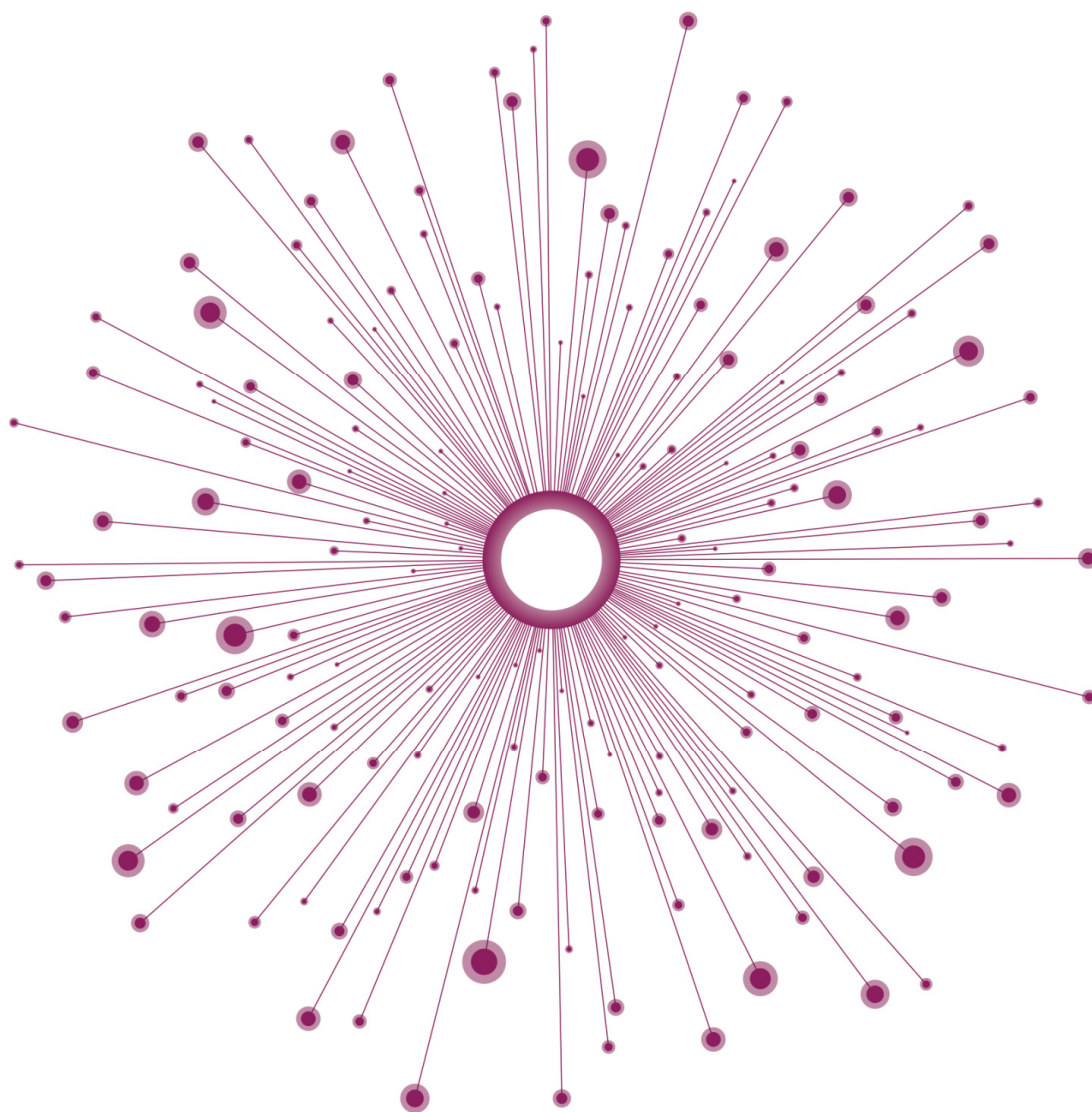


Blackpool Council: Parks, Green Open Spaces and Cemeteries Public Space Protection Order Consultation Report

October 2023



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1. Executive Summary

Across Blackpool, a number of different Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) are in operation to tackle anti-social behaviour locally. PSPOs are aimed at ensuring public spaces can be enjoyed free from anti-social behaviour.

This consultation offered an opportunity for visitors to Blackpool's parks, green open spaces and cemeteries to tell the council about their experiences and concerns whilst visiting these areas allowing the council to review the current controls in place and to determine whether or not a PSPO should be considered.

A total of **1,483** responses were received to this consultation. **1,440** responses were collected through an open access online survey, **41** responses collated from face-to-face engagement work in Stanley Park and **2** email responses were sent into Blackpool Council.

The survey went 'live' week commencing the **19th June** and closed week commencing **28th August**, running for a total of ten weeks.

The visiting frequency by proportion of overall respondents who visited parks, green open spaces and cemeteries was as follows:

- Visiting at least once a week or more:
 - Parks and green open spaces – **78.7%**
 - Cemeteries – **12.3%**
- Visiting at least once a month:
 - Parks and green open spaces – **14.6%**
 - Cemeteries – **15.8%**
- Visiting at least once or twice a year:
 - Parks and green open spaces – **4.9%**
 - Cemeteries – **33%**

Key findings

Almost 1,000 people, who responded to the consultation, stated they had personal experience of the issues they had highlighted. Another 300 said they had heard about the issues that they were highlighting, from neighbours, friends, family and the media.

The problem of most concern which was reported by respondents as 'dogs off-lead' focussing on the impact to wildlife, the behaviour of irresponsible owners and those dogs approaching other dogs, children and adults. Comments from a significant proportion of respondents have asked for better enforcement including CCTV, more park wardens and better police presence.

An emerging theme was the concern about scooters/cyclists/motor bikes with primarily their speed being unnerving for some.

