning and teach children how to interact with animals.

18. Frankly I believe that it's animal haters who are the only people who would without good reason wish for a ban to be enforced again.

19. Ps. Lots of dog walkers now go to the Blenheim garden cafe. I wonder how their trade will be when you ban me from wording my money there and others like me.

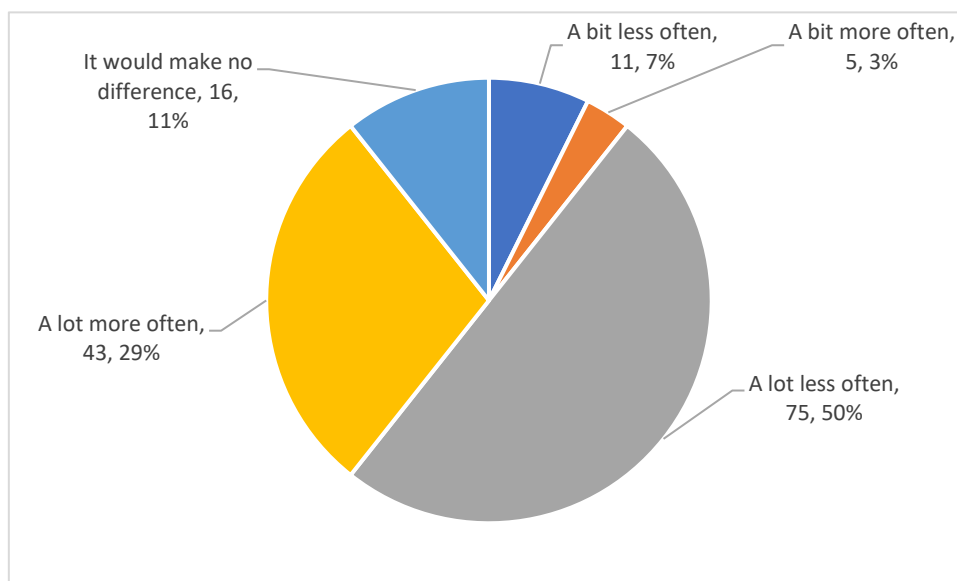
Minehead Beach

Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree in principle that restricting access to dogs on beaches at certain times of the year and day is a good thing?



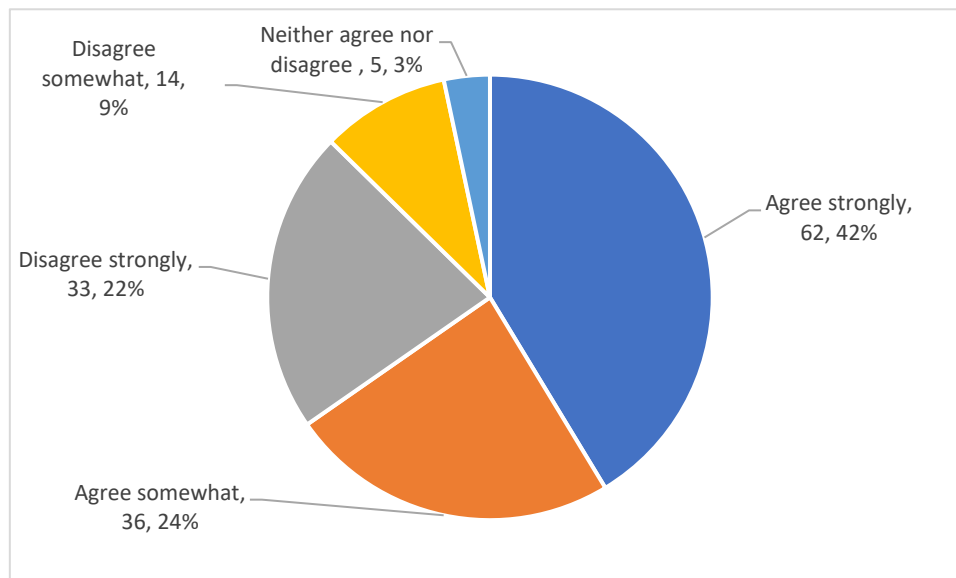
Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed amended restrictions provide the right balance to enable both dog owners and people who do not own a dog to enjoy the public space?

The proposed restrictions are to implement a seasonal dog ban on Minehead beach between Minehead Golf Club Groyne to Harbour (seasonal).



Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed amended restrictions provide the right balance to enable both dog owners and people who do not own a dog to enjoy the public space?

The proposed alternative restrictions are to implement a seasonal dog ban on Minehead beach between Minehead Golf Club Groyne to Jubilee Café steps (seasonal).



