

Financial Budget Comparison

Agenda Item 5

Comparison between 01/04/15 and 29/02/16 inclusive. Includes due and unpaid transactions.

Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/15

		2015/2016	Rev 2015/2016	Actual Net	Balance
Open Spaces					
Income					
20	Allotment Rents	£3,650.00	£3,720.00	£4,045.70	£325.70
21	Grants	£5,800.00	£5,800.00	£2,460.35	-£3,339.65
22	Interment Charges	£33,660.00	£33,660.00	£26,322.00	-£7,338.00
23	Memorial Plaques	£28,650.00	£28,650.00	£23,244.33	-£5,405.67
24	Miscellaneous	£250.00	£10,250.00	£12,931.12	£2,681.12
26	Trade Concessions	£0.00	£250.00	£250.00	£0.00
27	Wayleaves/Easements	£50.00	£5,000.00	£5,793.50	£793.50
28	Allotments Keys	£25.00	£25.00	£0.00	-£25.00
29	Parish Paths Grant	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	£1,599.00	-£401.00
30	Common Lettings	£1,750.00	£5,000.00	£3,736.25	-£1,263.75
31	Memorial Benches	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
32	Admin Fees	£50.00	£50.00	£0.00	-£50.00
Total Income		£75,885.00	£94,405.00	£80,382.25	-£14,022.75
Expenditure					
200	Salaries	£65,500.00	£65,500.00	£56,943.08	£8,556.92
201	Income Tax & NI	£22,500.00	£22,925.00	£19,291.41	£3,633.59
202	Superannuation	£24,500.00	£26,250.00	£23,712.24	£2,537.76
203	Travelling Expenses	£1,550.00	£1,550.00	£972.15	£577.85
204	Cemetery Rates	£975.00	£975.00	£804.00	£171.00
205	Allotment Services	£1,500.00	£1,500.00	£662.97	£837.03
206	Allotment Maintenance	£1,225.00	£1,225.00	£802.94	£422.06
207	Cemetery Maintenance	£1,225.00	£1,225.00	£350.97	£874.03
208	Cemetery Services	£55.00	£55.00	£49.44	£5.56
209	Christchurch Cemetery	£4,200.00	£4,200.00	£2,196.00	£2,004.00
210	Contribution to Funds	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
211	Dog Bin Maintenance	£3,775.00	£3,775.00	£2,741.60	£1,033.40
212	Equipment & Tools	£1,020.00	£1,020.00	£450.83	£569.17
213	Seats	£0.00	£0.00	£99.36	-£99.36
214	Grass Cutting/Grazing	£6,120.00	£6,120.00	£7,283.78	-£1,163.78
215	Skip Hire	£1,635.00	£1,635.00	£920.00	£715.00
216	Tree Surgery & Inspection Reports	£5,100.00	£5,100.00	£200.00	£4,900.00
217	Ground Maintenance	£5,100.00	£5,100.00	£5,492.85	-£392.85
218	Groewood & Tree Inspection	£1,530.00	£1,530.00	£0.00	£1,530.00
219	Legal fees	£2,000.00	£2,500.00	£2,398.50	£101.50
220	Maintenance of Horse track	£500.00	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00
221	Memorial Plaques	£16,700.00	£16,700.00	£14,537.35	£2,162.65
222	Miscellaneous	£1,500.00	£1,500.00	£1,063.91	£436.09
223	Refurbishment of Plaques	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
224	Refuse Collection	£875.00	£1,300.00	£1,291.43	£8.57
225	Mobile Telephone	£400.00	£400.00	£345.00	£55.00
226	Vehicle Maintenance	£5,350.00	£5,350.00	£3,362.67	£1,987.33
227	Litter Bins	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£828.00	£172.00
228	Chiltern AONB & CMS	£1,900.00	£975.00	£974.00	£1.00
229	Health & Safety	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	£1,237.40	£762.60
230	Parish Paths	£500.00	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00
231	Allotment Competition	£350.00	£350.00	£345.27	£4.73
232	Parking Meters	£1,580.00	£2,500.00	£2,097.90	£402.10
233	Surveys	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Total Expenditure		£182,165.00	£185,260.00	£151,455.05	£33,804.95

Date: TUESDAY 8TH MARCH 2016

Subject: OPEN SPACES OFFICERS REPORT

Committee Member:

Officer Contributors: Andrew Goddard Parish Ranger, Claire James Deputy Clerk

Status (public or exempt): Public

Wards affected: All

Enclosures: Appendix 1 Tree Work Quotes (to follow)

Contact for further information: Parish Rangers, Deputy Clerk

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. PROVISION OF POTTED PLANT HOLDERS:

Members are asked to consider whether they wish to

- 1) Continue with the provision of pot holders for potted plants during the winter months
- 2) extend the availability of the pot holders into the summer months
(See Para 5.1.1).