The consultation found the following proportions of respondents in agreement with the

Parks and green spaces	% of agreement
To give police and council officers powers to deal with anti-social behaviour, including alcohol-related anti-social behaviour	97.8%
To give police and council officers powers to deal with substance misuse, including use of cannabis	95.8%
To give police and council officers powers to deal with unauthorised vehicles driving within the area	94.3%
Commercial activities such as group fitness training; commercial dog walking and training or exercising of horses/ponies to be regulated by the local authority	65.8%
The use of remote controlled water, air or land based vehicles to be banned	58.6%
Illegal or unauthorised camping including the use of tents/caravans and other vehicles to be banned	83%
Dogs on leads near council owned water bodies in Blackpool	82.8%

proposed introduction of the protection orders. The table below includes those respondents who said they 'strongly agreed' and 'tended to agree' with each proposal:

* responses from those who chose the 'don't know/no opinion' were omitted from the calculations

Cemeteries	% of agreement
To give police and council officers powers to deal with anti-social behaviour, including alcohol-related anti-social behaviour	97.7%
To give police and council officers powers to deal with substance misuse, including use of cannabis	96.5%
To give police and council officers powers to deal with unauthorised vehicles driving within the area	94.8%

* responses from those who chose the 'don't know/no opinion' were omitted from the calculations

2. Background

Across Blackpool, a number of different Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) are in operation to tackle anti-social behaviour locally. PSPOs are aimed at ensuring public spaces can be enjoyed free from anti-social behaviour.

This consultation offered an opportunity for visitors to Blackpool's parks, green open spaces and cemeteries to tell the council about their experiences and concerns whilst visiting these areas allowing the council to review the current controls in place and to determine whether or not a PSPO should be introduced.

3. Methodology

The survey went 'live' week commencing **19th June 2023** and closed on the week commencing **28th August 2023**, running for a total of ten weeks.

Information regarding the consultation was shared on Blackpool Council's social media pages. The consultation was actively advertised and marketed across Blackpool by interested residents and visitors which also gave additional visibility to the consultation.

A total of **1,483** responses were received to this consultation. **1,440** responses were collected through an open access online survey, **41** responses collated from face-to-face engagement work in Stanley Park and **2** email responses were sent into Blackpool Council.

1,473 responses were from individuals, and **10** were on behalf of an organisation. **3** responses stated that they were responding on behalf of an organisation but from their comments they highlighted issues only relating to themselves and were reallocated.

The numbers in this report have been rounded to one decimal place. As a result some totals will not equal to 100%. Respondents to the consultation were given the choice whether or not to answer each question, as a result the base numbers to each question may not equal the total response rate to the consultation.

4. Results

4.1 Respondent Profile

4.1.1 Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation? [Q2 on survey] (Base = 1,440)

99.3% (1,430) of responses were from individuals, and 0.7% (10) of responses were on behalf of an organisation.

4.1.2 Are you a resident in Blackpool or a visitor? [Q3 on survey] (Base = 1,430)

82.2% (1,176) of respondents either worked or were residents in Blackpool. 6.2% (88) of respondents said that they were a day visitor to Blackpool, 1.6% (23) of respondents said that they were a staying visitor to Blackpool. The remaining respondents choose the 'Other' option (7.3%, 105, responses) or left the option blank (2.7%, 38 responses).

4.1.3 Please let us know which organisation you're responding on behalf of? [Q4 on survey] (Base = 10)

10 respondents identified which organisation they were responding on behalf of, these included four responses from Brambles Wildlife Rescue, two from Friends of Devonshire Road Rock Gardens and one response each from Blackpool RUFC, Friends of Solaris Park, Blackpool BMX Club and Friends of Layton Cemetery.

Respondents were asked a series of demographic questions which enabled us to ensure we were capturing responses from a broad cross-section of the community.

4.1.4 Are you...? [Q17 on survey] (Base = 1,430)

65.9% (943) of responses were from female respondents, 27.4% (392) were from male respondents, 4.8% (69) preferred not to say, 4 respondents identified as non-binary, 3 respondents preferred to self-describe and 19 respondents did not answer the question.

4.1.5 What is your sexual orientation? [Q18 on survey] (Base = 1,430)

82.4% (1,178) of responses were from heterosexual/straight respondents, 9.9% (141) preferred not to say, 2% (28) were from Gay men, 1.7% (25) were from respondents who identified as Bisexual, 1.5% (22) were from Gay women/lesbians, 6 respondents preferred to self-describe and 31 respondents did not answer the question.

4.1.6 Which age group do you belong to? [Q19 on survey] (Base = 1,430)

The following table shows the breakdown of responses by age band.

Age band	No of responses	% of responses
18-24	22	1.5%
25-34	121	8.5%
35-44	211	14.8%
45-54	294	20.6%
55-64	358	25%
65-74	278	19.4%
75+	53	3.7%
Prefer not to say	80	5.6%
Blanks	13	0.9%
Total	1,430	100%

4.1.7 Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months? [Q20 on survey] (Base = 1,430)

69.6% (994) of respondents reported having no health problem or disability which has lasted or is expected to last at least 12 months, whilst **28.7%** (411) of respondents reported having a health problem or disability which has lasted or is expected to last at least 12 months. 25 respondents did not answer the question.

The following table shows the breakdown of responses by disability status.

Disability	No of responses	% of responses
No disability	994	69.6%
Yes, limited a lot by disability	142	9.9%
Yes, limited a little by disability	269	18.8%
Did not answer	25	1.7%
Total	616	100%

4.1.8 What is your ethnic origin? [Q25 on survey] (Base = 1,430)

The majority of respondents – (92%) – reported their ethnicity as White, which includes English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British Irish Gypsy or Irish Traveller, and any other White background.

The following table shows the breakdown of responses by ethnicity.

