

Appendix 7

From: Hale, Darren

Sent: 13 June 2019 12:18

To: Egbor, Simon <Simon.Egbor@brent.gov.uk>

Subject: Dogs off leads - Paddington Old Cemetery

Dear Simon

Please see below my statement on the concerns raised by visitors and grave owners concerning dogs off leads at Paddington Old Cemetery.

The Cemeteries Officers report a number of calls per year where visitors or grave owners wish to report issues of dogs off leads and or fouling on graves etc. We request they formally write in or email their concerns so it can be recorded. However the majority of the time they decline as the state they are in fear of reprisals for dog owners. Some report direct intimidation where they have approached dog walkers and raised concerns of fouling or urinating on graves or headstones. For some even the walking over the grave was upsetting, especially if recently buried.

Residents have also reported being scared by dogs (sometimes a number at once) bounding up to them and sniffing around them or scaring them. Not everyone likes dogs and large or even small barking dogs can be of concern. Professional dog walkers may have 5 -10 dogs at a time with many off lead. It is difficult to imagine how they can reasonably control such a large number and be confident they would not run over, foul, urinate on a grave or approach other visitors.

The new area on the mound area D has decorative stone finish. I and the cemeteries manager have visited this area over the last few months as part of the ongoing development. We have noted on many occasions dog faeces and paw prints in the soil areas. Given the large area of the cemetery I can see no reason for dogs to be walked in this area. Plus the fouling would indicate either the dogs were out of control, unaccompanied or the owners were permitting their dogs to foul. As on decorative stone the fouling is clear and unpleasant.

Given there is plenty of alternative space I would recommend dogs are not permitted of leads on the mound. Signs and or fencing can be placed to distinguish this area.

If a dog walks closely by its owner's side and comes on command I consider this as under control. If the dog runs freely, approaches, sniffing and or barking at other visitors and then does not return on demand that it is not under the control of the walker. If the dog is out of sight or the owner is not paying attention to the dog then it can foul or at inappropriately without their knowledge.

Many dog walkers are respectful of the sensitive nature of a cemetery but unfortunately a number are not that can be distressing to the bereaved families.

I trust this helps explain the position from the cemeteries point and that of many grave owners who may not be dog owners or may be upset by such events.

Darren Hale
Commercial Manager
Environmental Services

Regeneration and Environmental Services
Brent Council

(020) 8937 2389

www.brent.gov.uk