



PRESS RELEASE

DOGS ON LEADS IN CIRENCESTER ABBEY GROUNDS

From the 15th of March, for a trial period until the 31st of July, dogs must be kept on the lead at all times in the Abbey Grounds. This decision, led by the Mayor, is in response to the complaints made by local people and community groups. The Mayor of Cirencester Mark Harris, who is also Town Councillor for Park Ward and a dog owner, is keen to stress that this is for a trial period. 'Something has to be done to address the issues that have been raised around dogs in the Abbey Grounds. When I was appointed Mayor I vowed that dog fouling would be one of my top priorities. The Abbey Grounds is the town centre park; to be enjoyed by everyone.'

The three key issues that have been raised are dog fouling, dogs not under control and dogs disturbing wildlife on the lake. It is recognised that the majority of dog walkers behave in a responsible way, picking up after their dog and not letting them run off and disturb other people.

The Town Council is keen to engage with everyone who uses the park with the aim of finding a way to address the problems raised. A questionnaire has been devised to explore these issues and give people the opportunity to share their

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views and make suggestions. The questionnaire 'Dogs in the Abbey Grounds' will be open until 31st May 2016 and can be found on the Town Council website www.cirencester.gov.uk or a paper copy can be found at the Information Centre in Dyer Street.

'This trial period of keeping dogs on leads at all times will enable us to see if this makes a difference' says the Mayor. Dog walkers are asked to abide by this decision, which is in fact in accordance with the local bylaws. 'At the end of the trial period we will be in a position to review the effectiveness of keeping dogs on leads and the feedback from the questionnaire will help us move forward.'

The Lead Member for Estate Services, Councillor Andrew Lichnowski, said that the Estate Services Group, which oversees the management of open spaces on behalf of the Town Council, hopes that these measures will help improve the experience of all who visit the Abbey Grounds.

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Notes to Editors

For further information please contact Estates Services at the Town Council on:

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