General Comments

1. "Dogs need a sandy, flat area of the beach to exercise but not at the expense of people trying to use the beach in the summer.
A fair split of designated areas of the sandy part of the beach would satisfy all parties as you can't rely on dog owners picking up after their pets and I would hate it if my child or I stood in or found dog poo on the beach.
Restrictions could be easily extended to include Easter and or October half term if adequate space was provided for dogs down by the harbour but banned from the Butlins end for a longer period. It should only be in the winter that dogs are allowed on the main stretch of beach but give dog owners access to other parts for longer.
2. Dogs on leads would be better in my opinion."
3. "This survey is confusing. The Woodcombe section of The Parks in Minehead has no signs (that I can see) saying dogs should be on leads. But your survey says ""no change"" ""dogs on leads"". Most dog owners have dogs off-lead here, and this seems acceptable to everybody. There is no way to answer your survey to say I want dogs to be able to be off-lead in this area. The IMPORTANT thing is for dogs to have access to part of Minehead beach, nearest the harbour, all year round please."
4. "I would suggest that in the alternative proposal for Minehead beach the division between the two areas should be at the second groyne past the Cafe not the first. The space between the first and second groynes is much more Accessible for people who are mobility challenged unlike the area between the harbour and the first groyne where the access steps are buried in sand and rocks. This would make the suggestion more Equality Act compliant.

I would also suggest that on the section of beach where dogs are banned in the summer that the restriction should be limited to dogs on leads.

There are very few areas where dogs can exercise off lead, which is good for their health and well being as required by law. There needs to be more areas for such activities which need to be signposted clearly within the town."

5. Blenheim Gardens should definitely be dog-free as children play there. Make the beach area near Butlins dog free in the summer for the same reason but allow dogs all year round at the harbour end which is less frequented by families. Not everyone likes dogs, so a compromise is needed.
6. dogs should be allowed on beach all year, say before 10am - and after 7pm. as most beachgoers without dogs don't use the beach at these key walking times.
7. "1. Restricting dogs on main beach year round, but allow access to harbour and neighbouring beach year round.
2. Allow dogs in Blenheim Gardens on leads, on footpaths only, restrict any access on grassed areas.
3. Provide more dog waste bins - plenty in The Parks, very few elsewhere so no wonder that people don't pick up and leave bags dumped on ground"
8. Having dog free areas to enjoy, such as play areas and Blenheim Gardens is paramount. We've had to deal with poo coating the buggy wheels, our daughter's shoes and toys in places we should not have to worry about. Having a child who is physically developmentally behind, I've been afraid to allow him to explore as he is unable to remove himself from situations if an over boisterous or aggressive dog approaches him.
9. I'm fed up of my children not being able to play safely because some dog owners do not keep their dogs under control and don't bother to pick up after them. Restrictions should be in place (especially in playgrounds and on the beach) and, importantly, they should be enforced.
10. Lots of children are frightened of dogs so they should not be allowed to run free where children play
11. Dog owners are more considerate generally than in the past, but restrictions ensure that they remain considerate. Dogs come in all sizes and a larger dog running around the beach can scare people enjoying this amenity or barking dogs disturb their peace. Blenheim gardens is an absolute asset to the town, so dogs must be excluded. Other areas just make sense surely - children and dogs should not share areas that are put there for children!
12. "Regarding Minehead beach... I've heard people saying that families don't use the beach between Jubilee café and the harbour so why not let the dogs use it?. This simply isn't true. I frequently walk on this part of the beach and see families playing there. I went on the beach a couple of evenings ago and it was largely covered in sand, making it an attractive place to go, especially after buying your ice creams in the Jubilee café. There was much evidence on the beach that children had been building sandcastles, painting rocks. Etc. I personally do not want to see dog mess all over the beach in the summer, as well as the winter, and risk dogs running up to myself or children etc."
13. "I think that dogs should be excluded altogether from Blenheim Gardens and the Recreation ground. Dog owners are currently bringing their dogs into the gardens specifically in order for the dogs to relieve themselves. This is a major health hazard, as dog faeces and urine on the grass causes health issues for any adult or child sitting or lying on the grass.
As for the beach, I am happy to restore the status quo, of a complete seasonal ban from May-Sep. I think dog fouling is a health risk for visitors and residents using the beach, particularly children. I don't think the suggested

proposal to allow dogs at the harbour end of the beach all year round is at all practical. Dogs are not known to respect boundaries, especially off the lead! And how would owners know where the boundaries were? Would you put up a fence down the middle of the beach?

Of course, a bigger issue is enforcement: whatever restrictions are put in place, they are useless without dog wardens to enforce them."

