

# Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish Council



## Public Space Protection Order Consultation Response

The draft PSPO proposals include a number of borough wide proposals relating to the control of dogs and also one specific proposal for the play area on Greenside, Yarnfield. The parish council having considered the draft PSPO set out in the Cabinet report [CAB 18/06/2026] make the following proposals.

### Recommendation

Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish Council:

- I. Supports the proposed borough wide order relating to dog fouling.
- II. Supports the proposed borough wide order relating to a maximum of 4 dogs walked at any one time.
- III. The proposed order excluding dogs from The Green, Yarnfield should be amended to be a "no dogs off lead" area.
- IV. Recommends that the following two locations are designated as "no dogs off lead" areas:
  - Children's Play Area, Worthington Grove, Yarnfield
  - Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA), Yarnfield Parkway

### Justification

The Parish Council supports the Borough Council's objective of protecting children while using play facilities. However, in relation to Greenside Playground, we believe that a complete exclusion of dogs goes further than is necessary to achieve that objective.

Greenside Playground is one of the village's most popular family destinations. Its central location means that many residents walk to the playground with their children, often accompanied by the family dog. It is common for parents or guardians to supervise their children while keeping a well-controlled dog with them.

Under the proposed dog exclusion, a parent or guardian who enters the playground while accompanied by their dog would be committing an offence, even if the dog remains under close control. We do not believe this is the intended outcome of the PSPO.

A "no dogs off lead" designation would provide an appropriate and proportionate solution. It would:

- protect children by ensuring dogs remain under effective control;
- allow families to continue using the playground without unnecessary restriction; and
- avoid creating situations where parents are forced to choose between supervising their children and complying with the PSPO.

The Parish Council therefore considers that a “no dogs off leads” requirement achieves the desired public safety outcome while being more practical, proportionate and enforceable than a total dog exclusion.

### **Additional Play Areas**

The Parish Council would also recommend that new "no dogs off lead" orders are put in place for the two other children's play areas in Yarnfield:

- Children's Play Area, Worthington Grove – plan supplied.
- Multi-Use Play Area, Yarnfield Parkway – plan supplied.

The justification for these two areas mirrors that for Greenside Playground. The Parish Council considers that requiring dogs to be kept on leads provides an effective means of protecting children using the play facilities, while allowing parents and guardians to supervise their children without being required to leave a family dog unattended outside the designated area.

A consistent "no dogs off lead" approach across all three children's play areas would therefore provide a clear, proportionate and practical arrangement for residents, while still achieving the Borough Council's objective of protecting children from uncontrolled dogs.

### **Consultation**

The Cabinet Report [CAB 18/06/2026 para. 5.9(iii)] refers to consultation with partners when drafting the proposed orders. It is therefore disappointing that Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish Council, having made proposals that were not adopted in 2023, were not included in the latest round of consultation that led to the drafting of the latest proposals.

John Fraser  
Parish Clerk  
Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish Council