

Public Document Pack

NONSUCH PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Monday 17 June 2024 at 10.00 am

Mansion House, Nonsuch Park

The members listed below are summoned to attend the Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee meeting, on the day and at the time and place stated, to consider the business set out in this agenda.

Committee Members

Councillor Julian Freeman, Epsom & Ewell Borough Council

Councillor Tony Froud, Epsom & Ewell Borough Council

Councillor Peter Geiringer, London Borough of Sutton

Councillor Christine Howells, Epsom & Ewell Borough Council

Councillor Louise Phelan, London Borough of Sutton

Councillor Christopher Woolmer, London Borough of Sutton

Yours sincerely



Clerk to the Committee

For further information, please contact democraticservices@epsom-ewell.gov.uk or 01372 732000

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

No emergency drill is planned to take place during the meeting. If the fire alarm sounds continuously, or if you are instructed to do so, you must leave the building by the nearest available exit. You will be directed to the nearest exit by staff. It is vital that you follow their instructions.

- You should proceed calmly; do not run
- Do not stop to collect personal belongings;
- Once you are outside, please do not wait immediately next to the building. Move to the assembly point and await further instructions; and
- Do not re-enter the building until told that it is safe to do so.

Public information

This meeting will be held at the Mansion House, Nonsuch Park. A limited number of seats will be available in the public seating area. If you wish to observe the meeting from the seating area, please arrive at the Mansion House before the start of the meeting. A member of staff will show you to the seating area. For further information please contact Democratic Services, email: democraticservices@epsom-ewell.gov.uk, telephone: 01372 732000.

Information about the membership of this Committee are available on the [Council's website](#). The website also provides copies of agendas, reports and minutes.

Agendas, reports and minutes for this Committee are also available on the free Modern.Gov app for iPad, Android and Windows devices. For further information on how to access information regarding this Committee, please email us at democraticservices@epsom-ewell.gov.uk.

Questions and Statements from the Public

Up to 30 minutes will be set aside for questions and statements from members of the public at meetings of this Committee. Any member of the public who lives, works, attends an educational establishment or owns or leases land in the Borough may ask a question or make a statement on matters related to the management and control of the Park.

Questions cannot relate to the personal affairs of an individual or a matter which is exempt from disclosure or confidential under the Local Government Act 1972. Questions which in the view of the Chair are inappropriate or offensive will not be accepted. Each question or statement will be limited to 3 minutes in length

Members of the public are requested to submit their questions in writing to democraticservices@epsom-ewell.gov.uk by noon on the third working day before the day of the meeting. For this meeting this is **Noon, Wednesday 12 June**.

Statements are requested to be submitted in writing to democraticservices@epsom-ewell.gov.uk by noon on the working day before the day of the meeting. For this meeting this is **Noon, Friday 14 June**.

Questions and statements not submitted to Democratic Services prior to the meeting may be accepted at the Chair's discretion.

For more information on public speaking protocol at Committees, please see [Annex 4.2](#) of the Epsom & Ewell Borough Council Operating Framework.

Exclusion of the Press and the Public

There are no matters scheduled to be discussed at this meeting that would appear to disclose confidential or exempt information under the provisions Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended). Should any such matters arise during the course of discussion of the below items or should the Chair agree to discuss any other such matters on the grounds of urgency, the Committee may wish to resolve to exclude the press and public by virtue of the private nature of the business to be transacted.

Filming and recording of meetings

The Council allows filming, recording and photography at its public meetings. By entering the Mansion House and using the seating area, you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings.

Members of the Press who wish to film, record or photograph a public meeting should contact the Council's Communications team prior to the meeting by email at: communications@epsom-ewell.gov.uk

Filming or recording must be overt and persons filming should not move around the room whilst filming nor should they obstruct proceedings or the public from viewing the meeting. The use of flash photography, additional lighting or any non-handheld devices, including tripods, will not be allowed.

AGENDA

1. APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIR FOR 2024/25

To appoint a Chair for Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee from Councillors representing Sutton Council for the Municipal Year 2024/2025.

2. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Up to 30 minutes will be set aside for the Committee to receive any questions or statements from members of the public

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive declarations of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or other registrable or non-registrable interests from Members in respect of any item to be considered at the meeting.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 5 - 12)

The Committee is asked to confirm as a true record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 25 March 2024 (attached) and to authorise the Chair to sign them.

5. REPORT FROM 1ST CHEAM SCOUTS GROUP (Pages 13 - 14)

The Committee shall receive an informative report submitted by an invited representative of the 1st Cheam Scouts Group, outlining the Scout Group's use of the Park.

6. COMMERCIAL DOG WALKING CONSULTATION RESULTS (Pages 15 - 114)

This report presents the Committee with the results of the Nonsuch Park Commercial Dog Walking Consultation and recommends that a Working Group be established to consider how the matter should be progressed.

7. OUTDOOR DONATION POST (Pages 115 - 120)

To update the Committee on the Outdoor Donation Post project.

8. NONSUCH PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FINAL ACCOUNTS 2023-24 (Pages 121 - 130)

This item presents the Joint Management Committee's final accounts for the financial year 2023/24.

9. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2024/25 (Pages 131 - 132)

To fix the dates and times for meetings of the Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee for the 2024/25 Municipal Year.

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Minutes of the Meeting of the NONSUCH PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE held at the Mansion House, Nonsuch Park on 25 March 2024

PRESENT -

Councillor Julian Freeman (Epsom & Ewell Borough Council) (Chair); Councillors Tony Froud (Epsom & Ewell Borough Council), Peter Geiringer (London Borough of Sutton), Christine Howells (Epsom & Ewell Borough Council), Louise Phelan (London Borough of Sutton) and Christopher Woolmer (London Borough of Sutton)

In Attendance: Councillor Vanessa Udall (London Borough of Sutton), Jon Whitehead (Representative) (Nonsuch Voles), Michael Teasdale (Representative) (Friends of Nonsuch) and Rob Pinchbeck (Run Director) (Nonsuch Parkrun)

Officers present: Jackie King (Committee Clerk, Chief Executive Epsom & Ewell), Samantha Whitehead (Streetcare Manager), Lucy Buckland (Arts, Culture and Heritage Programme Officer), Mark Shephard (Head of Property and Regeneration), Tony Foxwell (Senior Surveyor), Brendan Bradley (Head of Finance), Mitra Hagh-Shenas (Accountant), Mark Dalzell (Parks Manager, London Borough of Sutton), Ian Wolstencroft (Contract Officer London Borough of Sutton), Sarah Clift (Senior Countryside Officer) and Dan Clackson (Democratic Services Officer)

25 QUESTION AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

No questions or statements were received from members of the public.

26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made by Councillors with respect to any items on the agenda.

27 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Committee was asked to confirm that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 22 January 2024 were a true record.

Councillor Louise Phelan requested that the minutes be amended to reflect that she had provided apologies for her absence. The Committee agreed to the amendment.

The Committee confirmed that the minutes were otherwise a true record and authorised the Chair to sign them, subject to the agreed amendment.

28 NONSUCH PARKRUN PRESENTATION

A Representative of Nonsuch Parkrun (Run Director) provided the Committee with a presentation on the contribution that the organisation provides to the Park and to the wider community.

The Committee considered the following matters:

- a) **Green Travel and Car Parking.** A Member asked how Nonsuch Parkrun encourages runners to travel to the Park via green means, such as walking or cycling, rather than driving. The Parkrun Representative explained that there is messaging on their website and that runners are also encouraged during the pre-run briefings. He explained that bike racks are provided for runners who arrive by bike, with a capacity for c.60 bikes. He mentioned that their website explains to runners that the car parking facilities at the Park are limited, and that they erect temporary signage setting out the no-parking areas. He explained that the information relating to the parking arrangements is also relayed to runners during the pre-run briefings.
- b) **Raising for Charity.** The Parkrun Representative explained that they support food banks in Epsom and Sutton and raise money for the Royal Marsden Hospital through their 5k run.
- c) **Cycle Racks.** The Parkrun Representative stated that they currently used four bike racks. He explained that the racks are large, heavy and require setup. He said Parkrun would like to use more racks, but there was a resourcing issue as more volunteers would be needed.
- d) **Accessibility and Attendance.** The Parkrun Representative stated that they aim to be inclusive and accessible to everyone. They don't make their events ticketed or put a limit of the number of runners. He said that they do their best to predict when there might be spikes in the number of runners and manage accordingly. He stated that on average, 650 people attend runs at the Park, with numbers going up to c.970 at their busiest runs.
- e) **Marshalling.** The Parkrun Representative explained that in order to help manage the runs, marshals are stationed around the Park, who adopt the role on a voluntary basis.

The Committee thanked the Nonsuch Parkrun Representative for attending and presenting.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:13 to allow for a short comfort break.

29 OUTDOOR DONATION POSTS

The meeting resumed at 11:20.

The Committee received a report providing an update on the Outdoor Donation Post project and seeking approval from Members to progress the project with a view to installing the donation post in the first quarter of the new financial year.

The Committee considered the following matters:

- a) **Installation.** The Streetcare Manager explained that the Company providing the donation post would not be responsible for its installation, and that the responsibility and cost of installing it would fall under the Committee. She confirmed that the post would be installed close to the café.
- b) **Planning Permission.** A Member enquired as to whether planning permission would be required for the post's installation. The Streetcare Manager confirmed that the matter was being investigated.
- c) **Donations.** The Streetcare Manager confirmed that the post would provide a means for card donations only, with no option for cash donations.
- d) **Donation Amount.** The Arts, Culture and Heritage Officer confirmed that the post would be set to a standard donation amount. The Streetcare Manager advised that most donation posts are set to £3 as standard, though suggested that a set amount up to £5 was considerable. Following a question from a Member, The Arts, Culture and Heritage Officer explained that donation posts designed for indoor use at other facilities such as museums provide the option for users to vary the amount that they donate, saying that it could be investigated as to whether that could be an option for the outdoor post at the Park.
- e) **Communications.** The Streetcare Manager suggested that marketing and public communications would be an important factor in the success of the donation post and its associated fundraising goal. She cited the example of wording used in the messaging employed by the Royal Parks: 'The magic of a Royal Park is priceless, but it doesn't come for free'; she suggested that similar messaging could be used for the Nonsuch Park donation post, and that the matter would be considered further.
- f) **Reward for Donating.** A Member enquired as to whether there was a means to provide something in return to donators, to encourage and reward people's generosity. The Streetcare Manager explained that the post technology would not allow for that. The Arts, Culture and Heritage Officer suggested that an option could be explored for a QR to be provided next to the posts with a link to information about the Park for people to read.
- g) **Power.** The Arts, Culture and Heritage Officer explained that solar panels had been explored as an option to power the post, but it was not stable or reliable.

- h) **Funding.** The Streetcare Manager explained that the Committee was being asked for an estimated £2500 for the post which would constitute 50% of the overall cost. She explained that the money had been found from previous underspending from the Committee's budget, with the remaining 50% being offered by the Friends of Nonsuch. The total anticipated cost of £5000 would include the cost of the installation of the post.
- i) **Buying/Renting.** The Streetcare Manager explained that the rental scheme, mentioned at paragraph 4.3 of the report, was not an option, and that the only option was for the outright purchase of the post. She explained that precise costs were not yet known, and further investigations were underway to ascertain the exact financial implications of the post.
- j) **Installation Timeframe.** A Member enquired as to whether the post, should it be agreed by the Committee at the June meeting, would be installed and ready by the start of the summer holidays. The Arts, Culture and Heritage Officer explained that following Committee agreement, the post would have an anticipated 4-week lead-time prior to installation. The Senior Surveyor added that building consent can take 3 months.
- k) **June Report.** It was agreed by the Committee that a follow-up report on the donation post would be brought to the June meeting, providing further information from the findings of the investigations and considerations discussed during the debate.

Following consideration, the Committee unanimously resolved to:

- (1) Accept the 50% contribution from the Friends of Nonsuch towards the supply and installation of an outdoor donation post.**

The Chair proposed that recommendations 2 and 3 of the report be combined, with wording as follows:

'Agree to authorise the Committee Clerk and Chair to make the decision for the capital investment of the remaining 50% from the NPJM cttee's 2024-25 repairs and renewal fund for an outright purchase of the donation post.'

Councillor Louise Phelan seconded the proposal. The Committee agreed (5 for, 1 abstention) to the proposal.

Subsequently, the Committee unanimously resolved to:

- (2) Agree to authorise the Committee Clerk and Chair to make the decision for the capital investment of the remaining 50% from the NPJM cttee's 2024-25 repairs and renewal fund for an outright purchase of the donation post.**

The Committee considered the following matters:

- l) **Recommendation 4.** The Arts, Culture and Heritage Officer explained that recommendation 4 of the report had been suggested following conversation with the Friends of Nonsuch. The representative of the Friends of Nonsuch explained that a common question they receive from Park visitors is the whereabouts of the Palace – he stated that it is a common misconception that the Mansion House is Nonsuch Palace. He explained that the intention of recommendation 4 was to enable further information to be provided for visitors with respect to the Palace and the Banqueting Suite in the form of panels, maps, information boards, etc. The Committee expressed concern that agreement to recommendation 4 would be too limiting in terms of how the funds raised by the donation post could be used, voicing that, whilst in agreement with the ideas suggested by the Friends, the Committee may wish for the funds to go towards other matters too. The Friends of Nonsuch Representative confirmed that the 50% contribution towards the donation post offered by the Friends was not contingent on the Committee agreeing to recommendation 4.

Subsequently, the Committee voted (1 for, 2 against, and 3 abstentions) on recommendation 4 of the report, “(4) Agree to use any monies raised from public donations towards more interpretation of the Palace and Banqueting Site”, and the recommendation was not carried.

30 REPORT ON COMMERCIAL DOG WALKING IN NONSUCH PARK

The Committee received a report to consider a proposed consultation questionnaire, prior to the commencement of the six-week consultation exercise to gauge public opinion on a proposal to introduce a pilot licencing scheme to formalise and regulate commercial dog walking in Nonsuch Park.

The Committee considered the following matters:

- a) **Condensing the Questionnaire.** It was the feeling of the Committee that the questionnaire could be made more succinct and condensed. This was noted by the Streetcare Manager.
- b) **Individual Charge.** In relation to question 17 of the draft questionnaire, it was established that, in the case of dog walking companies, each dog walker would be required to have a licence instead of a company-wide licence covering all dog walkers employed by the company.
- c) **Dog Free Areas.** The Streetcare Manager explained that dogs were allowed anywhere in the Park, off-lead, except for in the formal garden and the other three designated dog-free areas of the Park.
- d) **Hi-Vis Identifiers for Dogs.** As an alternative to dog walkers wearing hi-vis identifiers, a Member suggested that perhaps the dogs being walked commercially could wear hi-vis identifiers. The Streetcare Manager said she would investigate the viability of this option.

The Chair proposed that the wording of the report's recommendation be amended as follows:

'To authorise the Chair and Committee Clerk to agree the final consultation questionnaire, following condensation and revision, so that the six-week consultation with the public and stakeholders can commence on 1 April 2024.'

Councillor Christopher Woolmer seconded the proposal. The Committee unanimously agreed to the proposal.

Following consideration, it was resolved:

- (1) To authorise the Chair and Committee Clerk to agree the final consultation questionnaire, following condensation and revision, so that the six-week consultation with the public and stakeholders can commence on 1 April 2024.**

31 NONSUCH PLANNED MAINTENANCE REPORT UPDATE AND 2024-25 PRIORITY WORKS

This report provides an update on the current financial year 2023-24 priority planned maintenance programme (including any additional health & safety and emergency works undertaken during the year). It also seeks approval for the forthcoming 2024-25 priority planned maintenance works.

The Committee considered the following matters:

- a) **Formal Garden Fence Repair.** A Member enquired as to whether the damaged formal gardens fence ought to be on the list of priority works. The Senior Surveyor explained that the repair of the fence was not considered a priority matter. The Streetcare Manager said that she would look into options for reducing the costs for repairing the fence.

Following consideration, the Committee resolved to:

- (1) Note the progress of the works (including the additional Health & Safety and emergency works) carried out during the current financial year 2023-24.**

Councillor Peter Geiringer proposed that the wording of recommendation 2 of the report be amended as follows:

'Approve the proposed planned maintenance priority works for 2024-25, as set out at section 4 of the report.'

The Chair seconded the proposal. The Committee unanimously agreed to the proposal.

Subsequently, the Committee unanimously resolved to:

- (2) **Approve the proposed planned maintenance priority works for 2024-25, as set out at section 4 of the report.**

32 NJMC FINANCE REPORT & BUDGET 2024/25

This report provides a forecast for 2023/24 and seeks the Joint Management Committee's approval of both the 2024/25 budget and the recommended contributions to be sought from the constituent authorities.

The Committee considered the following matters:

- a) **Clarification of Contributions.** The Chief Finance Officer clarified that the figure of £111,000 was being sought from each of the two authorities, coming to a total of £222,000.
- b) **Reduced Contributions.** The Chief Finance Officer clarified that the contributions being sought had reduced compared to the previous municipal year. He explained that the reduction in sought contributions was partially offset by income from the property estate.
- c) **Equal Contributions.** The Chair explained that Epsom & Ewell and Sutton Councils were required to provide equal contributions – any reduction from one authority would be matched by the other. He stated that he believed it was important for the future of the Park for the Park to become self-funding if possible.

Following consideration, the Committee unanimously resolved to:

- (1) **Note the latest 2023/24 forecast position;**
- (2) **Agree the revenue budget for 2024/25 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report;**
- (3) **Agree to seek contributions of £111,000 from both Epsom and Ewell Borough Council and the London Borough of Sutton for the financial year 2024/25, as set-out in section 5 of the report.**

The meeting began at 10.00 am and ended at 12.20 pm

COUNCILLOR JULIAN FREEMAN (CHAIR)

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Report for Nonsuch Park Management Committee on Monday 17th June 2024

from 1st Cheam Scout Group

1st Cheam Scout Group was established in 1928 and has served the local community since then from our Headquarters in Malden Road, Cheam. We currently have 3 sections, meeting weekly in term times – Beavers aged 6-8 years, Cubs aged 8 – 10 ½ years, Scouts aged 10 ½ - 14 years for boys and girls. We comply with all the regulations of the Scout Association regarding health and safety, safeguarding etc and all our volunteer leaders receive basic training to run their sections.

We have always appreciated having the park only a short walk away from our meeting place. However, our use of this facility has become more limited in recent years with the introduction of various Scouting regulations such as the increased ratio of adult supervision required for activities off-site.

We are fortunate to have a little outside space at our Headquarters which we can use for some activities, plus we have our own camp site at Box Hill. Nevertheless, all the sections enjoy going to the park from time to time, primarily Cheam Park and Cheam Recreation Ground, particularly during the summer months. Groups would usually involve about 20 young people and 4 to 5 adult leaders and parent helpers.

The park is useful for playing team games like rounders and cricket and the younger sections occasionally venture in to the woods for nature walks and den-building sessions. This may be done 2 or 3 times in the spring, summer or early autumn as a change from our headquarters-based activities involving badge work of all sorts, scouting skills and skills for life.

Sometimes, before the summer break, the Cubs and Beavers may hold an “end of term” event in Cheam Recreation Ground near the swings. This may take the form of an evening of sport activities with a family picnic.

Peter Baker
Senior Scouter
1st Cheam Scout Group
21 Malden Road, Cheam SM3 8QD

29th April 2024

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COMMERCIAL DOG WALKING CONSULTATION RESULTS

Head of Service:	Jackie King, Chief Executive
Report Author	Samantha Whitehead
Wards affected:	Nonsuch Ward;
Appendices (attached):	Appendix 1 – Draft Terms of Reference of the Nonsuch Park Commercial Dog Walking Working Group. Appendix 2 – Summary of Results of the Nonsuch Park Commercial Dog Walking Consultation. Appendix 3 – Comments on Dog Walking in Nonsuch Park from the Public Consultation Appendix 4 – Feedback and Suggestions from the Public Consultation

Summary

This report presents the Committee with the results of the Nonsuch Park Commercial Dog Walking Consultation and recommends that a Working Group be established to consider how the matter should be progressed.

Recommendation (s)

The Committee is asked to:

- (1) Receive the results of the Nonsuch Park Commercial Dog Walking Consultation, as seen at Appendices 2, 3 and 4.
- (2) Agree to establish a Nonsuch Park Commercial Dog Walking Working Group.
- (3) Approve the draft Terms of Reference for the working group, as set out at Appendix 1.
- (4) Appoint members to the working group, in line with the rules of membership as set out in the Terms of Reference at appendix 1.

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 The Nonsuch Park Commercial Dog Walking Consultation received 989 responses. These responses now need to be carefully considered by a working group to ensure that the public's views are evaluated and used to develop a recommendation to the Joint Management Committee at their next meeting.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Nonsuch Park Commercial Dog Walking Consultation concluded on 2 June 2024.
- 2.2 The consultation was promoted on Epsom & Ewell Borough Council's social media channels, leaflet drops in public spaces such as local libraries and veterinary surgeries and via posters in Nonsuch Park.
- 2.3 During the consultation period, Epsom & Ewell Borough Council officers conducted several engagement exercises in the park to encourage visitors to take part.
- 2.4 Our staff reported that visitors were extremely vocal on the subject and the online consultation was well received with just under 1000 people logging on to share their views.
- 2.5 Appendices 2, 3 and 4 detail a graphical summary of responses and many pages of comments, feedback, and suggestions from participants.
- 2.6 It is now recommended that the Committee appoint a working group to carefully consider all responses and decide on a set of recommendations to present to the Joint Management Committee at their next meeting.

3 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

- 3.1 Equality Impact Assessment
 - 3.1.1 None for the purpose of this report
- 3.2 Crime & Disorder
 - 3.2.1 None for the purpose of this report
- 3.3 Safeguarding
 - 3.3.1 None for the purpose of this report
- 3.4 Dependencies
 - 3.4.1 None for the purpose of this report

3.5 Other

3.5.1 None for the purpose of this report

4 Financial Implications

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

4.2 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** None arising from the contents of this report.

5 Legal Implications

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

5.2 **Legal Officer's comments:** None for the purposes of this report

6 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

6.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged:

- Effective Council

6.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is not included within the current Service Delivery Plan.

6.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** n/a

6.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** n/a

6.5 **Partnerships:** n/a

7 Background papers

7.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

Previous reports:

- Commercial Dog Walking Report – 25 March 2024

Other papers:

- none

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NONSUCH PARK COMMERCIAL DOG-WALKING WORKING GROUP

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Role of the Group

1. To review and consider the results of the Nonsuch Park Commercial Dog Walking Consultation exercise and to make recommendations to the Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee ('NJMC') based on considerations.

Decision Making/Reporting

1. Reports and recommendations from the Nonsuch Park Commercial Dog-Walking Working Group ('the working group') shall be presented through the Committee process to the NJMC.

Membership

1. The Chair of the NJMC shall be a member of, and the Chair of, the working group.
2. The members of the working group (not including the Chair of the working group) shall be appointed by the NJMC.

The membership of the working group must consist of at least one Sutton Member of the NJMC and at least one Epsom & Ewell Member of the NJMC. If any member of the working group decides to relinquish their seat, then the working group shall operate at a reduced capacity. There shall be no provision for substitutes.

3. At least one half of the total number of members of the working group rounded up to the next whole number shall form a quorum, provided at least one Sutton Member of the NJMC and at least one Epsom & Ewell Member of the NJMC is present.
4. If the Chair of the working group is absent from a meeting, the working group shall elect a person, drawn from the membership of the working group, to Chair the meeting.

If the Chair enters the meeting after another member has been appointed to preside, that member must immediately offer the chair to the Chair.

Officers and Invited Attendees

1. Officers, as listed below, shall attend meetings to provide support:
 - Committee Clerk
 - Streetcare Manager
 - Accountant
 - Solicitor
 - Democratic Services Officer

2. Councillors, Officers, stakeholders and other representatives may attend meetings of the working group, at the invitation of the Chair of the working group, as and when required.

Frequency & Timing of Meeting

1. The working group shall last until the start of the next meeting of the NJMC.

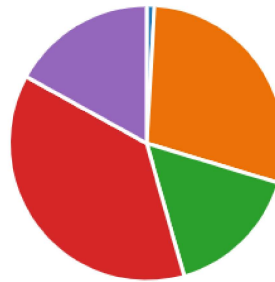
2. The frequency and start time of working group meetings shall be determined by the Chair of the working group in consultation with the Streetcare Manager and Democratic Services Officer.

Commercial Dog Walking Consultation.