Ethnicity	No of responses	% of responses
White	1,293	90.4%
Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups	13	0.9%
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	3	0.2%
Asian/Asian British	6	0.4%
Other ethnic group	3	0.2%
Prefer not to say	88	6.2%
Did not answer	24	1.7%
Total	616	100%

4.1.9 What is your home postcode? [Q22 on survey] (Base = 1,430)

There were responses to the survey from across Blackpool, the North West and the UK.

The following table shows the breakdown of responses by geographical location.

Postcode area	No of responses	% of responses
FY1	185	12.9%
FY2	139	9.7%
FY3	336	23.5%
FY4	200	14%
FY5	109	7.6%
FY6, FY7, FY8	130	9.1%
Other North West areas	62	4.3%
Other areas in the UK	23	1.6%
Did not answer	246	17.3%
Total	1,430	100%

4.2 Main Survey Results

How often do you visit the following areas in Blackpool? [Q5 on survey]

Parks and green open spaces (Base = 1,430)

Cemeteries (Base = 1,430)

The following table shows the breakdown of responses and visiting frequency to Blackpool's parks, green open spaces and cemeteries:

	No of responses	% of responses	No of responses	% of responses
	Parks and green open spaces		Cemeteries	
Almost every day	665	46.5%	60	4.2%
About once a week	460	32.2%	116	8.1%
About once a month	209	14.6%	224	15.8%
Once or twice a year	70	4.9%	472	33%
Never visited	9	0.6%	198	13.8%
Don't know/not sure	4	0.3%	49	3.4%
Other	9	0.6%	55	3.8%
Did not answer	4	0.3%	256	17.9%
Total	1,430	100%	1,430	100%

In July a swan was killed by a dog off-lead in Stanley Park creating a significant increase in responses for the consultation from both the Blackpool area and the wider UK. To ensure the consultation results are fair, balanced and without known bias full response data from the survey is shown alongside an additional analysis which omits three key dates where responses could have been largely influenced by the news of swan's death.

How much of a problem do you think the following issues are?

4.2.1 Each of the respondents were asked how much of a problem, if at all, did they think each of the following were in Blackpool's parks and green open spaces. [Question 6 on the survey]

People causing harassment, alarm, distress or vandalism (Base = 1,358)

70.7% (961) of respondents said 'people causing harassment, alarm, distress or vandalism' is a 'very big' or 'fairly big' problem in Blackpool's parks and green open spaces.

24.6% (334) of respondents said that 'people causing harassment, alarm, distress or vandalism' is 'not a very big' problem or 'not a problem at all' in Blackpool's parks and green open spaces. **63** respondents said they didn't know or weren't sure.

The following table shows the breakdown of responses in more detail.

Response type	No of responses	% of responses	No of responses	% of responses
	All responses		Excluding 3 days data	
A very big problem	423	31.1%	259	29.2%
A fairly big problem	538	39.6%	357	40.3%
Not a very big problem	295	21.7%	208	23.5%
Not a problem at all	39	2.9%	29	3.3%
Don't know/not sure	63	4.7%	33	3.7%
Total	1,358	100%	886	100%

Substance misuse, including the use of cannabis (Base = 1,349)

69.6% (938) of respondents said that substance misuse is a 'very big' or 'fairly big' problem in Blackpool's parks and green open spaces.

21.1% (285) of respondents said that substance misuse is 'not a very big' problem or 'not a problem at all' in Blackpool's parks and green open spaces. **126** respondents said they didn't know or weren't sure.

The following table shows the breakdown of responses in more detail.

Response type	No of responses	% of responses	No of responses	% of responses
	All responses		Excluding 3 days data	
A very big problem	457	33.9%	297	33.6%
A fairly big problem	481	35.7%	307	34.8%
Not a very big problem	247	18.3%	171	19.4%
Not a problem at all	38	2.8%	29	3.3%
Don't know/not sure	126	9.3%	79	8.9%
Total	1,349	100%	883	100%

How much of a problem do you think the following issues are?

Alcohol misuse (Base = 1,298)

65.9% (855) of respondents said that alcohol misuse is a 'very big' or 'fairly big' problem in Blackpool's parks and green open spaces.

26.2% (340) of respondents said that alcohol misuse is 'not a very big' problem or 'not a problem at all' in Blackpool's parks and green open spaces. **103** respondents said they didn't know or weren't sure.

The following table shows the breakdown of responses in more detail.

Response type	No of responses	% of responses	No of responses	% of responses
	All responses		Excluding 3 days data	
A very big problem	394	30.4%	243	28.5%
A fairly big problem	461	35.5%	309	36.2%
Not a very big problem	301	23.2%	213	24.9%
Not a problem at all	39	3%	32	3.7%
Don't know/not sure	103	7.9%	57	6.7%
Total	1,298	100%	854	100%

Unauthorised vehicles driving within the area (Base = 1,313)

42.1% (553) of respondents said that unauthorised vehicles driving within the area is a 'very big' or 'fairly big' problem in Blackpool's parks and green open spaces.

44.2% (580) of respondents said that unauthorised vehicles driving within the area is 'not a very big' problem or 'not a problem at all' in Blackpool's parks and green open spaces. **180** respondents said they didn't know or weren't sure.

The following table shows the breakdown of responses in more detail.

Response type	No of responses	% of responses	No of responses	% of responses
	All responses		Excluding 3 days data	
A very big problem	261	19.9%	174	20.2%
A fairly big problem	292	22.2%	195	22.6%
Not a very big problem	446	34%	286	33.2%
Not a problem at all	134	10.2%	101	11.7%
Don't know/not sure	180	13.7%	106	12.3%
Total	1,313	100%	451	100%

How much of a problem do you think the following issues are?

Commercial activities such as group fitness training; commercial dog walking and training or exercising of horses/ponies to be regulated by the local authority (Base = 1,344)

27% (364) of respondents said that commercial activities are a 'very big' or 'fairly big' problem in Blackpool's parks and green open spaces.