14. Whatever is out in place, it will need to be properly policed and enforced
15. Blenheim Gardens should be free of dogs at all times. Dogs on beach should be on leads.
16. It is all very well and good having restrictions, but if they are not enforced I'm not sure what good they do. They rely on people respecting the rules. Who by, or how, they could be enforced though I do not know!
17. "Please keep restrictions in place. The whole world has become very pro dog but not all dog owners are equal.
Dogs should not be where children are playing in public spaces. I don't want my children swimming with dogs or relaxing in Blenheim Gardens where dogs have urinated. It doesn't mean I hate dogs, I just don't want them included everywhere."
18. "General public should be able to report violations anonymously. This may consist of photographic evidence.
There is no point in having restrictions unless they are enforced. The public need reassurance that action will be taken."
19. "Blenheim gardens should not allow dogs under any circumstances as with children's play areas and school /public sports grounds.
As for the beach, harbour end and golf course end should allow dogs if fouling is policed and acted on. I do not believe dogs should be allowed in the central(busiest) section of beach. All dogs should be kept on leads."
20. "Impose severe penalties with regard to dog fouling where the owner does not clear or pick up their dogs mess. Make available more dog fouling bins in the town / Parks and beach areas of Minehead.
Give the local special constables the power to encourage dog owners to behave in a respectful manner.
Introduce a dog license."
21. "Restrict dogs all year around in Blenheim gardens- plenty of other places they can go. Especially as the cafe is back open- I enjoy going there with my toddler however have recently experienced dog poo.
Restrict seasonal access on the beach as it used to be from May-Sept. Dog poo alongside dogs off leads coming up to people is not acceptable. I have dogs myself however there are plenty of places to go elsewhere."
22. The problem with beach is they aren't on leads, I've watched dog walkers and they often aren't aware their dogs have pooped, Plus excited dogs often run up to people some jumping up at them. This has happened to me several times. If you are wary of dogs (I am having been bitten) this is unsettling and can be very disturbing for a small child."
23. Any restrictions should be monitored and heavy fines given to any people not adhering to them.
24. "Too many dogs in public areas including cafes and pubs.
Probably not an issue for the council, but not every one wants to share eating places with animals."
25. Had a caravan at Blue Anchor & never went on beach as full of unleashed uncontrolled dogs. Feel seasonal restrictions should be in place there
26. I feel, given the increase in dog ownership , that it is only a matter of time before someone is seriously maimed/killed by a dog in Minehead. I really

hope the restrictions are reinstated to give us a dog -free zone within the town.

27. "It is important to retain these dog exclusion areas. There is absolutely no shortage of other places where dogs can be freely walked and let off their lead. It is generally only a minority of dog owners that do not behave responsibly or are actively anti-social. However, that minority is growing in absolute terms as the general population of dogs in the UK is growing; it now stands at some 12 million according to latest estimates, which represents an enormous increase since 2020. Estimates are vague but I understand that these dogs are responsible for some 1200 to 1500 tons of excrement per day. Many owners do not seem to be aware of the nuisance that dogs can be to others either in terms of the parasites and pathogens they leave, even after the bulk of the offensive and odorous material may have been collected in a bag; or in terms of the fact that some people are simply afraid of dogs. In parks and gardens children like to roll on the grass and picnic with their mothers. Even dog urine can spoil such innocent activities. Dogs on long leads on cycle paths are also a dangerous nuisance and should be obliged to be kept under close control.

This may not be the place to state it, but I believe there is a strong case for reintroducing the dog licence and having all dogs chipped and genetically fingerprinted in order to allow identification of the owner and person responsible for any uncollected faeces. The cost of the licence would be small in relation to the annual cost of owning and keeping a dog, but would be sufficient to pay for wardens, dog-waste collection and disposal, and laboratories to identify miscreants. I do not own a dog at present but have done so, and anyone who does should be able to train their dog to sit, stay, come to heel, and lie down. It is a necessary responsibility of ownership and should be a condition of being licensed."

28. I believe there are enough open spaces for dog owners to take their dogs in the area without having them in parks and on the beach. Going back 35 years, the parks walk had dreadful dog fouling and seems a bit better now. Not all children or adults feel comfortable around dogs not on leads.
29. I think without question there should be no dogs at all in any children's play area or, and most importantly, Blenheim Gardens or Parks Walk (Parkhouse Rd to Periton Lane). Dogs on Leads restrictions don't work with a percentage of people. To them it means dogs permitted to run free. Our park staff work incredibly hard to maintain beautiful, relaxing spaces for members of the public to enjoy. These park areas are the Jewel in our crown. Let's keep them that way without the fear of anybody stepping in dogs poo, or having it flicked over you as the staff frequently have to endure whilst grass cutting. We live in an area where there are miles and miles of unrestricted woods, moors etc. for people to take dogs. I have always lived in Minehead and no dog restricted areas have ever caused me any problems. Maybe because I love and respect our area and the people working within it.
30. "The seasonal restrictions for the beach worked well, previously. Please reinstate these so that our family can enjoy a relaxing time on the beach again. There are plenty of other areas where dogs can be exercised. Equally, Blenheim Gardens is delightful without dogs. Please reinstate dog exclusion here, as well.

Although, I have classed myself as a visitor, I spend a great deal of the year in Minehead, being an active member of the community, volunteering and belonging to various groups and classes. My family visit regularly, as well. we

all enjoy spending time here but this last year with dogs all over the place has spoilt our enjoyment of certain areas."

31. "Areas need to be monitored.

There need to be places where you can be sure that dogs won't have fouled and where children can play and families can sit without coming across excrement.

As someone who has been knocked over by a large running dog which broke my collar bone, I feel strongly that restrictions are in place."

32. "Firstly I am a dog lover ...I have had had dogs all my life. I also have adopted and been a foster carer for one of our main dog rescuers in the UK.

33. I firmly believe we need a balance and feel sure dogs on Minehead beach on the harbour side would work. I don't usually see family's on that side. There is also the issue of people who have a real fear of dogs especially when they run free.

As for Blenheim park def leads only and would prefer no dogs due to the cafe being a most lovely space for mums with young children to relax with a Coffee with their children free to use the ride on toys without dogs running at them. Two of my grandchildren have had the privilege of playing safely in Blenheim park over the last few years.