989 Responses 24:28 Average time to complete Closed Status

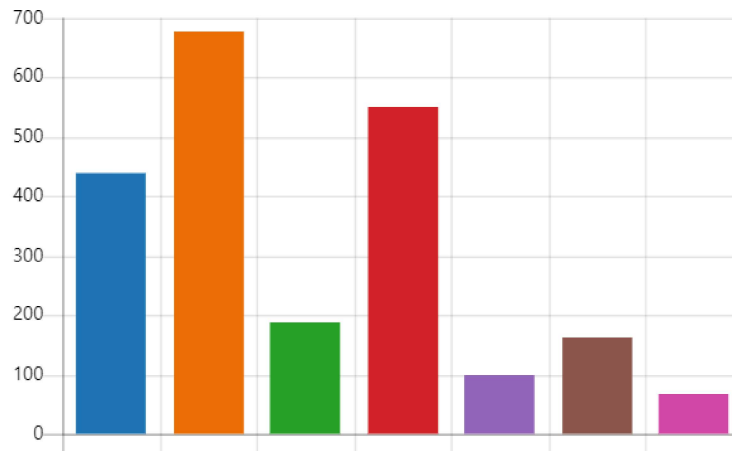
1. How often do you visit Nonsuch Park?

● I have only been once	9
● Every day	284
● Once a week	158
● More than once a week	370
● Once a month	168



2. What do you use the park for/are you using the park for? (Select all that apply)

Relaxation	440
Dog walking	679
Running	187
Walking	552
Cycling	100
Exercising	163
Other	67



3. Please describe your experience of dogs in Nonsuch Park:

989
Responses

Latest Responses

"My children love meeting various types of dogs. Never ha...

"Never had a problem with dogs. 99% really friendly very ...

"Generally good. My dog plays with other dogs."

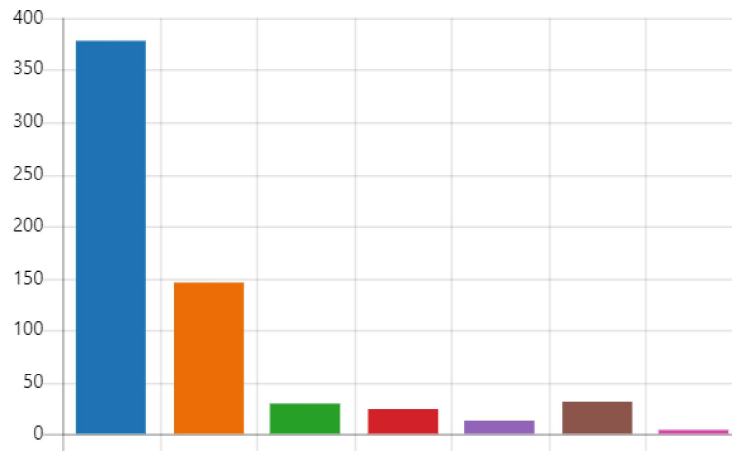
4. Do you walk a dog or multiple dogs within the park?

Yes	622
No	367



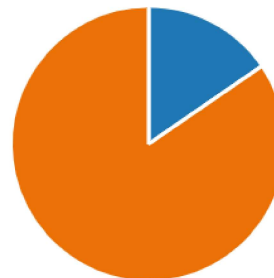
5. When visiting the park how many dogs to you bring at any one time?

One	378
Two	145
Three	30
Four	23
Five	12
Six	31
More than six	3



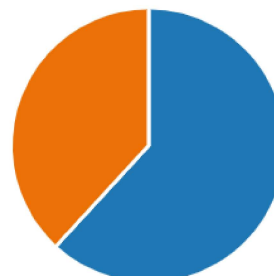
6. Do you walk a dog or multiple dogs for other people?

Yes	96
No	526



7. Are you paid to walk dogs?

Yes	60
No	37



8. Do you pay anyone else to walk your dog(s)?

Yes	163
No	459



9. Does your dog walker use Nonsuch Park to walk your dog(s)?

Yes	97
No	14
Sometimes	52



10. Do you keep your dog(s) on a lead while walking around the park?

Yes	62
No	237
Some of the time	323



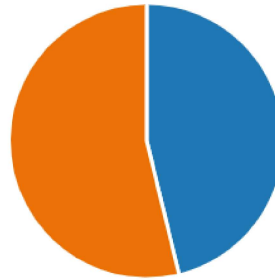
11. Do you think if people are walking more than two dogs at a time then the dogs should be kept on leads within the park?

Yes	435
No	554



12. Do you think that commercial dog walkers should keep all of their dogs on a lead?

Yes	457
No	532



13. Do you believe that the number of dogs that any one person walks whilst in the park should be restricted?

Yes	824
No	165



14. How many dogs do you believe that any one person should be able to walk in the park?

Two	216
Four	360
Six	235
Other	178



15. Do you think that commercial dog walkers should be issued with an annual licence when walking in the park?

Yes	699
No	290



16. How much do you think a commercial dog walker should be charged per licence per year?

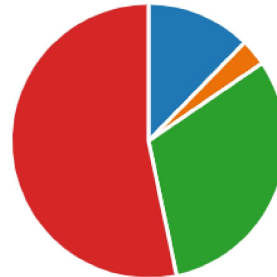
**Please note that the monies from any licence fee will be invested in the upkeep of the park and/or enforcement of permitted activities.*

● £150	256
● £200	172
● £300	69
● £400	70
● Other	422



17. If you are in favour of a commercial dog walking licencing scheme, would you support this initiative being extended to other/all public parks and open spaces around:

● Epsom & Ewell	122
● London Borough of Sutton	31
● Neither	309
● Both	527



18. Please indicate if you are a resident of:

● Epsom & Ewell Borough Coun...	503
● London Borough of Sutton	386
● Other	100



19. Do you have any other comments or suggestions regarding dog control in Nonsuch Park?

986
Responses

Latest Responses

"I don't find anyone who walks a dog or dogs a problem "

"If dog Walker being charged then people taking part in p...

"Just restrict the numbers."



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Please describe your experience of dogs in Nonsuch Park:

lots of dogs seems more dogs than people

dogs are lovely

ok

OK

Too many commercial dog walking

All positive

Very friendly

Entirely positive

Most owners seems responsible however there are always a select few who don't clean up after their dogs, or don't have any recall/ control over their dogs. My dog has been attacked by a dog whose elderly owner had no ability to call it back. However, these issues of irresponsible dog ownership / lack of training seem to be to be common in all parks. Most people with dogs are very considerate and no issues.

Too many dogs with single walkers.

Generally all dogs are friendly and well behaved

Never had a problem

No major issues but I don't like it when they are odd their lead and come up to me and my children

Usually very well behaved dogs with good owners. As always there are a few exceptions

There are some individuals walking their own dogs who have no regard for the safety of others (human or dog). We do not walk at Nonsuch as often as we used to due to this. However I must stress this issue is NOT with dog walkers, it is individual owners walking dogs off lead with no attention and no recall who are the problem. The vast majority of dogs are well controlled and pleasant but the few individuals really make it an unpredictable place to walk.

most dogs are well behaved and under the control of their owners

Most are well behaved but we have had several bad experiences of out of control dogs jumping up at us, once almost knocking me over.

Over the years I have been using the park, i have never had an issue with Professional Dog Walker, only dog owners, runners and cyclists. The dogs have often been the highlight of my visit.

Mostly all under control. Well socialised

Some are clearly not in the sight or control of the owner. I have seen small children knocked over many times. Dog walkers are clearly trying to take charge of more than 4 animals and failing miserably.

I no longer walk my dog in Nonsuch Park due to the number of dogs off leads. Mine is always walked on a lead and he dislikes off lead dogs getting close to me and him. Mine wears the orange "no dogs" harness and lead, but owners ignore it. My fear is that mine will spark a pack reaction in these large groups of dogs which could end in injury to either the dogs or the walkers. Whilst I have full control and responsibility of my own dog the same does not apply to some dogs running free, often ignoring their recall commands.

The number of dogs being walked in the park has increased considerably over the last 5 years that I have owned a dog. More and more dogs have little training and there seem to be more issues with dogs arising. The number of dog walkers has increased but also the number of dogs per walker. Yesterday there was a dog walker with 10 off lead big dogs. He cannot pickup after them all and didn't have good control of them all. They were running all over the park. It can be intimidating for other walkers.

I have encountered several packs of 6 or more dogs. All out of control and not on leads an unmuzzled. I have to pick my dog up as I fear the other packs will get him.

Lots of dog walkers with too many (6-8) dogs. Not paying attention, not on leads, not picking up dog mess

Some dog walkers have many dogs and don't always seem to be in control of them I always try and avoid them

Mostly well behaved. Some owners do not have control or recall of their dogs.

Most are friendly. However there have been situations that arise, normally when people have more than 2/3 dogs that can't control them all at once. They don't have decent recall, they don't keep their dogs away from dogs on a lead (a dog on lead could be because it's nervous, recovering from an operation, in training) so other dogs shouldn't be approaching and managed by the human Walker. It's also intimidating for people or dogs when lots of off lead dogs are heading towards them which can happen in busy/peak times over there....

I don't think dogs should be kept on a lead they need exercise, but people should be willing to put their dog on and off the lead when passing certain situations. And train their dogs to come away from other dogs/people when called. Not all dogs want to play and need space ... it's using some common sense and giving other people space. Some have the idea that it's a park the dog can run around and do what it wants ... !

You wouldn't let your children run around and be a nuisance and run up to strangers ... so I feel the same rules apply to dogs having manners.

Walk our dog daily, always a brilliant experience! Is a safe park where you don't have to worry about wildlife such a bushy or Richmond park

I have not encountered any aggressive dogs. I am an owner of 3 dogs who I walk in the morning and evening, I let them off lead and they have good recall. I have witnessed at lot more commercial dog walkers over the especially increased since Covid. When I have talked with some of them my issue is some come from far away as Wandsworth and North London who spend 4-5 hours over there with lots of dogs (some left in van while others are walked) as there is a limit on the number of dogs they are allowed to walk in their own Borough and also their parks are not as nice as Nonsuch. I have noticed a significant increase in dog mess in the park and have seen that it is impossible for dog walkers who have half a dozen dogs to find and pick it up.!!

Too many dogs with the one person. Mostly not on a lead. Sometimes the dogs/ walkers can be aggressive when a dog runs up.

Lots of friendly other dogs and dog walkers

Usually ok but sometimes there are dogs not under control and this makes me nervous and anxious

Mostly good, but I have experienced dogs out of control a number of times whilst running or cycling, often running out of undergrowth across path. I also find some inconsiderate owners who use very long, retractable leads that cross the pathways forming a barrier.

No major issue. Sometimes dogs come to us when walking but it's been fine.

I love Nonsuch and so do my dogs. There are so many different routes to take that I often don't come across anyone else at all.

Have always encountered only friendly dog walkers and dog owners

Usually the dogs are all well looked after. Very occasionally (2 to 3 times a year) a large group of dogs (5+) slightly out of control with carer left behind.

Most are well behaved, on the weekend lots of dogs running around without any control or care from the owners - mostly very far from where their dog is and causing chaos.

All the dog walkers from our local areas are great and very respectful. There are plenty of walkers and owners there on a daily basis who are mindful. Unfortunately as many other boroughs are now 4 dog rule, we have an awful lot of walkers from south London who sometimes have 12 dogs and above. I think the sensible option would be as Reigate and Banstead have which is a 6 dog rule. There should also be checks for insurance for walkers, it's so unregulated as an industry, but I'm not sure how that would work. The danger of making a 4 dog rule in Nonsuch and Cheam is that walkers will start parking on the Nonsuch estate and using beautiful Warren Farm, which would be terrible as it's such a haven for wildlife.

Eight years ago as a member of Epsom & Ewell Health Walks I was bitten while leading a walk and did suggest to the Joint Management Committee that dog walking should be limited to four dogs per person. I was told by the then chairman that this would not be practical to control. We still walk there regularly and at times find the dogs off lead to be quite threatening. This mornin* there was a woman with six dogs off lead.

I have a small dog, always on lead. The amount of dog walkers is getting ridiculous because many have more than 4 dogs and they have hardly any control over them. 3 times now my dog has almost been attacked in Nonsuch. I now won't walk her unless someone walks with me.

Very friendly

A very friendly park with responsible and helpful dogwalkers

Lots of responsible owners with dogs on the lead.
Walkers with multiple dogs off the lead together which can be scary.

I would agree too many commercial dog walkers which makes it unpleasant and unsafe especially when visiting with children

Most are fine, but owners don't always keep them under control, and commercial dog walkers seem to be worst for this.

Never had any issues

There are a lot of dogs

Mostly good

On the whole a positive experience just like any other park I visit.
I have more positive experiences with dogs than humans at this park

Love to see them but have been concerned by behaviour of some uncontrolled dogs off lead towards other dogs (mine included) and sometimes humans

I lead walks for Epsom & Ewell Health Walks for up to 20 walkers all over retirement age. It is very difficult when encountering groups of dogs which are off the lead and I worry that the dogs might come between the walkers and cause someone to trip. It has been mentioned to me that some members of the group choose not to join the Nonsuch walks because of dogs

I have never had a problem with any dog in nonsuch. There is enough room for everyone to enjoy the park and it's is full during the day with people walking their own dogs or for a living.

Never had a problem

I've never had a problem with any dogs in Nonsuch park. They have all been friendly

Mostly ok. Some very irresponsible owners. Large packs of dogs can be intimidating especially when owners/walkers are too busy chatting to notice what the dogs are doing.

I have not had any problems, dogs have their own personalities so there are bouncy ones, grumpy ones and friendly ones.

I now walk my dogs elsewhere despite Nonsuch and Warren Farm being at the end of my road. Too many incidents of aggressive behaviour are now being reported regularly where dog walkers/owners are not in control of their dogs and not taking responsibility when their dog is out of control. With two small Dachshunds which I always keep on a lead in the park I find large packs of dogs can be very threatening. A single person cannot control a large number on their own. Also too many walkers not picking up their dogs mess.

I have never had a problem. I see many professional dogwalkers who are in complete control of the dogs they have. Dogs bark and run around, that is the nature of dogs but from what i have seen of the dog walkers, they are aware of any dangers and get the dogs back. I have spoke to quite a few and they have been very helpful with advice for my own dog. They tend to try and avoid people if they have multiple dogs. Iv mainly seen problems with ordinary people who walk there own dog. Ignoring when a dog poops, lets the dog do whatever they want including running up to a pack. People taking pictures of professional dog walkers and being rude to them. This is peoples work, there livelihood. Yes as with everything you will always get some that aren't as professional as the rest which gives the good ones a bad name.

Iv spoke to a few dog walkers and they have said they wouldn't be able to do it if the limit was under 8 as with a lot of things, prices have gone up etc. The cost of living has risen. I feel very sorry for the professionals. They have a hard enough time as it is. If you limit the dogs someone can walk it would mean they would have to put the prices up to which people couldn't afford so people would either have to leave the dog home alone all day or give up

there job which would mean more unemployed. I have even seen a couple of professional's picking up dog poop they see which there dogs haven't done as they say it looks bad on them and it isn't nice to see. Please give them a break. I love seeing the dogs playing and happy.

Up and down. Some owners are responsible others have no control over their dogs and are rude when challenged. Never had any issues with any commercial dog walks just general uneducated general public with untrained dogs.

Mostly well behaved

Generally no problem - occasional owners with no/little control. Occasional dog walkers with 6+ dogs - too many for proper control.

Mixed. Some large groups, mostly well controlled.

Generally very pleasant

No issue

Mostly fine, but some negative encounters with off lead dogs

There are a lot... great place for dog walking but I have noticed a huge increase in dogwalkers who are walking large groups of dogs... one lady walks 8! The other concerning thing is when 2 professional dog walkers walk together (2 men regularly do this) having between them 10 to... 12 dogs. I worry that dogs walked like this can act like a pack and how much control one person would have over 6 dogs if they all became aggressive

Based on forty years of walking in Nonsuch Park the vast majority of dogs have been well behaved and under control.

It's quite busy with dog walkers/owners but most dogs are under control and friendly.

There are times when there are lots of dogs, mostly well behaved but occasionally an unruly 1 or 2 that the owner : walker can't control..

Almost always positive.

I find on the whole that dog behaviour in the park is generally good. I also believe that professional dog walkers are more experienced and knowledgeable about dog behaviour and it's in their financial interest to prevent behavior issues that impact other park users.

A few bad ones but usually fine

Overall positive. There are always going to be exceptions to that.

I worry more about dog attacks in Nonsuch that anywhere else - the same dog (a spaniel) has gone for my boy twice now

For the vast majority of the time very positive. Dog walkers, both individuals and commercial dog walkers are responsible and courteous.

There has been an increase recently in the number of dog walkers with several dogs. Often 2 or more dog walkers are walking together therefore with a very large number of dogs between them. There has been a significant increase in dog poo across grassy areas in recent weeks.

Too many

Very pleasant. Never had a bad encounter. Usually have issues with the owners.

I feel I can only run before 8am for safety as after that time there are too many dogs and in particular groups of dogs off the lead. I have been knocked over by a large dog and when it happened the person walking the dog said it wasn't their responsibility as it wasn't their dog. The dog free area is so small in comparison to the rest of the park. It can be very frightening being jumped at by dogs which happens regularly in Nonsuch. My children can no longer cycle in the park due to the number of dogs as both have been knocked off their bikes.

Very friendly with the exception of the odd one like anywhere you walk. It is a shame people do not pick up their dogs poo but again this is the same anywhere you walk.

Lots of dogs, many out of control and not my choice to go here to walk, exercise or Parkrun

Pleasant. Rarely have problems

There are far too many dogs in Nonsuch Park. Commercial dog walking is obviously a major issue, but I do not agree that the majority of dog owners are responsible. There are many, many people walking multiple dogs that are not Commercial dog walkers. There are many ordinary dog owners that have little control of their dogs. I used to walk or cycle in Nonsuch Park several times per week, but now I hardly go due to the number of times I have been chased or knocked off my bike by dogs. These incidents have been caused as much by ordinary dog owners as commercial walkers. The number of dogs is out of control. There need to be fewer dogs and the dogs need to be kept under control.

Ok. I do avoid walkers with lots of dogs and breeds that are not on a leash and sometimes do have a bit of a pack mentality. They are definitely not all under the control of the dog walker

Usually no problem

Some dogs are clearly not under control of the human they have with them.

I have found most owners to be responsible and the ones with multiple dogs have usually taken same sized dogs in the pack so I have not felt uneasy. I do think some owners/carers do not clean up after their dogs and that's a shame.

Generally friendly, no different to any other park

Variable - some very considerate owners and others who don't care about young children who may be nervous around dogs.

Terrible. They terrify my children.

Early in the morning before 9am it's wonderful. During the day I can't get away from dog walkers who are walking far too many dogs and don't have control over them all. Far too many dogs are off lead and not under control. My poor dog who can be a little anxious around dogs has become even more terrified of other dogs due to nasty experiences where other dogs, often those with dog walkers, won't leave her alone and become nasty. I myself have been jumped on by several large dogs and been hurt. I used to love walking in nonsuch and early in the morning I still do, however, during the day I am incredibly nervous of walking in the park due to the dog walkers.

uncontrolled , dogs going in to park where no dogs allowed.

Most people are friendly and considerate but you get the occasional individual who has no control over there dog .

No

Lovely park with various scenery. Great for running and walking dogs. It can often be crowded by pack walkers walking around 8/10/12 dogs which limits the walking space and spaces where dogs I walk can be off lead as to avoid these packs. Also makes the park feel unsafe with such a high number of large packs.

Mixed, some dog walkers are walking too many dogs and have limited control of their "pack". Generally people walking their own dogs are far more observant of their dogs.

I also sometimes see dog walkers each with 6 dogs join up to walk together creating very large packs which are difficult to avoid. And they tend to not

make way for me and my dog which means she gets crowded.
Sometimes I see commercial dog walkers failing to pick up dog poo which is due to lack of observation.

Mixed - most dog owners are very good. We no longer have dogs but used to regularly take our dogs here.

Fine busy but fine

There are lots of dogs who are out of control. I regularly have dogs coming up to my son's pram and getting in his face.

Mostly fine. I go there because I live opposite the park. I often walk my 3 dogs, my neighbours dog and a friends dog there (5 dogs)

Horrendous. Don't take my dog anymore too many dog walkers

Mostly all dogs are excellent. There are some owners who hav little control of their dogs and scant regard for others using the park. They are the people who spoil it for all.

On the whole most dogs are very friendly I do worry however about the number of dogs to human ratio with some walkers from a safety point of view but also from a hygiene view too. How can they keep an eye on all the dogs toilet habits all at once.?

General public dogs are not under control, dog walker dogs are well behaved and calm and don't cause problems

Always positive. I've never had a concern.

It depends which areas you walk in I may visit and only see one or two dogs. If I enter on London road I may see more dogs in groups arriving. Or May see no one. There really doesn't seem to be a pattern. I have never experienced any issues with any dogs i have seen in the park. If I see a few dogs ahead I turn and go into the wooded areas.

Good generally

Not a problem. Nice to see lots of different people using the park - with and without dogs. Although I find groups with more than 5 dogs a bit intimidating at times

Generally most dogs walked in Nonsuch are well socialised and well behaved. The only time I've ever felt uncomfortable is when my dogs have been approached by a large pack of 6-8 commercially walked dogs.

Large groups of dogs being walked by one person has increased.

It is so busy in the mornings, not relaxing at all. People shouting and whistling. Dogs jumping up at you.

Well behaved and under control

I have never had a problem. I like walking my dogs there

Many dogs are off the lead and running without control from owners. They run into the Mansion/formal gardens area via gaps in the hedges.

Even walking through the bluebells near the mansion a dog was off the lead, left his mess on the ground near where I was with children. The owner only came to look as I was looking at him and then went to find someone with a poo bag to clear it up (he wasn't carrying any himself).

I find many dog walkers having 5-8 dogs each and most not on leads. I have had dogs running up to us and taking food snacks out of my children's hands and scaring them in the process.

Okay

Overall positive but occasionally large groups (6+) of dogs with 1 or 2 dog walkers who do not control (or ignore) the dogs and allow them to run up to on and off lead dogs when the approach is unwelcome. I avoid sections of the park professional dog walkers tend to use due to this.

I feel that in the last year or so there has been a massive rise in the number of commercial dog walkers using the park. This in itself is not a problem, but it's the number of dogs they are walking that has been causing some problems with single dogs feeling threatened by these packs

There are always a lot of dogs whenever we visit, we see people walking differing numbers of dogs. At one time we saw a couple walking 15 dogs - they were all well behaved and a couple were on lead.

Lots of lovely dogs there, but a few not really controlled by the owner/walker.

The vast majority of dogs who are walking off lead like mine are friendly and sociable and under the control of their owners. The dogs on lead are on lead for a reason e.g. because they are reactive

There are always dogs out of control and never on leads when they should be. Dog walkers need to show more respect for those who just want to walk in the park.

In general there are too many off lead dogs with no recall. Commercial dog walkers often walk more than 4 dogs at a time not noticing one of them pooing so it's not picked up. Dogs without recall run up to other dogs on lead when it is not welcomed.

I have one dog & am responsible for his waste . I am very concerned with the amount of dog walkers with multiple dogs who I suspect cant always see if a dog fouls - its on the increse . Sadly i know as my dog seeks it !

Mostly positive but some dogs, with their owner or walker, are not trained properly. There are so many dogs it actually puts me off going even as a dog owner.

Most owners are responsible, there's often the odd one who spoils it - dogs running up to you and jumping, running in front of you, getting in your space. I'm not scared of and don't dislike dogs but am worried about being tripped & injured or bitten. "They are just being friendly" isn't good enough. Perhaps mandatory training or a licence is necessary for all owners or areas where dogs can be off the lead and other areas they can't. I've not actually seen people with a lot of dogs; it's the individual entitled owners who act like they own the park that are a problem (not just in nonsuch).

My experience is nothing but good. It is such a big park that you can avoid multiple dogs if necessary.

Haven't had any issues. See a lot of people walking their dogs which is nice.

Have noticed a significant increase in numbers of dogs over the past 5 years. Some responsible owners, who have trained their dogs but most not in this category. Dogs run between legs when running nearly tripping me up and jump up when walking causing dirty clothes and scratches on skin. Commercial dog walkers seem to have no limit on the number of dogs they walk. Often on their phones not paying attention to what the dogs are doing. Would support a limit on number of dogs (e.g max 3) per walker and a licence which could be revoked if a set of rules not followed.

Im phobic of dogs, however never have a had experience of dogs in this area.

Good - the variety is wonderful. Woods to sniff and roam in, open spaces and (on the whole) friendly people and dogs. People are mostly tolerant, though as in all areas of life there are some who are irresponsible, and others who are just grumpy! We love Nonsuch. I haven't had any problems with professional dog walkers, and would be sad to see them forced elsewhere-it's a large park with space for everyone. Possibly in favour of licensing as a protection for the professionals - to save them from potential aggro. But I haven't noticed any serious problems. I walk in the park up to 5/6 times a week at various times of day.

On the whole dogs are friendly and well trained, however dog walkers with multiple dogs are not in full control of the dogs, show no care or consideration for children in prams or dogs who do not want the dogs they are in charge of to approach, and do not clear up after the dogs they are walking. The issue of dog poo being left in the park is beyond ridiculous and disgusting, every day you see dog poo left in the middle of paths, at the side of paths, in long grass, and every day you see people watching their dogs poo and then walking away without clearing it up.