64.7% (869) of respondents said that commercial activities are 'not a very big' problem or 'not a problem at all' in Blackpool's parks and green open spaces. **111** respondents said they didn't know or weren't sure.

The following table shows the breakdown of responses in more detail.

Response type	No of responses	% of responses	No of responses	% of responses
	All responses		Excluding 3 days data	
A very big problem	178	13.2%	92	10.4%
A fairly big problem	186	13.8%	126	14.3%
Not a very big problem	443	33%	297	33.7%
Not a problem at all	426	31.7%	305	34.6%
Don't know/not sure	111	8.3%	61	6.9%
Total	1,344	100%	881	100%

The use of remote controlled water, air or land based vehicles (Base = 1,300)

16.1% (210) of respondents said that the use of remote controlled water, air or land based vehicles is a 'very big' or 'fairly big' problem in Blackpool's parks and green open spaces.

69.4% (902) of respondents said that the use of remote controlled water, air or land based vehicles is 'not a very big' problem or 'not a problem at all' in Blackpool's parks and green open spaces. **188** respondents said they didn't know or weren't sure.

The following table shows the breakdown of responses in more detail.

Response type	No of responses	% of responses	No of responses	% of responses
	All responses		Excluding 3 days data	
A very big problem	89	6.8%	49	5.7%
A fairly big problem	121	9.3%	65	7.6%
Not a very big problem	485	37.3%	310	36.3%
Not a problem at all	417	32.1%	323	37.8%
Don't know/not sure	188	14.5%	108	12.6%
Total	1,300	100%	855	100%

How much of a problem do you think the following issues are?

Illegal or unauthorised camping including the use of tents/caravans and other vehicles

(Base = 1,273)

29% (372) of respondents said that illegal or unauthorised camping is a ‘very big’ or ‘fairly big’ problem in Blackpool’s parks and green open spaces.

57.4% (731) of respondents said that illegal or unauthorised camping is ‘not a very big’ problem or ‘not a problem at all’ in Blackpool’s parks and green open spaces. **170** respondents said they didn’t know or weren’t sure.

The following table shows the breakdown of responses in more detail.

Response type	No of responses	% of responses	No of responses	% of responses
	All responses		Excluding 3 days data	
A very big problem	165	12.7%	100	11.9%
A fairly big problem	207	16.3%	143	17.0%
Not a very big problem	464	36.4%	307	36.5%
Not a problem at all	267	21%	194	23.1%
Don't know/not sure	170	13.4%	97	11.5%
Total	1,273	100%	841	100.0%

Dogs off leads near council owned water bodies in Blackpool (Base = 1,418)

79% (1,120) of respondents said that dogs off leads near council owned water bodies in Blackpool is a ‘very big’ or ‘fairly big’ problem in Blackpool’s parks and green open spaces.

19.1% (270) of respondents said that dogs off leads near council owned water bodies in Blackpool is ‘not a very big’ problem or ‘not a problem at all’ in Blackpool’s parks and green open spaces. **28** respondents said they didn’t know or weren’t sure.

The following table shows the breakdown of responses in more detail.

Response type	No of responses	% of responses	No of responses	% of responses
	All responses		Excluding 3 days data	
A very big problem	959	67.6%	505	55.8%
A fairly big problem	161	11.4%	124	13.7%
Not a very big problem	126	8.9%	118	13%
Not a problem at all	144	10.2%	132	14.6%
Don't know/not sure	28	2%	26	2.9%
Total	1418	100%	905	100.0%

From the options in question six, respondents were asked to state if they thought a particular activity is 'a very big problem' or 'a fairly big problem' and were also asked to identify in which of Blackpool's parks and green open spaces they thought it was a problem. [Q7 on survey] (Base = 1,430)

1,236 comments were received from respondents, some mentioning more than one area in their response. Stanley Park was highlighted in 65.4% (809) of responses, and Lawson's Field was mentioned in 38 responses. Other areas respondents identified as having problematic activities are listed in the table below.

Areas identified	No of times mentioned	Areas identified	No of times mentioned
Stanley Park	809	Bowling Green	9
Unnamed areas	74	Highfield	8
Lawson's Field	43	Salisbury woods	6
Marton Mere	34	George Bancroft	6
Kingscote	30	Fishers Field	6
Devonshire Rock Gardens	22	Mereside Park	5
Moor Park	22	Louie Horrocks	5
Revoe	21	Solaris	4
Layton Cemetery	21	Brunswick	3
Carlton Cemetery	17	Gorton Street	3
East Pines	17	Harold Larwood	2
Pond trail	15	Grange Park	2
Watson Road Park	13	All areas	2
Claremont	13	Astley Park	1
Devonshire Road	11	Bloomfield	1
Golf Course	11		
		Total number of themed responses	1,236

Problematic activities that were identified are listed in the table below: [Q7 on survey] (Base = 1,065)

Activities identified	No of times mentioned	Activities identified	No of times mentioned
Drugs / Alcohol misuse	81	Toilet provision	5
Scooters/motor bikes / cyclists	68	Other / misc	17
Vandalism / Graffiti	56	Dog related comments:	
Harassment / Intimidation	31	Dogs off-lead	454
Litter	24	Negative comments	222
ASB	20	Dog mess	35
Youth ASB	16	Generic comments	6
Skate Park	9	Need more exercise places	5
General unhappiness	6	Positive comments	4
Travellers	6		
		Total number of themed responses	1,065

Respondents were also asked whether they/their family had personally experienced any of the listed issues in question six or had they seen/heard about others' experiences of any of these issues? Problematic activities that were identified are listed in the table below: [Q8 on survey] (Base = 1,285)

	No of responses
Yes, personal experience, without any further detail	353
Yes, personal experience, with some further detail	619
No personal experience but heard of problems - many responses referred to the deceased swan Jesse	313
Total	1,285

Respondents were asked if they thought there are other issues in Blackpool's parks and green spaces that had not identified in question six. [Q9 on survey] (Base = 236)

	No of responses
Litter / glass / Need more bins	67
Dog fouling	62
Bikes / e-bikes / scooters	38
Need more mobile wardens / enforcement/CCTV	21
Youths - intimidation & groups	19
Fishing / hooks	12
Toilets	6
More dog exercise areas	4
Maintenance	2
Carparks	1
Loud music	1
Play areas for dogs	1
Needles	1
Disposable BBQs	1
Total	236

How much of a problem do you think the following issues are?