This summer I have seen quite an increase in people walking dogs through the park not picking up the dog mess along dogs not on leads ."

34. "Placing restrictions are one thing but more should be done to enforce any restrictions that are in place for example using dog wardens or carrying out spot checks!

I also feel any wardens should have more powers for issuing fines or warnings. Or perhaps work and patrol with police or PCSOs"

35. They should not be allowed in childrens play area at any time unless assistance dogs. They should not be allowed on sandy beach, from Jubilee cafe to golf course at any time from 1st April until 31st October, unless assistance dogs appropriately marked as such.

36. We certainly need children's play areas and Blenheim Gardens to be kept dog free to ensure children can play safely.

37. Minehead beach whilst I agree on a restricted ban, would it not be an idea to allow dogs all year around between the jubilee cafe corner and the harbour, we do have alot of dog owners and this would seem a fair compromise to allow dogs on the beach all year around, without them being free to roam on the busiest, Sandhurst part of the beach."

38. Dogs on lead anywhere in public areas at all times especially in the town centre. Far too many people walk their dogs around with no lead on. Muzzles should be compulsory for ALL medium to large dogs when in public places

39. Please ensure they are enforced when in place, otherwise it's a pointless exercise

40. Any restrictions, once re-established, should be clearly signposted so that there is no misunderstanding as to where and when they apply.

41. "I think there should be areas of the beach that exclude dogs completely year round, as there are many people in Minehead who swim all year - or at least ensure that dogs are on leads outside the seasonal ban in a restricted area. There should also be an area where dogs can run freely all year round (ie Jubilee Cafe to the Harbour), to accommodate dog walkers and families who want to go to the beach with their dog."

42. "Dogs have culvercliffe & past golf course to be exercised public parks/gardens should be dog free areas so people can enjoy them

Dogs should not be allowed on the beach where family's are it's not nice for kids to dig holes & find buried dog mess nor should they be afraid of being knocked over by a running dog at fast speed when the owners are at the top of the beach with lead in hand! They cannot see if their dog has fouled 🤮"

43. Ban the dogs 24/7 from these areas and enforcement action required.
44. Please don't let dogs where our kids play. They are animals and it'll just take one to kill or seriously hurt a child. No matter how well trained when they are off leads they have their own agenda.
45. I agree with your proposals that dogs must be on leads in certain places, that town/village gardens should be dog-free areas, that recreation grounds and children's play areas should also be dog-free. I also agree that dogs on beaches should be controlled, with dogs excluded during the summer season and at all times of the year where people regularly go bathing.
46. "I can not understand why the consultation would propose permitting dogs in the Millennium Rose Garden. The Millennium Rose Garden is a tiny fenced area next to a very large open green space. This tiny area is a tiny oasis of flowers used by people who want quietude, and should remain a dog exclusion area for the enjoyment of people who do not want to suffer roaming dogs running around them, and the inevitable fouling.
Until the PSPOs expired, there were only two areas in the whole of Minehead which were dog free: Blenheim Gardens and the Millennium Rose Garden. Surely the needs of those who prefer not to have dogs everywhere there should be taken into account?
There must be places in the town which remain dog free for people to enjoy, without being concerned about encountering dog fouling or roaming dogs?
Just because there's a dogs on leads order does not mean dog owners adhere to the rules, the vast majority don't.
The beach should remain dog free during the summer months. Should the consultation permit dogs between the harbour and Jubilee cafe, since most owners do not leash their dogs on the beach, have you considered how are they to be prevented from running off across the outflow onto the main beach, giving them the ability to run amok amongst the holidaymakers?
It appears the only consideration in this consultation is for dog owners.
Please have some consideration for those whose physical and mental wellbeing would be affected by having dogs everywhere."
47. Keeping the restriction for dogs not to be allowed on the beach has worked well during the summer months and should be reintroduced."
48. limit number of dogs per person in public areas
49. Every body has a right to use public open spaces in safety. Dog ownership does not confer additional rights to the owner to diminish the safety of public. Unfortunately a minority of dog owners do not take their responsibility to clear up after their dogs which means that all dog exercising has to be restricted.
50. "Our villages and towns, particularly children's play areas and beach areas, need to be protected not only from dog fouling but also from the anti-social behaviour of some dogs and their owners/walkers. The re-introduction of appropriate byelaws should take place quickly,
Just the presence of a dog on or off its lead can be extremely intimidating for some people, regardless of their age or the size of the dog.
Dog faeces contain high levels of a wide range of pathogenic micro-organisms. Please refer to <https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/faqs/advice/dog-fouling-and-law> for an example of clear and concise information regarding dog fouling and the law, including the diseases that can be spread as a result of dog fouling.

When the Restrictions for Dogs are re-introduced, they should be accompanied by similarly clear and concise information in order to educate those who are ignorant of their responsibilities as dog owners/walkers and who appear to have no understanding of the potential impact of their dogs' behaviour.

Most dog owners/walkers exercise and control their dogs appropriately. Unfortunately, however, some dog owners are almost arrogant in their attitude and appear to believe their dogs have rights that supersede the rights of other human beings. The byelaws must be reinstated without delay to ensure that everyone can safely and responsibly enjoy our public spaces, without fear of being intimidated by dogs or their owners, nor should they run the risk of being contaminated by dog faeces."