Commercial dog walkers act as though they own the park and are aggressive towards people who ask for the dogs to not be allowed to approach.

Dog owners are largely responsible, but there are too many with aggressive dogs that aren't controlled (I have been bitten in the past as well as been knocked off my bicycle. I no longer ride in the park as there are too many darting dogs to avoid). Owners are too pet-centric and excuse their lack of discipline, seeming to think it's park users that need to adapt to their badly controlled animals, versus the other way round. Dog walkers have too many animals to control, don't put them on leads and aren't always cogniscent of where their animals are. The well-known collective owners who walk a large pack of large white husky-type dogs are an absolute menace - they instinctively roam as a pack and have no regard for cyclists or runners. Post-Covid, the numbers of dogs in the park has risen dramatically that has a negative effect on the utility of the park as a shared space of urban tranquility. Dogs off leads have no concept of the marked off areas of ground nesting birds that are prevalent in the park. And who hangs dog poo bags in the trees? It's a weird phenomenon.

There are too many dog walkers with multiple dogs - not necessarily under control- also how they can actually track dogs pooing and pick up. I use nonsuch a lot less due the commercial dog walkers.

As a professional dog walker myself, I use Nonsuch park (on occasion) to exercise multiple dogs. There are many 'professional' dog walkers who use Nonsuch park in an unsafe manner. Quite often I have had to wait to get my dogs out of the van due to out of control off lead dogs even in the car park. They then do also cause havoc in the park as they don't have the capabilities to control a pack of dogs. I also have more issues with dogs who are out with their owners. Those who are on their phone, out for a run, or who see a pack of dogs as a target for 'socialisation' and exhausting their dogs while they stand and watch. However, there are also many dog walkers who do have proper control and polite dog walking etiquette. I find that once in the park there is more than enough space for dog walkers to be able to keep their pack to themselves, away from others. These dog walkers have put a lot of time, effort and expenses into running and maintaining a professional standard. This is their life and income which should not be penalised do to the careless actions of some. I believe a licensing scheme to walk up to 6 dogs to be a fair option.

Most dogs including those walked by professional dog walkers are kept under control and are well behaved.

It is a beautiful place to walk making dog walking very sociable

Usually paradise for dogs. But it can be scary for young children and for other dogs if they get caught in a pincer movement between two commercial dog walkers each with 10 dogs.

As with all people, some commercial dog walkers are very good and some not. The bad ones are on their phones all the time, don't notice that their dogs have pooped, and probably wouldn't notice if one had run off. Six dogs is plenty.

I have had dogs jumping up at me by dog owners that can't control their dogs off the lead. I am an adult and I felt scared. One dog nipped me. The there has been a huge increase in dog walkers with lots of dogs blocking the pathways. That said, there are also several responsible dog owners.

Respectful dog walkers are fine but those who use them from London can let them go wild. It should be for local companies only. It minimises how long dogs are in the car for

Lovely beautiful friendly park

I am always intimidated by these commercial dog walkers who have a lot of dogs and some are on leash and most aren't. Even if they are on leash they are unable to control them. So this is preventing me from taking my younger kids to walk along with me since I am scared after reading so many incidents about these dogs. So it should be made a rule that 1 person can at max walk 1 or 2 dogs. Right now it's almost inaccessible for us after paying close to 200 pounds council tax every month. Thanks

A lot of nasty dogs and owners who have no control over their dogs

I have walked in this park every day for over ten years and have never had any problems with dogs in the park.

For the most part it's great, also an incredibly supportive community in non such helping find lost dogs, people who have fallen etc-a lot of the dog professionals are the first to help out

Generally owners and dog walkers are friendly and dogs well behaved. The commercial dog walkers have too many dogs at once, cannot monitor them all, all of the time and often leave poo behind because they just do not see it happening. There are a few who walk 10 dogs which is intimidating. A limit should be put into place - but this has to be monitored.

Friendly

I go very early as the park gets quite busy around 8/9 it's usually very pleasant

Generally okay, however, our dogs have experienced attacks on occasions.

Not normally a problem

Mixed and mostly positive with the occasional aggressive dog

Weekday mornings when I normally go, there are generally older people with one or two larger dogs and professional dog walkers with small numbers of all sizes of dogs that are well-behaved and socialise very nicely with my dog, some off their leads and others on. These include rescues of mixed breeds and recognisable breeds - Labradors, Golden Retrievers, German Shepherds, a Great Dane, Dobermans, Rottweilers, Dalmatians, Vizslas, Jack Russells, pugs, greyhounds etc.

If I go on a Sunday, Bank Holiday or School

Holiday and the weather is sunny, it's very different. Scores of people with small, untrained cross-breed 'toy' dogs like cockerpoos, cavapoos, maltipoos

and similar. Many of which run around and pester bigger dogs and don't return to their owners when called. Or are just ignored by owners with phones or headphones. It seems they aren't trained in recall and aren't used to being offlead in Nonsuch. This is stressful for the usual walkers as the small dogs and owners panic if bigger dogs attempt to interact. Personally, I keep my large dog on her lead when I see these sorts of dogs if I don't know them and put up with the small dogs running up to us.

Overall, when I go, I have a wonderful experience and the exercise and play with other dogs my dog gets there enriches her life no end.

It's a lovely busy park

Generally OK. Our dog tends not to play with other dogs. He is a fully accredited assistance dog. He doesn't like the attention of multiple dogs.

Generally ok. I tend to walk in quieter parts of the park with my dog.

They are an issue with their excrement not being picked up and disposed of properly

On many occasions dogs not on a lead and left to roam. Dogs mess and poo bags left.

Have asked people to pick up their mess some do some don't.

Attend a Nordic walking group regularly and dogs randomly walk through the group owners just watch not safe for us or the dog. Dogs have jumped up at us not a pleasant experience.

I like dogs, however Nonsuch has become more and more populated with dog walkers, walking large numbers of dogs, off lead, with no control over them and no respect for other park users wishes not to be approached by the dogs.

The numbers of dogs walked in Nonsuch has increased hugely in the past few years. I've witnessed multiple issues with dogs off-lead, out of control, no recall, approaching people, children and other dogs on leads, when this is unwanted and actively discouraged by those approached, and who often receive verbal abuse in response to requests to control their dogs.

Those dog walkers that walk any groups of dogs should also be restricted to walk alone, as I see multiple dog walkers walking dog groups together, creating one large uncontrolled pack, which is incredibly dangerous.

Plus just yesterday I witnessed a single dog being attacked by a group of dogs walked by an individual, the dog walker then verbally abused a member of the public, that had raised this as a problem, and a few weeks ago saw a small dog being attacked by a much larger dog, again the owner of the small dog received abuse, for shouting to the large dog owner to control his dog. Personally I've had a picnic in the park with friends only to have our picnic invaded by a dog that had no recall, and the dog owner refused to come and get control over their dog, shouting abuse in response to us asking them to come and gain control over their dog.

I think instead of dog-free zones, in the main areas of the park dogs should be on leads, and then there should be fenced off areas for lead free zones, that people with friendly/trained dogs can safely let their individual dogs run off the lead in a contained area. However, groups of dogs should always be kept on leads for safety.

I fear it is only a matter of time before serious incident occurs and a child, adult or dog is seriously injured or worse.

No longer very pleasurable as there are too many paid dog walkers many with too many dogs

Mostly good. I don't think I've had any bad experiences.

I don't have a problem

Majority of dog walkers are responsible, however, I do think there should be a limit as to how many dogs one person can walk safely

I very rarely have any negative interaction with dogs in Nonsuch. Even the more exuberant dogs are friendly and can be controlled.

Most dog walkers are respectful but some people just leave their dogs completely out of control.

It's a real community

Usually very friendly

Any issues I w had with dogs/their owners have been with the owners, never a dog walker. Dog walkers are more cautious for the sake of the dogs & others. Implementing a licence for walkers to walk in nonsuch inevitably will lead to needing a personal licence to walk your own dog!

Dog walkers are considerate and aware of park etiquette and follow the rules when a dog is on lead. As a dog walker myself if I see dogs I walk in the opposite direction. There is enough space to avoid others.

My experience of dogs in Nonsuch has always been very good, I've encountered no negative experiences with my own dogs or with those of others.

Largely positive.

Never had any bad experiences

Too many with just one person to control them especially when it's big dogs

Many owners walk dogs off lead who have poor recall and behaviour. Many dog owners are friendly and chatty. Dog walkers have been observed to not pick up dog waste. Dog walkers often walk together creating some very large numbers of dogs together.

Far too many dog walkers with up to 5 dogs at any given time

I personally have not had any issues in the park, if there have been any issues that I have witnessed, these have not been caused by commercial dog walkers, but inexperienced dog owners, particularly younger owners of dogs who have not trained them correctly.

Very pleasant and happy to walk my dogs around the park as it's large enough for everyone.

Loads of them which is a problem as my son is phobic. We thought he could escape in the gardens around Nonsuch house/cafe but there have been dogs there all times we've visited. I had to piggyback him through the park and woods back to Ewell last time as excited dogs bounded up and owners called they're friendly. Not helpful if you're phobic.

I myself am a dog walker and despite not visiting Nonsuch often, most times I have visited I have had issues with other people's dogs. I've worked really hard to build my business and like to think that I have good control of the dogs I walk. They are kept on lead if they don't have good recall, or if we are within close proximity to others, yet even when I avoid other park users I still have other people dogs (in particular walkers with large amounts) run up to us and disrupt my group. It gets quite draining having repeat issues when other walkers can't control their group and also gives us a bad name/image. I believe there should be a limit of up to six dogs per person, I can't remember if this is the case already but I have certainly seen people with more. I'm aware of the Surrey Code of Conduct too but as it's more of a good will thing I don't think walkers take it seriously.

Dog walkers walk friendly, family pets. That's how they can walk with other dogs in first instance. Also provide an important service to many local residents, who rely, sometimes daily on their dogs being walked. I have not seen many incidents but they have been with dog owners walking their own dogs.

I've experienced no problems

I had an incident with a woman walking 5 or 6 dog which were not under control. One dog was on a training lead trailing on the ground. Her dog became aggressive to my dog which was on a lead. I asked her to recall her dog because mine was upset and elderly. In an attempt to get to my dog her dog ran around my legs wrapping the training lead around my legs. I shouted to her to get her dog under control and she became abusive. None of the dogs she was walking was under control and she put me at risk of falling over with her dog's lead round my legs.

There are too many dogs off leads and not under control of their walkers. When off lead dogs often stray into the dog free areas and their walkers do not stop them. Also dogs are often off leads around the cafe area. I have felt intimidated by off lead dogs approaching me, barking and even jumping up. The dog walkers are unconcerned and unapologetic.

Absolute nuisance. Well behaved dogs on lead are acceptable. I have had several incidents of being 'approached by dogs' the last occasion was yesterday 29.04.2024 shortly before 13.00. I passed two dog walkers. The first lady was walking up the tank tracks with about 6 dogs with one on anlead. She was yelling as one had disappeared. The second woman was to my right with again about 6 dogs. I was carrying a waitrose bag when one of her dogs approached me from behind and attempted to rip my shopping bag from me. I was startled and admittedly swore and told her if she could not control her dogs they should be on a lead. This park seems to have been taken over by 'entitled' dog owners. I appreciate there are good owners who are responsible and some must be as frustrated as a walker but it just doesn't feel safe any more. There is also dogs mess everywhere. This open space has been taken over as a 'dog' park.

It's now out of control...dogs off leads, the Woodland Trust exit where railway is known to locals as dog poo alley. I live local and have witnessed dog bites, dogs attacking other dogs and commercial dog walkers using it against bylaws. Nothing against dogs, but little children children children heading for cheam Park and learning to ride bicycles are not safe anymore

Ok

Rarely had an issue. Most walkers are responsible and on the odd occasion I have had an issue, it's been with an individual and not a professional walker.

Positive

Generally good. Owners seem to know their dogs and usually manage each dogs behavior well. Occasionally encounter a dog that is boisterous or aggressive.

I worry when someone has more than three or four dogs, as it is impossible to watch that many.

My 3yo is absolutely petrified of dogs because on a number of occasions owners have let their dogs run up to her out of control. The control owners have to recall their dogs in this situation is getting worse. We live next to the Park and her negative experiences are mainly within the Park where dogs are off leads.

Nonsuch Park is a great place for walking. I have always found it to be a lovely park. I walk my two dogs but also take my Grandson to enjoy the gardens at the mansion House with a great cafe

Not problematic, there is so much space it never seems crowded

Dog walkers aren't an issue, it's individual dog owners letting aggressive dogs off leads that's an issue

So many dogs off lead, majority of which the walkers do not have full control of.
Dog walkers having too many dogs, and therefore not able to watch /pickup after the dogs

Well behaved, do not cause me a problem at all

Good

I think there are too many dogs that can freely. When running I am always worried to fall because dogs run in front of me which has happened many times without the owner in sight. There are too many people who have too many dogs and cannot look after them all. I also had big dogs running very fast towards us when we were walking without a lead which was quite scary

Very annoying. Don't feel safe and don't enjoy my walks anymore as there are too many dogs without leash running around, barking at people passing by.

There are lots of them

When out running it can be very difficult to navigate the no. of dogs. Have nearly fallen several times. Also once my son with Down syndrome was floored by a dog which then held him to the floor. He is now frightened of all dogs.

I use the park for walking my own dog and find it a resource to be able to take the dog off the lead. As my dog is very playful he enjoys interacting with other dogs and I enjoy speaking to their owners with most people having time for a quick chat. Sometimes I find it intimidating with a large number of dogs being walked by one person as I'm not sure how all of them will react to my dog.

I am a dog owner and chose to live by the park due to easy access to an open space for dog exercise. At the weekends it can be very busy, so I often take my dogs to Epsom Common.

Many commercial dog walkers with multiple dogs

All well behaved and dog walkers are friendly and responsible

Wonderful

Far too many dog walkers walking 6 to 10 or more dogs after 9 o'clock one will pass 6 to 10 dog walkers with these numbers of dogs they lose dogs don't pick up the poo and are generally annoying to local people Spoiling our park

Good my dog loves it

Owners not respecting other walkers and managing their dogs appropriately. Frequent deposits of extremely large dog 'poo' left on grass pathways clearly visible for them to pick up. Really disgusting.

Multiple dogs with one person in charge, how can they watch and locate dog 'poo' from any of them all moving in different directions.

Allowing their dogs to jump up at other walkers saying 'oh they are okay, they won't bite/hurt you'. Whereas they can cause people to tumble to the ground, break hips, arms especially those who are elderly, or those who are walking to recuperate after an operation.

The number running loose seems to have increased in recent years. At times I have felt very uneasy with dogs that appear aggressive and no owners in sight. People having to continuously call out for their dogs shows that they are not under control.

Mainly positive experiences

Mostly positive except that there appears to be an increasing number of professional dog walkers with multiple dogs. They arrive by car / van, open the doors and up to 8 dogs run out into the areas near rage car parks. The dogs often go to the Toilet and it proves impossible for them to clean up all the excrement. The visitors with single or two dogs mostly clean up after their dogs.

All seem to be well behaved, I have not had any problems.

Multiple dog walkers whatever time of day you go. and try to go very early in the morning 7/7.30am to avoid crowds I don't always feel safe.

Most people that walk Multiple dogs are usually on their phones and not paying attention or clearing up after the dogs,

It's becoming a major issue, most are off leads,

No problem

They are well behaved, trained and friendly.

There has been a significant increase in dogs over the last 10 years. It no longer feels safe with small children so we do not go as much. Too many dogs not on leads. All dogs should be on leads.

Having fun

Enjoy watching them run freely

Controlled by owners and/or dogw walkers

This has never been an issue for me. Most dog walkers and owners are very responsible, and I have never had a negative experience. The park continues to be clean and I have never been bothered by a dog, even when sat having a picnic or ice cream. I like the sense of community that is brought to the park through dog walking. There is also a huge area which is dog free and I have never seen anyone break this rule.

Very good I like saying hello to them and think it makes the party more fun

My experience is that most dogs and owners are responsible and well behaved but I am aware of incidents where dogs or people have been put at risk or felt at risk from others, including walkers with too many animals to effectively control. I am an older walker with a single companion dog and feel I have to stick to the main areas, rather than enjoying the wider areas of this beautiful park. My preference is to limit the number of dogs a single walker can walk to ensure effective control of their animals. A maximum of four per walker should be implemented, fewer for larger dogs. This must then be monitored and enforced with maybe licences for commercial walkers and dogs.

Majority of dogs are fine and owners know their own dog and have on lead when necessary. Packs of dogs cannot always be controlled as dogs can be unpredictable and walkers are often unaware of when a dog off lead has done it's business and therefore Not picked up.

I have always had a positive experience with my dogs and other dogs at nonsuch.

Too many big groups of dogs. Some walkers with about 6/8 dogs being walked. I have one small dog and I have to walk the other way when I see them coming. How can they control such a large group. They also can't possibly clean up after them. Most of the time the walkers are on their phones and not watching out for what is going on. It needs to be controlled - it had spoiled my enjoyment of this beautiful park.

Nonsuch is a popular place for dog walking and for families with children. I sometimes accompany family with their dogs. Nervous dogs can react to other dogs especially those in a large group ie commercial dog walkers. Things could kick off and it is possible that the single commercial walker could lose control. Commercial dog walkers should be limited in the number of dogs they walk and ideally for 4 or more dogs, two walkers should be in control i.e. pairs.

All dogs should be kept on a lead, so that they can be properly controlled. In January 2023, I was bitten on my upper thigh by an uncontrolled Alsation puppy, whilst I was running in the park. This was reported to the park management and the police. My upper leg still shows the teeth marks and at times still tender. If this had happened to a child, the injury would possibly have been more severe and probably fatal. The owner of the puppy, who was walking other dogs as well, would not give me her contact details and tried to brush the incident off, saying he was being playful.

Never have a problem with dogs in nonsuch park,all of them are absolutely fibe

Mostly fine but there's always someone with multiple dogs that aren't under control

Most are well behaved although large groups can be a bit concerning when the Walkers are on their phones and not paying attention. Referring to next question I walk 3 dogs but they are my own and are well trained.

Occasionally felt intimidated by dogs that are loose. Frequently have to avoid dog poo that hasn't been picked up. Owners frequently don't keep dogs on leads in Warren farm area despite rules.

Packs of dogs are intimidating for children and adults and can be frightening for humans and dogs alike. Walking several dogs limits the ability to manage them all and pick up excrements. I would like a limit on dog : human ratio 3:1 Thank you for bringing this issue to attention

My concern is with people walking several dogs off leads and their control over them. Dogs are a pack animal and unintentional their behaviour can change.

Usually fine but some people walking 6-8 dogs make no effort to control them, or pick up their poos

Bad. Too many dogs out of control and off the lead.

In recent years, I've seen commercial dog walkers struggling to control up to nine dogs, putting all park users at risk. It's also sometimes obvious that some dogs do not get on and walking them together is inviting conflict. I've seen dogs successfully break free of the commercial walker to approach other dogs or children, creating panic. I've also noted that commercial dog walkers don't necessarily clear up after their dogs, excusing themselves when challenged, that "their hands are already full". When they do clear it up, they often throw the bag straight in the nearest bushes. Unfortunately commercial dog walking for maximum profit effectively means minimising (often discarding entirely) any sense of social responsibility. It's a sorry situation when younger children or dog owners are avoiding Nonsuch Park during the day on weekdays because of the erosion of safety and security by commercial dog walkers who abuse the amenity.

Far too many dogs, often off leads. Unwanted approaches from dogs barking / jumping up. Can feel threatening.

Dogs aren't usually the problem, it's the irresponsible owners who are. There are countless occasions I've witnessed of owners not picking up their pet's faeces, and even if they do, they then toss the bag into the bushes or hang it on a branch. Bringing their attention to the dog's "deposit" is often met with a mouthful of abuse. So-called "professional"/commercial dog walkers, some with as many as 8 animals, I find do not have full control of their charges, and fail to notice all faecal deposits of their charges. The question I ask is: "Would you walk in a park which is becoming a glorified dog toilet?"

As a regular runner in Nonsuch Park I have been confronted by commercial dog walkers (sometimes numbering 11 dogs) on numerous occasions. These commercial dog walkers have no regard whatsoever for the safety of other park users. They are unable to control the dogs in thier care. I have been chased, bitten and jumped by unruly aggressive dogs and had numerous arguments with the commercial dog walkers who have no regard for the safety of others and often regard me running past the dogs as the reason for being attacked. The arrogance of these commercial dog walkers is at a level that is unacceptable and thier activity should be regulated. I would add that regular dog walkers are great and always in control of thier dogs and have regard for other park users.

Not keen, they have made us visit less as it feels like a giant dog waking field

Too many. Commercial dog walkers are becoming a problem.

Mixed with both commercial dog walkers and individual dog walkers. But It only takes one dog to attack to cause a problem. I'm particularly concerned how vulnerable the children from the forest school walking around the park would be if a dog chose to attack. I wouldn't want the Forest schools to stop. It's a delight to see the children enjoying nature, investigating and exploring nature. Some commercial dog walkers do not seem to be in charge of all of their dogs. Walking between 5-8 dogs each. I'm not sure they could stop all their dogs if one choose to attack. Most commercial dog walkers that I see walk all their dogs off the lead.

I am aware of the increasing numbers of dogs in the park. I feel uneasy if large dogs are unleashed.

There are too many dogs in Nonsuch Park. Commercial dog walkers are ruining a space that should be available for families to use for recreation. Dog poo is everywhere and I often feel unsafe when visiting.

Growing number of people with many dogs not being properly supervised and a lot of more poo. Q2 offered a v limited choice. I use park to walk and exercise - but nit running.

Generally good, but some commercial dog walkers have too many dogs. This can be intimidating for other dogs

The majority of dogs are well-behaved but there are occasions when owners can't control their dogs , especially around other dogs. I have noticed that the number of commercial dog walkers has increased, with some walkers having up to 7/8 dogs.

No problems

Bad. Had dog off lead jump up and reach my face. Owner did nothing. Owners often do not seem to keep their dogs under control in the park particularly if they have more than one.

I only walk my own (one) dog in Nonsuch Park and I do notice that there can be a fair number of apparently 'commercial' dog walkers there. However, this isn't a problem for me except when two or more of them walk together. Their dogs can then form a very large pack which can be hard to control.

We have visited Non such frequently as a family since 2008. When we bought a puppy in 2016 we stopped using the park because of the number of dog walkers and their lack of control over the dogs in their care. We still visit less frequently because of this problem. Sometimes there are packs of very large dogs and a single walker - it is worrying because they wouldn't be able to control all of them if something went wrong.

My dog was attacked in March 2023. Dog walker took full responsibility.

Most people are in control of their dogs but the minority ruin it for everyone. This applies to 'professional' dog walkers and private owners.

In the past, I have tripped over a small dog which had been allowed to run wild. I am 75 years old and it shook me up. I have also tripped over extendable (and almost invisibile) leads used by dog walkers.

They are a nuisance. Dog owners seem to think that they are entitled to the park and no one else. They are noisy, a nuisance, and sometimes aggressive. Also, dog mess is left around.

I avoid going to Nonsuch Park because there are too many dogs. I have lived right next to the park for 14 years and have only been in there a handful of times because of dogs. There's also so much dog poo that if I do go, I expect to tread in it. It's horrible. There are too many dogs and it's unfair for people who just want a peaceful walk without selfish dog owners allowing their dogs to lurch at other pedestrians/ not picking up poo/ pedestrians having to move out of the way for dogs. I also think that dogs should be on a lead at all times in the park.

Dog walkers let their dogs off the lead with little recall. Many dogs are well trained but it distresses me when they run up to me and jump up. I'm very wary of dogs, having been bitten as a child and I don't want them in my personal space. Especially if I'm exercising and might hurt them. The majority of walkers are thoughtful. I'm concerned by the increased in people with more dogs - yesterday there was a lady with 6 on leads and 2 other dogs - all medium to large dogs too.

I tend to stay away from Nonsuch mainly due to huge numbers of dog walkers. I have a small anxious dog and find the large number of walkers have more than 1 dog and not all keep an eye on all their charges. Too many large dogs running around with limited control.

I have always had a positive experience with dogs in Nonsuch park

Lots of off leash dogs, some of whom do not have recall and seem to not be under control. Several times off leash dogs have barked, approached and scared my children when walking and cycling in the park. We have also witnessed a large out of control dog jumping up at a toddler and the father had to hold his child above his head, in order to prevent the child being bitten. I have seen this dog off leash since and the owners do not keep it near them when walking.

Not good. My children have been chased on their bikes by dogs off lead and I have seen a person attacked by an out of control dog.

There are a lot of dogs and dog poo

I enjoy walking in Nonsuch and have not experienced any problems. I have however noticed an increase in people with multiple dogs. I usually avoid these groups.

