

22 July 2019

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) Request

Please accept our apologies for the delay in replying to your e-mail of Saturday 22 June 2019 requesting the following information:

All materials, information and records relating to working party matters since the December meeting, including, but not limited to:

- a) Records, notes, minutes, and other information concerning the meetings held in early February 2019*
- b) Any Chairperson reports, and particularly the concluding report and associated materials.*

Please find attached the information as requested relating to records, notes, minutes and other information concerning the meetings held in early February. A copy of the draft report, which had been circulated to working party members, is also attached for your convenience.

Councillor Whiley has been away and I have been unable to contact him regarding any information that he may hold. Once I have heard from him, I will forward further information, if any, that fits within the criteria of your request. If there is no further information, I will confirm this to you.

Yours sincerely



Jennifer Lapham
Governance Support Officer

Dog Control Bylaw 2016 - Working Party Meeting on 7 February 2019

Present: Barb Long, Andrew Whiley, Peter Hanlin & Ros MacGill

General discussion about how the Bylaw and Policy is working.

Barb's comments are listed in note form below:


- Thinks that the bylaw and policy is fine
- Always going to have overzealous people that will criticize
- Takes her own dog to Green Island dog park. The issue she has there is that people's perception of having their dog under 'control' actually means.
- Would like to this term better defined – explained that this is on our website but I think we could do more education via social media and when we send out our dog registration info.
- Would like to see more patrols particularly in the areas that are used by not only dog walkers such as John Wilson Drive, Ravensbourne walkway. Ideally would like JWD an on-leash area. There are a lot of young and elderly people that walk there and it is a safety issue when dogs are not under control.
- Would like decent signs that are not easily removed
- Plastic bags used to be available – would like to see this return. Advised Barb of current initiative and that we hope to have this up and running by 1 July if not sooner.
- If we aren't going to introduce more on-leash control in shared spaces would like to see more patrols in these areas.
- Asked what Barb thought of dogs in the inner city area – she doesn't like this idea as there is a risk of poo & pee everywhere on the footpaths.
- Would like to see areas that you can tie your dogs up at the Esplanade.
- If there was a dog park on Ravensbourne side of the harbour it would ease the use on the track – advised that this is currently being looked into.
- Notice on DCC social media when Forrester Park is closed for agility would save dog owners travelling there and finding it closed then they end up exercising their dogs on the sports field.

Dog Control Bylaw Working Party Feedback with Richard Parkinson – 20 Feb 2019

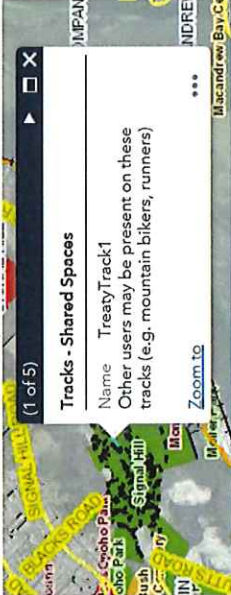





Present: Richard, Andrew & Ros

General discussion about how the Bylaw is going, dog control and dogs in the city

- Women walks her dog down George St every morning at about 7:45am
- Think there should be rules but people chose not to follow them
- Prospect Park last week – exercising their dogs on the marked field just after 5pm last Tuesday
- Doesn't think things have improved much over the last few years but less dog poo in Highgate
- Notices a few dogs in the CBD

Issue	Outcome
<p>1</p> <p>Maps conveyed in colour do not provide for sight impairment - adaptive technology should be used</p>	<p>The IT team requested feedback on the maps from the Blind Foundation Web & Accessible Format Specialist – Christopher Goj and he identified three areas in the maps that could pose a problem for visually impaired people:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The labels of place names were hard to see; 2. The label text was too small; and 3. The coloured background for the text also made the labels hard to read. <p>Mr Goj's recommendations were to make the text bigger, place it in a box against a high contrast background and ensure it can be zoomed in on. The IT team took this feedback on board and made changes to the map which can be viewed in the attachment below:</p> 
<p>2</p> <p>Education of dog owners and non-dog owners</p> <p>Concerns raised about the Dog Control Act and Bylaw not defining what 'controlled' behaviour is.</p>	<p>Staff shared the education material currently available both written and on the web site and gave an overview of the community and school education sessions provided by the team.</p> <p>In response to this feedback the Communications team have updated the Animal Services web page to include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A link to dog trainers listed in the Yellow Pages, and 2. The following paragraphs have been added to the education page:

	<p>Controlling your dog in public</p> <p>Dog owners are responsible for controlling their dogs' behaviour in public. If you need help with dog training, you should contact a dog trainer.</p> <p>When is your dog 'under control'?</p> <p>A dog is considered 'under control' if it is on a lead held by someone able to control the dog. For example, a large dog would not be under control if its lead was held by a child who would be unable to restrain the dog if it strained against the lead.</p> <p>It isn't necessary for dogs to be leashed at all times. However, dogs must be kept on a lead in designated pedestrian zones and on land where livestock is present. The Council's Dog Control Bylaw shows the areas where leashing is required, such as in public parks.</p>
3	<p>Maps and Bylaws need further clarification due to contradicting information.</p> <p>Suggestion of using the maps as 'information' not 'legislation'</p> <p>Legal advice was provided from the DCC in-house legal counsel as to how we can address matters raised including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Removing the roads marked in black from prohibited dog areas to avoid any misunderstanding that dogs are permitted through this area on a leash. These roads have been removed. 2. Due to a concern raised by dog owners about their safety, allow them to walk their dogs on a leash on the marked path through Macandrew Bay & Broad Bay prohibited areas. This will ensure they are not put at risk by having to walk on the busy road. This will trigger the need for public consultation so will be done when the Bylaw is next reviewed in 3-5 years. 3. Include a written definition of the areas described in the maps. This has been done on the Animal Services web page under 'Dog exercise areas – Where you can walk your dog'.

	<p>4. Provide additional information in the green (off leash) and orange (on leash) areas as to where dog owners need to be aware that they are entering a shared space and may come across other users such as mountain bikers and runners.</p> <p>This has been added – example below.</p>  <p>5. Adding wording to the current blue area (DCC owned land) pop up stating that 'Access requires permission' or remove the blue areas from the map.</p> <p>To avoid confusion the blue areas have been removed from the map.</p> <p>6. The suggestion that we should use the maps as information rather than legislation is not possible as the maps are part of the bylaw that was approved by Council.</p>	
4	<p>A request was made to make available a link to the web site that promotes responsible dog ownership</p>	<p>DogsNZ website has a link the Animal Service's web page to... http://www.dogsnz.org.nz/dogs/canine-good-citizen</p> <p>DogsNZ promote Canine Good Citizen which is a National Certification programme for every day owners and their dogs.</p>
5	<p>Maps need to be more interactive/informative (include other users, smartphone friendly)</p>	<p>The Parks & Recreation team have included information in their pamphlets about accessibility to dogs. Examples provided below:</p> <div data-bbox="1125 1176 1244 1568"> <p>16 Bethunes Gully   (on a leash in lower picnic area) Mt Cargill Track  Fitness required: Moderate-High. Walk time: 20mins-2 hours return. Description: You can take a short walk alongside Undersy Creek beyond the Bethunes Gully car park and playground at the start of the Mt Cargill</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1173 728 1244 1153"> <p>1 Silver Stream Bank Reserve (Mosgiel)   Fitness required: Low. Walk time: 45min-1 hour return.</p> </div>



Shared spaces to alert dog owners of tracks that they may encounter mountain bikes and runners etc has been included in the map. Example provided below:



Other additional changes to the map include:

1. Automated pop up of the legend when the map is first opened
2. The words “Tap or click a location to view restrictions” has been included on pop up that gives people the option to the view a detailed list of places you can walk your dog.



3. A new web page for the map has been created to make it easier to read on a mobile.

6	<p>Signage issues – some signage incorrect/defaced (e.g. North East Valley and Ross Creek)</p>	<p>Animal Services staff regularly respond to feedback and requests for service with regards to signs that need replacing and action as appropriate.</p> <p>Recently Task Force Green went to all 55 DCC owned playing fields and have repaired or replaced any damaged or missing signs.</p> <p>Any dog behaviour signs that require updating, for example the one at Tomahawk Beach, have been replaced.</p>
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Appendix 1

Dog Control Bylaw (2016) Working Party - Terms of Reference

Background

1. In 2016 the Dunedin City Council reviewed its Dog Control Bylaw, as required under the Local Government Act. The review involved comprehensive public consultation and more than 387 public submissions were received. Following public hearings and a report from the Hearings Committee, the revised Dog Control Bylaw was adopted by the Council on 23 May 2016 and became effective from 1 July 2016.
2. A key change for the 2016 bylaw was the use of electronic maps on the DCC website. These showed the various areas where dogs were permitted (along with any conditions such as being required to be on a leash) and areas where dogs were not permitted. In previous bylaws these details were set out in written schedules, rather than on maps.
3. Some residents have raised concerns that the new bylaw is more restrictive for dog owners. Some changes are more restrictive, but others provide greater freedom in some areas. It is possible the maps have made it clearer to the public where dogs are permitted or prohibited, which has contributed to a perception that some areas of the city are now prohibited when previously they were not.
4. A recent review of our Reserves Policy has also included some clarification of restrictions or conditions of having dogs on DCC reserves.