51. "Minehead attracts many families with young children to our dog-free beach. it is unhygienic to mix dogs and young children, who tend to put things in their mouths, do not wash their hands frequently etc. Many children are also frightened of dogs.

The area proposed to be free for dogs is not just the harbour end, but continues to the Jubilee cafe, which is part of the main beach! there might be a case for extending the dogs allowed area to the first set of steps from the harbour or the slipway. The rest of the beach cannot be divided except by a new fence.

It is also essential to keep dogs out of children's playgrounds, for similar reasons.

But perhaps there is a case for allowing dogs on leads in local park areas such as Blenheim Gardens. But this would interfere with the freedom and safety of children around the cafe."

52. Any restrictions will need policing using dog wardens to be effective. Re Minehead Beach, I do not understand how dogs allowed on the Beach can ever be hygienic and especially as a fuss is made in ensuring the sea is kept as clean as possible re sewage.

53. "Vital that there are dog free areas like Blenheim Park where the disabled, elderly with mobility problems and vulnerable children can feel safe from dogs jumping up at them or bounding towards them. They deserve a safe space where they can meet. So many dog owners are oblivious to the fact that some people are scared of dogs or simply do not want them close.

It is not right that dogs are on the beach when children are swimming, playing. or building sand castles they should not be subjected to their excrement, or excitable behaviour."

54. It feel so very strongly that the beach (which is the most contentious area) has areas where dogs can be as well as areas where they cannot. Many children are frightened or wary of dogs and whilst many clear up after their dogs there are quite a number that do not (figures vary but the average seem to say that about 25% do not bag it) If a dog is off lead it is also almost impossible for their owners to find poo if its a distance away . There are also the health implications and risk of illness if poo gets into eyes or mouths and dogs urine can also be harmful to humans. The beach is the one area where most walk barefoot and children play with the sand often digging or building. It is not therefore appropriate to allow dogs and in turn their poo to be there. Dogs off leads are not always under control and can be aggressive and I have heard of one occasion this year where a large dog attacked a smaller dog causing injury to the dog and the owner that tried to pull them apart. That being said, some would like to have their dogs with them or walk with a dog on the beach so an area where they can also enjoy the beach (eg Jubilee

Cafe to Harbour) would feel a great compromise so all can be accommodated. Re the play parks again for the most part there should be no dogs so children can be outside to play football or sports, picnic or just sit around on the grass having fun without having to think or worry about poo. Being outdoor has so many health benefits so the council should encourage and legislate to ensure safe and clean outside public spaces.

55. It only takes one person to let their dog off its lead in the park and others will follow. The park has signs on the gates but people just disregard them as I have seen people cycling on the putting area and around the flower beds, just recently whilst having my lunch in the park a dog owner came in with his dog, that is the first time I have seen a dog in the park. It would be nice to keep a few beautiful places free from dogs.
56. "Dog ownership has increased. One person with a dog off the lead on the beach can affect a huge area and many people. The dog can be causing problems at distances way beyond the owner's influence or ability to control the dog. People are more important than dogs and need protecting from them. This is not anti dog it's pro people. Don't wait until someone is badly hurt. To allow dogs on the beach in March and April is irresponsible - many families visit and use the beach then.
We regularly walk the beach and are astonished how much dog mess is left in the sand where people sit or play. Again, one incident of fouling can affect many people. Who is going to enforce the rules against such antisocial behaviour?"
57. "Proper visible, Clear Large Signs. With Cameras.
Fines must be enforced. Without fining anyone, no one will take it seriously.
Employ Staff, Cameras.
It isn't rocket science."
58. "There are very few areas in Minehead which are free from dogs and fouling. Minehead beach should be kept dog free and fouling free during the summer when thousands of visitors come to the town."
59. "The options relating to the amended proposal for Minehead beach do not give as an option 'the retention of the previous restriction'.
If a balanced series of restrictions come into existence, and I strongly believe they should, then there must be a system of enforcement and a subsequent system of publicising the enforcement..ie via local newspapers, anonymised monthly records on town and unitary council websites and newsheets. There must also be a commitment from town and parish councils in terms of a commitment towards restrictions, not just a 'leave it to Somerset council' approach."
60. "The restrictions needs to be from the harbour to the golf club , many a time sat in a deck chair on the sand ruined by a dog not on lead approaching , seen too many owners looking around before they walk off and leave the mess
We need to see more dog wardens"
61. If I had the choice- I would make Blenheim gardens dog free again but the beach I would allow dogs before 10.30 and after 4 or similar.
62. "Dog owners may feel that restrictions are discriminatory towards them and their dogs.
I say that not having restrictions is discriminatory to those of us humans who feel any nervousness or problem with dogs.
Surely humans ought to have priority of feeling safe rather than dogs and owners having freedom to do as they please."
63. It's very unpleasant to have dogs fouling in public spaces in Minehead.