2. Turfing of Graves:

Members are asked to consider a recommendation from the Rangers that graves are now seeded with grass seed rather than re-turfed when the turf becomes available.

(See Para 5.1.2)

3. TREWORK

Members are asked to consider which Contractor to engage for the tree and survey work identified.

(See Para 5.4)

4. Renewal of Parking Enforcement Contract 16/17 :

For the second year running there is to be no increase in charges for the Parking Enforcement Contract for 2016/17 and the Contract is due to be renewed at the beginning of April 2016. Members are asked to consider recommending renewal of the contract, which will cover enforcement at all three areas – War Memorial Hall and Shepherds Bridge permissive parking areas and parking outside the Old Shepherd at a cost of £1550 plus VAT.

(see para 5.5)

2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Pot Holders for the Lawn Cemetery

Open Spaces 11.11.14 14/44 PROPOSED CHANGE TO CEMETERY RULES TO ALLOW POTTED PLANTS ON GRAVES IN WINTER

The Committee RESOLVED

That 50 x 5inch flat sided pot holders be purchased which would then be available to purchase at cost plus VAT by visitors to the Cemetery. These holders would be numbered and the purchaser's details kept on record. The pot holders would be left in place until the end of February when it would be expected that the owners would remove them for storage. The rule amendment was agreed with the addition of a reference to the purchase and removal at the end of the winter of the pot holders by the owners. The originator of the request would be advised by letter of this resolution.

Permissive Parking Area Parking Scheme:

Open Spaces 17.11.15 The Committee agreed and **RESOLVED**

That the Officers organise a parking meter scheme for the Old Shepherd permissive parking area, to operate at the same times as the rest of the area.

As residents and the Old Shepherd pub had paid easements, two parking permits would be issued to each property to allow them to continue to park without having to obtain a parking ticket.

Allotments

Open Spaces 12.01.16 Minute 15/69 The Committee **RESOLVED** that

- 1) Notices be put up advising that the dumping of rubbish and garden waste was not permitted in the allotments and Fly tippers would be prosecuted
- 2) A strongly worded letter be sent to residents backing on to the site advising the above and that if it was to continue the Council would be within their rights to block the access gates at the end of some of the properties bordering the allotments
- 3) A statement be added on the subject to the Allotment Holders tenancy renewal letter which would be going out in the next few months
- 4) Costings be obtained for suitable replacement fencing to secure the site and brought back to the next committee.

3. FINANCIAL, STAFFING, ICT AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

3.1 None Specific

4. LEGAL ISSUES

4.1 None Specific

5.BACKGROUND INFORMATION

5.1 CEMETERY

5.1.1 **Potted Plant Holders:** The holders for potted plants in the Lawn Cemetery over the Winter Months (November to February) have been available since November and are now due to be removed by the owners this month. The take up has been low with only 5 purchased over the period. This is despite notices being placed on the gates in the Cemetery, on the cemetery Notice board and on the website. The Rangers have advised that as the pot holders are more robust than the vases, they will be easier to strim round and if the provision of the pot holders was to continue all year round they advise that it would not add to their cemetery maintenance activity. It is also noted that the issue of potted plants continues through the summer months and is not just limited to the winter months.

Recommendation 1

Due to the weather, a lot of topping up of the graves has been necessary. Mole hills continue to be cleared and this soil used for top dressing of the topped up graves.

5.1.2 Turfing of Graves: Due to the location of the Lawn cemetery turf is not imported into the Lawn Cemetery. The usual process for the turfing of graves is for the turf from a new grave being dug is used to turf a grave that in the opinion of the Rangers has settled. Due to the relatively small number of burials in the Lawn Cemetery this can mean that graves can remain without turf for up to a year which can cause distress to the family. Occasionally graves have been seeded. The Rangers have advised that the seeding of graves rather than the re-turfing of the graves gives a better end result and would like to do this for all graves moving forward. Graves will still need to be left until the usual settling down of the ground has taken place, but this should mean that graves will be grassed sooner than if turf is reused.