4.2.2 How much of a problem, if at all, do you think each of the following are in Blackpool's cemeteries? [Q10 on survey]

People causing harassment, alarm, distress or vandalism (Base = 941)

28.8% (271) of respondents said 'people causing harassment, alarm, distress or vandalism' is a 'very big' or 'fairly big' problem in Blackpool's cemeteries.

28.1% (264) of respondents said that 'people causing harassment, alarm, distress or vandalism' is 'not a very big' problem or 'not a problem at all' in Blackpool's cemeteries. **406** respondents said they didn't know or weren't sure.

Response type	No of responses	% of responses	No of responses	% of responses
	All responses		Excluding 3 days data	
A very big problem	95	10.1%	59	9.5%
A fairly big problem	176	18.7%	110	17.7%
Not a very big problem	185	19.7%	124	19.9%
Not a problem at all	79	8.4%	64	10.3%
Don't know/not sure	406	43.1%	266	42.7%
Total	941	100.0%	623	100.0%

Substance misuse, including the use of cannabis (Base = 941)

29.6% (278) of respondents said that substance misuse is a 'very big' or 'fairly big' problem in Blackpool's cemeteries.

25.6% (241) of respondents said that substance misuse is 'not a very big' problem or 'not a problem at all' in Blackpool's cemeteries. **422** respondents said they didn't know or weren't sure.

The following table shows the breakdown of responses in more detail.

Response type	No of responses	% of responses	No of responses	% of responses
	All responses		Excluding 3 days data	
A very big problem	156	16.6%	74	11.9%
A fairly big problem	122	13.0%	95	15.2%
Not a very big problem	164	17.4%	116	18.6%
Not a problem at all	77	8.2%	58	9.3%
Don't know/not sure	422	44.8%	280	44.9%
Total	941	100.0%	623	100.0%

How much of a problem do you think the following issues are?

Alcohol misuse (Base = 937)

30.6% (286) of respondents said that alcohol misuse is a 'very big' or 'fairly big' problem in Blackpool's cemeteries.

25% (234) of respondents said that alcohol misuse is 'not a very big' problem or 'not a problem at all' in Blackpool's cemeteries. **417** respondents said they didn't know or weren't sure.

The following table shows the breakdown of responses in more detail.

Response type	No of responses	% of responses	No of responses	% of responses
	All responses		Excluding 3 days data	
A very big problem	114	12.2%	67	10.8%
A fairly big problem	172	18.4%	109	17.6%
Not a very big problem	161	17.2%	110	17.8%
Not a problem at all	73	7.8%	56	9.0%
Don't know/not sure	417	44.5%	277	44.7%
Total	937	100.0%	619	100.0%

Unauthorised vehicles driving within the area (Base = 917)

15.9% (146) of respondents said that unauthorised vehicles driving within the area is a 'very big' or 'fairly big' problem in Blackpool's cemeteries.

35.3% (324) of respondents said that unauthorised vehicles driving within the area is 'not a very big' problem or 'not a problem at all' in Blackpool's cemeteries. **447** respondents said they didn't know or weren't sure.

The following table shows the breakdown of responses in more detail.

Response type	No of responses	% of responses	No of responses	% of responses
	All responses		Excluding 3 days data	
A very big problem	60	6.5%	41	6.7%
A fairly big problem	86	9.4%	56	9.2%
Not a very big problem	203	22.1%	126	20.6%
Not a problem at all	121	13.2%	95	15.5%
Don't know/not sure	447	48.7%	293	48.0%
Total	917	100.0%	611	100.0%

From the options in question ten, where residents were asked to state if they thought a particular activity is 'a very big problem' or 'a fairly big problem', they were also asked to identify in which of Blackpool's cemeteries they thought it was a problem. [Q11 on survey] (Base = 234)

301 comments were received from respondents with 103 comments mentioning problematic activities in Layton cemetery and 57 comments mentioning problematic activities in Carleton cemetery. Activities which respondents identified as being problematic are listed in the table below.

The following table shows the breakdown of responses in more detail.

Activities identified	No of times mentioned	Activities identified	No of times mentioned
Drugs/ Alcohol	32	Litter	5
Harassment/ Intimidation	8	E bikes/ scooters	4
Vandalism	7	cars/ driving/ parking	4
ASB	5	Homeless	3
Dog fouling	5	Urinating	1
		Total	74

Respondents were also asked whether they/their family had personally experienced any of the listed issues in question six or had they seen/heard about others' experiences of any of these issues? Problematic activities that were identified are listed in the table below: [Q12 on survey] (Base = 242)

The following table shows the breakdown of responses in more detail.

	No of responses
Yes, personal experience, without any further detail	122
Yes, personal experience, with some further detail	58
No personal experience but heard of problems	62
Total	242

Respondents identified the problematic behaviours they had experienced. These are listed in the table below. (Base = 92)

Activities identified	No of responses
Drugs / Alcohol	30
Dog related issues (includes off-lead and fouling)	13
Gangs / Intimidatory situations	10
Anti-social behaviour	10
Scooters / e-bikes / speed of vehicles	9
Vandalism (including to graves)	9
Theft of grave items	8
Litter	3
Total	92

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions to make? [Q16 on survey] (Base = 751)

Over **700** comments were received from respondents, some repeating and/or mentioning more than one topic area. The majority of comments were focussed on more efficient enforcement processes including park wardens, body cameras and CCTV and better visibility of park or cemetery rules. There were **50** comments suggesting that more areas for dogs off-lead need to be available and over **20** comments expressing concern about the speed of e-bikes/scooters and skate boards.