64. Dogs are plaguing Minehead - out of control, off the leash and incessant barking.
65. Restrictions mean absolutely nothing without following up (fining, removal, prison) of offenders. Without any way to stop offenders, what is the point as people will not self police this issue.
66. West Somerset apart from the beach is very dog friendly and it seems quite harsh that residents and holidaymakers alike cannot share apart of the beach with their dogs in the summer
67. Blenheim gardens and the main beach area need to be a sanctuary for the people who don't like or are scared of dogs. The faeces issue is nothing short of tiresome and a well known health hazard. Not all owners pick up and if no dogs are allowed in these limited areas there is a guaranteed safety zone for safe play for children
68. With an increasing number of dogs in the area belonging to residents and visitors alike, it is becoming increasingly difficult to avoid dogs in cafes, pubs, restaurants etc and I believe, on hygiene and health grounds, that dogs should not be present in areas where people are consuming food and beverages. I do not dislike dogs per se, but feel that many owners believe their pets have an absolute right to do as they please and the owners do not properly control them. I have lost count the number of times my personal space has been invaded by a dog and the owners response to my dislike of being licked by their pets is that the dog is only showing that it likes me! This is inappropriate behaviour from the owner.
69. "As always the minority of dog owners who don't pick up and scare people with their unfriendly dogs spoil it for others.
I have loved being able to walk through Bleinhem gardens recently with my dad and his dog. He is in his 80s and has dementia and gone are the days now where we can walk to Dunster along the golf course, on north hill or hopcott. Instead the gardens is a lovely place for him to safely walk his dog, to reminisce about his childhood, walk on the flat, see other local people, shelter a bit from the rain, support the bands and cafe and bins outside the gates make it easy to dispose of poo bags.
I'm also a sea swimmer so finding dogs mess on the beach this summer is not welcome. I think the summer restrictions are crucial yet totally agree that having the section behind the Jubilee cafe as a dog friendly area great especially for access for families and elderly people. As the beach at the other end behind the golf course is hard to climb to."
70. "I am not sure why we are actually talking about restrictions rather than education of dog owners and people who do not have dogs. We need to learn living alongside animals rather than introduce exclusions and bans. Animals teach us about nature and importance of it. Humans do not own this planet for their own consumption.
Thank you"
71. "1. I am somewhat concened about King George playing fields. Before King George V died in 1936 he made it known he didn't want any memorials erected. Sufficient to say enough relating to Great War as it was then known.
72. The King so desired that he wished it be known that in his memory 'Playing Fields for children and recreation. I gather in his memory there are some four hundred.
73. I should like to see no dog s allowed as is the case for most school sites. I recall Watchet town council on its Memorial ground restricts dogs on leads to specified areas. In otherwords not allowed on the sports area or childrens

play area. King George playing field is what it says not an area for dogs especially as a Childrens centre has been built. at first light
Finally what ever restrictions are imposed it is time for inspectors to patrol whether at first light all days and after sunset.

Perhaps it is time for the reintroduction of the dog licence. It was an known as assinged revenue paid over to councils to finance the costs associated with dogs. Now to pay for dog bins and disposal etc."

74. I think dogs needs to be banned from the main beach area (Jubilee Cafe to Golf Course) during high season when that part of the beach is likely to be busy - though it's probably easier to understand and enforce if the area from the harbour to the golf course is included in full. The start date of the ban could probably be moved to end of May as the beach doesn't get very busy in May, and you could possibly allow dogs before 9am and after 9pm the whole year but that still risks irresponsible dog owners leaving mess on the main beach when it's going to be busy. Blenheim Gardens, the rec and all other parks and play areas should have a permanent full time ban.
75. "Blenheim Gardens is a beautiful, peaceful space. This summer many young families have been seen playing on the grass, picnicking and enjoying the putting.
Dog faeces and urine are toxic and contain many bacteria. Dogs should not be allowed into this place"
76. There is no need for dogs to be let of the lead in Blenheim gardens - there is the whole of Exmoor and North Hill around the corner!
77. "There are more dog poo bins which is good. Dog owners often don't see their large dog is any danger to small children.
I walk a dog who would not get out otherwise.
Best idea would be no dogs on beach during summer school holidays or weekends from say April to November.
I have seen a guy with 2 large dogs use the culver cliff fenced playground as a playpen for his dogs.
I did not know dogs had to be leashed on esplanade although I do that.
Thanks"
78. I think that dogs should be allowed on the beach between the jubilee cafe and the harbour all year round but the rest of the beach should be dog free in the summer months. I also believe that Blenheim gardens should have no dogs in all year round.
79. I think if we make Minehead seafront more dog friendly all year round we will get more tourists as I know it puts people off booking holidays when the beach isn't dog friendly.
80. "Rather than the whole beach be dog free, make from harbour to jubilee dog friendly and rest of beach no dogs seasonal.
81. Generally the restrictions will only apply if they can be enforced. With no dog warden the point is moot.
82. The beach is big enough for everybody! Less dogs in the gardens or the beach will mean more dogs on the pavements. Local businesses are losing out because of perceived dog-unfriendliness.
83. Dogs are a part of the family and should be treated as such
84. The lack of restrictions over the summer on Minehead beach meant that I could be a lot more active with my dog, this has supported my weight loss of nearly 10kg this year. I really cannot stress how good this has been, I can see that lots more people have been enjoying the beach with their whole family, including the dog, please let us have some part of the beach, like they do in Exmouth.