Recommendation 2

5.2 CHRIST CHURCH CEMETERY

The annual stress testing of the memorials in Christchurch Churchyard has now taken place. Twenty two stones that failed in previous checks that were within the remit of the Rangers were laid down during this check. Three that failed previously were not possible to lay down safely and will require machinery to do so safely. A further five stones failed the stress testing this time of which three were laid down for safety reasons. This leaves a total of five memorials that need machinery to lay down safely. Quotes will now be sought for this work.

5.3 GROVEWOOD

The Clerk and Cllr Green met with representatives from the Friends of Grovewood to discuss a Management Plan for the wood.

The Clerk explained that the Parish Council have in the past 20 years drafted three separate Management Plans which were rejected by the Residents. A management plan would entail the long term management of the site which could be considerably different to what happens at present. As the site has now been acknowledged as semi ancient woodland, (although it cannot be registered as such due to the size of the area being too small) it should be managed as such. There is a difference between maintenance which is what the Council do at present with a bi-annual tree survey and routine maintenance and a Management Plan which maintains the area for the longevity of the site and can include mass felling or clear cutting of specific areas. With this information in mind a survey has been commissioned from the Woodland Trust.

Once this information is received the Open Spaces Committee and the Friends Group will need to consider the implications of a formal Management Plan.

Litter picking continues to take place regularly.

5.4 TREWORK

Four items of tree work have been identified:

- Removal of Oak Tree at the Cricket club
- Survey of ash behind Cedars Cottage
- Hanging Branch on a tree at Lorry permissive parking area (out of safe working reach of Rangers)
- Quote for surveying the trees at Christchurch to identify what work will be required (and as part of the survey quote for the work required)

Three contractors have been approached to quote for the work, two quotes have been received and the third is expected before the meeting. All three quotes will be presented as an appendix to this report prior to the meeting. Members are asked to consider which contractor to engage for the work.

Recommendation 3

5.5 COMMON

5.4.1 General: A large amount of time has been spent pulling out and cutting down the Hawthorn saplings, wild roses and brambles etc. on Larks Meadow. As vegetation has died back over the winter months it has become apparent how much of a problem it really is. If left, by this summer many of the more diverse areas of grassland would have appeared like scrub. Extra care has had to be taken, by the Ranger, to ensure no orchids have been damaged in this process as their basal rosettes are now in full leaf. Any major damage to them in this stage would result in their untimely death, however if nothing was done they may well have been shaded out by saplings of which literally thousands have been removed. Many still remain however in the worst areas they have now been removed. It may be wise to cut and lift some of this area at the end of the summer if we cannot get significantly larger numbers of cattle to graze this area. However cutting and lifting the whole area could have a negative impact on late flowering species such as eyebright and invertebrates, small mammals etc. Therefore careful consideration must be given prior to works commencing. It is hoped that minor changes to the timing of grazing may also help to ease the problem.

The opportunity was taken to remove brush piles from coppicing works around the Common during frosty conditions; these were stacked in woodland to form habitat piles. Ground conditions are still not favourable for heavy machinery most of the time with the ground being so wet and muddy this year.

Fallen trees have been cleared from behind the Lorry Parking area and behind Sladdys pond

Overhanging branches, brambles and saplings have been cut back/removed from Station Approach road banks

Plants: 2016 species list started with 47 species so far, not including trees and grasses. Many more will follow. 27 species were counted in Site 13 alone on the 8th February, not including shrubs trees or grasses. This area is stated to be one of the species poor areas of the common. During the growing season many more species are likely to be encountered in this area as well as the more species rich areas of the common.

Two possible new species of plant for the common have been noted this year already. These are Trailing St. Johns Wort (an uncommon plant in Herts occurring in only 10% of Tetrads within the County – Tetrads are 2km x 2km grid squares, the whole county is divided into tetrads for survey purposes), present in one of the heather scrapes on Common Road. The other species is Spurge Laurel, which is slightly more common than the previous species and is present on the Station Approach bank. Neither of these species is indicated as being present on the common in recent surveys or on the tetrad maps in the flora of Hertfordshire. The Records Centre will be notified of their presence later in the year.

Another species of note, 'Birds Foot', which was first described on the Common in 'Pryor's Flora of Hertfordshire' in 1887, is doing well this year and has been noted in the area between Gun Dell and Shepherds Bridge parking area and near to the paths between Larks Meadow and Cherry Tree Cottages. This plant is decreasing in the county due to the loss of suitable habitat and is only present in 2% of tetrads within the County; therefore it is becoming quite a rarity.