Suggested amendment to 4

Recent community feedback on the Reserves Bylaw has clarified the expectations on restrictions or conditions of having dogs on DCC reserves.

Working Party

5. The Council is setting up an independent group of members of the public to gather and provide feedback on how effective the new bylaw is, and whether it is fair and reasonable to dog owners and non-dog owners alike.
6. The group will consist of 8 people, made up equally of dog owners and non-dog owners. The group will be chaired by Cr Andrew Whiley.
7. The group will be briefed on the current bylaw, a summary of the consultation carried out and the changes from the previous bylaw. This will include the introduction of the electronic maps.
8. The group will consider:
 - Is the bylaw in its current form working both from the perspective of dog owners and non-dog owners?
 - Are there any changes that could be made to improve the bylaw?
9. The feedback can be written or verbal.

Support

10. In order to help the group carry out its role, the DCC will provide a meeting venue and administrative support. Should there be any need to visit facilities or meet stakeholder groups the DCC will meet reasonable expenses.

Appendix 2

Summary of submissions on the Reserves Bylaw Review that relate to the control of dogs on Council Reserves.

Do you support extending the Reserves Bylaw to apply to beaches?

Only a few people responded to this question.

Yes – 1

No – 2

Unsure – 1

In respect to reserves would you like the dog controls on reserves changed?

Yes – 40

No – 60

Unsure – 17

Should dogs be prohibited from sand dune areas?

Yes – 20

No – 89

Unsure – 10

Dog control on beaches?

Only one person answered and their answer was unsure.

On what reserves or beaches should dogs be banned?

53 people said none, with most of them saying as long as they are under control.

41 said yes to some areas which include Tomahawk, Sandfly Beach, Saint Clair, Allan's Beach, Brighton, Waikouaiti, the Peninsula, Aramoana, any beach of high conservation values, any beaches that hold wildlife (penguins, seals etc) and beaches designated for swimming (in between the flags).

4 said they should be banned at all reserves/beaches.

Are there beaches where dogs should be allowed off leash?

43 said all beaches, with most saying as long as they are under control.

52 said yes which include Long Beach, Taieri Mouth, Tomahawk, Saint Kilda to Lawyers Head, Waldronville and Ocean View.

18 said no, they should not be off leash and 2 said 'no change to the current restrictions'.

Are there beaches where dogs should be required on leash?

26 said no.

64 said yes of which includes the majority of people stating Saint Kilda/Saint Clair. Other areas also include Sandfly beach, Hawkesbury Lagoon, Brighton, Waikouaiti and beaches designated to swimming or to protect wildlife.

13 said they should be on leash at all reserves/beaches.

Dog Control Bylaw Working Party Feedback with Marita – 13 Feb 2019

Present: Marita, Peter, Andrew & Ros

General discussion about how the Bylaw is going, dog control and dogs in the city

- Positives – seen more guide dogs out in North East Valley
- Concern about e scooters on footpaths not giving enough reaction time for guide dogs
- Dog owners fouling on KV school field
- Concern about the increase in dog numbers and population meaning more demand on shared areas
- Cleaning up fouling is an issue
- Control of dogs – would like to see it better defined in the Bylaw
- Share the town belt with dogs on lead

Last meeting of Dog Control Working Party

Date: Wednesday 12 December 2018

Time: 10.30 – 11.30am

Venue: Dunedin City Council, Ground Floor, Plaza Meeting Room

Agenda Item:

1. Validating the draft decision attached with this email invitation

Report of the Chairperson of the Dunedin City Council Dog Control Working Party

BACKGROUND

This report records the main points and outcomes following the series of meetings for the Dog Control Working Party.

This report has taken some time to issue, both due to absences of Council officers and the need to see how the measures taken because of comments made at meetings have been implemented.

The terms of reference for the Dog Bylaw Working Group (the Group) are attached as Appendix 1. Meetings of the Group were held in June, August and October 2017.

OVERVIEW

The discussion opened with participants invited to express any concerns they had relating to the Dog Control Bylaw 2016 (the Bylaw). Discussion quickly focused on issues regarding the behaviour of members of the public (including children) around dogs and the expectations of dog owners to enjoy areas where dogs can express natural behaviour.

From the discussions, three key themes emerged:

- a) a desire for the Council to put its efforts into assisting dog owners to socialise dogs for public spaces;
- b) a focus on how people want to use public space and how it can be better shared between dog walkers and other members of the public;
- c) making acceptable behaviour obvious – both the bylaw and education materials must encourage acceptable behaviour on the part of members of the public and dog owners.

Each of these points is briefly dealt with under a separate heading and the steps that Council have taken following these working party sessions are set out in the chart in Appendix 2.