Examples of comments to this question are shown below:

“All this needs resource to enforce. More people on the ground to enforce coupled with positive community engagement”

“I personally think all parks should have CCTV on them to deter anti-social behaviour and any issues that visitors encounter”

“There needs to be proper sign posts around the lake and Italian gardens to stop people from letting their dogs off lead”

“Dogs need exercise off lead but some are a problem running over to people and dogs. An area should be fenced off to allow exercise but within a controlled area when off lead”

“More security/ police in the parks and cemetery. Dispersal of gangs of youths”

The following table shows the breakdown of responses in more detail.

Activities identified	No of responses
More visibility / enforcement (incl Park Wardens / cctv)	172
Additional areas for dogs off-lead	50
E-bikes/ scooters/ skate boards	21
No more rules	10
More green open spaces	6
Maintenance	6
Horses	6
Fishing	5
More bins	4
Toilets needed	3
Graffiti	3
Restrict access times	3
Problems with parking	2
Gatherings / gangs	1
More effective reporting mechanisms	1
More wildlife areas	1
Other / Misc	29
Total	323
Comments about issues already covered on PSPO	428
Total	751

Response to proposals to introduce PSPOs?

4.2.3 Proposal to introduce the Protection Orders in Blackpool's parks and green open spaces

Proposals: To take action against people involved in activities outlined below within Blackpool's parks/green spaces and cemeteries; and that a person or persons may be liable to a Fixed Penalty Notice of up to £100 for non-compliance

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following proposals with regard to Blackpool's parks/green open spaces? [Q14 on survey]

To give police and council officers powers to deal with anti-social behaviour, including alcohol-related anti-social behaviour (Base =1,377)

97.8% (1,347) of respondents 'strongly agree' or 'tend to agree' to give police and council officers powers to deal with anti-social behaviour, including alcohol-related anti-social behaviour. **1.2%** (17) of respondents 'strongly disagree' or 'tend to disagree' and **0.9%** (13) of respondents said they neither agreed nor disagreed.

Response type	No of responses	% of responses	No of responses	% of responses
	All responses		Excluding 3 days	
Strongly agree	1,224	88.9%	771	86.6%
Tend to agree	123	8.9%	94	10.6%
Neither agree nor disagree	13	0.9%	9	1.0%
Tend to disagree	6	0.4%	5	0.6%
Strongly disagree	11	0.8%	11	1.2%
Total	1,377	100.0%	890	100.0%
Don't know/no opinion	5	-	3	-

To give police and council officers powers to deal with substance misuse, including use of cannabis (Base = 1,365)

95.8% (1,308) of respondents 'strongly agree' or 'tend to agree' to give police and council officers powers to deal with substance misuse, including use of cannabis. **1.9%** (26) of respondents 'strongly disagree' or 'tend to disagree' and **2.3%** (31) of respondents said they neither agreed nor disagreed.

Response type	No of responses	% of responses	No of responses	% of responses
	All responses		Excluding 3 days	
Strongly agree	1,160	85.0%	733	82.9%
Tend to agree	148	10.8%	109	12.3%
Neither agree nor disagree	31	2.3%	21	2.4%
Tend to disagree	10	0.7%	8	0.9%
Strongly disagree	16	1.2%	13	1.5%
Total	1,365	100.0%	884	100.0%
Don't know/no opinion	7	-	3	-

Response to proposals to introduce PSPOs?

To give police and council officers powers to deal with unauthorised vehicles driving within the area (Base = 1,351)

94.3% (1,274) of respondents 'strongly agree' or 'tend to agree' to give police and council officers to deal with unauthorised vehicles driving within the area. **1.7%** (23) of respondents 'strongly disagree' or 'tend to disagree' and **4%** (54) of respondents of respondents said they neither agreed nor disagreed.

Response type	No of responses	% of responses	No of responses	% of responses
	All responses		Excluding 3 days	
Strongly agree	1,125	83.3%	717	82.1%
Tend to agree	149	11.0%	97	11.1%
Neither agree nor disagree	54	4.0%	37	4.2%
Tend to disagree	7	0.5%	6	0.7%
Strongly disagree	16	1.2%	16	1.8%
Total	1,351	100.0%	873	100.0%
Don't know/no opinion	19	-	12	-

Commercial activities such as group fitness training; commercial dog walking and training or exercising of horses/ponies to be regulated by the local authority (Base = 1,319)

65.8% (868) of respondents 'strongly agree' or 'tend to agree' for commercial activities to be regulated by the local authority. **18.9%** (250) of respondents 'strongly disagree' or 'tend to disagree' and **15.2%** (201) of respondents said they neither agreed nor disagreed.

Response type	No of responses	% of responses	No of responses	% of responses
	All responses		Excluding 3 days	
Strongly agree	640	48.5%	384	44.8%
Tend to agree	228	17.3%	150	17.5%
Neither agree nor disagree	201	15.2%	130	15.2%
Tend to disagree	123	9.3%	87	10.2%
Strongly disagree	127	9.6%	106	12.4%
Total	1,319	100.0%	857	100.0%
Don't know/no opinion	45	-	26	-

Response to proposals to introduce PSPOs?

The use of remote controlled water, air or land based vehicles to be banned (Base = 1,277)

58.6% (749) of respondents 'strongly agree' or 'tend to agree' for the use of remote controlled water, air or land based vehicles to be banned. **19.5%** (249) of respondents 'strongly disagree' or 'tend to disagree' and **21.8%** (279) of respondents said they neither agreed nor disagreed.