One of the Properties bordering the common in Dog Kennel Lane has requested permission to replace a hedge with new hedging plants. As the owner is replacing like with like permission has been granted.

Orchids: Another 22 orchids have been found on the lower chalk slope. They look like Bee orchids and probably are, however they are more robust than others in the area so there is a possibility they may be of a different species. Again they are close to the path, in the top corner of this field and are suffering due to trampling. These will be monitored and if any flower they may be positively identified.

9 bee orchids were noted in Larks meadow, in two separate areas. This is a positive sign as three individuals of this species were found there for the first time last year, hopefully their numbers will increase over time and fortunately these individuals are away from paths.

However 12 bee orchids were killed over the weekend of 27th Feb. They were trampled by horse riders illegally riding off the horse track. Bee orchids are one of the Common's rarest flowers, so much so that less than thirty have flowered on

the Common since 2004. This substantial loss could threaten this species' existence on Chorleywood Common and this number represents more than 15% of the total individuals on the whole common. If this illegal Horse riding continues it is very likely that many more will be lost, with the end result of this activity, being the loss of this rare and striking species from the Common. The incident is being reported to the police and an article is being sent to the Watford Observer.

5.4.2 Ponds: Top Common Pond South has now been cleared of debris. A large amount of surveying for newts was carried out prior to and during the works to ensure no newts were damaged. Vegetation and debris was first moved to the pond edges to allow any wildlife to escape before being transferred to the bunded areas. The debris has been searched for Plants/wildlife; some Water Soldier was found and returned to the pond. The Contractors were very good and kept disturbance to a minimum. The surrounding areas have been impacted by the works, however this was unavoidable and the ground will recover over time. The disturbed conditions around the pond may throw up some interesting species of plant over the coming months and the plant species within the pond will be monitored to discover which species re-colonize it. Signs have been placed around the pond asking people not to release fish etc.

5.4.3 TREES ADJACENT TO LONDON UNDERGROUND TRACKS: The eco report has been carried out with regard to potential impact to the badger sets nearby and suggested that any trees too close to the setts should not have any work carried out on them until the badgers have finished breeding. Therefore the contractors have carried out a large amount of the work, but a few trees still remain, these will be made safe later in the year when any disturbance is less likely to affect the badgers. A large amount of wood has been cleared from the area by the Rangers to keep costs down.

5.5 PARKING SCHEME IN PERMISSIVE PARKING AREAS ON THE COMMON

- 5.5.1 Parking outside the Old Shepherd Public House: Officers met with the Parking Enforcement company at the beginning of January to discuss the extension of the scheme to include parking outside the Old Shepherd. The total cost of implementing the scheme in this area is £2,428.14 plus VAT. It is now hoped to have this in place by April.
- 5.5.2 Renewal of Parking Enforcement Contract 16/17 : For the second year running there is to be no increase in charges for the Parking Enforcement Contract for 2016/17 and the Contract is due to be renewed at the beginning of April 2016. Members are asked to consider renewing the contract, which will cover enforcement at all three areas – War Memorial Hall and Shepherds Bridge permissive parking areas and parking outside the Old Shepherd at a cost of £1550 plus VAT.

Recommendation 4

It can be noted that the number of PCNs issued at the War Memorial Hall permissive parking areas has reduced by about 60%, whilst the number of PCNs issued at Shepherds Bridge has remained at a similar level.

5.6 Park Runs – One of the organisers of the Park Runs met with the Common Ranger who outlined which areas of Chorleywood Common could potentially be used for parkrun. He has since advised as “unfortunately there are so many bylaws governing the use of certain paths and large areas of grassland that there was no way of mapping out a 5k course. The actual permitted area we were allowed to use was just too limited and would not lend itself to a parkrun”. They are apparently now pursuing a parkrun at Rickmansworth Aquadrome as their first choice or Chorleywood House Estate as a second choice.

5.7 ALLOTMENTS

Following a request from the site representative at Dog Kennel Lane allotments a padlock has now been installed on the vehicle gate at the entrance to the allotments. Pedestrian access is still possible without a key.

At the same site, again following a request from the site representative, signs advising that dogs must be kept on leads whilst in the allotments have been installed.

Quotes for the fencing work at Copmans Wick Allotment site discussed at the last Open Spaces meeting are being sought.

5.8 OFFICE

Regular clearing of leaves outside the office continues to take place.

