

PETITIONS

The presentation of a petition shall be limited to not more than three minutes and shall be confined to reading out, or summarising, the prayer of the petition and indicating the number and description of the signatories.

A petition presented to the Council meeting shall be received without discussion and shall be included on the agenda for the next available meeting of the Cabinet or relevant Cabinet Member, Committee or Sub-Committee.

The following e-petitions have been received.

(a) Councillor Fryer

“We the undersigned petition the council to review the operation of the dog control order in Queens Park, and to return all areas to the dog-free status which they enjoyed prior to January 2009.”

In the 1970's, and following a popular community campaign highlighting the problem of dog fouling in Queens Park, the southern lawns around the clocktower and down to the lake were declared 'dog free' leaving the northern lawns below North Drive as an area for exercising dogs. This arrangement has worked well over the past 30 years with a strong community of dog owners meeting daily in the northern area, and the southern lawns used extensively for family picnics, games and general leisure, as well as a habitat and feeding area for ducks, geese and other birds living on and around the lake.

Friends of Queens Park support this petition.

(b) Mr Paul Mendlesohn

“We the undersigned petition the council to NOT ban dogs from the Southern Lawns, lake and Wild Park areas of Queens Park.”

Following public consultation the Dog Control Order came into force in January 2009. This Order gives dog walkers the same access rights as other people for the majority of parks and public spaces in Brighton and Hove. This was welcomed by the community who live around and utilise Queens Park, as it is an important area for local people to meet and exercise their dogs.

The historic 'dog friendly' area in the park is small and its proximity to the road has caused a number of road accidents in which some dogs have been fatally injured. This also constitutes a danger to drivers and their passengers.

Parents who are dog owners have mentioned how difficult it was to walk both children and dogs in Queens Park. As dogs previously weren't allowed into most of the park, this led to overcrowding in the historic dog friendly area when the rest of the park was often empty.

As dog walkers use most parks and public spaces in the UK without problems or difficulties we would like dog walkers to retain access to all areas of Queens Park excluding the children's' play area.

However we would like to suggest that dogs should be kept on a lead in the vicinity of the lake.