85. Its not only about dog fouling its about safety of young children, a dog only has its mouth to speak and if a child has a ball a dog wants to play if it gets the ball then runs off or takes its from child then it will be shouted at or whatever, its not the dogs fault so why would a dog lover want to out their pet in that situation, I just don't know
86. "Minehead Beach. The proposed area better than nothing during the summer months but area not sandy and there's a lot of families with children and dogs who can't play in the sand or access the water without feet hurting due to pebbles so to include the small sandy section in front of Queens Hall would be nice to be dog friendly too. There's still the two longer sandy stretches in front of Butlins which could be dog free for the summer months.
However, as a responsible dog owner I regularly walk the whole beach and gain great pleasure in picking up litter along the whole beach and am shocked by what people leave. I've picked up dirty nappies, syringes, broken glass, numerous wet wipes, plastic bottles and tin cans, discarded beach toys, the list is endless. There's quite a few of us locals who do this. I hate to think of it going into the sea and causing damage to sea life. I would miss not being able to do this. I must say that having been able to use the whole beach this summer has been idyllic as it's somewhere that's good for my mental health.
Another suggestion is to be able to use the whole beach say before 9am and after 6/7pm in addition to the suggested area.
Also, Culvercliffe shelters. Since sprucing up these offer no shelter whatsoever from the biting winds that come off the sea or rain being driven sideways by the wind. When there was panelling there was always a dry side out of the wind. Can perspex please be used to replace the panelling as per the shelters on the sea front? They are pretty much useless as they are unless the weather is nice!"
87. As a frequent visitor to Minehead at all times of the year to visit family, I can see that many holidaying families would be deterred from visiting and staying in the town as it is not particularly dog friendly. I think it is an excellent idea to enable dog owners to use the harbour end of the beach during the summer months. Not sure why Blenheim Gardens has a total ban on dogs all year round, surely the park is there to be enjoyed by everyone. I always feel like a second-class citizen when I'm excluded from enjoying the delights of the park with my dog. Maybe letting dogs in on leads only would be a good compromise?
88. "With regard I agree that dog Access be limited in Blenheim Gardens. However that means many people cannot enjoy concerts and much needed trade for the cafe is lost.
Perhaps dogs could be allowed on a lead on areas adjacent to the perimeter paths but not on the main grass areas."
89. "Ideally just allowed in general, but if not is it possible for the expanded area to be increased by one groyne?
Currently the majority of the proposed dog friendly beach is fairly impassable at high tide"
90. "Minehead beach- we have absolutely loved going to the beach this year as the restrictions were lifted. I understand why there have been restrictions but I believe that this year owners have been responsible and I have seen no dog mess, intact see a lot more litter form families. We have a child so going all the way down the the golf club side is too far for her to walk and culvercliff is too dangerous due to the stones. We have loved this year walking as a family and treating ourselves to chips and ice creams and enjoying them on the

beach. If restrictions had to come back into place can there not be a total ban, for example can have access to the whole beach but there be time slots in place, for example no dogs allowed on the beach or off the lead on the beach between hours of 10-6, it's very very rarely when I walk my dog on the beach there are crowds of people out of those times and it means as locals we can enjoy nice walks on the beach before and after work. Or if there really had to be a total ban could it maybe be for a shorter time period, for example just the 6 weeks holidays? I've went on the beach so many times when the ban should have taken place in may onwards and there was nobody on there but we were allowed to enjoy it. I Believe more people will come to the town and spend money if dogs were allowed on the beach, dogs are so much of people's family these days and we travel all over to go to dog friendly beaches. Woolacombe and a lot of Cornwall allow dogs all year round and it brings in the crowds. Even dunster gets so busy as dogs are allowed but that takes money away from minehead

I hope that some of the restrictions the town has with dogs could be eased a bit and we we can enjoy the town even more"

91. "My personal preference would be for a 'dogs on leads' order for Blenheim Gardens and the adoption of the amended proposal for Minehead Beach. It is important to provide easy access exercise areas for dogs in Minehead, and Culvercliff and North Hill carry a strong risk of tick infestation (a risk for both dogs and owners).

The beach is big enough to provide for all and as such dogs should have access to some part all year round."

92. Allow dogs in Blenheim Gardens, Minehead, on leads only.

93. "I've lived in minehead for 5 years.

94. The beach in particular is a huge part of my life - and a great asset. I've witnessed only ever kindness and sharing between dog lovers and non dog lovers alike. Many families (and councillors!) have dogs.

There's nothing worse than being treated like a third class citizen being denied to an EMPTY beach on a summers morning by a big dog ban sign ... and looking down at the rubbish, broken glass and hot coals left by HUMANS from last nights party. There isn't ONE sign saying you'll be fined for leaving dangerous litter. But a £5000 for s dog poo?! Get real , 99% of dog owners and dogs are good. I'd say atleast 30% of humans on the beach are disgusting and cause environmental damage and long term danger with fish hooks and line, broken beer bottles , and abandoned torn plastic inflatables.

95. The council constantly feel like s failure to me. Look at the effort gone into this ! A huge effort Just to ban our furry friends to LOVE the beach.

How many area surveys have been made about speeding, insanely noisy boy racers? ZERO .