5.9 PARISH PATHS

An application has been made as part of the P3 Grant Funding for the funding of a Parish Paths Leaflet showing all footpaths within the Parish.

5.10 HEALTH AND SAFETY (H&S)

5.10.1 Height Restriction Barriers:

The two height restriction barriers at the Cricket Club and Lorry Car Park are in need of replacement. The barriers are supported by wooden posts which over time have rotted. Quotes are being sought for this work.

5.11 EQUIPMENT

- The usual maintenance of the vehicles and machinery has taken place.
- The two new RTVs have been delivered and were both put into use on the first day. Trackers are to be fitted to the vehicles.

Four Year Vision

Agenda item 10

Open Spaces Priorities – For the Committee to prioritise what tasks should allocate for the next financial year.

1. Open Spaces

Item	Detail	Other Committees affected	Prioritisation Level (rank 1-5, where 1 is the highest priority)	Resource required (PC Staff/Councillors/External)	Anticipated Cost	Date work is due to commence	Target date for completion
Security Improvements on the Common	To look at ways to protect the Common from encroachment	N/A		Officers, Rangers, legal position, Christchurch School and Church			
Parking Area improvements	Look at products that can improve the permissive parking area surfaced			Officers and Rangers, Cllrs Look at what happens at other Commons, site visits may be required			
Establish a 10 year calendar of surveys	Surveys to be undertaken on the Common	NA		Consultation required with CMS – type and frequency of surveys needed (Clerk to action) A number of surveys have taken place, grassland, birds, reptiles and annual flower surveys by the Rangers. All catalogued.		Summer '12	Ongoing
Investigation of a leisure trail	An informal leisure trail on the Common – feasible and/or in demand	NA		WB to research other nature/leisure trails on other commons/similar sites Insurance & DEFRA structure check	Rangers' time and research Possible use of CIL Monies		

				(Clerk to action) Awaiting outcome of application to the Heritage Lottery Fund. Finance secured for two information boards from Chiltern Conservation Board.			
Allotment water harvesting & storing	Facilitating the harvesting and storing of water at the allotment sites	NA		Understand costs with Veolia water (Office to action). Nothing available directly through water companies, other avenues being investigated.	TBC with Veolia	June '12	Ongoing
Copmans Wick Allotment Improvements	Look at dumping/access and security of site			Prices for fencing, signs, letters to residents, ways to stop illegal dumping, clearance of the site. Possible creation of compost site			
Signage on the Common	Look at the improvements to all signage on the Common			Signage for all aspects on the Common. To include 'positive signage' and interpretation boards			

Date: TUESDAY 8th MARCH 2016

Subject: PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER

Committee Member:

Officer Contributors: Clerk

Status (public or exempt): Public

Wards affected: All

Enclosures: Public Spaces Protection Order as agreed by TRDC (Appendix 1)

Contact for further information: Clerk

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 Members recommend to Full Council that the Council adopt the PSPO orders for Chorleywood Common.
- 1.2 That the Rangers and Clerk be trained as Authorised Officers to issue Fixed Penalty Notices on behalf of the Parish Council.
- 1.3 That Officers receive an increment of one spinal point once training has taken place and official authorisation from TRDC has taken place.

2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

- 2.1 None specific

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 There has been an ongoing problem with dog fouling on Chorleywood Common. This legislation will help the Parish Council tackle an ongoing problem.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 None specific

5. FINANCIAL, STAFFING, ICT AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The District Council will receive all the monies paid in respect of the Fixed Penalty Notice however they will also take on the cost of any litigation for non-payment of fines.
- 5.2 Officers will require training on the issue of FPN. There will be implications on staff responsible for administering and receiving the payments generated. There will be implications on Legal if prosecutions result from the issue of notices.
- 5.3 Once trained it is suggested that the officers each are given a pay rise of one spinal point for the extra responsibility, and necessary training skills to carry out this task.

6. LEGAL ISSUES

6.1 If an FPN for breach of a PSPO is not paid then, no matter who issued the FPN (e.g. PCSO or Parish Council), the District Council is responsible for instituting any criminal proceedings.

7. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

7.1 Three Rivers District Council resolved on 20 October 2015 that a district-wide PSPO (“the Order”) will be made in respect of dogs. It will commence on 1 April 2016 and creates several restrictions and requirements concerning dogs. By Section 68 (1) of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014, a constable or authorised person may issue a fixed penalty to anyone he or she has reason to believe has committed an offence under Section 63 or Section 67 of the Act in relation to a public spaces protection order. An “authorised person” means a person authorised for the purposes of Section 68 by the local authority who made the Order.