Response type	No of responses	% of responses	No of responses	% of responses
	All responses		Excluding 3 days	
Strongly agree	539	42.2%	323	38.9%
Tend to agree	210	16.4%	140	16.8%
Neither agree nor disagree	279	21.8%	172	20.7%
Tend to disagree	124	9.7%	87	10.5%
Strongly disagree	125	9.8%	109	13.1%
Total	1,277	100.0%	831	100.0%
Don't know/no opinion	67	-	41	-

Illegal or unauthorised camping including the use of tents/caravans and other vehicles to be banned (Base = 1,305)

83% (1,084) of respondents 'strongly agree' or 'tend to agree' for illegal or unauthorised camping including the use of tents/caravans and other vehicles to be banned. **6.3%** (83) of respondents 'strongly disagree' or 'tend to disagree' and **10.6%** (138) of respondents said they neither agreed nor disagreed.

Response type	No of responses	% of responses	No of responses	% of responses
	All responses		Excluding 3 days	
Strongly agree	855	65.5%	542	63.9%
Tend to agree	229	17.5%	155	18.3%
Neither agree nor disagree	138	10.6%	86	10.1%
Tend to disagree	45	3.4%	35	4.1%
Strongly disagree	38	2.9%	30	3.5%
Total	1305	100.0%	848	100.0%
Don't know/no opinion	35	-	22	-

Response to proposals to introduce PSPOs?

Dogs to be on leads near council owned water bodies in Blackpool (Base = 1,388)

82.8% (1,150) of respondents 'strongly agree' or 'tend to agree' that dogs should be on leads near council owned water bodies in Blackpool. **13.3%** (185) of respondents 'strongly disagree' or 'tend to disagree' and **3.8%** (53) of respondents said they neither agreed nor disagreed.

Response type	No of responses	% of responses	No of responses	% of responses
	All responses		Excluding 3 days	
Strongly agree	1,051	75.7%	572	65.1%
Tend to agree	99	7.1%	88	10.0%
Neither agree nor disagree	53	3.8%	47	5.3%
Tend to disagree	52	3.7%	50	5.7%
Strongly disagree	133	9.6%	122	13.9%
Total	1,388	100.0%	879	100.0%
Don't know/no opinion	12	-	12	-

4.2.4 Proposal to introduce the Protection Orders in Blackpool's Cemeteries

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following proposals with regard to Blackpool's cemeteries? [Q15 on survey]

To give police and council officers powers to deal with anti-social behaviour, including alcohol-related anti-social behaviour (Base =862)

97.7% (842) of respondents 'strongly or 'tend to agree' to give police and council officers powers to deal with anti-social behaviour, including alcohol-related anti-social behaviour. **0.8%** (7) of respondents 'strongly disagree' or 'tend to disagree' and **1.5%** (13) of respondents said they neither agreed nor disagreed.

Response type	No of responses	% of responses	No of responses	% of responses
	All responses		Excluding 3 days	
Strongly agree	767	89.0%	493	87.7%
Tend to agree	75	8.7%	53	9.4%
Neither agree nor disagree	13	1.5%	10	1.8%
Tend to disagree	1	0.1%	1	0.2%
Strongly disagree	6	0.7%	5	0.9%
Total	862	100.0%	562	100.0%
Don't know/no opinion	86	-	63	-

Response to proposals to introduce PSPOs?

To give police and council officers powers to deal with substance misuse, including use of cannabis (Base = 861)

96.5% (831) of respondents 'strongly agree' or 'tend to agree' to give police and council officers powers to deal with substance misuse, including use of cannabis. 1.2% (11) of respondents 'strongly disagree' or 'tend to disagree' and 2.2% (19) of respondents said they neither agreed nor disagreed.

Response type	No of responses	% of responses	No of responses	% of responses
	All responses		Excluding 3 days	
Strongly agree	735	85.4%	472	84.3%
Tend to agree	96	11.1%	65	11.6%
Neither agree nor disagree	19	2.2%	14	2.5%
Tend to disagree	3	0.3%	2	0.4%
Strongly disagree	8	0.9%	7	1.3%
Total	861	100.0%	560	100.0%
Don't know/no opinion	85	-	62	-

To give police and council officers powers to deal with unauthorised vehicles driving within the area (Base = 856)

94.8% (811) of respondents 'strongly agree' or 'tend to agree' to give police and council officers to deal with unauthorised vehicles driving within the area. 1.3% (11) of respondents 'strongly disagree' or 'tend to disagree' and 4% (34) of respondents of respondents said they neither agreed nor disagreed.

Response type	No of responses	% of responses	No of responses	% of responses
	All responses		Excluding 3 days	
Strongly agree	689	80.5%	448	80.3%
Tend to agree	122	14.3%	79	14.2%
Neither agree nor disagree	34	4.0%	20	3.6%
Tend to disagree	3	0.4%	3	0.5%
Strongly disagree	8	0.9%	8	1.4%
Total	856	100.0%	558	100.0%
Don't know/no opinion	88	-	65	-

5 Response from organisations.

Organisation were asked to comment on problematic activities for their organisation.

