

I do not oppose the changing of the 3m exclusion zone around playgrounds to 10m

I do not oppose the changing of Blenheim township from no dogs to dogs on lead allowed

**I oppose** every change of off leash area to on leash area.

**I oppose** the changing of Ward Beach and Pollard Park to no dog areas.

- 1) I have two Border Collies and they require at least one long walk, over an hour every day. In order to get the stimulation they require they must be walked off the lead. Being walked on the lead is great for walking to get somewhere, say along the road, or walking past a dangerous obstacle, but an entire on lead walk does not give any dog (let alone a Border Collie) enough mental stimulation or exercise. So, for all of the areas on your proposal that have been suggested as on leash areas would effectively be the banning of walking for us.
- 2) I got the dogs knowing I would be able to use the great resources Blenheim had available for dog walking. If I knew this was going to change so drastically, I would have not got dogs as it is unfair on them to have such limited space to go walking.
- 3) The reasoning for most of the changes is conflict with users from uncontrolled dogs and issues with dog fouling.
  - a) People that have uncontrolled dogs that cause issues are the minority and are also the sort of people that will not be obeying any rule changes. If dogs are kept on leads more, they will also lose the ability to socialise making the problem worse.
  - b) The proposed changes will also push more dogs into the reduced amount off leash areas that remain, increasing the risk of conflicts.
  - c) Dog poo, hate to break it to you but dog's poo while on leads too. I don't see how having your dog on a lead helps you decide if you will pick up your dogs poo or not. Once again there are responsible dog owners that pick up poo and there are a small number that don't, having them on a lead will not help this.
  - d) There are no facts provided to back up the statements made in the proposed changes. No research/surveys. There isn't even a reason provided for the change to no dogs at Ward Beach and Pollard Park.
- 4) As a dog owner I try to ensure that my dogs get exposed to a variety of different environments and situations, this helps with their development. It makes for a more rounded happy dog. The proposal you have made dramatically reduces the number of places we can go to achieve this. We regularly walk off lead at the following locations that will no longer be allowed:
  - Taylor River from Beaver Road to Burley Bridge (once to twice a day)
  - Essons Valley tracks (once to twice a week)
  - Tracks around the snout on Victoria domain (once to twice a week)

- 5) We often walk at the Taylor River from beaver road to burley bridge, this will no longer be possible. I see number of problems with this area of the proposal.
  - a) There is a number of older members of the public that walk their dogs off leash here. Many of them walk here because there is a good quality footpath. This is not the case further up the river where the quality of the footpath is not suitable for them to walk safely as it is rough and uneven.
  - b) Similar to the point above many parents (me being one) choose to walk with a pram along this section. The footpath further up the river is not suitable for everyday prams as it is rough and uneven.
  - c) Walking two dogs on leads and a pram is not safe for other path users. This creates a major hazard for passing runners and bikes.
  - d) In summer this is the only place along the Taylor river that has enough water to allow the dogs to go into the river to cool off. Blenheim can get some very hot days and it would be cruel to walk you dog somewhere that they couldn't cool off. Another consideration is the shade available, there is almost no big trees along the upper reaches of the river where as there is plenty below Burley Bridge.
- 6) While we are on the topic, what do you think is safer for a runner or cyclist passing anyone with dogs:
  - a) An overly energetic dog that hasn't had enough exercise attached to its owner by a thin hard to see lead or
  - b) A dog that is free to move as it wills to get out of danger.
- 7) I walk everyday with my dogs and at most of the places I take my dogs, the majority of other users are dog owners. This is partially apparent at the Taylor river.
- 8) I find it counter intuitive that the proposal allows dogs into Blenheim CBD but dogs are being restricted in other places.