The Order will cover all open spaces within Three Rivers District Council and can cover private land with the owner’s permission.

Amongst other things:-

The Order will restrict the number of dogs walked at any one time to four

Will make it illegal not to clear up after your dog

Will give authorised Officers the power to insist, upon request, that dogs are put on a lead.

7.2 Failure to comply with a PSPO is a criminal offence which can be dealt with by fixed penalty or prosecution. The order lasts for a set period of 3 years.

7.3 The Parish Council showed an interest in this Order for the Common as until now no legislation covered Common land. To this end the Council have put forward the three Rangers and Clerk for training to become an Authorised Officer. All authorised officers will be expected to have had training in the issue of FPNs which will be provided by Three Rivers District Council before 1 April 2016.

7.4 The Act provides that Police constables are expressly authorised to issue a FPN. All PCSOs have been authorised to issue an FPN by the Chief Constable as allowed for in the Act.

7.5 The District Council has agreed the fee for a fixed penalty issued for breach of a PSPO to be set at £75, in line with previous dog-fouling penalties, with a reduction to £50 for early payment. The maximum penalty allowed by the Act is £100.

Background Papers

Statutory guidance for front-line professionals

Three Rivers District Council reports

Agenda item 12 appendix 1

The Order

The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 The Public Spaces Protection Order - (Three Rivers District Council) 2015.

Three Rivers District Council (in this order called “the Authority”) hereby makes the following Order:

This Order comes into force on 1st April 2016 for a period of 3 years.

Offences

1. Fouling:

If within the administrative area of the Authority a dog defecates at any time on land to which the public or any section of the public has access, on payment or otherwise, as of right or by virtue of express or implied permission and a person who is in charge of the dog at the time fails to remove the faeces from the land forthwith, that person shall be guilty of an offence unless

(a) he has reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or (b) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to his failing to do so.

2. Leads by order :

A person in charge of a dog shall be guilty of an offence if, at any time, within the administrative area of the Authority he does not comply with a direction given to him by an authorised officer of the authority to put and keep the dog on a lead unless

(a) he has reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or (b) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to his failing to do so.

An authorised officer may only give a direction under this order if such restraint is reasonably necessary to prevent a nuisance or behaviour by the dog that is likely to cause annoyance or disturbance to any other person, or to a bird or another animal.

3. Leads:

A person in charge of a dog shall be guilty of an offence if, at any time, on land detailed in Schedule 1 below he does not keep the dog on a lead unless

(a) he has reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or (b) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to his failing to do so.

4. Exclusion

A person in charge of a dog shall be guilty of an offence if, at any time, he takes the dog onto, or permits the dog to enter or to remain on, any land as specified by the owner after consultation.

(a) he has reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or (b) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to his failing to do so.

5. Restrict Number of Dogs Walked by One Person

A person shall be guilty of an offence if, at any time, within the administrative area of the Authority he is in charge of more than 4 dogs unless

a) he has reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or (b) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to his failing to do so

6. Exemptions Nothing in this order shall apply to a person who –

(a) is registered as a blind person in a register compiled under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948; or (b) is deaf, in respect of a dog trained by Hearing Dogs for Deaf People (registered charity number 293358) and upon which he relies for assistance; or (c) has a disability which affects his mobility, manual dexterity, physical coordination or ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects, in respect of a dog trained by a prescribed charity and upon which he relies for assistance.

For the purpose of this order –

- A person who habitually has a dog in his possession shall be taken to be in charge of the dog at any time unless at that time some other person is in charge of the dog;
- Placing the faeces in a receptacle on the land which is provided for the purpose, or for the disposal of waste, shall be sufficient removal from the land;
- Being unaware of the defecation (whether by reason of not being in the vicinity or otherwise), or not having a device for or other suitable means of removing the faeces shall not be a reasonable excuse for failing to remove the faeces
- “an authorised officer of the Authority” means an employee, partnership agency or contractor of Three Rivers District Council who is authorised in writing by Three Rivers District Council for the purposes of giving directions under the Order.
- Each of the following is a "prescribed charity" -

Dogs for the Disabled (registered charity number 700454)

Support Dogs Limited (registered charity number 1088281)

Canine Partners for Independence (registered charity number (803680)

6. Penalty:

A person who is guilty of an offence under this Order shall be liable to a £75.00 Fixed Penalty Notice, or upon summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.