Get real council and allow dogs on atleast the whole harbour beach all year round. do any of you actually spend much time here? Probably not. Guess who is at the coast, rain or shine, dark or bright in the sun rise and have the strongest bond with the beach ... yes you guessed it the dog walkers.

Dogs are a vital part of many families and are hugely important to mental health. Dogs trust us , love us AND INSPIRE us to go out and enjoy the outdoors.

My dog LOVES the beach with all her heart. And when I've gone through tough times one thing lights up my heart... seeing my dog SO happy , playing on the beach , just as much as anybody would.

I strongly feel it's ridiculous and narrow minded to completely exclude a slice of society and the very animals we humans have held captive for years from just simple joy.

As I child I grew up with pets , they are so important to child learning and teach children how to interact with animals.

Frankly I believe that it's animal haters who are the only people who would without good reason wish for a ban to be enforced again.

A British seaside resort benefits from walkers - especially minehead (gateway to Exmoor) financially .

It's a plus point to proactively advertise that "yes you CAN visit our friendly seaside town all year round with your whole family including your beloved dogs"

We have great dog friendly family run cafes - they NEED boosted walker trade ... NOT just a "ban everything" mentality.

Ps. Lots of dog walkers now go to the Blenheim garden cafe. I wonder how their trade will be when you ban me from wording my money there and others like me.

A fresh council should grow up and have fresh views ... stop being narrow minded and embrace CHANGE. Advertise minehead as wholly friendly and open for everybody ALL YEAR ROUND !

(Apologies capital letters could be italic , but not sure how to do it!)"

96. Dogs are like family to many people and a great source of comfort and companionship. The odd owner who doesn't care makes it bad for all of us. More proactive policing would help.
97. "Beach - area should be shortened to only cover the area of the three main sandy bays.
Blenheim gardens - Dogsshould be allowed on leads. As a dog owner I am often excluded from activities in the gardens which is annoying as every other animal can wander in and defecate and these animals are not cared for (wormed etc).
Lower Parks walk - Dogs have been walking through loose and are not causing any problems as they do not in the higher walk.
I think there is an opportunity to consider whether dogs are causing any worries, currently. My problem withmaking these exclusions is that considerate owners will obey and the others will not anyway."
98. I believe that there should signs in place urging dog owners to pick up after their dogs and any dog owner found not picking up after there dog should be liable to be fined. Minehead has a lot of dog owners and it's the few that ruin it for everyone else. A campaign of encouragement for dog owners to pick up after their dogs would be beneficial to every part of the town
99. "Although dogs can make a mess from pooing, this shouldn't be a reason to restrict them. Humans make more mess every summer on the beach. Where is the restrictions for butlins? They leave glass everywhere.
At least give the dogs one section of sandy beach to enjoy."
100. Minehead is ideally situated for visitors with dogs who come to the area for walking / coastal holidays. Banning dogs from the beach in the summer and Blenheim Gardens all year round sends a message that dogs, their owners and their tourist £££ are not welcome or wanted.
101. Dogs could be allowed on beach before 1000 hrs.
102. "As to Minehead Beach, the summer dog exclusion must impact on visitor numbers to Minehead and more particularly the beach.
103. The restrictions on the whole of Minehead beach from a visitors view point during the summer and into autumn period puts people off from staying in the

resort. There is also no point advertising that there is a cafe in Blenheim gardens on the main road in Minehead when once you get to the actual gardens boundary the signage informs of no dogs allowed. The cafe must have alot less custom with this restriction in place. Also more dog bins need to be provided throughout Minehead.

104. A year round dog friendly beach would be fantastic for tourism in the area.
105. Having younger children Would be nice to have some sections of the beach that are dog free, we have already experienced dog poo and a dog running up to my child since the rules changed and although I think it's lovely for the dogs and owners to use and enjoy the beach it would be also be nice not to have to worry about these issues when using the beach
106. Dogs are currently running around in Blenheim Park and on Minehead beach. There is dog poo everywhere, what's more important dogs or children!!!! Can we please revert to no dogs in Blenheim Park at any time of the year. Unfortunately responsible dog owners have to have these restrictions because of the few irresponsible dog owners who seem to think that everyone loves their dog and it can poo/wee /run anywhere it likes and owners don't pick up. What is more important, dogs or children and their health and safety??????
107. Dogs are allowed in the beach 7pm-9am and that will help all.hriuos of People out
108. There need to be restrictions for dogs as some dog owners are irresponsible and let all of the good dog owners down by their behaviour. The other point is will these restrictions be policed by anybody because if not it will be a waste of time.
109. There has to be control on dogs in public spaces, there are more dogs than ever these days.
110. Please reinstate what we had before with regards the parks and beach. It minimised risks to children and toddlers from potential dog attacks and infection from dog poo or residue poo.
111. As much as Somerset loves dogs, there has to be a hard and fast line to controlling the boundaries to ensure that public spaces can be enjoyed by everyone.
112. REMOVE THE ILLEGAL SIGNS FOR DOG EXCLUSION AREA IN BLENHIEM PARK ENTRANCES
113. An increasing number of selfish owners take no notice of restrictions anyway seeming to think it doesn't apply to them