

PETITION REQUEST FOR A DOG PARK IN DOWDING PARK

Cabinet Member	Councillor Eddie Lavery
Cabinet Portfolio	Cabinet Member for Residents' Services
Officer Contact	Stuart Hunt – Head of Green Spaces
Papers with report	Plan / Map

HEADLINES

Summary	To inform the Cabinet Member that a petition has been submitted for a Dog Park to be added to Dowding Park.
Putting our Residents First Delivering on the Council Strategy 2022-2026	This report supports our ambition for residents/ the Council of: Enjoy access to green spaces, leisure activities, culture and arts This report supports our commitments to residents of: A Green and Sustainable Borough
Financial Cost	There are no direct financial implications associated with the recommendations to this report.
Relevant Select Committee	Residents' Services Select Committee.
Relevant Ward	Hillingdon West.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet Member for Residents' Services

- 1. Meets with petitioners and listens to their request to have a Dog Park added to Dowding Park.**

Reasons for recommendation

A petition was received by Democratic Services to install a 'Dog Park' in Dowding Park, Uxbridge. The Council's procedures enable such petitions to be heard by the relevant Cabinet Member. The petition hearing will provide an opportunity to hear directly from petitioners of their suggestion.

Alternative options considered/ risk management

None at this stage.

Select Committee comments

None at this stage.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. A resident petition was received in 2022 with just over 100 signatories as follows:

“With over 100 dogs that live within walking distance to Dowding Park the number of times pets get loose or are forced to play (and get tangled) with leads on as there is no suitable safe location that dogs (especially puppies that still require recall training).

Dowding park is also a community hub for kids and other residence to play and exercise with the wonderful kids’ playground and football pitches, or the beautiful wooded trails to walk. But if you have a pet (dogs) you have no where to go in the local area to safely train and or just let your pet off the lead to have a good run. With some breeds of dog if they do not receive an adequate amount of exercise per day, they can create a multitude of health issues and lead to a decreased quality of life for the animal.

Due to the proximity of so many schools having a safe place to let your pet roam without fear of little kids running around or kids trying to come and pet your animal while they are playing or doing training is extremely vital for safety. We the dog owning residence are requesting Hillingdon Council to make our community as safe for our pets as you do for the other residence.

Within St. Andrews Park and Dowding park there are to be 7 separate kid play areas yet the hundreds of dogs in the area have no where to be able to run off lead or to play with their other animal friends safely.

We know certain dogs in our area would still require access and the ability to roam freely off lead in the other areas of the park but for a majority of the dogs a safe play area would be highly used and sought after.”

2. There are currently no Dog Parks within Hillingdon’s parks and open spaces.
 - Dog Parks are usually privately owned secure areas where dog owners can exercise their dogs safely off lead either in a group or on their own.
 - They are mostly commercial ventures.
 - In addition to safe and secure fencing, todays secure fields are likely to have features to enhance the dogs’ natural instinct to run free and investigate their surroundings.
 - It is unusual for Local Authorities to provide spaces purely for dogs.
3. Current and proposed Public Spaces Protection Orders cover dogs in the following way:
 - A person commits an offence if, without reasonable excuse, any dog in their charge defecates on land within the ‘restricted area’ and they fail to remove the faeces and deposit it in a dog faeces receptacle, forthwith.
 - A person commits an offence if they fail to place a lead on a dog (which at the time the person is in charge of or responsible for) when the dog is on a pavement by a road (within 3 metres of a carriageway) or when required to do so by an authorised officer

- It is currently not an offence to allow a dog off the lead unless instructed to do so by signage or instruction.

A plan of Dowding Park is included in this report for reference.

Financial Implications

None at this stage and dependant on any decision by the Cabinet Member.

RESIDENT BENEFIT & CONSULTATION

The benefit or impact upon Hillingdon residents, service users and communities

The petition hearing will allow for the petitioners' request to be heard and options discussed.

Consultation carried out or required

None at this stage.

CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS

Corporate Finance

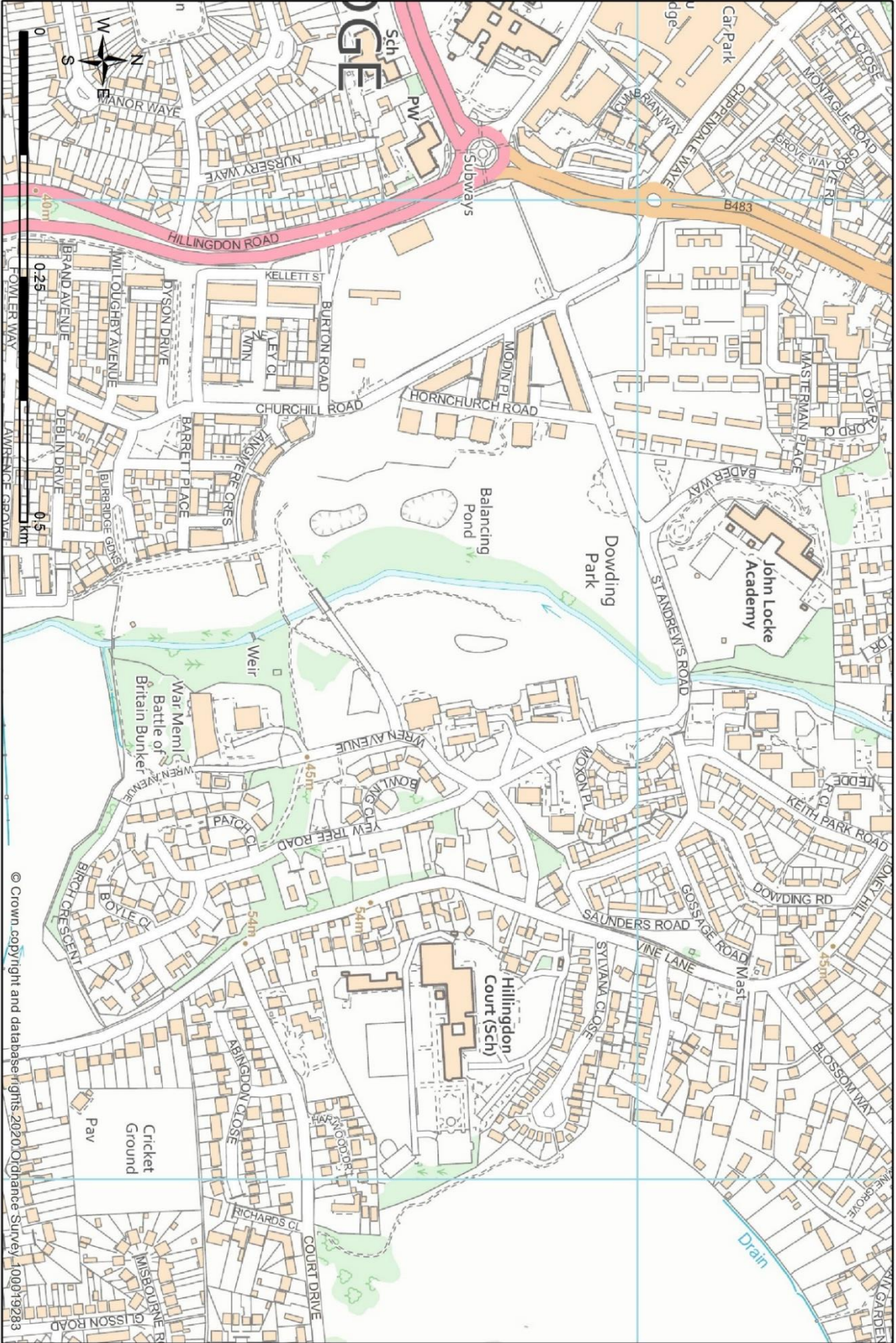
Corporate Finance has reviewed this report and there are no immediate financial implications, though dependent on any decision made any financial costs would need to be absorbed by the service area.

Legal

Legal Services confirm that there are no specific legal implications arising at the moment. Should the Council wish to consider the introduction of a Dog Park additional legal advice will be given as necessary.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL.



Map Notes

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