

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ):

Are the Orders a law?

Answer: Yes. The Council is given the power under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. The Public Spaces Protection Order will supersede any current Orders/By-laws/Notices many of which are not enforceable.

Section 1: Offence by failing to pick up after your dog has fouled forthwith:

Do I have to pick up my dog mess?

Answer: Yes, if you are in charge of a dog at the time it fouls then you will need to remove the faeces forthwith.

What happens if I don't pick up my dog mess?

Answer: if a person in charge of the dog does not pick up after their dog has fouled forthwith they could be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice by an authorised officer or prosecuted for the offence.

I have a disability; do I still need to pick up after my dog?

Answer: This depends; if you have a registered assistance dog you are exempt from the Order. If you do not have a registered assistance dog then you are still required to pick up after your dog if you are able to do so.

What does 'forthwith' mean?

Answer: The legal definition of forthwith is immediately.

Section 2: Requirements to carry a means of removing dog faeces:

Should I have dog bags with me when I'm walking a dog?

Answer: Yes, you should always have a 'means' to pick up your dog foul.

How many dog bags should I have with me?

Answer: There is no set limit of dog bags you should carry at any one time; however it is advisable that you carry more than enough to make sure you're covered for any unforeseen circumstances.

What happens if I am stopped by an authorised officer and I don't have any dog bags with me?

Answer: You may be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice or prosecuted.

Section 3: Dogs on lead and by direction:

Can I walk my dog off the lead?

Answer: You can walk your dog off the lead in most areas of the Borough of Rushcliffe. However, there will be designated locations where your dog must be kept on a lead. There are certain locations and circumstances where you are required or may be told to keep/put your dog on a lead by an authorised officer. If your dog is causing an annoyance and/or nuisance to members of the public, then you may be told by an authorised officer to put your dog on a lead.

What happens if I refuse?

Answer: Should you refuse to put your dog on a lead without a reasonable excuse, the authorised officer will issue you with a Fixed Penalty Notice or prosecuted.

Must I have my dog on a lead in a specified area?

Yes, your dog must be on a lead in these areas at all times and it is an offence not to have your dog on a lead and you may be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice or prosecuted.

Section 3: Dog Exclusion

Why can't I let my dog on an enclosed play/sports area?

Answer: Rushcliffe Borough Council is committed to making sure our enclosed children's play areas and enclosed sport areas are a safe and clean environment for all to enjoy. Due to the health risk associated with dog faeces we feel this is a reasonable measure to introduce.

What parks are covered in the PSPO?

Answer: Most enclosed play and sport areas in Rushcliffe will be covered. Other locations may be covered too and will be showing signage.

Fixed Penalty Notice:

What is a Fixed Penalty Notice?

Answer: Fixed Penalty Notice or a conditional offer of fixed penalty is an administrative alternative to prosecution before the magistrates' court which includes a fine. You will be issued a notice on the spot or through the post. If you accept you are guilty and pay the fine, you will avoid a court summons, but if you challenge it you will have to appear in court.

Viewing the order

Where can I view the details of the proposed Order?

Answer: the order is currently available on the council's website and has been in place since 2022. This is freely available to view, but if you require to see a printed copy this can be arranged at the following locations during normal opening hours at the following locations:

OFFICIAL

Rushcliffe Customer Contact Point
West Bridgford Library, Bridgford Road, West Bridgford
Nottingham, NG2 6AT

Monday 9.00am-5pm, Tuesday CLOSED, Wednesday CLOSED, Thursday 9.00am-5pm, Friday
9.00am-4.30pm

Cotgrave : Cotgrave Hub, Rivermead, Cotgrave, Nottingham NG12 3UQ.
Mondays 8.30am-5pm

Bingham : Bingham Health Centre on Newgate Street, NG13 8FD.
Thursdays 9.30am-5pm

East Leake : East Leake Library, Gotham Road, LE12 6JG.
Wednesdays 9.00am-12.30pm

Full details are available on our website, visit: www.rushcliffe.gov.uk

To arrange to view a paper copy please contact customer services **0115 981 9911**
or customerservices@rushcliffe.gov.uk