

Background to the Commercial Dog Walking Consultation

Nonsuch Park is managed and maintained by a Joint Management Committee, comprising an equal number of Councillors from Epsom and Ewell Borough Council and the London Borough of Sutton. The committee Chair rotates between the two councils annually. The two councils fund, on an equal basis, the running of the park, after taking income into account. The committee is covered by the political balance arrangements.

Joint Management Committee Meetings are held quarterly, at Nonsuch Mansion. The public are always welcome to attend these meeting and questions for the committee can be submitted ahead of the meeting in accordance with published guidelines.

Details of the meetings and how to take part can be found at www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk

The Joint Management Committee are aware that Nonsuch Park is hugely popular with dog walkers and whilst most dog walkers are responsible, concerns have been raised about the growth of commercial walkers with multiple dogs.

Ahead of implementing any measures to control commercial dog walking the Joint Management Committee are keen to consult with the public and stakeholders about this issue to help inform any future decisions.

Please help us by answering the questions below. The questionnaire will be available for 6 weeks and will close on 13 May 2024.

We will also be holding consultation events in the park at the following locations.

- Front of Nonsuch Mansion: Date/Time
- London Road Car Park: Date/Time
- Sparrow Farm Road Car Park: Date/Time

We value your input and thank you in advance for your participation.

Commercial Dog Walking Consultation

1. How often do you visit Nonsuch Park?

- First time
- Every Day
- Once a week
- More than once a week
- Once a month

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

- Relaxation
- Dog walking
- Running
- Walking
- Cycling
- Exercising
- Other (please describe)

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

4. Do you walk dog(s) within the park?

- Yes
- No

If you have answered No to this question, please go straight to question 9

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

- One
- Two
- Three
- Four
- Five
- Six
- More than Six

6. Do you walk dogs for other people?

- Yes
- No

7. Are you paid to walk dogs?

- Yes
- No

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

- Yes
- No

9. If yes to question 8, does your dog walker use Nonsuch Park to walk your dog(s)?

- Yes
- No

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

- Yes
- No
- Partially

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
- No

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

- Yes
- No

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

- Yes
- No

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

- Two
- Four
- Six
- Other

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

- Yes
- No

16. How many Commercial Dog Walker licences do you think should be offered in total in the park?

- Ten
- Twenty
- Thirty
- Forty
- Fifty
- Other (please specify)

17. If there is more than one dog walker per commercial company at any one time in the park, do you believe that each dog walker should have a licence, or do you think it should be one licence per company?

- One licence per company
- One licence per each dog walker from the same company

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18. Should each Commercial Dog Walker wear something when walking dogs in the park so that other park users can identify them?

Examples of this are:

- a) A bespoke coloured arm band
- b) Wearing a Hi-Viz with licence on show in a see-through pocket or on lanyard around neck

- Yes
- No

If you have answered **Yes** to this question, please indicate which option you think is better.

- a) A bespoke coloured arm band with licence on show in a see-through pocket
- b) Wearing a Hi-Viz with licence on show in a see-through pocket or on lanyard around neck

19. Do you think that commercial dog walkers should be issued with a code of conduct?

- Yes
- No

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

- £150
- £200
- £300
- £400

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

21. 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 and Ewell
- London Borough of Sutton
- Neither
- Both

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22. Do you have any further suggestions in relation to dog walking that you would like the Joint Management Committee to consider?

23. Please indicate if you are a resident of:

- Epsom & Ewell Borough Council
- London Borough of Sutton
- Neither (please specify)