Responses from respondents who say they are responding on behalf of Brambles Wildlife Rescue (4 responses)

- Stanley Park Blackpool regular dog attacks on swans, ducks etc. that rescues are having to deal with on a regular basis now and sometimes are fatal. Quite aggressive attacks in and around the lake area Not only that, I do think dogs should be on leads in the park as some people and children are actually quite scared of dogs and other dogs are nervous of dogs off lead. My own dog is on a lead and reacts negatively and with stress when approached by an off lead dog. Dogs that have a high prey drive or a liking to attacking swans should in my view be on lead and muzzled.
- I hear constantly about dog attacks on swans I have been approached by dogs off leads in Stanley Park and it makes me very nervous and reluctant to visit. Also antisocial behaviour on Stanley Park and in some cemeteries in the area is unacceptable. Noise, litter, intimidation, vandalism etc. is all a problem
- People fishing on Stanley Park with no licence. People taking fish from the lake away from the park. Anglers killing pigeons to use for bait for fishing. Anglers fishing in areas densely populated with wildlife. Significant problems with fishing line causing injuries to wildlife due to the pond weed - fishing needs to be banned from the lake given the line is being caught on pondweed and nothing can be done to remove the pond weed.
- Our parks should be a pleasant experience for all but a minority of adults and children spoil this for everyone else. I must admit I do not visit parks and open spaces often as can sometimes find other people's behaviour stressful. It does make me sad when I see vandalism and bad behaviour. It seems no one is brought to task over it and there is no deterrent.
- Please consider making specific areas where dogs can be off lead on Stanley Park and not just make changes near the lake. The amount of people who contact us to say they cannot use the park because they don't feel their dog is safe on there because of other dogs off leads is astonishing. Make this a park everyone can use by creating specific areas where they can be off lead such as the disused bowling green or lower field, not just not by the lake. Please consider removing fishing permits from the lake. Given you can't afford to remove the pondweed, innocent wildlife are being frequently severely injured by fishing line and hooks because it gets caught on the weed. You cannot expect wildlife charities to pick up the bill for this whilst the concession who runs the fishing makes a profit from this. It is utterly ridiculous. If there is no solution to the pondweed, please remove the fishing. As a rescue we can't continue to attend using our time, vet bills and fuel while your concession cashes in and does little to address the problem. Finally, this park needs its rangers back. If any PSPO is to work it needs policing. Years ago you chose to pay for PCSOs instead of rangers- the PCSOs are never there. There is little point having a PSPO if there is no one present to police it. When Jesse the swan was killed you had the cctv footage. Yet neither you, nor the police have circulated the images of the dog owner. There is no deterrent and a PSPO will have no impact unless someone is there to

enforce it. Fylde Council have rangers to enforce PSPOs. Why can't you? Please get rangers back on the park, this is crucial if this is to have any effect.

Responses from respondents who say they are responding on behalf of Friends of Devonshire Road Rock Gardens (2 responses)

- Devonshire road rock gardens is a beautiful tranquil space spoilt by a minority of drinkers, drug users and irresponsible dog owners. As a friend's group we try to encourage more families to use the park but they are put off by the number of dogs allowed to run loose and leave mess.
- We need more patrols of wardens, police and other officers. Most of the anti-social behaviour is not within the 9 to 5
- Dogs off leads. Dog mess spoiling it for families to enjoy the park
- Dog dirt left by irresponsible dog owners
- Late night drinking and drugs in the rock gardens.
- Dogs off leads leaving mess in picnic areas, chasing wildlife, deterring a large number of non-dog people from using the park. Vandalism in and around the pond area. Late night drink and drugs.
- Been attacked a few times by dogs off leads

Responses from respondents who say they are responding on behalf of Blackpool BMX Club (1 response)

- The BMX Club based at Stanley Park is entirely voluntary. We do all the upkeep of the track including resurfacing and cutting the grass. We have massive problems with dog walkers using the track as an exercise course damaging the track and leaving dog mess everywhere. We also have problems with remote control cars ripping the track up and a huge problem with motorbikes using the track and doing massive damage we have to repair. It's not just this damage we have to put up with abuse and threats from the riders of these motorbikes as they think they have a right to use them on there, the police do absolutely nothing to stop them. They are usually on the park in the evenings when there is not a police officer in sight. I have no idea what the point of the CCTV is as that doesn't act as a deterrent.
- I have been personally threatened by users of motorbikes in Stanley Park when I have told them to get off the BMX track. I was threatened that I would be cut up.
- Unless there is enforcement of any new powers it will be pointless. As a stakeholder in Stanley Park being a club we feel powerless to stop these things. It would be a shame for a volunteer group to walk away due to these issues.

Responses from respondents who say they are responding on behalf of Blackpool RUFC (1 response)

- Dogs fouling on blackpool RUFC pitches

Responses from respondents who say they are responding on behalf of Friends of Layton Cemetery (1 response)

- We regularly have groups of people drinking alcohol, smoking cannabis and littering within Layton Cemetery. We often have tents which people live in. Youths in balaclavas ride around the streets of layton on bikes and/or mopeds, this can be intimidating
- The usual men who drink in the cemetery are actually quite decent chaps. However, when joined by women or younger lads they get nasty. I have been called names & threatened with violence.

Responses from respondents who say they are responding on behalf of Friends of Solaris Park (1 response)

- Additional issue of “Dogs off lead in play areas”

6 Face to face engagement in Stanley Park

41 face to face mini-interviews were conducted in Stanley Park on 4th September by Infusion’s fieldworkers.

28 respondents said they were residents/ worked in the area; **8** said they were on a staying-trip in Blackpool and **5** said they were on a day trip to Blackpool.

19 respondents were male and **22** were female across a wide age range.

31 respondents were White, **5** were of Mixed race, **2** were Black and **2** were Asian with **1** respondent preferring us not to use their data in the report.

The respondents were asked whether they had recently experienced or seen any activities from a pre-determined list, based on Question six in the survey, within Stanley Park.

Activities mentioned as follows:

- Alcohol – 5 mentions
- Commercial activities – 3 mentions
- Substance misuse – 2 mentions
- Dogs off-lead – 3 mentions
- Anti-social behaviour – 4 mentions

Additional activities such as fast cyclists, scooters, loud young people in groups, anglers leaving a mess sometimes were mentioned a few times but nothing was significant.

Conversely many of the respondents said that the park was absolutely beautiful, a pleasure to be there and were impressed with the scale and the activities provided.