I no longer use the park much because of the nuisance caused by multiple dogs. They leave dog mess on paths and grass and are threatening when together. I am fearful I will be attacked. I would like to take my grandchildren to the park more but I am too cautious to do so.

Been chased by unleashed dogs multiple times. Owners fault for not doing proper recall training. However most dogs are lovely and I'm always down for a cuddle if the dog is friendly.

I was overwhelmed by the number of dogs (off and on lead). I am not overly comfortable around dogs and was very nervous when some very large dogs came very close- so did not go back again.

We walk / run our (one) Labrador in the park with our two children. We often find ourselves needing change route or back track due to dog walkers with multiple (sometime eight or more) in the park. Our dog gets nervous when there is a pack and the children are also not comfortable. There is also a lot of dog waste lying around.

Elderly mother, once physically knocked over (the owner ran away). Had dogs running at her as well as bounding all over, up at and around her, causing fear and anxiety. An owner cannot keep an eye on multiple dogs, pooping and running at walkers, children and less abled.

There are lots. Most are not on leads including in areas where people are asked to keep them on leads due to nesting birds which I think is appalling and pretty selfish.

Generally very positive but have noticed increasing numbers of commercial dog walkers

Too many dogs with irresponsible owners have ruined the area. No control of dogs and don't care about everyone else.

Mostly my experiences have been very good but, as with everything, there are always some bad experiences. Overall, most dog owners are responsible.

I often use the park with my son (adult with downs syndrome) on his tricycle, family walks and for running. Dog walkers with multiple dogs do not control their dogs with the result we often come across dog excrement. There are 3 nominally "dog free areas" in the park. Dog walkers often let their dogs run loose and through the hedges and gates around these areas. this makes them unsafe for users who are afraid of dogs. My Downs syndrome son is not confident around dogs, when he is pestered by dogs from dog walkers instead of expressing sympathy and controlling their dogs their response is always "he's only playing". How is an adult with Downs Syndrome meant to be able to tell the difference,

Relaxing most people are in control of there dogs. But I stay away from multiple dog walkers.

I love Nonsuch Park and have walked there most days for over 20 years.

I have always had good experiences at Nonsuch Park and I walk my dogs there at least 4 or 5 days a week, for the last 20 years.

Not had any problems

No issues with other dogs even when off lead dogs meet my reactive dog

Nonsuch is a fantastic space for dogs. Plenty of space for all - most walkers respect other park users space, whether they be running, cycling, families etc. There are plenty of bins around too which is great. The professional dog walkers are a great community of people who help others when they need it, whether its shampoo to clean a dog that's rolled in something nasty, or to provide a poo bag to someone who has forgotten to bring one, to help an

owner recall their dog or even organise a gathering to help an owner to find their lost dog. Nonsuch is a great local park for local people and their dogs to enjoy.

I was surprised by the number of dogs to be honest in the middle of the day in the middle of the working week.

We live next to Nonsuch and have 2 dogs. There are times ie 9am / 9.30am where there are multiple dog walkers with multiple dogs. However in the 19 years I've lived here I've not experienced any issues. I do tend to stay off the main paths though.

Dogs in open spaces are an absolute pain. Instead of fencing off minimal areas of parks as dog free, how about fencing off areas for dogs, thereby leaving the majority of parks for dog free walkers without fear of attack or dog fouling. Those who dislike dogs are being prohibited from enjoying open spaces because dogs are running around everywhere!! Restrict dogs to small areas. If dog owners want to walk in the whole park, then visit without the dogs!!

Too many

On the whole, it has been fine

I have been walking daily in Nonsuch for 7 years now and I think that there are literally only 1 or 2 commercial dog walkers that had more than 5-6 well behaved dogs which I would consider to be a sensible number that can be transported safely and walked responsibly.

In my experience it seems to be private dog walkers who are more likely to behave antisocially in not picking up dog mess or having uncontrolled dogs off-lead. Professional dog walkers obviously know that they are in public view and their financial welfare relies on their behaviour.

I do believe that dog walkers should be licenced, but that obviously needs to be policed.

Nonsuch is a very large park and surely there is more than enough room for everyone to enjoy the space.

Unconnected to this consultation, but I would say that cyclists who ride on the park paths as if they have priority because they are bigger and faster than walkers are a much more negative aspect of Nonsuch park.

Usually good but often see/meet dog walkers with large numbers of dogs

Too many dogs under very little control. Stopped walking there and running there due to dogs jumping up at the kids.

Have not had good experiences with dogs and owners. Dogs frequently jump up at our children

On the times I walk I haven't experienced any problems causing me concern

Most long term professional users of the parks have their dogs under control. New walkers from the same company have recently come from Wandsworth whom lack control and consideration for other park users (professionals included)

Positive experience for the most part

Mostly good. I walk my dog there.

Most are under control, it's a shame the few are spoiling it for the majority.

On the whole fine but occasionally see a dog walker with several dogs which is intimidating for me and my dog. I have no objection in dog walkers using the park but with a max of 3/4 dogs

Too many allowed to run freely. Can be frightening to young children and people wary of dogs

Walking on my own and with a group I find many groups of dogs to be too large and on occasions intimidating.

Most dog owners appear to be considerate and in control of their dogs, although you get the owners too fixated on their phones to watch for their dogs. I have seen an increase in professional dog walkers and also the number of dogs they are walking. I have seen as many as 8 dogs being walked some off/some on lead. I avoid them with my dog as he is reactive and the situation could escalate - I don't believe the dog walker would be able to control such a pack. I have concerns for the nursery in Nonsuch as well. The children are out every day and again I am concerned that a dog walker with a large group of dogs would not be able to control an unexpected situation, should it arise.

Irritating. They interfere with my quiet enjoyment of the Park. They run at me, bark alarmingly and jump up at me putting muddy paws on my clothes.

Generally very positive. Most dogs ignore other people, though some are friendly and will approach people. Most dogs seem to be reasonably well controlled by their owners. I have heard of occasional instances of aggression between dogs, but have not witnessed aggression towards humans.

Mixed experience with the main issue being the owners lack of knowledge of dog control and not the dogs themselves.

I always had a great experience. Only a few months ago a dog tried to bite my son (5 yo) but luckily our dog and us were able to chase him off. But apart from that one incident we always had a good experience.

There are far too many off-leads in the park. I find the problem tends to be the local owners who allow their dogs to roam loose and too far away from them. We have started to avoid Nonsuch Park because of this. I have witnessed many altercations between dogs too. We live across the road from the park, and now travel to Cheam or Morden Park.

Since lockdown way too many dogs

I have been walking at Nonsuch Park for almost 40 years. Although I have noticed an increase in commercial dog walkers (probably due to the increase of dog owning households), I have always found the majority of them to be respectful of other park users. Unfortunately over the years, I have found the issues to come from complacency amongst the other dog owners, who are often on their phones, or generally not paying attention to what their dog is doing. The 'professionals' seem to be much more attentive to their dogs.

I need a dog walker some of the week because of my health. My Dogwalker uses Nonsuch Park. I am very against dog walkers who walked many dogs at a time (how on earth can they watch when each one "stoops" ? For this reason I checked my dog walker's policy and practice - she only walks a maximum of 4 dogs at a time. When I had an epileptic dog I paid extra so a dog walker could give her their full attention and walk just Tess on their own.

It's busy, but friendly

Happy

Always a pleasure. It's a fantastic park for dogs and families alike.

Mostly ok but seen dog walkers with a very large amount of dogs, some scurrying around lost before walker realises. The sometimes act as a pack and it makes my dogs very fearful when they all run up and surround them. I've seen squirrels hunted and attacked by deerhounds.

Fine and in control

Nice area, lovely to have the tea rooms. Runners can be quite ignorant to others on paths and don't slow down when passing my dog

I am an elderly woman who finds it hard to exercise my dog as often as I used to, so I use a local dog walker who only charges me £5 for an hours walk. When I was able to go to the park daily I never had any problems with the dogs I came into contact with

Very postive. I've never had a problem in terms of aggression or worrying behaviour from any dog

While we appreciate most dogs are well behaved, it can feel very intimidating when there are large groups of dogs supervised by very few adults. The park attracts many family groups with young children (and the family dog) which we welcome.

I have had two nasty incidents, some time ago. I was recovering from an abdominal operation, and meant to be walking a lot. I emerged from a thicket (on a proper path) and was confronted by seven dogs. I mostly remember the Alsatian, the Doberman and the Boxer. The owner blamed me for appearing too suddenly. The second occasion was when I was jogging, and a bulldog stopped me and wasn't going let me move. I could see the owner in the distance, and shouted to him to call his dog off. I had a bandaged knee at the time, and he shouted back that he hoped I broke my other leg, and started swearing at me. Eventually I got away, and when I reached the car park I saw an elderly couple getting out of their car with a small dog. I warned them about the bulldog, and they started berating me for jogging and saying that dog walkers were just as entitled to use the park as I was. I have

encountered this dogs-ought-to-be-allowed- to-do-what-they-like attitude several times, especially when large dogs jump up at you and slobber all over you. They are just being friendly, even if they knock you over. I love animals, but irresponsible owners cause a lot of grief.

Mostly ok. But a few walkers of multiple dogs are clearly unable to control the number of dogs with them

I Have a small dog. Some dog-walkers have 12+ dogs (2 walkers) running almost ferral & intimidating to me & my dog.

Occasionally met other dogs out who approach when my dog is on lead, or seen owners not paying attention to their dogs or near them

I love my walks with my dog

Generally great, with the exception of one or 2 ignorant owners out with their dogs

Often too many and too far away from owners.

Positive experiences

Most are ok, but I have had experience on several occasions of dog walkers allowing their dogs to be aggressive around me and physically interact with me without putting them on a lead.

I run a dog walking business, and I am insured to walk a maximum of six dogs at a time. I choose not to walk regularly at Nonsuch as it is a little far from most of my clients. However, on the occasions I have walked there, I have found it to be a largely friendly and welcoming space.

I believe the issue is that commercial Dogwalkers are travelling to Nonsuch from areas of London and walking large groups of dogs. I am strongly in favour of Dog Walking being licensed, and I believe that Dogwalkers who live and/or operate their business in the local area should be prioritised for licenses should this be brought into force?

In my experience, commercial Dogwalkers are responsible, professional and very aware of their surroundings. They make way for individuals, pick up their dogs mess, and the vast majority ensure that the dogs they are walking are under good control.

I am disappointed that the persons handing out leaflets at Nonsuch have been reluctant to engage with commercial Dogwalkers and discuss this with them. This appears to show quite a strong bias against allowing commercial Dogwalkers to use this space. Please ensure that all stakeholders are properly consulted on a matter such as this.

Try and avoid dog walkers as some seem to have too many dogs to safely control, others meet up with their friends being other dog walkers so then far to many dogs all together. See several regular people that walk one or two dogs who my 2 dogs and I chat to each time we meet

Where there are one or two being walked the dogs seem well controlled and owners seem to generally clean up after them. Where more dogs are involved the owners/walkers seem unaware of what the dogs are doing

On the whole, no problems.

We walk our cockapoo offlead in the park and mostly have had good experiences, although we try to keep him away from areas with lots of other dogs. There does seem to be a problem though with reactive offlead dogs causing issues by being overly aggressive eg. German shepherds and I have also spotted dog walkers with far too high a number of dogs under their control, up to 7 in some cases, which when then let offlead start bothering every other dog as the dog walker cannot control them. I do think there should be limits on how many dogs can be walked at once, 4 seems about reasonable.

No issues with dogs, whether that be one dog with its family, or multiple dogs with dog walkers. Its a lovely place to walk our dog. Our dog walker often takes our dog there, and never has any issues. Never seen a dog out of control.

I find dogs to be a real nuisance in the park. Most of them are off leads, and many owners are unable to control their dogs verbally. As a result I often feel intimidated by dogs that run up to me, sometimes barking or jumping up. Owners are sometimes on their phones, and some distance from their dogs, so not paying attention to what they are doing. Plus there is all the noise from owners yelling at their dogs. It would be nice to be able to sit down and relax, and perhaps have a picnic in the park, but this is not possible (other than in the Mansion garden) because there would inevitably be dogs nosing around. I have also seen owners let their dogs in the wildlife pond, despite notices asking for dogs to be kept out.

I know there are dog-free areas, but these are relatively small, less scenic than other parts of the park, and as the fencing is broken in places there could still be dogs in these areas.

I think there should be a limit on the number of dogs that any person can have with them in the park, whether they are a commercial dog walker or an owner.

Mostly good, but sometimes with large packs of dogs it's intimidating and my child is scared.

I would like to see the specific areas that are designated as dog free to be re-fenced every time we have a picnic in these area dogs come in.

Very friendly - our dogs have lots of friends there

I love seeing them . It makes me feel safer in the park knowing it is so well used

Mostly ok but there are large packs of dogs walked together which can be intimidating for other dogs and children/ people wary of dogs

I am often harassed by out of control dogs, or poorly trained dogs, off their lead jumping up on me. It's intimidating and often scary being unable to anticipate what an approaching dog will do. In addition to leaving muddy paw prints requiring cleaning. Commonly owners take no responsibility for the actions of their dog and are largely ignorant of the effect of other park users. Large groups of dogs are the more intimidating as their competitive

behaviours are more evident; chasing dogs and people, growling, and fighting. I have noticed increased use of the park by multiple commercial dog walking firms.

In recent years I have noticed a significant growth in the number of people walking large groups of dogs, both commercially and non-commercially. It's not uncommon to see one person with 5-6 dogs. This seems unsafe and irresponsible as I don't believe one person can control that many dogs. I frequently see dogs jumping up at and barking at non dog walkers.

It is generally very busy with many dog walkers, some having more than 4 dogs. Some people do not have control and therefore I no longer walk there every day or allow my dog off lead just in case we encounter a pack.

I've never had a problem here with any dog. It does get busier in school holidays and weekends so I tend to avoid going then.

Far too many dog walkers, every time we go they are everywhere

There haven't been any problems with large groups of dogs at the times we've been there, usually between 10 & 11 am

Generally very pleasant, the odd owner running in the park without paying attention to their own dog causing issues. The majority of dog walkers are responsible and have control of their dogs

I am alarmed of the number of dogs and banned breeds in the park. When they are off the leash it can be worrying with small children around.

Occasional individual dogs may be an issue, but this is rare. (has happened a few times in years walking there). Most dogs on and off lead are well behaved.

In the many years I have been walking dogs (recently x2 French bulldogs belonging to my daughter), I have never witnessed, never been involved in, any problem with dog walkers. In fact, they have been very helpful on occasion. I have seen, but only twice, dog scuffles but these have been between individual dogs being walked by their owners.

Many are fine. However some dogs are walked in packs and this can lead to difficulty as the person responsible for them is unwilling or unable to control them. Sadly I have been verbally abused and threatened by a dog walker with seven dogs who would not leave my anxious dog, (who was on the lead), alone. I politely requested she called the dogs off and her reaction was entirely unreasonable, intimidating and aggressive. In addition these dogs, as so often happens with dogs walked in groups, were defecating and this was not being cleared up by the walker. Many of the dog walkers appear to spend their time on the phone or talking with other dog walkers ignoring the dogs! This can result in very large groups of dogs together in areas of the park. There needs to be an enforced maximum of dogs walked by any one person and also walked within one group.

I have been chased several times by out of control dogs, off leads. I am a slight 68 year old, very fit for my age, female, that exercises every day. I have been knocked to the ground several times by large bouncy dogs but the owners have never shown any concern. I have been nipped by dogs a couple of times, luckily never drawing blood. In my experience dog walkers with more than three dogs cannot control them if they are all off leads.

Most owners are responsible and have control of their dogs

We are so lucky to have this on our doorstep. From my experience, everyone makes room for everyone else and there's enough room for all of us.

No problem whatsoever

Sometimes it's a sane the amounts of dog walkers with u limited amount of dogs.often they don't pick up after them as they are busy looking after other dogs. For me as a reactive dog owner it is hard to keep my dog excersised and walked as if fear of being hombarded with out of control dogs

Too many large groups (ie more than 6...)

Some dog owners are very rude and don't take care of their dogs. They shout at me for cycling on the designated cycle path. I'm a middle aged woman in a dress, not exactly Chris Boardman. The retractable leads can make it hard to navigate. I've been jumped at by dogs and chased. I'm not fast enough to get away! Owners just say they're dogs are friendly but that's not ok!

Dog walkers with too many dogs (6+) often seem unable to control / keep all dogs nearby.

Some dog owners are very responsible people & train their dogs well. But there are some people who really do not care what their dogs do & can be on the phone unaware of what the dogs are doing. People seem to forget that the park is not just for dogs & if you are scared of dogs it can be quite frightening, especially if they come & just up at you. Some people also seem to have so many dogs with them, if anything were to happen, I am not sure that they could deal with it.

No problems

I've never had a problem at all

Generally very good indeed .

I have always had good encounters with dogs in Nonsuch. People have their dogs under control and when they don't, it is predominantly the people who only have one dog which has not been trained properly. The people walking multiple dogs are not an issue in this park as they are well socialised and generally stick with the pack they are with. People walking multiple dogs have never caused an issue.

Think it's a great safe place for dogs. Most owners are really lovely and relaxed dog owners enjoying their surroundings.

Absolutely fine

The dogs are always well behaved and under control

Well behaved

Other dog owners do keep care of there dogs and do keep them on a lead if they are not social with other dogs.

Most are friendly and well controlled. Others are not, especially in larget groupd

The vast majority of them are well behaved and under control.

Always nice and pleasant, plenty of space for those without dogs and those with

I have exercised and walked my dog in nonsuch for years and have never experienced a problem with any dog walkers, personally I find dog owners are to blame for not picking up after their own dogs.

Always had lovely walks in the park with no issues.

To date a great experience that's why I go there regularly

Most are well behaved and owners respect each others pets

I used to go at least once a month now I go about twice a year to Nonsuch . Due to the volume of dogs off leads and their unpredictable manners along with the awful amount of dogpoo it is no longer enjoyable to go with 2 young children. It is such a shame as the cafe gardens and the fields are such a lovely place in the area. We now go to Ewell court as this is much nicer and feels a lot safer

Responsible owners/dog walkers.

Most are well behaved, some not so much. Busy most days, especially at the weekend

I have only had one issue when my dog was bitten by another dog & it was t a dog Walker

Most dog owners are very responsible, control their dogs, clear up after them and are generally very friendly. Other members of the public can use the park without being troubled by dogs.
However there seems to be an increasing number of commercial dog walkers who walk 6+ dogs at a time. This can be intimidating for small dogs. Also it is impossible for a dog walker to have 6+ dogs off lead, keep them all under control and clear up after them all. This gives all dog owners and walkers a bad reputation and risks further restrictions on responsible dog owners and their dogs.

All very good

Lovely place to walk with or without a dog. I have had problems with inattentive owners not controlling their (single) dogs, but I've never had a problem with professional dog walkers.

Excellent. The fitness groups and park run however are inconsiderate and quite often rude.

I am a dog owner but feel it is definitely over used by multiple dog walkers

Not really had any problems

I've never encountered a negative experience in nonsuch and as someone who uses a dog walker so that I can work, I do not believe restrictions should be enforced.

The dogs have never been a bother

It's a lovely place to walk - no issues with dogs in the park - the cyclists are much worse !!

No issues at all

I have been walking my dog for 5 years at nonsuch, I have found this one of the best places to walk him and have not encountered any issues. I would say the dog walkers I have talked to are among the most responsible.

Never had a bad experience with any dogs in Nonsuch. I take my dogs there for walks and it's always nice.

Well behaved, no real concerns. Owners seem to have good understanding of their dogs and I would say the same for walkers. The odd owner that doesn't pick up their mess but other than that it's lovely to see so many dogs in the park having fun!

Love nonsuch, never had a bad experience

Delightful. Never been a problem from dog walkers in the ten years my wife and I walk there with our dog.

I have never had an issue with any dogs

They are well behaved and don't bother me at all most are friendly and enjoy saying hi to all the dogs

Many dog owners are responsible and supervise their dogs well. Some are less good at supervision.

When groups of people congregate to chat with 2 or 3 dogs each there is a difficulty for walkers, runners, families to access some areas that they could otherwise have walked through comfortably.

Personally I have been verbally abused when walking alone in the area outside the coffee shop at Mansion House front entrance because of a dog jumping up at me. It was a very large dog - not on a lead in an area where signs say dogs should be on leads. The man who abused me verbally, after I told him his dog was supposed to be on a lead, was walking with 6 adults, a child and 2 other similarly large dogs. None of the dogs were on leads. The man's aggression was particularly worrying as I see this group often in the park and I dread coming into contact again- I deliberately avoid them now.

Nonesuch park is very popular with dog walkers . Mainly people walk 1 or 2 dogs and the majority are off the lead and are well behaved. It is also popular with commercial dog walkers (I have seen walkers with 8 or 9 dogs)and, while I think this provides a good service for working peopl, I believe the numbers should be restricted.

I have 1 dog.... My own... I get fed up with too many dog walkers with too many dogs. There is dog mess everywhere as it's hard enough to watch when 1 dog goes let alone 5 or more at once !

I would visit more often but it's not the nicest experience any more.

The car park needs re surfacing, it's dreadful in the winter (both car parks)

Very positive. Nonsuch Park is probably one of the most dog friendly parks I have ever visited and its great. Most park goers seem to enjoy the dogs there and interacting with other owners and walkers, which makes it a lovely sociable place and great for dogs in terms of their general well being and sociability.

Very well behaved and friendly.

Far too many dog walkers with too many dogs each!

Too many and often out of control, off lead, running towards me and jumping up at me, or blocking my way.

Lovely - never had any issues

I have always had a lovely time walking at Nonsuch with my dogs, and meeting other dog walkers

Generally well behaved but we have encountered some dog walkers with groups of approximately 6 animals of the lead who are not in control of the animals. On one occasion we were ran at by aggressively barking and snarling big dogs which was frightening, the dog walker was on her phone looking the other way at the time. She then became abusive when we asked her to control her dogs. She also said if we didn't like dogs we shouldn't walk in Nonsuch Park. We have no dislike of dogs but do expect them to be under control at all times.

There are a large number of dog walkers who seem to have too many dogs. They cannot control them all and do not pick up after them all. When walking my dog there, she gets very nervous when seeing a large pack coming towards her!

never had an issue

Dog walkers with far too many dogs not watching them properly or picking up their waste!

very friendly community of dog walkers and owners

Had the occasional problem with another dog , but never with any of the Professional Dog walkers .

I love the park and love it is used by so many people however with so many dogs over the park I feel there should be a bit more control and a few more dogs waste bins and signs about clearing up after your dog.

Mainly good although I go frequently enough to know the dogs to avoid.

All friendly. Have never had any issues

I love seeing the dogs

I walk early morning and late afternoon and have had very few issues with other dogs in the park.

The majority of dog walkers are responsible & have their dogs under control/recall.

We have had a few issues with dogs showing defensive/ aggressive behaviour who are not under control. This is usually a private owner.

I have two on leash reactive dogs. When it's busy so many off lead dogs rush us and upset mine. Owners invariably are on their phones or have headphones on and can't hear me.

If uncontrolled can be an issue.

Great, most dog owners are responsible and considerate.

I have no issues with the dogs and love seeing them and saying Hello. The walkers including the professional dog walkers on the whole are friendly and happy to strike up a conversation adding to the experience enjoying the park

Far to many dogs

Dogs sometimes chase my bike or hother my nervous on lead dog. Owners have little or no control here except professional dog walkers who have food control.

Lovely place to walk my dog but my dog feels threatened when a group of dogs approach. People with large groups of dogs don't often have control of them all.

Generally well behaved and suitably trained / socialised. A small minority though are not, and are clearly not under control of their handler, who seem to view open spaces with a sense of entitlement, rather than as a shared resource with associated responsibilities for making it enjoyable for all. Whilst commercial operators have more dogs, poor control and clearing up of feaces is not a problem exclusive to them.

On the whole they are OK but large groups of dogs can be distressing for some dogs and walkers

Too many dogs, not always under the control of their owners, who do not always pick up their dogs' mess, which is all too often left on paths and in gateways, never mind what is lurking in the grass. The park is for everyone not just the dog owners.

See dog walkers often. I have no issues

All positive, never had a bad experience

No different to other areas. Acceptable - no dog showing any sign of aggression.

I've never encountered any problems with dogs at Nonsuch during my visits. I have been walking there for many years with my Labrador.

My experiences of dogs and those who walk them has always been professional and caring of the dogs and humans around them

I have had no problems . I walk my dog every day there. I see many dog walkers.

I genuinely find it very pleasant but you get the odd occasion where dog owners are really not bothered about their dogs. I have a dog that is quite nervous he's always on the lead I've had dogs approaching off the lead I've mentioned to the owners and they just look at you and walk off not even bothering about recalling their dogs.