MAKING ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR OBVIOUS

Members of the group expressed concern that the Dog Control Act 1996 and the Bylaw do not define what 'controlled' behaviour is and that Council should provide more education to dog owners and non-dog owners on what is expected.

There was an emphasis in the discussion on education of dog owners to prioritise good dog behaviour in public places, including at dog parks. Panellists had a range of views about the types of acceptable behaviour in these spaces, however all panellists expressed a strong desire to avoid conflict between people and dogs.

Panellists concluded a common minimum standard should be applied to all public places and other behaviours should be managed according to the type of public space the dog was in. This was something that the animal team was asked to consider further when panellists explained that the prescribed behaviour standards at dog parks do not align well with what is taught at dog obedience classes.

A possible solution is the placement of signage and brochures indicating acceptable behaviour at the relevant park, for example whether a dog need to be on a leash. This would mean dog owners and non-dog owners could find the right park depending on their needs and whether they want to avoid or share spaces with dogs.

While the dog control bylaw does not define what "control" of a dog means, the Council can make this obvious through its website, brochures and other educational information. The

Council has taken several steps to do so since the Group meetings occurred and these steps are detailed in Appendix 2.

The Council would also consider the use of translations for the key messages in its information.

SHARING SPACES

The group suggested that the bylaw maps could be more informative by including information on the different users on city tracks such as runners, walkers and mountain bikers. This would inform all parties and encourage them to be more tolerant of each other. The Group also pointed out that the maps were not easily viewed by someone with sight impairment.

The maps have been updated to show the following features:

- Areas which are shared between different recreation groups (i.e. dog walkers and others such as runners, mountain bikers and walkers);
- A notation that landowner permission will need to be sought where it is not public land. Due to confusion caused, private land areas are no longer marked, but areas requiring a hunting remain displayed;

The Council consulted with the Blind Foundation on the appropriate colours and text sizes for the map, and has made changes to make the maps widely accessible with a broad range of devices.

Panellists also suggested that the maps be used for information purposes, rather than being part of the bylaw. As the maps are part of the bylaw made by Council, it is not possible to act on this suggestion, but it can be considered when the bylaw is next reviewed.

It was recognised that companion dogs are very important for all members of the community, and that they provide a sense of security for vulnerable community members, particularly aging citizens. Changing lifestyles, with increasing residential use and outdoor café dining available within the inner city may mean that there may be a growth in the number of dogs in the central city. It was also noted that the ban on dogs in George Street and the Octagon restricted fundraising activities for agencies such as the SPCA, if they wish to have street appeals featuring animals.

The Council will monitor changing lifestyle and inner city use trends and consider whether the current ban on dogs in George Street and the Octagon remains appropriate given the change in use of these spaces.

FOCUS ON THE DOG OWNER

There was concern expressed with regards to Council not providing dog education classes or incentives for dog owners to attend training classes. Council officers explained that the DCC does provide free education sessions to both school children and businesses. Animal Services Officers also educate dog owners daily on ways to manage dog behaviour.

Panellists recognised that many dog owners do not appreciate how much time is required to train a dog to a high standard. A suggestion made by some panellists was that the Council could recognise responsible ownership by providing incentives and privileges for dog owners to put the effort into obedience training for dogs. Canine good citizen was suggested as an example to follow, and it was proposed that this be used by Council as a pre-condition of responsible owner registration.

Panel members identified that a key barrier to owners attending training classes was cost. There was a suggestion that the Council should lead the provision of puppy training and dog education. However, this is a service that is already provided by businesses in town, and subsidising the attendance at these is not a role for Council.

It was requested that the Council offer privileges to those owners with dogs that demonstrate a high level of behavioural competency. Panel members invited the Council to consider changing the way that restrictions on areas defined as requiring dogs to be on a lead were managed, for example permitting dogs that were highly responsive to voice commands to use these areas off leash. This was given some consideration. However, the advice of Council officers was that this would create significant administration difficulties as it would mean that multiple types of restrictions would operate simultaneously and enforcement of the bylaw would be ineffective.

There was a broad consensus that the Council's efforts needed to focus on the dog owner, but with some additional educational messages around steps parents could take with their children to ensure that dogs were treated appropriately in public spaces. The Council uses several resources to assist with public education, including those targeted at assisting children around dogs.

WAY FORWARD

The main conclusion from the working party is that the most important factor is how people and dogs behave when sharing public spaces, regardless of what is specified in a bylaw. The working party panellists have made a range of valuable suggestions to improve how spaces can be shared. The contribution of panellists is appreciated as it has shown the value of the efforts of the Animal Control team, and assisted in focusing on some additional steps to get the most out of enjoying public spaces with or without dogs.

From this point forward, Council officers will continue to respond to feedback provided by the community, and to provide advice to dog owners and members of the public.

Cr Andrew Whiley

DATED: