

**Animal Advisory Committee****Minutes****Thursday 20 July 2023**

**Present: Councillors:** Councillor Mary-Lou Jarvis (Chair)  
Councillor Nicola Grieve

**Residents**

Paul Mitchell  
Brigette Regener  
Rebekah Lam

**Staff**

Roger Faulkner (Team Leader Open Spaces and Rec Planning)  
Colin DeCosta (Coordinator Regulatory Services)  
Billy Abbassi (Ranger – Animal Control)

**Meeting opened:** 5.00pm held using teleconferencing technology

**1. Opening****2. Acknowledgement of Country****3. Apologies**

**Staff:** Scott Pedder (Director Planning and Place)  
Paul Fraser (Manager Open Space & Trees)  
Paul Saffery (Ranger – Animal Control)  
Andrew Charles (Team Leader – Regulatory Services)  
Suzy Rich (Team Leader - Regulatory Services)  
Sophie O'Malley (Secretary)

**Professionals:** Michael Linton and Lea Dazley

**Residents:** Adam Courtney

Note: Quorum not reached, however Committee agreed to move ahead with Meeting.

**4. Declarations of Interest**

Nil.

**5. Late Correspondence**

Correspondence received by Councillor Jarvis from Councillor Regan regarding signage, referring to Ku-ring-gai Council's signage. Councillor Jarvis to distribute.

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**6. Confirmation of Minutes**

### Confirmation of Minutes

**Item No:** 6.1  
**Subject:** **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON 23RD APRIL 2023**  
**Author:** Sophie O'Malley, Administration Officer

**Recommendation:**

THAT the minutes of the Animal Advisory Committee meeting held on 23 April 2023 be confirmed and correct. Minutes circulated by email, moved by Rebekah Lam and seconded by Councillor Grieve.

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## 7. Items for Discussion

Nil

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## 8. General Business

**Item No:** 8.1  
**Subject:** **BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**  
**Author:** Sophie O'Malley, Administration Officer

**Recommendation:**

A. Review findings from public exhibition for LGA wide Dog Controls

Roger Faulkner to present public exhibition results and draft recommendations for discussion

- 476 submissions
- Council meeting most likely Monday 4 September to present recommendations
- **Bellevue Park**
  - o Proposal: Change from on leash to off leash 4:30pm-8:30am
  - o Recommendation: No change to proposal due to proximity to school
- **Blackburn Gardens and Redleaf**
  - o This area was not included in the proposal however submissions received requesting on leash access to park and pool
  - o Dogs currently prohibited
  - o Recommendation: Introduce a control for all day on leash access to café level only
- **Camp Cove Reserve**
  - o Proposal: Change controls from on leash to off leash untimed
  - o Recommendation: Keep as proposed for off leash and untimed
  - o 5 submissions (1 for timed unleash, 3 against, 1 supportive)
- **Christison Park**
  - o No proposals to change existing protocols. Currently off leash 3:30pm-10:30am except during organised sports
  - o No change to current protocol
  - o 22 submissions were received mainly commenting on plans of managements and recreational strategy around organised sport

- **Cooper Park (upper/amphitheatre)**
  - o Proposal: change from on leash to off leash at all times
  - o 5 submissions (4 supportive and 1 seeking fencing to protect dogs)
  - o Recommendation – Keep as proposed
  
- **Cooper Park (north)** – near playground and community garden
  - o Proposal: change from on leash to off leash at all times
  - o Recommendation: Keep as proposed but additional playground fencing would be required
  
- **Cooper Park (Figtree Lane)**
  - o Proposal: change from on leash to off leash at all times
  - o Recommendation: Keep as proposed and investigate recommended fencing
  - o 17 supported and 2 against suggesting time
  - o Councilor Grieve advised from discussion with residents, they would like a low hedge or fence to protect dogs from running onto busy road
  
- **Cooper Park (lower end)**
  - o No proposals to change current existing 4:30pm-8:30am off leash time
  
- **Cooper Park (as a whole)**
  - o Submissions came back with concerns for endangered wildlife
  - o No recommendation required
  
- **Derby Street Reserve**
  - o Proposal: Change from dogs prohibited to off leash at all times
  - o Recommendation: Change to on leash at all times due to proximity to houses, size of reserve and it may affect the exercise opportunities of the elderly
  
- **Elms Street Reserve (not part of proposal)**
  - o Submission asking to be unleashed
  - o Recommendation – Remains as dogs prohibited as reserve is a fenced playground where dogs prohibited
  
- **Gap Park**
  - o Note: a separate exhibition was opened for public comments on proposed changes as it was not included in original public exhibition
  - o Proposal: keep park prohibited but allow dogs on leash on pathways
  - o 15 submissions with 59 signatures (arguments against concern of habitat and threatened species)
  - o Discussion: Keep as proposed for on leash on pathways and not prohibit. If people do right thing then having the link from there to Christison Park would be beneficial
  - o Gap Park is a highly protected area with the management of endangered species and remnant bushland. Committee agreed that a strategy needed for serious education and signage as the area is very important bushland
  
- **Gibsons Beach**
  - o Proposal: Keep Gibsons beach prohibited with the exception of the area between the pilot station and Marine Parade turning circle. This area would be off leash at all times.
  - o 29 submissions – 26 against and 3 supportive. Arguments made due to size, proximity to private properties, difficult for rangers to control, high density of people, hygiene etc.
  - o Recommendations: Keep as proposed

- **Lady Martins Beach**
  - o No proposed changes - Keep on leash
- **Lighthouse Reserve**
  - o No proposed changes
  - o 3 submissions supporting of no change to stay off leash
- **Lough Playing Fields**
  - o No proposal to current protocol except organised sport
  - o Recommendation: No change due to large amount of bookings and school groups and fitness groups
- **Lyne Park**
  - o No proposal to change
  - o Recommendation: No change
- **Moncur Reserve**
  - o Off leash trial in 2022 timed – no change
- **Parsley Bay Reserve (upper reserve from The Crescent to bridge)**
  - o Proposal: Only area included in the proposal is the reserve from The Crescent to the bridge to be on leash
  - o 21 submissions (13 against, 5 supportive and 3 seeking recommendations). The submissions were aimed at Parsley Bay as a whole rather than the specific area
  - o Recommendation: No change to proposal
- **Old Paddington Bowling Club**
  - o No change and not Council's land to manage
- **Robertson Park and Beach**
  - o Proposal: Change from dogs prohibited to off leash 4:30pm-8:30am
  - o 19 submissions: 11 supportive, 7 against, 1 on fence
  - o Recommendation: No change to proposal
  - o Committee discussed that given Robertson Park is a main area for visitors and tourists coming off the ferry the area is not appropriate for dogs. Therefore, it would be preferable for dogs on leash in the park, especially on the pathway so dog walkers can walk through rather than having to walk around
- **Rose Bay Beach (Bellami Beach - behind police station)**
  - o Proposal: Change from dogs on leash to off leash at all times
  - o Recommendation: No recommendation had been concluded and was open for discussion
  - o Main concerns were it is an area kept for dinghies, lots of families and young children and there is a children's playground. Big concern is dog attacks around young children
  - o It is only a short distance to Rose Bay Beach which is off leash at all times and it is also near Lyne Park which is also timed, unleashed
- **Rose Bay Foreshore:**
  - o No change to current controls between Dumaresq and Percival Park
  - o Recommendation: No change
- **Royal Hospital for Women**
  - o No change to off leash controls (prohibited Sundays)
  - o 10 submissions: 9 supportive seeking recommendations for fence
  - o Recommendations: No change to protocols

- **Rushcutters Bay Park**
  - o Keep as proposed – No change to current protocol
- **Samuel Park**
  - o Proposal: Change from on leash to off leash untimed
  - o Recommendation: No change but consider fencing current playground
- **Signal Hill Reserve**
  - o No change
- **Steyne Park/Double Bay Beach**
  - o No change to current off leash for northern end
  - o Recommendation: Extend off leash controls to entire park with exception of organised sport and bookings from 4:30pm-8:30am
  - o It is a park used by the schools daily and they have bookings for that so park would not be used by dogs during those times
  - o No change to Double Bay Beach due to high crowd density, tide and inappropriate
- **Tingira Memorial Park**
  - o Current controls: Dogs prohibited
  - o Recommendation: Change to on leash for people to be able to walk through
- **Trumper Park – not part of proposal**
  - o No proposals – Keep as on leash
  - o 6 submissions seeking lift of dog prohibition for Oval
  - o Recommendation – No change due to threatened species, and extensive bookings at Trumper Oval
- **Woollahra Ovals 2 and 3**
  - o Proposal: Change from on leash to off leash 3:30pm-10:30am
  - o 5 submissions – Clubs concerned, play rugby and occasionally dog faeces and have to go round before game to clean up
  - o Recommendation: No change to proposal
  - o Discussion: Dogs always seen unleashed and the sports clubs often leave a lot of rubbish on field
- **LGA wide/general submission**
  - o 310 submissions
  - o 196 made comments
  - o 114 indicated satisfaction with proposals no comment
  - o Major themes
    - Waste/hygiene
    - Compliance/safety concerns
    - Dog etiquette
    - Environmental impacts
    - Competing uses

The next meeting will look at the major themes presented from the review and how to address them. The focus will be on encouraging dog faeces collection, education, environmental impacts and managing unleashed areas during organised sport times. The issues arising will create a need for more compliance checks and regulation of new rules

**Note: Councillor Jarvis left meeting at 6.01pm handed over to Councillor Grieve.**

The committee discussed that with this review will come an opportunity for:

- Funding for signage
  - Education and information sessions
  - Pop up stalls to help educate and inform residents as to reasons why parks have rules
  - Opportunity to put on social media advising residents that Council has completed a review and listened to residents
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## 9. Advisings

**Item No:** 1

**Subject:** **ADVISINGS TO COMMITTEE**

**Author:** Sophie O'Malley, Administration Officer

**Recommendation:**

A. Parliamentary inquiry into NSW Pounds

- Colin to advise the Committee that Council has been invited to make a submission - closing date 18 August 2023
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## 10. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for TBA.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 6:14pm.

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