Always a pleasure to see dogs enjoying themselves and they are always well behaved

Terrible. I have been attacked numerous times by Dogs where owner/walker has not kept them on a lead. Owners/Walker always react aggressively when I complain and ask that they control their dogs by putting them on a lead. My wife has also been jumped upon aggressively by a large dog whilst she was recovering from an operation. Owner/walker just laughed at her complain and used expletive language.

I find that on the occasions that I have seen professional dog walkers with multiple dogs they do not have total control of the dogs they are with. I have seen their dogs chase after other dogs and they can't possibly look after the others while they are calling and getting the dog to comply with the command to come back. They are also quite intimidating close up to myself and I do not feel safe when they are near me.

Scary is how I feel as I step out to drop my child to school via the park. I never let my 13 year old go alone on her own due to dogs not being on a leash for 90% of the times (between 8 AM-9AM). Rude owners add to the charm each morning, especially those who have 4-5 dogs each (I am assuming are professional dog walkers). Little or no consideration to the elderly who choose to exercise in British weather by mainly dog walkers on tarmac lanes. Dog-only areas are not flag posted in the park leading to confusion by daily runners/walkers.

It was wonderful. Now, less so. Not being maintained by the Council. Other users are not always polite. Quite a few aggressive dogs and owners). The problem isn't the dog walkers. It is with other users. The dog walkers keep to themselves.

Very bad . I have stopped coming to Nonsuch park because of the number of dangerously out of control dogs. Each time dog owners let them approach my toddler and in several occasions whilst he is in the pram.

i visit less than i did as the number of dog walkers with groups of dogs, not on leads., make me nervous particularly if i am dog walking

They are a nightmare. The owners do not control them properly and think its OK to have a dog on a extendable lead to run around you and trip you up.
You should have restricted areas for dogs.

Good, all very friendly. Our dog has fun

Generally ok.

I was once prevented from moving forward for some minutes by a large aggressive dog in the middle of the pathway. I had to shout out to the owner who was at least 50 yards ahead. Her attitude was too casual and dismissive.

I don't like

one person looking after large groups of dogs, especially off the lead
when two walkers stop to chat - sometimes doubling the number of dogs in a small area
dog walkers not picking up dog's mess

I absolutely adore Nonsuch park and have been visiting almost daily for the past twenty+ years. My experience of dogs and dog walkers in the park has always been positive. It is a joy to see fellow dog walkers and a community take place in Nonsuch. We often know each other, talk and look out for one another.

Dog walkers in Nonsuch are generally a positive asset with good control over their charge, I have always seen them to pick up the poo, and keeping a good eye and ear over the place which means so much to them and us all.

I'm very supportive of continuing dog walkers across Nonsuch park without any further restrictions. I've never seen any problems as part of my daily routine and the community of dog walkers, both private individuals and professionals, enjoying and caring for this shared space is just lovely.

I find some owners allow their dogs to run at me, bark or jump up on me. When I complain they make me feel like I am the one with a problem!0

Many dog walkers have dogs that they are unable to recall when off the lead. The issue isn't specific to those with more than one dog, although it can become more pronounced. There have been too many times when dogs have come bolting towards me or my children which can be terrifying. The owner or walker seldom seems to appreciate this emotion. My children have also had a football seized and punctured by a dog, and fallen off their bicycle to avoid collisions with small dogs leaping out on to the footpath. Walkers with multiple dogs also are not aware when one has pooped unless it happens to be a dog in their immediate vicinity.

I think that a lot of dog owners think the park is for dogs. My husband when riding considerately through park the was bitten on the heel. The dog owner claimed her dog did not like bikes!! There are more dog walkers now than there has ever been, They can be very rude and some times aggressive if you ask them to let you get passed there 6/7 dogs. They walk on the path with the dogs running around along side and sometimes the dogs disappear into the bushes. The dog walkers carry on walking and don't check if the dog has fouled the area.

We have lived for 40 years backing on to the park, until COVID professional dog walkers were not a big problem. Now that we know that even professional dog walkers can get attacked by their dogs (and killed) you feel even more nervous when faced with 2 or more groups of dogs. The park is very important for the whole community it such a shame that there are only 2 small areas that are suppose to be dog free. Maybe think of having areas that are only for packs of dogs so small children can play in the park, roll around on the grass without fear of rolling in excrement. Has any dog owner been fined for not picking up!!?

Mostly positive but there are more and more packs of dogs, I often see one walker with up to ten dogs

Mostly good. My biggest beef is dog owners walking their dogs, using their mobile phone all the time, completely ignoring their dogs.

Great place for dogs to socialise

It is lovely to see so many dogs in the park

Generally good, however we have lots of young children exploring the park and dog mess is a real issue. Dog faces is dangerous an toxic. Also people walking large numbers of dogs is intimidating and a worry that such a large number (more than 4) is hard to control. Dog walkers walking big packs of dogs should contribute to our parks up keep if using it for own financial gain

Brilliant

Good, never had any trouble

They are ok, the park is big enough for them not to bother me.

Lovely and friendly!

Very friendly

Lovely never had problems

No problems

When dogs are correctly managed, as I see with other professional dog walkers, there are no issues. W

Lots of dogs about.

The dogs are well behaved and well looked after for by the numerous dog walkers.

I have no issue with them and I've never seen any issue with dogs / dog walkers in the last 5 years.

During the course of my weekly walks with a walking group, I have seen the number of commercial dog walkers rise dramatically in the past 2 years. Many commercial dog walkers walk 6 dogs at a time, most of them not on a lead. I have often seen 2 dog walkers meet up and chat so there could then be around 12 dogs running around together.

I have frequently been approached by dogs off leads who bark and try to jump up at me.

I have seen a commercial dog walker in an unmarked van reverse into a parking space in the car park and then let 8 untethered dogs jump out and mill around before being ushered off into the park.

There is frequently a large amount of dog poo left on the grass near the lower London Road entrance.

Last year I was confronted by a young, male dog walker when I was cutting across the park on the London Road side. He had 8 dogs all off the lead who suddenly surrounded me. When I froze he rather aggressively said that the park was for dogs as well and I should have thought of that before I set off that morning. When I replied that he had 8 dogs all off the lead so it wasn't surprising I felt intimidated, he just laughed at me and said they were all completely under control. In the light of what happened to the poor dog walker in Caterham, I don't believe any group of dogs running free could be considered 'completely under control'. That part of the park is now a no-go area for me.

Just a couple of weeks ago my walking group saw a group of 4 dogs attack a puppy being walked by its owner who had to rush in and rescue it.

I enjoy seeing dogs in the park and haven't experienced any issues

I've only had positive experiences with dogs at Nonsuch. I think they bring a sense of community to the park as well as a means to socialize with others.

Always pleasant it's lovely seeing dogs in the park.

I am a dog walker myself, and have never had a problem with the dogs I walk, neither have I had any problems with other dog walkers dogs. Dog walkers don't tend to take on problematic/aggressive dogs, due to the fact we are walking in groups in a public place. The only problems I have incurred are with members of the public walking their own dog. Although, these are few and far between. Most public encounters are always lovely, as people love to greet the dogs I walk, as the dogs are always friendly and approachable. I would agree that walking more than 6 dogs at one time is not acceptable. Its not something I would personally do, as this can be unsafe and intimidating for members of public. There are a couple of dog walkers in Nonsuch that do, and I think they are giving other dog walkers a bad reputation. I use the park on a daily basis, the park is my office and I am there everyday come rain or shine. I always clean up after the dogs I walk and am always respectful and considerate of other members of the public. It would be really gutting if myself and my dogs were unable to come to this park that we love so much. Myself and the dogs have as much right to be there as any other members of the public.

It's a lovely park with lovely dogs and owners.

Dogs mainly well behaved and kept under control by owners. I try to avoid dog walkers with large numbers but have had no problem. I am much more concerned about cyclists riding too fast near pedestrians.

Love them

No problems on the whole

Generally all very well behaved and controlled dogs

Always friendly

Generally very good. Everyone is very helpful and if dogs get lost/go missing everyone helps. Been walking dogs in Nonsuch since 1980s and, apart from the very rare bad experience over the years, all very positive.

Always very good - it's lovely to see so many dogs off the lead enjoying the park. I have never had a bad experience and hope that dogs are continued to be allowed to use the park.

I enjoy walking and running around the park and seeing all the lovely variety of dogs having fun.

It's always lovely seeing the dogs happily getting their exercise and fresh air for the owners. All handlers seem respectful of each others dogs needs and pick up their waste as they should.

It's such a great park for dog walking and my dog loves it

All good, but sometimes is problem with dogs poo 🐕. Some owners don't picking up

Lovely park, well maintained, friendly people

No problems so far

Mostly positive, some large groups of dogs can be intimidating

I take my grandchildren scootering there and have never had a problem. In fact, it's nice to see different breeds of dogs in the park. Some are on leads and others are off the lead - but from what I have seen the dogs do not represent a problem even off the lead. They need exercise too!

There are too many dog walkers with multiple uncontrollable dogs. There are also many incidences of not picking up dog mess afterwards.

Never experienced any concerns. I find the behaviour of park run and drivers parking in the park for this more inconvenient.

Whilst the majority of dog walkers are responsible a noticeable minority fail to supervise their dogs properly. On several occasions when exercising I have been tripped, jumped at, or chased by dogs whose owners are unaware. There are some who walk large groups of dogs, some off the lead. This can be very intimidating.

I have witnessed many occasions of dogs being out of control and bothering other park users. I have also witnessed one occasion when a walker was tripped up by an out-of-control dog and suffered serious injury.

Too many dog walkers walking 6 or more dogs. Often 2 dog walkers walk together then you have 12 or more. The vast majority of dogs and owners are respectful. Dogs on lead should be enforced in the cafe area.

Dogs are usually off leads, which is fine if they respond to their owners' commands. However, unfortunately they are often disobedient especially if they're being walked with other dogs or meet other dogs. This leads to them bothering other park users by such actions as jumping up uninvited. I'm fed up of being told by their owners, "They're only being friendly, they wouldn't hurt a fly."

Some 8 years ago I was tripped up by a dog running after another dog and not responding to its owner's commands. I was seriously hurt and spent many

weeks in bed as a result.

This has also happened to a neighbour on two occasions. But, unlike myself, she had the sense to take the owner's insurance details.

There are too and spoil the relaxing atmosphere of the park. I always go to the dog free area next to the mansion to relax and enjoy nature.

Unfortunately there are not more of such areas, especially since the explosion of dog ownership since the pandemic. Even though a large number of owners take keep their dogs under control and pick up poo, very many do not! Virtually all of the owners/minders with several dogs do not keep them on a lead and hence cannot, or are not interested in, picking up theirs dog's faeces.

Most dogs are friendly & well behaved

Very friendly well behaved

A positive experience

There are people enjoying the park and people enjoying the park with their dogs.

The walker not always pick up dog poo.

Not a problem but don't like to see more than six in a pack

Friendly with responsible owners.

Such a pleasure, very friendly owners & dog walkers and 99.9% well behaved dogs

There are multiple dog walkers particularly in the afternoons. Some I've seen are walking up to ten dogs with only one handler. I have found that some of these dogs run at you barking which I find very intimidating and frankly on occasion, frightening. Often the dogs do not respond to the handler and on many, many occasions the handler has absolutely no control over the dogs at all. When you ask them to call the dogs back, you are often met with really bad language. On one occasion recently, I had to warn the handler that I would call the Police as two dogs were completely out of control. They said the dogs were only playing... they were not!. In the end I took a photo of their van which as you can imagine was not appreciated!

Many of these multiple dog walkers make no effort to pick up after the dogs they are responsible for. The Park is often described by fellow dog walkers and others persons using the park as a 'dirty park'. It cannot be nice for people with young children and child buggies when they come into contact with dog poo.

These dog walkers who are running a business should be licensed by the council as they do in other local authority areas. They should have appropriate insurance and be limited to no more than four dogs per person. This can and should be enforced by the council and fixed penalties issued. There have been initiatives run in the past to educate dog walkers and owners with limited success. Enforcement doesn't have to be every day as word will soon get around that unruly dog behaviour will not be tolerated in Nonsuch Park.

Whatever the outcome of this consultation, something must be done about this problem before we have a repeat of the Caterham incident!

Never a problem all well behaved

Lovely friendly place for meeting other people and lovely dogs

Excited dogs approaching me, very wary of dogs in the park now

Most dogs are not properly supervised and many are not on leads especially those with more than one dog , some dogs should wear masks because they bark at people using the park

There are always lots of dogs off the lead. I find seeing large groups of dogs off the lead very scary as I was bitten by a dog as a child.

No problems with any dogs

We walk our dogs there almost daily and we have not had any problems with ours or other dogs.

Commercial dog walkers walk too many dogs at once and often walk with other colleagues so that the total number of dogs exceeds 12. These numbers are intimidating to those of us who walk our at most two dogs. A cap needs to be placed on the maximum number of animals each walker can bring.

Only good, never had any issues with my dog or anyone else's dog. Everyone seems very pleasant.

As a nervous owner of one dog I feel safer with other walkers around as they are very knowledgeable to help with any issues or concerns . They are very responsible

There are more dogs than ever now in the park. It is quite usual to see about 50 dogs during the day. Many of these are with professional dog walkers.

Generally ok

I have been a daily user of nonsuch for over 20 years. Its popularity has grown immensely and can be extremely busy sometimes. The park is generally very pleasant and peaceful to walk in and I regularly come accross professional dog walkers. I have to say, I have found them to be no problem and they generally keep out of everyones way. I feel the proposed restrictions are unfair although insurances should be law. I suspect a small number of people have made complaints about dogs barking/chasing/ jumping up etc which has led to this debate. In my opinion, if you use the park, you have to allow a bit of give and take, for example, the park run. This winter has been particularly wet yet the park run was still allowed to go ahead. This caused huge damage to the pathways and car parks because the groud was so wet.The park run started off with atound 200 runners and now over 800 runners take part which is too much for a public park to cope with. The park is basically closed on Saturday mornings as it is impossible to get a parking space in the overflowing car parks. Also, there is an issue of speeding cyclists, they fly past at high speed on public paths and can very aggressive if you or your dog gets in the way.

I don't like the dogs in general. I can cope with them when they're on leads and have considerate owners. But I really don't like them coming charging up to me when they'r'e not; I'm likely to lose the plot completely if two or more do it at the same time. I've seen two small children knocked off their little bikes by dogs whose owners can't control them. I want to eat a sandwich without a dog think it's theirs and I want to be able to have a coffee without them barking round me and getting their leads entangled in my table and chair.

Have been chased multiple times by dogs, when running (aggressive barking, charging, jumping up/clipping legs and almost falling over). Dogs never on a lead near the mansion house where there is clear signage.

No problem.

On the whole I find the dogs are very well behaved.

Very mixed. Some dog walkers are friendly, have nice dogs who mix well with others & enjoy playing with dogs who are not in their pack. Some dog walkers are militant, unfriendly & have a large group of dogs all on leads and shout over to me before my friendly, obedient, well mannered dogs even go near.

Absolutely fine. No problems

Never had any problems with dogs. The dogs in Nonsuch are very well behaved.

All very friendly. Never had an issue.

I have encountered a commercial dog walker with 8 dogs. No one can control 8 dogs. I have had 'friendly' dogs jump up and wipe their paws on me. An elderly friend was knocked over by a 'friendly' dog, and was much shaken. Some dog walkers seem to feel entitled to allow their dogs to do as they please. Incessant barking at squirrels, for instance. Due to so many dogs I have drastically reduced the number of visits I make to Nonsuch Park.

Nonsuch park is hudge,I never felt unsafe there,dog owners And dogs are well behave

Dog walkers with one or two dogs are typically fine. Owners are generally able to control their dog and pick up dog poo. The issue is with commercial dog walkers. Some have upward of 5 dogs at a time. They may be on long leads but not always under control. Off the lead, they become difficult to manage and interrupt other people's enjoyment.

There are sometimes too many, they aren't kept on leads in areas where they are supposed to be

Too many dog walkers at all times of the day from 7am. Impossible to walk and avoid them.

Mostly well behaved and under control when one or two dogs are with their owners. BUT sometimes with commercial dog walkers I have observed many (6 - 10) large breed dogs with one walker. On one occasion two large dogs jumped into the back of my car and the walker had no control over them and didn't even seem to acknowledge that this was an issue. On occasion large out of control dogs with dog walkers have approached my dog aggressively. This seems to be particularly bad in the two car parks which are not close to the Manor House. My children have also been approached by large dogs barking and jumping up aggressively, again these dogs were with dog walkers.

I love the park, it big and open, it feels safer than other places. When my family travel up, they always want to go to Nonsuch. I have heard/passed one very angry engagement, they were not dog walkers. Generally its really nice, I love seeing the dogs playing, families with their kids.

As a dog walker...My maximum number is 4 dogs. 2 of which are my own family dogs. I walk in nonsuch once a week with 2 client dogs, who are well behaved. I try and stay away from large groups so my routes are mainly on the warren farm fields.

I do find myself counting other dog walkers! Sounds horrible, I know but anything more than 6 and you are asking for trouble. I do see dog walkers with more than 6 and they have all been well behaved and tho I don't agree with it, a small amount of dog walkers break the rules, like, walking dogs in the no dogs allowed field and not collecting dog poo. That boils my blood!

What I do see an awful lot, are dog owners not keeping an eye on their own family dog. Owners walking out of sight. Just last week, a dog went into panic mode because the dog did not see their owner, he was running all over the place, the owner was too busy chatting and bent down and her poor dog was scared. I hung around just to make sure the dog was ok and reunited with its owner.

I have seen plenty of dog owners recalling their animal and the dog not listens, one day it was 2 ladies walking, chatting away, no care in the world and their dog is pestering the kids because they had food. The owner made no attempt on getting hold of her dog and putting it on the lead. That is lazy behaviour. Ladies with coffee think they are too posh to pick up poo!

I think as a minimum 4 dogs but max' 6 dogs is acceptable. Anything lower than 4 seems a little harsh. I walk there once a walk (2 are mine, 2 are client dogs) and if I had more dogs over cheap/ewell area I would go to Nonsuch Park.

I like to think I am a sensible dog walker/dog owner (I will look for ages for poo but some poos just never like to be found, lol), my dogs are under control, I clean up after them, I stay away from the large groups. Thursday are bath day because both of mine love fox poo, lol.

Awful experiences with people with multiple dogs on several occasions. One in particular a women with blonde hair by Michaels cottage was very rude when a dog she clearly didn't have control went for my 5 year old son and made him very upset. She said he should grow up and stop being a baby. The dog was 3 times his size. If that were a human they would of been arrested. Wrong and strong.

Positive

Generally well behaved and under control. This is my experience both when walking my dog and running/playing with my daughter.

Never had a bad experience. My dog loves meeting other dogs

Mostly fine

Never had a problem walking my dog and interacting with other dogs and walkers I. The park

Excellent. We never seem to have any issues.

In general very good. I believe most owners and walkers are considerate to others.

Well behaved. Have never had an issue with dog off lead. When we see someone with their dog on the lead then we will put our dog on the lead so no issues.

I have come across some very unpleasant multiple dog walkers in the park and this has got worse since Covid. On my daily dog walks, it has been very alarming when suddenly three or four dogs from a large pack of dogs suddenly appear running at you barking. I have felt really anxious and fear that I or my dog will be attacked. The handler clearly hasn't got control which is difficult if you are walking eight dogs! When asking the handler to call the dogs back they are abusive. It ruins my walk and I know many other people that I see regularly (with or without a dog) who feel the same. Something needs to be done before someone gets hurt.

I love walking in this beautiful park with my dog. Unfortunately we often encounter dog walkers with 6 or more dogs. I am a very fit 80 years old but find this amount of dogs bounding around together intimidating and dangerous. The dogs are not controlled properly and poo is often missed and not picked up. I think there should be a maximum of 4 dogs with one person.

Nonsuch Park is over run by dog walkers be it Commercial dog walkers or non commercial dog walkers all to the detriment of this beautiful park. If you look at FB Pages, NextDoor, social media in general etc there are numerous incidents of irresponsible dog ownership, dog attacks on park users, dog on dog attacks, children being jumped on, people being bitten, cyclists clashing with dogs etc.. the list goes on. Dog mess is very common as dog walkers and owners just chat and let their dogs wonder in park, some dogs are absolutely terrifying and I stopped taking my children due to the very unfriendly nature of some dogs. Dog owners appear to think this is a dog walking park rather than a shared park. Mothers in my group no longer take their children to the park which is really sad. Warren farm suffers immensely from too many dogs when it's supposed to be a nature reserve but nature such as nesting birds cannot flourish with so many dogs.

Professional dog walkers are a nuisance and are not able to control the dogs in their possession.

To many packs of dogs 6 and above

Do you have any other comments or suggestions regarding dog control in Nonsuch Park?

Need some cctv on major paths for reassurance and prosecuting if anything happens.

Wardens should be more visible as often dogs are off lead by the mansion when it clearly states they should be on lead and often dogs in the dog free area. These are not dog walkers just general members of the public that think they shouldn't have to follow the rules that others do.

No

No

A lot of dog owners walk aggressive dogs of a lead and do not know how to control there own dogs

I do not feel dogs or dog control is a problem in Nonsuch. I also feel the park is a place for everyone to enjoy and have equal right to access. I do not have a dog or walk a dog but feel dog walkers (commercial or personal ownership) also have a right to enjoy this space for free

You wont be able to police this if you put a license in place

I walk my dogs regularly in Nonsuch park, mainly in the early morning/evening. Whilst there are a small number of problematic commercial dog walkers, the vast majority are good and have control of their dogs. I think it would be unreasonable to request for them to lead their dogs when non commercial dog walkers are not met by the same request. The park is big enough to accommodate both commercial and non commercial dog walkers.

No

I have never had issues with commercial dog walkers. I have 2 small dogs and have found the commercial walkers are always very considerate. They will put their dogs on the lead if they are bouncy or will avoid me if they need to. They are all so friendly. If a dog goes missing they are always the first to help and usually find a dog. I feel the consultation is very biased, and against the commercial walkers. It is not fair for them to have their livelihoods to be jeopardised because of a few people who don't understand dogs and behaviour.

I have been a dog walker and trainer for 19 years. I have always walked at Nonsuch. I have never walked more than 6 dogs and only let dogs off once I have trained them to recall, I always pick up their poo aswell. I do realise there are new walkers that have appeared and are walking more. However I have not seen any out of control (trust me I'd be the first to complain). I think 6 dogs is a reasonable amount to walk and earn an average wage. I am a single mum and struggle to earn enough to pay rent and put food on the table, I would not be able to afford to pay for a licence. It really feels like we are being attacked just for doing our jobs. I urge you to please meet and walk round with some of us and see what we actually do before putting any limits on us. We are a friendly bunch and happy to chat and help out in the community.

This seems very over the top and extreme. I have walked in this park and local parks for over 20 years and have only ever had positive experiences with dog owners and professionals. It would be a huge shame to see them go and also penalise them for doing their job. Very disappointing.

I think a limit for walking dogs should be 3-4 but don't believe in any more big brother licensing. I believe the parks should maintain dog-free areas with proper signposting. The dog free areas in Nonsuch Pk have lost all signposts (used to be 2) by monument entrance and now dogs are all in there, going to toilet and it's not fair when just one field near car park was kept so nice. Also the fencing/hedging is all broken. There was also a sign from the far corner entrance that disappeared. Nonsuch needs signs & maintenance not financial red tape/authoritarianism. Also as I live opposite if I see humans regularly going in where people walk to use it as a toilet and I know someone who hepatitis C because of such filthy habits. .

Who will police any scheme restricting numbers of dogs or checking licences?

Stop money grabbing. Times are hard enough without trying to charge people for walking dogs

The majority of commercial dog walkers have full control of their wards it is some walkers of private dogs that are a concern.

I believe education, communication, and everyone should be responsible when using public areas, walkers, dog walkers, exercise groups, runners etc. Regulating, permits, licenses have been proven time and again to fail. Those responsible are left with another bill to pay, and those who are genuinely the problem will continue to be a problem. As has been proven with every dog ban, licensing or walking permit in Surrey and up and down the country. I

I think that the irresponsible dog walkers should be targeted rather than the wider community who are responsible. I already pay Licence fees to be able to perform my as a dog carer and to add more fees to walk them in a public park is ridiculous and smacks of yet another money making scheme.

No

No

license with cost mean increase in price to dog owners who use the service and risks the welfare of the dogs, but there is a limit to what a single person can do and a dog walker does not have the command of dogs they do not own

This will ruin the park. The professionals that use the park are great, they are responsible, pick up after their dogs and keep to themselves. In my experience, it is a small group of uneducated owners that spoil the experience by allowing their reactive dogs off lead with no ability to control them. The professionals are educated, experienced and very approachable with any questions I might have. If you licence them, you should licence the dog owners too but your park will be empty. No one will use it because there are other beautiful spaces available free of charge.

All people who own or walk dogs should have the correct training and knowledge of dog ownership ! Dog walker are not the problem, it's the general public who's dogs haven't been trained correctly and were brought in lock down with out the correct training

Stop punishing dog walkers

4 dogs per group max. Some dog walkers walk with others and you see groups of 10 dogs together. Whether on a lead or not this is too much.

If there is a problem with a dog walker it should be dealt with on an individual basis. I don't believe you should charge people as you are proposing.

I don't feel the need to implement a fee for walking dogs.

Who would enforce it? I think any licence scheme would be regarded as another council money making scheme for nothing in return.

Too many dogs can be a problem so I agree with restrictions but don't see how it can be enforced

Its usually the untrained person with their own dogs not paying attention and letting them approach every dog in the park that are the issue. Most professional dog walkers have suitable training and etiquette. Although packs of dogs, are a disaster if they are approached and interact with dogs outside of their pack.

This idea is a money making exercise and the poor clients whom will suffer for extortionate prices

All dogs should be on leads, people trying to earn money should not be penalised. Just another money making scheme rather than making an open space safe

No.

You shouldn't punish everyone because of a couple of bad dog owners who use the park.

0

I understand that there are already bylaws and dog control orders set by individual boroughs which ALL dog owners/walkers must understandably adhere to. This consultation seems to be yet a very transparent attempt of a money making scheme, targeting workers, to plug funding gaps within the Sutton and Epsom & Ewell boroughs.

This is a revolting idea and I would not support it. The professional dog walkers in Nonsuch are a part of the fabric of this community, they are knowledgeable, helpful and the first people out to look for a lost dog. Leave them alone. If you're going to enforce licenses, you should license everyone, personal and professional. It's the personal dog walkers that I've had a problem with. I find this idea disgusting. Shame on you.

I have never encountered an issue, even when we first fostered our boy and he was very nervous around other dogs. If I were paying someone to walk my dogs I would want them to be off lead which is how I walk them. It would not be fair to the dogs to have to be on lead.

n/a

All that will happen is that responsible dog walkers will be penalised. Those who are not responsible will not pay for their licence anyway. Also, given that there's never anyone to deal with youths riding scramblers et al, across the park, how are you going to police it? If the park needs money, I suggest putting a couple of self service dog washers in, I'd willing pay £ 5 or so a week rather than having to drive 30 minutes. Also, make better use of what's there, think of ice cream vans, food vans etc when the weather is warm

This survey is a great example of a poor and misleading exercise in opinion gathering. I applaud the effort, but it could hardly be more leading in its questions!

Allow owners to make responsible choices re numbers of dogs/leads on some or all of them. Put notices up to remind owners or walkers of etiquette and safe practices

I understand why this subject is being discussed due to the increase in dog numbers and some owners lack of knowledge around training dogs. However, I would be more supportive of dog licensing in general and tackling root causes rather than licensing the use of parks. Most dog walkers take dogs to differs locations and if all parks did this it would have a detrimental effect on the small dog walking businesses.

If anyone sees a person or a dog a danger they should report them, not make complaints and trouble that leads to yet another restriction to our liberty and livelihood. I would recommend this restriction being challenged in court if put in place. There are already adequate controls in place.

No

I think that the number of dogs that a dog walker can walk at one time should be restricted. There are groups of very small children in the park who could be scared by large packs of dogs.

I think that the welfare of dogs for those that employ dog walkers will be affected as there will be a shortage of walkers and increased prices meaning that some dogs with owners that work will no longer get the much needed exercise and interaction. The park is big enough for all to enjoy and has dog free zones for people to use should they wish. Any change will have a negative effect on animal welfare and negatively impact peoples livelihoods.

More required to teach all visitors basic courtesy

No

Commercial dog walkers can be allotted specific times to walk dogs, restrictions on weekends etc

A long as dog walkers are insured and proficient with the dogs then I don't see an issue.

No

Dogs should be on leads if dangerous to others/other dogs, otherwise I don't think you need to control something that is not a problem. Issuing a questionnaire like this in the current environment is going to be biased by what people read in the media about dog attacks. You questions lead people to give you the answers that you want: control and revenue

The park should be used by all, it would be a real shame to restrict dog walking of any form or charge people a license fee.

I don't see any harm in allowing dogs to use the park. I don't have a dog myself but can see how Nonsuch would be a wonderful place to walk a dog and don't believe this should be restricted in any form. The dog walkers I see on a daily basis are always very friendly and have all their dogs under control.

As with everything there are some good dogs and dog walkers and some inconsiderate. There are a plenty of dog free areas in Nonsuch Park that I have used and this is very helpful.

No

A good dog Walker. Get owners to train their dogs properly

More than 6 dogs walking with one dogwalker should be banned

It is a lovely park. No issues. Any limits should apply to large or aggressive dogs only.

I don't believe a responsible professional dog walker would take out a dog likely to cause an issue. Most problems occur with owners walking one or 2 dogs.

The problem is not commercial dog walkers. There are plenty of owners who cannot control their off lead dogs but because they are not a dog walker this behaviour is deemed acceptable? You plan on criticising commercial dog walkers lots of which are small businesses who are doing their best to help out the local community yet you want to punish these people by charging them fees and reducing their income when 90% of dog walkers are brilliant at what they do. Maybe more effort should be put into the breeding of dogs and licensing of general owners and we wouldn't have these problems crop up at all! Dog walkers are always being named and shamed and hated on by the public as they are an easy target to brand when a lot of the time they are more aware of their surroundings and are the ones that also will always pick up dogs litter compared to members of the public that walk around on their phones oblivious! Maybe look at the bigger picture rather than going for an easy target!

All dogs are under control so no need for any other measures

It is a low paid job and we should support people who want to work. Most commercial dog walkers are very responsible. However I do think they shouldn't be allowed to walk more than 4 dogs at a time.

Leave the park alone. Most of the commercial walkers I know are professional and their dogs are well behaved. It's tough for everyone to earn a living.

If you introduce a license fee dog walking prices will increase, therefore making it unaffordable to take care of your dog whilst out working.

Currently there is no limit on the amount of dogs that can be walked at any one time which is why professional dog walkers are drawn to the park. A limit if 6 dogs should be introduced as this is generally how many dogs walkers are covered for insurance. I'm guessing funding is low, but park wardens regularly patrolling the parks would help police this & make fellow park users more at ease.

Education.

Dog walkers are a vital part of our community and local economy i do not think they should be penalised for providing such a valuable service to residents. They have already been hit with the ulez charge, any further charges or restrictions will drive them out of business and loose pet owners a valuable service. Please don't be so short sited.

No

I think this is a terrible idea dog walkers will avoid these areas completely or if they have to get a licence then the cost will be passed onto the dog owner which could then make it unaffordable! I use a dog walker twice a week and I rely on them to take my dog to open spaces, to be charged for this is unacceptable when we are already paying extortionate council tax. I have never had a problem walking in the park with my dog and coming across dog walkers with multiple dogs. They always have complete control, its actually nice for my dog to socialise with a group of dogs. This shouldn't be about dog walkers it should be about responsible owners...you can get just one aggressive dog or owner that could be a problem ! Why are we penalising commercial dog walkers?

If they're aggressive dogs they should be on leads but otherwise if they're kept under control then they should be allowed to roam free as get proper exercise, dogs need to be able to run and sniff etc!

I only believe that there should be a restriction on the number of dogs walked by a dog walker. One person cannot control more than 3-4 dogs. If I paid a dog walker I would expect that my dog gets a proper walk, which means off-lead. I have trained my dogs to have excellent recall skills. I would not be happy if I paid someone to walk my dogs and they were kept on-lead along with 6 other dogs. The main reason I believe in a restriction of numbers (dogs per human) is because if one dog runs away (and has bad recall), how can one person holding 8 other dogs fetch the run-away dog!? I have definitely noticed an increased number of dog walkers with several dogs on-lead. I always make a point of counting how many dogs there are, and the average number is 8.

No

Dog control is missing the point - it is some humans that require control (e.g. those riding motorbikes in the park)

No

People should be vetted, not dogs

Yes, keep the dog walkers

You haven't explained the benefits of your possible licensing scheme. What will it achieve?

1. Ear-mark dog-only spaces in the park 2. No dogs to be without a leash at all times on tarmac lanes/by-lanes 3. Licence fee is another money-minting process that will allow ruder behaviour and money collected might not be put to any use effectively - leading to corruption.

More waste bins as some been removed

Nonsuch is a dog friendly space where dogs can be free with out impacting other wildlife or animals, the main problem we have is with out of control dogs at the park. If numerous groups of dog walkers are together walking I can see how this might be intimidating but we have never had a bag experience. Nonsuch is one of the best and safest parks for walking dogs

No

Never had any problems. There are few places to let dogs have a good run around and charging for licences will only push the - already high - cost of dog care up further.

Leave them. doing what they doing.

Engage positively with dog owners and refrain from singling out one type of park user. I have had some horrendous experiences with park run. Where is that consultation on their use. The park should be for everyone and not restricted in this way. Many companies make a commercial business out of using the park.

It's down to each individual to the dogs they are walking whether it is their own dog(s) or they are dog walkers. The idiots will continue to be idiots regardless of any license scheme and once again the decent people will be penalised

Improved signage and a maximum number of dogs per person rather than a money making scheme

The issue is not to do with dog walkers necessarily, it is to do with irresponsible individuals. The problems I have encountered in the park have been with ignorant individuals who cannot control their dogs, not commercial dog walkers

Private individuals are the problem.

I would love to know the rationale for this, what has generated the survey in the first place. Who responds and why, how will you manage any bias in response and control for that?

I personally do not believe dog walkers should require further licensing requirements than they already have. Dog walkers are already inspected and required to have various insurance. I believe any licenses to walk dogs in a public park is just another way of councils trying to tax local hard working people. Would I require a licence if I owned multiple dogs?

I don't think that the many should be punished because of the few. The bad dog walkers will continue to be bad regardless of restrictions. If you want to stop antisocial behaviour then I would suggest monitoring those individuals rather than enforcing rules on everyone. Although I do believe that six dogs should be the limit.

If a dog doesn't have a good recall or wanders far from its owner/walker it would be safer to keep the dog on a lead or long line for its own and others best interests. I personally love to see dogs running free when possible but have heard stories regarding dogs approaching other dogs who are on leads which causes distress and sets back people trying to train their dogs for whatever that reason may be. People just need to be aware of other dogs and when they are on leads maybe put the lead on their own dog/s until you have passed the on lead dog if you are unable to stop it approaching. Dogs on leads are on it for a reason and I am sure the owners wouldn't do this if they didn't need to. Everyone needs to be aware of each person and their dogs need and respect it. I have a dog walker who has a license to walk up to 6 dogs at a time and I am very confident in her being in control of all dogs at all times and will walk them on a lead if that is what is necessary.

No

Dogs are a massive part of many people's lives. Commercial dog walkers enable owners to find a balance between earning a living and providing the best life for their pets. Please do not place restrictions on commercial dog walkers making their services out of reach for the general public.

Can the signage for where dogs should be on leads please be updated

It would be hard to enforce a licence and expensive but might be a deterrent.

I cannot understand why anyone would have issue with dogs being walked in the park. Why are dogs and dog walkers being penalised for using a public park. I just don't get it

For commercial dog walkers a licence is fair. But the no needs to be for more than 4.3 is not a viable no for any business and this affects all dog owners/local residents who rely on a dog walker.surrounding areas have a limit of 4 with no licence.

No

Comments already given

I haven't noticed a problem. I am not against licensing but make it affordable.ing -

Regarding dog control the dog walkers are not the issue as they train the dogs well and use training leads until satisfied that they can be off lead.

I have never had an issue with commercial dog walkers at the park, more so with people walking their own dogs

In general it isn't the dog walkers that is the problem, if is the owners that don't understand their dogs, several owners have allowed their own dogs to attack other dogs.

I don't believe it's right to enforce restrictions on dog walkers to the park - they are helping the community and its their business. Perhaps you could introduce restrictions to certain areas of the park for commercial walkers.

N/a

We have always had positive experiences. I do believe commercial dog walkers should be limited to a certain number of dogs; but ultimately it still comes down to how experienced they are and how well they manage the dogs. Dog walkers should be regulated and have training to ensure their own, the dogs, and others safety

Between 4-6 dogs I'd say is the max to keep under control, pick up dog poop after etc. Anymore in one pack is quite intimidating to people with just one or two dogs as the dogs start working as a pack when off lead, surrounding the singular/ungrouped dog in my experience. I think those with 6 dogs should at least have

one or two on lead to keep the control of the pack. I disagree with a commercial licence walking fee, why do people in our areas have to pay so much more for everything. Council tax should already be going towards the upkeep of our parks.

Commercial dog walkers do a fantastic job, they really get to know the dogs they take out. Once I observed a dog not playing nicely, (nothing dangerous) with the other dogs in the pack, the dog walker put this particular dog on a lead instantly and therefore the behaviour was managed. The one time I have seen a dog misbehave was because its owner was too busy on her phone to notice what her dog was up to and therefore didn't have control. I would suggest that its individual dog owners who would potentially cause upset rather than a commercial dog walker, simply because its their livelihood. To do this kind of job you have to really love and care about dogs. I would suggest from my own observations its racing cyclists hurtling through the park that need to be better controlled and more respectful to the walkers.

Nonsuch park has so much space for dogs and the public to enjoy.and the dogs love it.

All dogs should be on leads in Alexandra park too. Dogs continually jump up at my children and it's ruining our park experience.

I find it beyond belief that a council is yet again finding another money grabbing scheme penalising dog professionals. We already pay an extortionate amount for boarding licence while the councils do very little to regulate the 100s of unlicensed dog boarders-how do you think you will regulate yet another licensed group when u can't manage the current licence issues for animal welfare. This is not about the dogs, it's another way to get even more money out of us. An insured pet professional can usually walk 6 under their insurance so to limit walkers affects their income followed by charge for a licence do they will need to increase their prices which most dog owners can ill afford now.Also plenty of owners with 4+ dogs so it would be a biased charge.

no

I have far more problems with runners and cyclists than I ever have with other dog walkers.

I trust my professional dog walker. I have complete confidence that my dogs are well behaved, they have excellent recall and my dog walker is a trained dog behaviour specialist so I have full confidence that she is able to read other dogs and their owners and take the appropriate action. This survey seems very biased and another money making scheme that penalising those that help us.

No

Maybe more bibs would encourage better behaviour by owners in terms of picking up and binning poo.

Dog control is very well adhered to in Nonsuch Park

I think that dog walkers should have a licence to charge for dogs care but not to have to pay to use the same public park that the dog's owner could use freely.

Have met many dog walkers over the past years all delightful people and lovely dogs.

No

I think that commercial limited to 4 dogs per walker and only 2 commercial dog walkers to walk together at any one time.

As said before. The issue is more the number of dogs someone has more then the payment

Don't try and make money via the back door. Cyclists going too fast are more of a problem. Are you going to licence them?

N/a

More waste bins

Dog walkers should be licenced, but this should be one standard licence and insurance and cover all public spaces

More areas where dogs are not allowed. This scheme should not direct commercial dog walkers to other areas such as the common or other larger parks. Perhaps a blanket policy throughout the borough. Dogs do need to be allowed off the lead but perhaps for those with children or the elderly there could be periods during the day where dogs are not allowed off lead

I don't understand why you are looking to impose a license to charge a fee for professional dog walkers. This is completely unnecessary and not fair.

Don't alienate dog walkers

Dog walking businesses bring a huge amount of convenience to the local residents, it is essential that the dogs being walked are given the space and freedom to exercise adequately, as well as socialise with other dogs. These measures could seriously impact small businesses in a time where the cost of living is already incredibly difficult. Ultimately it will be the local dog owners and the dog themselves who will be impacted negatively with very little benefit to the public.

The issue doesn't tend to be with dog walkers, but some particular owners who don't have control or have no respect for others.

When you determine any future dog control requirements you should display them prominently at all entrances

It is the owners/dog walkers responsibility to ensure their dog(s), themselves, the public & other dogs are safe. If a dog needs to be kept on a lead it is the owners/walkers responsibility. Others shouldn't be punished where it will affect their income & be passed onto others.

NA

Lots of dog walkers have started operations that aren't trained or have much experience. This is where problems occur they taken on too many dogs to make ends meet. Lots don't know dog or park etiquette.

As a responsible dog walker I believe I do my job very well, I pay for my insurance and I care for my dogs in my care and others around the park, I have neverbin 6 years had a problem with another dog/walker or member of the public there.

If you allow it it will get worse, not better will become known as able to go there and public can't challenge bad behaviour

No

If you are implying that dogs be walked on lead in a group please speak to a behaviourist to find out the implications of this. I believe that 6 is a good number to be walked but could this not be trialled and then adjusted if it doesn't work. Merton council introduced this rule for a year and has now dropped it maybe ask them why before going ahead with your proposals and wasting local people's money on a scheme not fit for purpose. I thought that local people already pay for the upkeep of local parks so where will the extra money from licence fees be spent?

Have a dog warden if this issue bothers you so much, too many controls when people just want to enjoy the open spaces

More poo bins

Unsure of the reason behind suggesting dog walkers should be charged a licence fee. I can't see what negative impact they are having on the park or community. Many families use their services so they can look after children or work from home. We should not be punishing small businesses with additional taxation or fees above and beyond the insurance and overheads they already have.

X

No suggestions

I do not feel it is the commercial dog walkers that anyone has any issues with / it is the owners that cannot control their own dogs. Dog walkers are responsible and trustworthy that's why we pay to use them . We wouldn't trust our dogs to anyone with no control. It is the people I. Phones and headphones

Signs on the cycle path say that pedestrians have priority. Additional signage encouraging responsibility for dogs and consideration for cyclists would help

No

Under no circumstances should a blanket policy of dogs being walked on leads be introduced. The would be cruel.

As an ex dog walker I don't have an issue with people who walk dogs but some people have far too many dogs at any one time. The majority are great and have control over their dogs so shouldn't be overly penalised with extortionate licence fees.

I think 3 dogs off the lead is an acceptable maximum. Any more than 3 and they should be on a lead. Eg if you have 5 dogs then 3 off the lead and 2 on the lead.3 .

No

Anything below 3 dogs is a little mean

I think that it should be max 4/5 dogs per walker, and that x2 walkers shouldn't meet up and walk together. for example before I've seen x2 dog walkers with 12 large dogs between them walking in 1 pack....most dog walkers have a ratio of 6 to 1 but when they join together they have a pack of 12 which is intimidating for other dog walkers and non dog people

No

None

I would be very uncomfortable with rules that state dogs have to be kept on leads. The dogs I walk are high energy spaniels and I need to run - they reach high speeds whilst playing and I would think it cruel to restrict this (I am not a dog owner) I just borrow other people's to walk with me!

Dog walkers do not get paid enough, I don't believe licensing is a solution

Commercial dog walkers should have a maximum number imposed but I do not think they should pay to use the park as they are only walking like others and are providing a service to those who work and can't walk their own dogs every day

No

How will you distinguish between commercial dog walkers and breeders, who might also have a number of dogs??

I do not understand why you would want to enforce a licence to walk dogs. Some people own a multitude of dogs and this would just defer them from coming to their local park where they have been walking their dogs for years. It is not fair that the minority who cannot control their single dog could potentially ruin it was the majority of people, especially those who own more than one dog.

No

If you charge the dog walker too much for a licence then their fees will go up. As long as dog walkers are responsible then I see no problem during the week

The people who are the most vociferous about dog walkers often have badly behaved solo dogs! Most of us are not making a fortune so a huge fee would be unmanageable. We try to keep our charges down as many clients are struggling themselves. I am respectful of other walkers and try to keep away from busy

areas, always put all dogs on lead near the increasing numbers of groups of children. If I had a £ for every snide remark I get when minding my own business with well behaved dogs I could retire now.

Certain size of dogs or breeds of commercial dog walkers need to be in a lead

No

This would need the resource to properly “police”

No

No

No I don't think dogs in the park are an issue. The majority of dog walkers are responsible and respectful of others - it's a huge park and brilliant for dogs to be able to run around !

No

None

I'm a professional dog walker and want to give the dogs I walk the best alternative to being out with their family. All my dogs are well behaved and good with other dogs. I would t walk them for others if they were anything other than well behaved. I believe the dogs should be off lead to be free but should have a good recall or they should be on the lead. I feel professionalisation if the use if the park would be great if managed in a favourable way to all lark users. I hope professional dog walkers aren't being singled out negatively. We do this job for many good reasons, to be healthy, help local people give them freedom to work and enjoy a pet. Give the dogs much needed freedom and fresh air. Keep us the walkers healthy and happy doing this job in an amazing park.

this consultation has not been well publicised

Limiting numbers of dogs would mean more poo was noticed and cleared uo

No other comments

Some level of restrictions is acceptable, but my worry is what criteria would be used and who would police it? Non commercial dog walkers can be incredibly rude and judgemental. There is a WhatsApp group which is incredibly helpful that commercial dog walkers can access. It helps us keep in touch with each other and offer support and information about the park.

More bins

Will be hard to monitor any commercial dog walkers and whether abiding by any restrictions place. Visit many other parks, mainly Epsom & Ewell borough but there does not seem to be a problem in any other park. Hence why avoid Nonsuch so much and go to Horton, Epsom Downs and other smaller parks

I think if you charge for a Dog Walking licence which only covers Nonsuch and not surrounding spaces within the borough, you are just going to push the problem elsewhere.

None

We think Nonsuch Park is a particular problem with dog walkers and know of dog owners who choose not to walk their dogs there because of encountering large group of loose dogs.

Some sort of action over dog mess. DNA?. A couple of dogs off the lead is ok but a distinction should be drawn between breeds. Large aggressive dogs - no.

I definitely feel that there should be a maximum number of dogs walked by one person at a time. I think this could solve some of the concerns of other park users

No

In my 10 years dog walking I believe there has been an increase recently in walkers although this ties in with the number of dogs since Covid. I have had a few bad experiences with dogs who are walked by the general public so I don't believe it's partly down to the number of dogs one person walks. But I believe having a limit on numbers will help control the situation, 6 dogs is a perfectly controllable number and is often a rule in other parks in the area I also walk in. It will allow our businesses to still run and have an income to pay bills etc as well as allowing the public to feel there is no concern. If there are options to trial this I think this will be really helpful.

Dogs should not be encouraged to interact/play with dogs they don't know without the owner's permission

Most of the walkers I have met over the park are wonderful! They are respectful to other walkers/joggers/cyclists etc! I think allowing them to still be able to work by putting in a dog number rule would be good for them but I think 6 is a great number! I love seeing them dog socialise with the groups and hope it continues in the future

Many dogs to be well exercised need to be off leads and able to run, but should be in control. Any enforcement to put dogs on leads is unfair for the dog and owner. The professional walkers should only allow the well trained, controllable dogs off leads. Same with dog owners. Nonsuch is well known for being a Great place to walk your dog. Please don't put unnecessary limits on dog owners. Richmond park becomes unavailable - May-August for dogs off leads, so Nonsuch is such a perfect spot for dogs during this period. Some professional walkers are better than others. Those with licence and qualifications could charge more. Those without the qualifications should be limited to numbers and pay a fee.

If the owner has no recall, keep the dog on a lead or line

Too many commercial dog walkers with 10 or more dogs, that is to many to safely monitor, often they do not see the dogs in their charge poeing in the park so do not pick up. As a dog lover I find it intimidating to be surrounded by a pack of dogs.

Wardens should be monitoring and fines issued to owners/walkers who are not clearing up their dog mess. It is getting ridiculous how much isn't being picked up. Children are walking around, and you have groups of children from the Forest School.

Limit park run numbers

On the whole pretty good. The dog walkers I've come across seem to be responsible and respectful. Problems are more likely to occur with owners walking their dogs - who don't always have full control. However, it's manageable and incidents are rare. It would be sad if dogs had to be on lead the whole time. The Park is a wonderful place for them to explore, chase and sniff!

None

Only 2 dogs off lead per adult walker. More dog waste bins and signage.

I do not feel that it will be helpful to impose massive restrictions on dog walkers (commercial or otherwise) as you will encourage unlicensed activity, the same that happens with breeding and boarding. Anything introduced needs to be fair, and enforceable where necessary. The parks have become less and less dog friendly over the years and it's a real shame.

The dogs are not the issue, it is the (minority of) irresponsible handlers. However it is larger groups which cause the most issue, both in relation to poor behaviour and faeces management. A uniform approach across other opens spaces would be ESSENTIAL. There are already the same issues in the adjacent Warren Farm and selective restriction would displace, not solve, the problem. Commercial dog walkers should be restricted to using designated car parks rather than residential roads, where the barking of excited arriving dogs at all hours is a nuisance. Commercial handlers who can not comply with managing their dogs should lose their licence.

Any measures need to apply to Warren Farm as well otherwise an already equally bad situation in Warren Farm will be made much worse. Dogs running free around the area have already dislodged some of the wildlife and the amount of mess can be pretty disgusting at times. Dogs are frequently out of control - running up to walkers and cyclists, jumping up, biting at wheels. There are already parking issues in the streets running up to the entrances as dog walkers - both private and commercial - do not use the car parks and clog up the roads (exacerbated in lockdown when car parks were closed, some cars never going back to using the proper parking facilities) and this would get much worse if dog owners/walkers were avoiding Nonsuch Park.

Dog walkers must pick up the dogs' poo and fine if not

Part of the control should stop dog walkers walking in pairs as this increases the numbers. Restrictions of size of breeds should also be considered. A warning/banning system should be considered where walkers and owners are not controlling the dogs in their care

The park is for everyone's enjoyment. Some people like complaining and having everything their own way. I would be careful not to restrict the activities people can carry out in the park based on some complaints. Most people, dog owners and walkers are responsible.

No

No

No

The issue of commercial dog walkers is increasing. There doesn't seem to be consistent regulations. I also think that they don't have the same control over the dogs they walk the same way an owner has (in terms of the bond with the animal). I would suggest something about being able to report and ban a specific commercial dog walker should incidents occur where it is apparent that they cannot control the dog(s) in their care.

No

No

No

None, dont think a license is needed, but if it is, I think it should be affordable and for 6 dogs

On leads all the time .

As a dog walker licensed to walk 6 dogs under my insurance I think any restrictions should be applied to more than 6 dogs.

I have 4 dogs of my own so restricting numbers will be an issue for me personally

I think that commercial dog walkers seem to be targeted, when dog owners walking their own dog are just as problematic

No

Most professional dog walkers operate weekdays between 9 and 3 so i really don't see the problem. Most people are at work etc. This is there livelihood..

Bring back park wardens or at least the police community officers. Not sure how you will be able to ensure adherence if there is no one to check either licences numbers or bad dog behaviour usually due to the owner.

No, but more dog waste bins are needed

I like the idea of a licence that can be revoked for poor control of dogs

It is not fair to blame the commercial dog walkers for any trouble in the park. It is usually the average dog owner who does not pick up dog poo or their dog is aggressive.

Maybe have an area for commercial dog walkers and then another area for domestic - people with only one or two dogs in another area?

I would just like incidents of dog walkers not having control of their dogs to be taken more seriously and be monitored more carefully.

No

A dog walking commercial license is the only way to control the parks and keep the parks safe for all users. I have a dog walking company and think every dog walking company should have a walking license for the whole borough of Epsom & Ewell to promote responsible dog walking in every park. With a limit of walking 4 dogs at any one time. Even if there is more than one person present. It should be 4 dogs together at any one time throughout the borough. Pack walking is growing in the area and it is unsafe for the dogs involved, the dogs at the park and people in the park too, so I am strongly for this proposal. Aslong as dogs can be let off lead if they are in control, no more than 4 dogs and they have a valid dog waking license. My question is how will this be policed though?

We have witnessed an incident with a dog walker losing control over the dogs he had in his care which affected another person walking his own dog. It nearly ended up in fisticuffs. The dog walker had too many dogs to control.

Wardens to control if put in place

Better patrolling by wardens and more open access to wardens. More visability

No.

Most people are responsible but if you have too many dogs you are likely to miss them soiling so not be picking up after them.

Don't think there are any problems, so limited controls needed

I think well behaved dogs with good recall should be able to be walked off lead but many dogs are poorly trained.

No

I think regulating dog walking in the park will be difficult to do and I'm not convinced on what the benefit would be.

Reduce their numbers - the park used to be a tranquil urban space. Now it's simply a dog exercising space that the rest of us seem to get in the way of. The bully dog breeds (an intractable issue) should either have their own designated times to be there so others can avoid, or be given a particular space that others can skirt. Too many weapon dogs. We live in Epsom/Ewell, not South Central LA.

They must be 6 well controlled dogs but perhaps only a maximum of 4 should be off at any one time

I feel that dog walkers are a great help, but should be restricted to the amount they are insured to have at any one time If licences are issued it should be for 6 dogs maximum and policed properly

Nonsuch is a very popular park, with walkers with or without dogs, nursery children, cyclists and joggers etc etc. I am there twice a day every day and rarely see any issues. The park is generally peaceful and a pleasant place to visit. I find professional dog walkers keep out of the way and tend to walk in the quieter areas.

No

Maybe a common sense bullet point list in the car park. Things like. Make sure your dog respects other people's personal space and other dogs' space

I don't believe that commercial dog walkers are to blame for all the problems there are just as many private owners that don't have control of their dogs

Commercial dog walkers also 'team up' together sometimes, I have seen 15+ dogs with 2 walkers, which is dangerous.

Tolerance

The dog walker should be licensed, rather than their dogs. I think £150 is reasonable. I think all dogs should be licensed - £50 - £100 would be reasonable.

Commercial dog walkers have better control of dogs than a lot of owners in my experience. The majority of dog waste not picked up again from what I have witnessed is lazy dog owners not the professional dog walkers.

Please have more dog waste bins.

Dog free areas please. Not everyone likes or wants contact with dogs but still want to enjoy parks and fresh air

There is a lot of ignorance and prejudices against commercial dog walkers. In fact it's dog owners with individual dogs that cause issues that arise regarding dogs.

I personally find that people who have just one dog are often not as in control as the people who have multiple (generally)

A presence from the council to encourage people to pick up dog poo would be good. Didn't used to be an issue but the situation has deteriorated in last few years.

Regular "poo" patrols to fine owners / dog walkers who do not pick up after them.

Some aggressive dogs with members of the public need to be restrained

No

Commercial dog walking is a good resource for working people but we need to ensure that those dog walkers are responsible and capable of managing the number of dogs in their care. A licence will help maintain that professionalism.

N/a

Just let owners/dog walkers walk their dogs freely. They're confident they're under control that's enough. No need for over 6 dogs that's fine.

Enforcement is key and I think waste bins need to be more regularly checked and emptied

None

The upkeep of the carpark we use is appalling. Use money raised to fill in potholes properly. The occasional throwing around of a few pebbles is useless

Commercial dog walkers should have to contribute to the upkeep of the park by obtaining a licence. More regulations and signage are needed.
More regulations and signage needed

No

Intact dogs should be muzzled . Only local dog walkers should be allowed in the park.

The number of dogs has put me off going to the park

I would like to see all dogs wearing muzzles if off lead. I could then return to this beautiful open space.

There are far too many dogs now.

No but please can you sort the path from sparrow farm end as it floods at the tiniest amount of rain.

I think everyone who walks a dog - professional or otherwise - should be accountable for the dogs in their care. There are great pet professionals and some not so great. Most of the professional dog walkers I know take great care to walk their dogs under control, pick up after them, and put them on lead where appropriate. I sometimes walk clients dogs at the park but more often I walk my own dogs at the park. Professional walkers in my opinion are far more aware of the etiquette of dog walking - for example - Do not let your off lead dog walk or run up to an on lead dog. Do not throw a ball towards a group of dogs. Do not let your dog jump up at people. Do not let your dog run loose in the car park. I could go on. I would never let my dogs do any of those things, but I have had individual owners do those things. I regularly see owners walking on the phone paying no attention to their dogs, while again as a professional dog walker I would never do this. I think everyone should be accountable, not just the professionals.

The fact I have to keep hold of my grandchildren for fear of dogs either running free or on to longer leash in my opinion to feel safe to let them run free.

No

N/a

Start giving out fines for dogs out of control - you will see it's always the same people!

If dog walkers walk more than 4 dogs, the additional dogs should be kept on lead

No

Concerns as to how this would be enforced

How will you monitor dog owners who have more than the prescribed number of dogs, if this policy is introduced ? If a dog licence is going to be introduced, will there be a requirement for some qualification or membership of a recognised body that requires dog walker training be a condition of the licence approval ?

My dog walker is also a professional dog trainer. For this reason I'm happy that she lets the dogs off and can control them. When I am out with my pup I need to train her to play off lead but to follow me and come the minute she's called. I note that many dog handlers use long lines - that's ok but they can get tangled round so many things. All public places should be respected by all users and that includes cyclists who come up, unheard behind me, joggers who think they have the right of way, children who are not shown how to consider others etc etc - not just dog walkers - although I do appreciate that there is a problem.

A dog walker usually has more control of its dogs than most dog owners. I don't believe this will make any difference to the park. How is charging dog walkers going to make them better?

How about education in schools, how to avoid attacks and how to be a responsible owner?

Increasing amount of dog free areas. Dog free cafe

The issue isn't whether it's commercial or not if someone is walking too many dogs it is irresponsible to believe they can control them or clean up after them

No

No further comments

Better upkeep of the fences in the dog free areas so those who want to use them don't get dogs in their picnic

Make off lead dog walking available for only part of the day and on lead other times.

N/a

No, just that if a person knows they have a reactive dog they should keep it on a lead

I am not a commercial dog walker but I am a rescuer so always have multiple dogs . I have been walking in nonsuch for over 30 years . Please do not restrict the professional dog walkers to less than 6 dogs as most of them are ladies trying to fit in work between children and less than 6 dogs would no longer make there jobs financially viable ... the dog walkers that have been around for years are a really super bunch of ladies and are all willing to be licensed - please please consider the financial implications for many people who rely on their earnings .

No

N/A

N.a

Nonsuch people are special lone dogs or multiple. The owners/handlers are responsible and ready to help in any emergency situations....you cannot find a better community of responsible people.

No

No

No

Dogs need exercise off a lead.

There is a dog free zone in the park already. If you licence dog walkers and limit to 6, I think that is sufficient.

Dog walkers should be able to take up to 6 dogs of leads as long as they are friendly and trained if not some should be kept on a lead. This is because if you lose how many dogs walkers can take to a park it will damage their business leading to financial issues

The park is a lovely place for all, including dog walkers, however, many councils restrict the number to 6 and some charge a license fee.

My dog interacts very well with all other dogs. I welcome a license for dog walkers as there are so many great ones in the park, but becoming overrun with dog walkers from other boroughs who have 12+

Maybe bigger dogs when walked with a Dog Walker should have more restrictions .

No

No

None

It's important that we allow dog walking in our parks so we encourage people able to make an income by walking dogs who so enjoy the parks and their dog walkers bring income onto the parks and surrounding areas

No

Regulating dog walkers is important to ensure dogs are well looked after

Most commercial dog walkers are good, but you always get the odd ones who have too many dogs to manage properly

No

No

No

No

No

Nonsuch is a lovely park and would be incredibly sad if it was ruined by stupid dog rules, as I think all the dog walkers I've come across in the park are always responsible and respectful towards me and my dogs.

If professional dog walkers carry a visible license then there is an incentive to keep dogs under control as they can be identified and reported

Dogs are very individual and whilst some are fine off lead, this doesn't apply to all dogs. All dog walkers should be in full control of their dogs and, for the most part, this is the case but in such a busy, popular space you are always going to get the odd negative incident.

Dogs who have poor recall should be kept on a lead

No

No

No further comment.

I have every faith in my dog Walker . She is trustworthy with our dog & is very responsible when walking a few dogs together .

No

No

I trust that all other commercial users of the park also have licences e.g. nordic walking, personal trainers, Go Fitness, rugby teams, American football teams etc. Also the only badly behaved dogs belong to individual owners with multiple dogs i.e. 3 plus- they can act as a pack

No

No

Overall dog walkers (professional and private individuals) are responsible but I think it would be good to have some clearer guidelines around what is sensible re number of dogs any one person can walk.

Licensed walkers is a good idea

Proper fencing around dog free areas needs to be addressed many are damaged meaning dogs can enter dog free areas

Dog poo not as big an issue in Nonsuch as it is in the rest of the borough of Sutton, but do get some, and fair amount of poo bags not put in bins.

None

This is another way council to get money off a low income job

There are a small amount of individuals who can spoil it for others. Those causing repeated issues should be reported/fined rather than the whole community being financially penalised.

No

No just control the number

It's a shame that a few irresponsible people make it bad for all dog walkers.

Please do not enforce something in nonsuch and have the problem move elsewhere to say horton or hook road arena - make sure it covers all areas and then enforce it. Don't put something in place and then never follow it up...

See above.

No

No

No

Commercial Dog Walkers are getting free use of the park and don't contribute to it's up keep, ie council tax etc. the dogs quickly form a pack and behave as a pack towards lone dogs, this can be intimidating for both lone dogs and their owners

No other comments

No

Stricter controls including picking up of dog poo

No

Clear guidance for reporting incidents

I've come across multiple dogs being walked by dog walkers who had been separated from the group and the dog walker was very far away/ not paying attention. Larger dogs out of control (with owners not paying attention and with walkers), owners letting their dogs approach dogs who are on lead.

I do think if dogs are off lead, then they should be muzzled regardless of size.

Would be nice to have a dog free section for picnics etc like we used to have a few years ago

N/a

Sometimes people have too many dogs to control

Many commercial dog walkers are responsible people who have control of their dogs and pick up after them. There are many people who own, rescue and foster dogs for charities who have multiple dogs in their care. I own 3 dogs but also walk 3 elderly neighbours dogs who are either housebound or have limited mobility that I walk for free. I know this is the case for other commercial dog walkers. Many small businesses like ours have struggled because of ULEZ and the cost of living crisis. I think a maximum of 6 dogs per person would be a reasonable limit so that a profit can be made but also the dogs can be controlled and managed. It's not so much the amount of dogs it's the combination of breeds that's important. I've run my business for 37 years, 17 years of which I have lived in North Cheam and walked in Nonsuch Park and have never experienced any problems.

If you are going to implement this - how will it be policed? There needs to be a warden there to ensure everyone sticks to the rules.

I find it rather annoying that people ignore the signs around the mansion house asking that dogs be kept on leads

It's not just the dog walkers that are the problem - many people don't seem to have control of their own dog

I don't believe people should walk over 6 dogs. If a licence is issued insurances should be proof of how many dogs a person can walk.

Dogs should be kept on leads if they cannot be controlled

Not regarding dog control but exercise classes should be looked at too, as people can be very inconsiderate when in large groups.

Dog Pooh must be picked up

No

No

There should be separate areas where dogs can be off lead.

Use sign posting in areas where dogs should be kept on leads - not just at the cafe but around the busier paths and walking/biking areas

No

None

It's a shame there are no patrols taking place in nonsuch parks as wardens could see first hand the issues caused by out of control dogs especially those walking up to 5 dogs at any one time.

I agree licensing may help but I'm also aware that it will get costly as I would likely have to apply for 2-3 licenses with different councils. I generally don't have too many issues with other responsible walkers who take 4-6 dogs, my issues are with walkers who take more, or individuals who are walking their own dog and see my group as easy socialisation for their dog and make a beeline towards us. I have a lot of issues with people on their phones not paying attention as well.

Dog wardens available to advise and support all park visitors

This is very generic. I think each situation will depend on the type and size of the dogs being walked.

More refuse bins for dog poo bags and other refuse.

No

No

See above

Who will be responsible for implementing any restrictions? It was very short sighted to remove the resident park keepers.

Fines for fowling would help stop the problem. Maybe occasional enforcement and more signage.

Nothing further

Enforcement and prosecution of miscreant dog walkers

Regulation is need to prevent harassment and possible injury to users of the park especially young children.

Yes. Fine irresponsible owners who leave their Dog poo bags

No

There will need to be regular patrols and suggest whoever does them wears a body worn camera

It is desperately needed - the dog walkers are spoiling it for families and dog owners and it is only a matter of time before there is an incident.

No

Nothing to add

Even the loveliest dogs can be hard to handle, nobody has enough strength to hold back multiple dogs at a time. There have been enlighinjuries and deaths to show that. I love dogs but the key thing is nobody should be walking more than they can bodily control. Therefore there should be a limit on how many dogs, even if there isn't a licence.

I would favour a smaller number of dogs per commercial dog walker if the dogs are large breeds. Maybe 3 large dogs or 4small dogs

Careful control of commercial dog walkers will improve the enjoyment of the park for everybody

Not to be used for commercial or charge and restrict if they are allowed

No

Maybe a designated area for commercial dog walks or those walking more than 3 dogs per parson. Placing extra poo bins in the field/grass areas so dog walkers can avoid the pathways where families, runners and cyclists etc

Dogs should be kept on a lead when in the Park.

Might be good to add signs or something with information on how to control a dog, when to recall it, the need to put the lead back on, etc.

No

Everyone who owns and walks dogs in the park should have them in leads in and around the car parks

Lead control when leaving and returning to the car park. I notice lots of people have their dogs off lead in the car park and often walk on without picking up after their dog. The commercial dog walkers tend to get the blame for this kind of behaviour but in my experience they are the best for close control and picking up dogs mess, and litter, than the owners of one or two dogs

Resrict access where children are playing

I would prefer to follow the model generally adopted in America i.e. dogs on leads at all times except in certain defined areas for dog socialisation.

No

Someone paid to enforce faeces pick up. Anyone walking more than one dog off the lead cannot keep an eye on where and when dogs go. Resulting in too much dog faeces all over the park.

n/a

Dog walkers don't pick up their poo either, they should be fined. If they picked up there poo walking 10 dogs like they do they would need a massive bag to carry it with them (which they do not, they just ignore the dogs pooing and walk off - usually on their phones)

Ideally the commercial dog walkers should be able to let dogs off the lead but it becomes almost impossible for them to clear up dog mess in loads of different places simultaneously.

No

Dog poo is a problem, especially those that bag it then throw the bags into the bushes.

No

Dog walkers need to be more aware of other people , keep a closer eye on where the dogs mess always. Maybe keep on the lead till they have been to the toilet!

I appreciate it is entirely appropriate to ask the public their views if concerns have been raised about the growth of commercial dog walkers with multiple dogs, but what exactly are the concerns? it would be good to understand what people are concerned about as only then can we collectively resolve any issues. I fully embrace dog control and would have no issue being licensed, but would ask that walkers are judged on their dogs behaviour and their ability to control, not the specific numbers. Many walkers have walked larger groups for years in a responsible and controlled manner and I would sincerely request that because a few more - quite often coming in from central London - use the park in a less responsible way, that the response should be manage and police them rather than limiting the good walkers. It seems unfair to punish everyone for the bad behaviour of a few. The dog walking community at Nonsuch is a happy and precious one - which is why i have walked my own dogs here for years, before i became a commercial dog walker. I am concerned that it will be severely compromised by strict limits on numbers and worse on lead walking! The dogs wont disappear from society because you limit the number that can be walked at once. You risk making walkers increase car traffic to the park by making multiple visits, losing the dogs entirely, which many visitors would suffer from. Especially the many senior citizens who live alone and can no longer have their own dog, these people chat to me daily and love the interaction they get with the dogs, its contributes to positive mental health after all. Please also bear in mind that most dog walkers are relatively low earners and the volume of dogs per walker is necessary as after costs most earn little more than minimum wage. Tight restrictions might force commercial walkers to stop using the park or put our prices up and stop walking some of the dog. This would risk making the less affluent the victims and its often single parents and the recently separated who need our help. We provide a service to people who can't always walk their own dogs. Some of my clients include terminally sick individuals, people who are carers for their own parents, people who've been made redundant and have been forced to jobs that now ask them to travel a lot, they rely on us to get through the week ... i would hate to have to choose who gets to go or stay. I think its also important to recognise that since lockdown there has been a huge increase in dog ownership everywhere, which is why there are more walkers, walking more dogs. Walking dogs together in bigger groups in public places teaches dogs how to behave and interact with people and dogs they don't know and that benefits everyone. Dogs who are forced to be at home for longer periods of time alone and just have short walks at the end of a walking day will be frustrated and unhappy which could ultimately lead to more anti-social dog behaviour across the board. Whilst thats not the responsibility of NonSuch Park per se, we should all be trying to do our bit and maintain what is a fantastic dog walking environment and community. I sympathise with those who aren't dog lovers, but Nonsuch has always been highly populated by dogs. Similarly not everyone like lots of groups of toddlers or hundreds of people running around the park of a weekend, but there should be room for everyone, its a big place! I believe that with cooperation and consultation we can all happily coexist and would urge the park management to work with the dog walking community, don't just limit it. Know who we are as individuals and be comfortable that if we aren't working with you you can control that. And as for dog poop, please bring in stricter measures and policing. The commercial walkers seem to be held responsible for the dog mess when its often owners distracted on the phone and by friends who are the serial offenders. Theres always more mess in the summer after all.

No

Have certain times of day for all dogs on leads

N/A

I have no issues with commercial walkers using the park but agree there should be a license that ensures only professional dog walkers are able to walk a larger number of dogs at one time!

I do believe that the number of dogs walked by one person should be limited. All dogs should be under the control of the walker and kept on leads if at all likely to cause any problems.

I think more signs should be put up insisting all persons with dogs should keep them on a lead when others are using the same spaces. Sign should also clearly state how complains can be made if this is not respected.

You dont mention how you would enforce/ monitor and what would be the outcome of non compliance.

The amount of poo near the entrance to Warren Farm/Nonsuch etc is getting ridiculous. Walkers with multiple dogs don't and can't see if all dogs are going at the same time

Nonsuch is a great place, I've not experienced any negative behaviour, dogs or humans

Dog walkers should be accountable for all the dogs in their care and control and hopefully by having a license the dog walker can be identified if any issues at all

My main recommendation would be to restrict the number of dogs one person can walk at any one time

More should be done to encourage respond dog walking in the park by dog owners and commercial dog walkers.

Restricting the number of dogs walked by one person will solve current issues

Commercial dog walkers are a danger to the public and should be on leads. All dogs who walk in the park should be insured.

I have seen no problems when walking my dog in nonsuch park

No

See comments above

No

Some more stringent control of numbers needs to be put in place

None

Professional dog walkers should not walk together either. Sometimes there are in excess of 15 dogs between 2 people.

I think a licence is an excellent way to go. This would need some degree of enforcement for stop I also think limiting the number of dogs being walked at any time to four is self-evidently sensible. The major issue seems to be with walkers turning up with vans containing huge amounts of dogs and then handing them out to inexperienced walkers who evidently have no control over or knowledge of the dogs, this isn't good for the dogs and it's not good for those of us who use the park for enjoyment.

Dogs that show aggression should be on leads at all time. I know this is difficult I enforce but my dog has been attacked a couple of times for no reason.

Dog walkers should be limited to 2 dogs per walk. They are making money out of a public space which belongs to us all

There should be a permanent visible warden in the park dealing with rampaging packs of dogs and to make sure the people pick up the poo and bin it not chuck it in the trees.

The fencing needs to be improved around the no dog areas and the gate fixed. memorial entrance). Also the gaps in the fence around the mansion house near where the squirrels are fed should be filled in as this will avoid dogs running in. The car park is appalling with so many pot holes /craters which cause damage to our vehicles and should be maintained.

No

Fouling without picking up and proper disposal should be an enforceable activity

In my personal experience, the people who have little control over their dogs and who are less likely to clean up after their dogs, are the actual owners waging one or two dogs.

Licenses will only work if they are properly policed.

a few bad owners make it difficult for the responsible ones. Perhaps there also have to be dog free times

No

The amount of dog poo left in the park is disgusting and has become an extreme issue. Please see answer to question 3. Children and dogs of local residents use the park for relaxation and fresh air, it is becoming such an issue that children and dogs are in danger of stepping in the dog poo or accidentally ingesting it. It is beyond outrageous that nothing has been done thus far to resolve this issue. Fines should be issued, council funds should be used for staff to be present in the park to enforce this, and commercial dog walkers should be limited to a specified number of dogs and closely monitored via the use of licences and fines for not being in proper control of the dogs they are walking or clearing up after them. The park is being ruined by dog walkers, both private and commercial, not clearing up after their dogs.

Any dog walker, whether they walk 1 or more dogs should ensure they have trained and proofed recall before letting their dog off lead.

Have designated areas where dog owners can let their dogs off the lead.

I often see commercial dog walkers with 6 or 8 dogs. Some on lead, some not. In my opinion, this is too many dogs for one person to control safely.

Walkers are irresponsible with their dogs

Joggers, that run with their dogs off leads, they are not paying close attention or clearing up after their dogs.

There should be dog wardens patrolling the park at the weekends to keep children safe from dangerous dogs.

More patrols to deal with anti social behaviour by owners

No

Fined for not picking up dog mess

Licence should be displayed when walking dogs commercially

a "Duty Park Ranger" / emergency number prominently displayed at each entrance, ideally with cameras recording who is walking what dogs

No

The sign by the mansion house to keep dogs on a lead is constantly ignored by many people. There should be much larger signs and more frequent

Commercial dog walkers should be alert to the behaviour of all dogs in their charge and not walk around talking on their mobile

No

If commercial dog walking controls are brought in, who will see that they are enforced?

If owners wish to parade their dogs in public they should always be muzzled.

More dog free areas should be created.

No

The more dogs per person the more different it is to watch and clean up after them

It cannot be right that people commercially walking others dogs in order to make gains are not licensed. It would be helpful if the dog warden could attend sometimes to hand out fines for those not picking up after their dog(s).

Occasional visits from a parks warden

Yes, any licensing scheme introduced for Nonsuch park must be implemented in all parks or else you risk displacing the antisocial and dangerous dogwalkers to other parks, which only shifts and doesnt resolve the problem. to MUST BE implemented accross all parks in the borough

Personal walkers should be restricted to 4 dogs per person too - but not charged a licence. Same problems as commercial with people not controlling multiple dogs.

My suggestion would be to create an off lead dog exercise area, leaving the rest of the park free for walkers, family fun and walking dogs on leads, free of fear from dogs off leads. Not everyone is a fan of dogs and they currently have priority over other users. Even as a dog owner I find that unacceptable and rarely visit the park which is walking distance, preferring to drive and pay to access Painshill Park where all dogs are on leads. This is uneconomical as well as not environmentally friendly.

I think 2 or more dogs walked should be kept on a lead. My dog had great recall but I do put her on a lead at busy times. There are jogger's, cyclist, children from the nursery playing. Far too many dogs there have no recall and owners feel it is ok to let them run up to every other dog or person by

Too many commercial dog walkers walking together

No

No

Something needs sorting with regards to commercial dog walkers, it seems to be a lot busier in this regard probably since other councils have regulated against it

I'm not sure how the Local Authorities are going to police a commercial dog walkers licence when neither Borough has attempted to police doggy daycare and boarding unlicensed businesses in the local area.

The few owners spoil it for the many

Right now the situation has gotten worse and these dog walkers are clueless and they need help

Comercial dog vans shouldn't sit in the car parks with their engines running.

Due to other parks instigating licence schemes and/or restrictions on professional dog walkers and large groups of dogs. Nonsuch is becoming overrun with big groups of dogs, as they avoid restrictions elsewhere. In order to keep Nonsuch safe, it is necessary to implement restrictions, for safety reasons, on private and professional dog walkers to reduce numbers of large groups of dogs.

There should be warden that we can report incidents to. I have had dogs leaping up at children. Dogs leaping on me. I have been told if I don't like it then leave the Park. The dogs are just saying 'hello'. I have also witnesses dog on dodgy attacks where the aggressor has gone for a smaller dog whilst off a lead. Perhaps there should be designated areas for off lead exercise or permitted times of day?

Can there be no dog free park for residents to walk freely and feel safe

The area around the Mansion (the gardens) should be enforced as dogs on lead

Please do something about this as it is an accident waiting to happen. If one dog gets out of control in a large group it is dangerous. Please act now to keep people safe and preserve our lovely parks.

No

Too many bad dog owners are ruining the park for other users

A £400 commercial licence works out at a cost £8 per week, further split between multiple dogs makes it affordable to anyone that already hires a dog walker. With regard to enforcement, I suggest, initially at least, instant fines for non-compliance. This ensures any forthcoming change is at nil net cost to the taxpayer and therefore financially disadvantages only those in direct breach of the policy.

Dog free areas would be lovely.

There is currently none and it is not pleasant for those who aren't walking dogs

Tighter dog controls need to be brought in across the borough.

Ban commercial dog walkers. Why should they be allowed to use publically owned and maintained space as their business premises?

The dog free areas could be better cared for and made more obvious.

It would be nice to see a park ranger in the park who could take action against owners of dangerous dogs, dog owners who don't pick up their dogs feaces

Commercial dog walkers should be licenced, and should have to demonstrate professional competence to obtain a licence. Fences around dog free zones should be maintained. Consider extending 'on lead' requirements to the short grass area to the East of Fir Walk, which is popular for picnics in the summer.

2 dogs per person should be the limit it's hard enough to control 2 let alone any more. Professional dog walkers earn good money and should pay towards the up keep of our beautiful park. I've seen them picking up one dogs poo and missing 2 others while doing this. Since lockdown the park now has far too many dogs and many have zero control. It's only a matter of time before someone or their dog gets badly hurt

Disallow commercial dog walkers

Any group of walkers should only have a maximum of three dogs. That would prevent several walkers joining up to walk lots of dogs together

Dog walkers should always have dogs on leads nne ause they are not their own dogs do not know the complete temperament of the dog or have full recall and are therefore a liability to everyone else plus they cannot ensure they collect dog poo when having multiple dogs

no

Dog owners need to be responsible and control their dogs at all times, and not allow them to annoy other park users.

Dogs often enter the designated dog-free areas as the perimeter fencing is not maintained. This can be very upsetting to children and those trying to enjoy a picnic or ball games.

There is a safeguarding issue here. Too many dogs jumping up and barking. Also single dogs on leads often attract packs of dogs so genuine dog walkers are at a disadvantage. There is a nasty accident just waiting to happen.

I suggest that dividing the Park into an area where dogs are allowed and one (which is at least equally big) where they aren't. The existing dog-free area needs better patrols.

I feel there are too many professional dog walkers using the park and that affects the freedom & socialising of well behaved dogs attending with their owner.

The questions posed do not allow me to indicate that there should be NO commercial dog walking. If you have a dog, exercise it yourself.

No

Ultimately we dont want dogs to suffer BUT i do feel certain walkers have too many to manage

Other businesses using the park (eg exercise classes) pay a license. It is fair a licence is required by commercial dog walkers.

Definitely needs policing as too license, insurance, amount of dogs walked by one person

Dog walkers should have a numbered permit worn on their clothing so that if their is an injury to a person, wildlife or your pet, they ae held to account.

No

I think the risk with commercial dog walkers is that they have too many dogs to reasonably be able to keep them under control.

Some enforcement would be welcome

A commercial dog walker charges a fee to the customer this is a business ! They should not be exempt for expenses to run their business in a public park. A charge would definitely go towards the cost of running the park.

Regulation is important to prevent any incidents and ensure all those using parks feel safe an able to do so

Non

Pleased to see this initiative

There is a habit growing of groups meeting with their dogs and then letting the dogs off their leads so they can chat and the dogs can play.

Dogs should only be let off the lead when the owner or dog walker can maintain control of them at all times.

Change the arrangements so that the current dog-free areas are the only areas where it is permissible for dogs to be off a lead. Then make it a requirement for dogs to be on a lead in all other parts of the park. This would benefit non-dog owners (who would probably visit the park more often), and also wildlife in the park.

You need enforcement. Restrict number of dogs anyone can take to the park.

The number of dogs that commercial dog walkers are allowed to walk should be limited to 4 and this will stop people coming from London and other boroughs which have controls in place. It is getting absolutely ridiculous and with walkers arriving from all over including London with large numbers of dogs, which are not in control and they are spoiling the park for the local people

No point making rules (irrespective to what they are) if there is no supervision to monitor and enforce the rules.

Something needs to be done urgently, before someone is seriously injured. All dogs should be on a lead in all the boroughs parks

No

All dogs should be kept on a lead in the park. The park is a no-go area for people who don't like dogs or are elderly or disabled as there are so many unpredictable dogs off their leads that run up to you, often who can't be recalled by their owner.

No

It is very dangerous for everyone

If you are going to bring in a ban /limit the numbers you need to enforce it with meaningful fines. this is a business these people are running at our expense make them pay. Also they don't clear up the dog mess properly and should be restricted to one part of the park.

Can you also have a think about commercial exercising hoodlums? They dominate on pleasant days!

Fines for out of control and poorly trained dogs.

Dog walkers need to respect other walkers. There are far too many of them with large packs of dogs which can appear threatening to others. A degree of control needs to be imposed on them

All dogs on a lead if they can clearly not be controlled

Needs to be looked into as I choose to avoid coming and do not recommend to others

Just another money making scheme for big wigs who have no reality of what goes on in the world. This committee disgusts me

OUTDOOR DONATION POST

Head of Service:	Ian Dyer, Head of Operational Services
Report Author	Samantha Whitehead
Wards affected:	Nonsuch Ward;
Appendices (attached):	Appendix One – GBx Core Donation Unit

Summary

To update the Committee on the Outdoor Donation Post project

Recommendation (s)

The Committee is asked to:

- (1) **Agree to halt the Outdoor Donation Post Project, due to prohibitive installation costs.**
- (2) **Agree to officers procuring indoor, contactless donation units for the museum and café.**

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 Further to an on-site survey by groundwork and electrical contractors and subsequent quotes, the cost of installation in addition to the cost of the outdoor donation post now exceeds the agreed budget of £5000. It is therefore proposed to halt this project for the reasons set out in section 2 and propose an alternative solution for provision of two indoor, contactless donation units located in the museum and café,

2 Background

- 2.1 At the Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee on 25 March 2024, members agreed in principle for a budget of £5,000 (50% donated by the Friends of Nonsuch and 50% from the JMC) to procure and install an outdoor donation post for Nonsuch Park.
- 2.2 On this basis, officers agreed to obtain exact quotes for the electrical and ground works to install the donation post outside the café area.

- 2.3 An on-site survey was carried out and estimates were provided by Epsom & Ewell Borough Council approved contractors. The cost of excavation and reinstatement for power was quoted at £4,500 plus an additional £620 for electrical works, giving a total of £5,120.
- 2.4 This work is in addition to the cost of the donation post which was quoted at around £2,500. Therefore, bringing the total cost of the project to £7,620, which exceeds the £5,000 allocated to the project.
- 2.5 As there is limited information available about the success rates for outdoor donation posts in public parks and open spaces, officers are concerned that this project may not provide a big enough return on investment to justify the increase in costs.
- 2.6 It is proposed to halt this project for the reasons above and pursue an alternative solution for the provision of two indoor, contactless donation units located in the museum and café,

3 Indoor Contactless Donation Units

- 3.1 The GoodBox company specialises in Indoor Contactless Donation Units. These units are easy to install and can be plugged into the mains or used as a mobile unit for up to four hours, making them ideal for events. Please see appendix one.
- 3.2 The price is £475 per unit which includes bespoke on-screen graphics.
- 3.3 There is a monthly cost of £32.50 per unit per month, which covers unlimited data, device portal management, PCI DSS (Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard) compliance, ongoing GoodBox support and remote updates. This monthly cost also includes all transaction fees.
- 3.4 There is a minimum 12 month contract.
- 3.5 Therefore, for the outright purchase of two units for the museum and café, two 12 month contracts, configuration, and delivery the total cost is £1760, which is well within the £5000 budget that the Joint Management Committee and the Friends of Nonsuch have set aside for this project.

4 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

- 4.1 Equality Impact Assessment
 - 4.1.1 None for the purpose of this report
- 4.2 Crime & Disorder
 - 4.2.1 None for the purpose of this report

4.3 Safeguarding

4.3.1 None for the purpose of this report

4.4 Dependencies

4.4.1 None for the purpose of this report

4.5 Other

4.5.1 None for the purpose of this report

5 Financial Implications

5.1 Financial information is set out in section 3 of this report.

5.2 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** A figure of £2,500 has been earmarked in the Nonsuch repairs and renewals reserve in 2023/24 for use in 2024/25 for donation facilities costs.

6 Legal Implications

6.1 If the decision of the Committee is to proceed with the proposal outlined in section 3, then contracts will need to be agreed and in place before proceeding.

6.2 **Legal Officer's comments:** As outlined above.

7 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

7.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged:

- Effective Council

7.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is not included within the current Service Delivery Plan.

7.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** None

7.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** None

7.5 **Partnerships:** This project is in partnership with the Friends of Nonsuch.

8 Background papers

8.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

Previous reports:

- Outdoor Donation Post report 25 March 2024

Other papers:

- None

GBx Core Indoor Donation Unit

HD SCREEN

Allows you to share your mission and thank donors even in unattended fundraising environments

TOUCH SCREEN

allows donors to easily increase or decrease their chosen donation amount

OFFLINE DONATIONS

Accepts contactless donations offline, enabling you to fundraise in areas with no mobile signal or Wi-Fi

FOUR HOURS BATTERY

Four hours battery life when used on the go



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NONSUCH PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FINAL ACCOUNTS 2023-24

Head of Service:	Brendan Bradley, Chief Finance Officer
Report Author	Vanessa Newton Senior Accountant
Wards affected:	Nonsuch Ward;
Appendices (attached):	Appendix 1-Final 2023/24 Revenue Account Appendix 2-Financial Position at 31 March 2024

Summary

This item presents the Joint Management Committee's final accounts for the financial year 2023/24.

Recommendation (s)

The Committee is asked to:

- (1) Receive the final accounts for 2023/24.**

1 Background

- 1.1 This report presents the final accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024.

2 Revenue Account for 2023/24

- 2.1 The final revenue account is attached at Appendix 1, which shows income and expenditure against budget. The balance sheet, which shows assets, liabilities and reserves at 31 March 2024 is shown at Appendix 2.
- 2.2 Overall, there was a net surplus of £79 on the revenue account at year end, which was due to the following factors:
- 2.3 Gross expenditure was £27,151 over budget mainly due to:
 - 2.3.1 Maintenance of roads cost was £5,170 over budget due to frequent potholes needing repair. In addition, due to the unusual wet weather spell in Spring, Sparrow farm car park access road was flooded which has contributed to the additional cost.

- 2.3.2 Electricity costs were over budget by £3,536 despite increased budgets due to past global energy price increases. This adverse variance has been mitigated by the recharge of 59% of increased utility costs passed to Bovingdons as part of the property lease. Utility costs will continue to be monitored.
- 2.3.3 Commercial property insurance premium was underspent by £13,105 as the Mansion House risk category was lowered by the insurers as Epsom & Ewell Council highlighted that the kitchen in the commercial wedding venue simply reheats food therefore reducing fire risk. This underspend has no impact on the budget overall as it is recharged to Bovingdons.
- 2.3.4 Additional building & ME maintenance works of £7,823 for the Grounds and £20,992 for Mansion House are offset by the £44,000 grant from London Borough of Sutton (matched contribution for Museum roof works).
- 2.3.5 Contracts such as cleaning and maintenance have exceeded budgets due to inflationary pressures, which have been addressed in the 2024/25 budget.
- 2.4 Gross income was higher than budget by £27,230. The primary reason for this is the £44,000 London Borough of Sutton grant for the museum roof works.
- 2.5 Revenue streams such as filming income and Events and fitness group hire charges have not performed as well as had been anticipated and will continue to be closely monitored. The overall surplus of £79 will be contributed to the Working Balance Reserve.

3 Nonsuch Reserves

- 3.1 At 31 March 2024, the Repair and Renewals fund holds a balance of £24,229, an increase of £2,486, mainly due to a donation facilities contribution transferred from the revenue budget of £2,500 (to be utilised in 2024/25).
- 3.2 At 31 March 2024, the Working Balance Reserve stands at £65,798, after adding the £79 surplus on the JMC's revenue account.

4 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

- 4.1 Equality Impact Assessment
 - 4.1.1 None arising from the contents of this report.
- 4.2 The principal risks that the JMC manages are as follows:

- 4.2.1 Lack of resource to fund management plan - continued reduced contributions.
- 4.2.2 Funding for repairs and maintenance, particularly at buildings and for potholes on roads.
- 4.2.3 Properties becoming vacant, with the associated loss of rent and exposure to council tax.
- 4.2.4 The JMC mitigates these risks through the monitoring of buildings and roads by officers and by managing relationships with tenants. The JMC also holds a working balance and a repair and renewals reserve which can be used to fund one-off, unexpected budget variances. Contributions to replenish both reserves have been factored into the 2024/25 budget at £3,000 each.

4.3 Crime & Disorder

- 4.3.1 None arising from the contents of this report.

4.4 Safeguarding

- 4.4.1 None arising from the contents of this report.

4.5 Dependencies

- 4.5.1 None arising from the contents of this report.

4.6 Other

- 4.6.1 None arising from the contents of this report.

5 Financial Implications

- 5.1 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** Financial implications are set out in the body of the report.
- 5.2 Budgets will continue to be closely monitored; the next finance update is due to be reported to the JMC on 14 October 2024.

6 Legal Implications

- 6.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.
- 6.2 **Legal Officer's comments:** None arising from the contents of this report.

7 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

- 7.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged: Effective Council, Green and Vibrant.

- 7.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is included within the current Service Delivery Plan.
- 7.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** None arising from the contents of this report.
- 7.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** None arising from the contents of this report.
- 7.5 **Partnerships:** London Borough of Sutton and Epsom and Ewell Borough Councils have shared responsibility for managing Nonsuch park.

8 Background papers

- 8.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

Previous report

[NJMC Finance Report and Budget 2024/25 – 25 March 2024](#)

Other papers:

none

NONSUCH PARK JMC 2023-24

2022/23 Actual	Description	2023/24 Budget	2023/24 Outturn	2023/24 Outturn Variance	2024/25 Budget
£	<u>Expenditure</u>	£	£	£	£
	Grounds				
616	Maintenance of grounds	830	1,200	370	830
500	Plants seeds & fertilisers etc.	520	520	0	520
3,420	Emptying bins	3,520	3,520	0	3,520
21,170	Maintenance of roads	19,120	24,290	5,170	19,120
3,810	Purchase of plants	4,000	1,734	-2,266	4,000
13,120	Tree Maintenance contract scheduled works recharges	15,900	15,900	0	15,900
0	Asbestos Surveys	680	695	15	1,400
6,899	Engineering and fabric recharge	7,770	8,444	674	9,200
0	Rech ad hoc building works and vandalism	0	3,823	3,823	0
40,133	Building and M&E maintenance works	26,090	33,913	7,823	1,160
1,557	Electricity	4,760	3,106	-1,654	4,000
754	Gas	250	30	-220	250
9,261	Water charges - metered	3,700	5,095	1,395	4,250
12,337	Council Tax for London Road Lodge	2,780	-34	-2,814	0
1,227	Cleaning contract recharges	2,650	1,335	-1,315	1,450
1,130	Petrol diesel & oil	1,760	2,187	427	1,760
1,982	Transport insurance	2,060	2,313	253	2,570
0	OP. equipment & tools : Purchase	0	0	0	500
414	OP. equipment & tools : R & M	1,600	1,600	0	1,600
4,050	Hire of Bins	4,900	4,050	-850	4,900
1,484	Purchase of memorials e.g benches trees	3,500	3,300	-200	3,500
263	Legal expenses - London Road Lodge	0	2,009	2,009	2,500
0	EPC survey - London Road Lodge	0	320	320	0
328	Publicity	0	0	0	0
229	General office expenses	0	0	0	0
24,150	Transport fleet SLA NJMC	26,590	26,590	0	28,370
2,411	Insurance recharges	2,480	2,285	-195	2,750
146,546	Sub-Total	135,460	148,225	12,765	114,050

2022/23 Actual		2023/24 Budget	2023/24 Outturn	2023/24 Outturn Variance	2024/25 Budget
£		£	£	£	£
	<u>Mansion House</u>				
0	Vandalism repairs	210	0	-210	210
0	Asbestos Surveys	450	0	-450	450
20,231	Engineer and fabric	20,900	22,857	1,957	24,890
38,972	Building and M&E maintenance works	69,000	89,992	20,992	84,160
18,705	Electricity	22,170	27,360	5,190	23,000
5,814	Gas	6,210	5,690	-520	8,000
12,495	Cleaning Contract recharges	11,160	13,230	2,071	14,400
1,287	Legal expenses	0	0	0	0
20,855	Commercial tenanted property insurance	21,000	7,895	-13,105	8,760
7,527	Insurance recharges	7,750	7,142	-608	8,010
125,887	Sub-Total	158,850	174,168	15,318	171,882
	<u>Central Expenses</u>				
26,000	Additional pension contribs	26,000	26,000	0	26,000
0	Clothing & uniforms	160	0	-160	160
0	Surveyors fees	0	750	750	0
1,990	General office expenses	1,060	47	-1,013	560
1,507	Commercial tenanted property insurance	1,550	501	-1,049	560
0	Projects budget	3,000	0	-3,000	2,750
940	External Audit	960	960	0	960
5,829	Property Agency Fees	0	0	0	0
1,188	Insurance recharges	1,230	1,133	-97	1,270
520	Internal audit recharges	540	540	0	579
106,250	Grounds Maintenance Staff Recharge	106,250	106,250	0	112,630
35,870	Management costs SLA recharge	35,870	35,870	0	38,030
0	Contribution to Working Balance	0	0	0	3,000
7,642	Contribution to/(from) NJMC R&R fund	-1,150	2,486	3,636	3,000
185,836	Sub-total	175,469	174,538	-931	189,499
458,269	Gross Expenditure	469,779	496,930	27,151	475,431

2022/23 Actual		2023/24 Budget	2023/24 Outturn	2023/24 Outturn Variance	2024/25 Budget
£	<u>Income</u>	£	£	£	£
-1,500	Friends of Nonsuch contribution	0	0	0	0
-1,900	Filming Income	-2,000	-90	1,910	-1,000
-3,658	Memorial receipts	-3,500	-4,550	-1,050	-3,710
0	London Road Lodge Rent	-3,500	-5,001	-1,501	-16,500
0	Grant from local authority	0	-44,000	-44,000	0
-20,855	Mansion House insurance recovered	-21,000	-7,895	13,105	-8,760
-107,700	Mansion House - Bovingdons letting	-106,700	-107,700	-1,000	-120,000
-21,838	Mansion House - Service charges variable	-26,000	-26,363	-363	-23,956
-5,463	Mansion House - Service charges fixed	-6,150	-5,463	687	-8,510
-2,354	Old Boathouse - Licence to occupy	-2,350	-392	1,958	-2,350
-2,369	Nursery Lodge insurance recovered	-1,550	-1,363	187	-560
-904	NJMC service charges (Nursery lodge)	-1,410	-1,602	-192	-1,746
-10,290	Events & Fitness Groups Hire charges	-13,000	-10,406	2,594	-10,700
-9,716	Staff property rent- Castlemaine and Sparrow Farm lodges	-9,720	-9,716	4	-9,720
-22,000	Nursery Lodge rental income	-22,000	-22,000	0	-22,000
-10,740	Mansion House Flat 1 Rent	-11,638	-10,740	898	-10,740
-9,180	Mansion House Flat 3 Rent	-9,180	-9,180	0	-9,180
-2,062	Interest on balances	-4,000	-4,466	-467	-4,000
-231,530	Gross Income	-243,698	-270,928	-27,230	-253,432
226,740	Net Expenditure	226,081	226,002	-79	222,000
	<u>Precepts:</u>				
-106,640	Precept to be levied on EEBC	-113,040	-113,040	0	-111,000
-106,640	Precept to be levied on LB Sutton	-113,040	-113,040	0	-111,000
-213,280	Total Precepts	-226,081	-226,081	0	-222,000
	Surplus (-) / Deficit in Year	0	-79	-79	0
79,179	Balance b/fwd. 1 April		65,719		
13,460	Add (surplus)/deficit for the year		-79		
65,719	Balance c/fwd. 31 March		65,798		

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Financial Statements 2023/24

**NONSUCH PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Income:-		
Fees & Charges	69	58
Rents	161	165
Interest on Balances	2	4
London Borough of Sutton	107	113
Epsom & Ewell Borough Council	107	113
Grant from Local Authority	0	44
	445	497
Expenditure:-		
Employees	26	26
Premises	206	263
Transport	3	5
Suppliers and Services	37	21
Support Services	178	180
	451	495
Budgeted contribution to Repairs & Renewals Fund	7	2
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	(13)	0
Balance Brought Forward at 1 April	79	66
Balance Carried Forward at 31 March	66	66

Financial Statements 2023/24

**NONSUCH PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2024**

31 March 2023 £'000		31 March 2024 £'000
	CURRENT ASSETS	
87	Debtors (Epsom and Ewell B.C.)	90
87		90
	LESS: CURRENT LIABILITIES	
0	Creditors	0
87		90
	Financed By:-	
	RESERVES	
22	Repairs and Renewals	24
66	Revenue Balance	66
87		90

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2024/25

Head of Service:	Jackie King, Chief Executive
Report Author	Dan Clackson
Wards affected:	Nonsuch Ward;
Appendices (attached):	None

Summary

To fix the dates and times for meetings of the Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee for the 2024/25 Municipal Year.

Recommendation (s)

The Committee is asked to:

- (1) **Fix the day and time of its meetings for the municipal year 2024/25, as set out at section 2.2.**

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 The Committee is required to fix the day and time of its four ordinary meetings for the current municipal year at its first meeting of the year.

2 Background

- 2.1 A draft programme of meetings for 2024/25 was approved by the Committee at its meeting on 22 January 2024. The draft programme is set out at below:
- 2.2
 - Monday 17th June 2024, 10:00
 - Monday 14th October 2024, 10:00
 - Monday 20th January 2025, 10:00
 - Monday 24th March 2025, 10:00

3 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

3.1 Equality Impact Assessment

3.1.1 None

3.2 Crime & Disorder

3.2.1 None

3.3 Safeguarding

3.3.1 None

3.4 Dependencies

3.4.1 None

3.5 Other

3.5.1 None

4 Financial Implications

4.1 None arising from the contents of this report.

4.2 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** None

5 Legal Implications

5.1 None arising from the contents of this report.

5.2 **Legal Officer's comments:** None

6 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

6.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** N/A

6.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is not included within the current Service Delivery Plan.

6.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** None

6.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** None

6.5 **Partnerships:** None

7 Background papers

7.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

Previous reports: Future dates for meetings of the nonsuch park joint management committee – 22 January 2024

Other papers: None