

## **Dog Control Public Space Protection Order. Consultation response analysis and next steps**

### **1. Introduction and background**

On 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017, as a requirement of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, the Council's existing Dog Control Orders became a single Public Space Protection Order (PSPO). This change was automatic in law.

The Council is reviewing these dog controls, so consulted on a proposed amended Public Space Protection Order. Full details of that consultation and proposals are available at <http://www.conwy.gov.uk/en/Resident/Environmental-problems/Dog-Issues/Dog-Control-Orders/Dog-Control-Public-Space-Protection-Order-Consultation.aspx>.

The proposals aim to create a balance so that dog owners can enjoy their dogs and ensure their welfare, whilst at the same time others can still enjoy public spaces without interference or impact from dogs and irresponsible dog ownership.

### **2. Consultation process and questions**

The consultation questions and response form used are on the Council's website at <http://www.conwy.gov.uk/en/Resident/Environmental-problems/Dog-Issues/Dog-Control-Orders/Dog-Control-Public-Space-Protection-Order-Consultation.aspx>.

The consultation started on 22 January 2018 and finished on 23 February 2018. Statutory consultation took place with the following bodies:

- The Chief of Police
- The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Owners / Occupiers of land within the proposed Order
- Highways Authority
- Appropriate community Representatives

Public consultation was also undertaken. This included via the Council's website and through direct communication with interested parties and groups, examples of which are listed in Appendix 1. A press releases advising of the consultation was also issued, as well as posts on the Council's social media sites.

### **3. Consultation responses and analysis**

These have been analysed with the results shown graphically in Appendix 2.

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### **4. Summary and conclusions**

It is estimated that 1 in 5 Conwy households own a dog (see Explanatory Note at <http://www.conwy.gov.uk/en/Resident/Environmental-problems/Dog-Issues/Dog-Control-Orders/Dog-Control-Public-Space-Protection-Order-Consultation.aspx>). Mainly, only resident dog owners responded to the consultation (70% of the respondents). There was a smaller number of responses (30%) from non-dog owners, so this group's views (if any) were not made known to a great extent during the consultation.

The consultation has shown, on the basis of responses, that there is public support for the proposals. That support was most strong in relation to:

- Controls for dog fouling (88%);
- Requiring a person in charge of a dog to produce an appropriate means to pick up dog faeces when asked by an authorised officer (77%);
- Dogs on leads (71%);
- Dogs on leads by direction (73%);
- Raising the Fixed Penalty Notice amount for all dog control offences to £100 (just under 2/3rds (64%) of respondents supporting this, with 4% not expressing a view)

Support was less strong for the proposed:

- Exclusion zones for dogs on beaches (49% in support, 48% against, with 3% not expressing a view).

Many of the Exclusion Zone comments however referenced misleading press headlines that the proposals sought to ban dogs from *all* beaches, particularly in Colwyn Bay and Rhos on Sea. This was not the case, so interpretation of those results therefore should be made with this in mind.

### **5. Next steps**

Officers will have regard to the consultation responses and produce a further amended draft PSPO, which will be presented to the Council's Economy and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet for Councillors to consider any next steps.

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**Appendix 1 Consultation with interested parties and groups**

- Elected Members of Conwy County Borough Council (CCBC)
- All Community, Town and Parish Councils in CCBC
- All CCBC Schools via the Education Department
- All Sports Associations via the CCBC Leisure Development Department
- The Office of the Harbourmaster CCBC
- CCBC Marketing Department
- Environment, Roads and Facilities CCBC
- Leisure and Tourism CCBC
- Natural Resources Wales
- The National Trust
- The Kennel Club
- National Dog Wardens Association
- Dogs Trust
- RSPCA
- NFU Cymru
- The Crown Estates
- Farmers Union of Wales
- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
- Welsh Assembly Government
- Snowdonia National Park Authority
- CADW
- Ramblers Cymru
- Countryside Alliance Wales
- Keep Wales Tidy
- Disability Rights UK
- Mostyn Estates
- All Veterinary Practices
- All Dog Grooming / Walking Establishments
- Housing Associations
- Neighbouring Authorities.

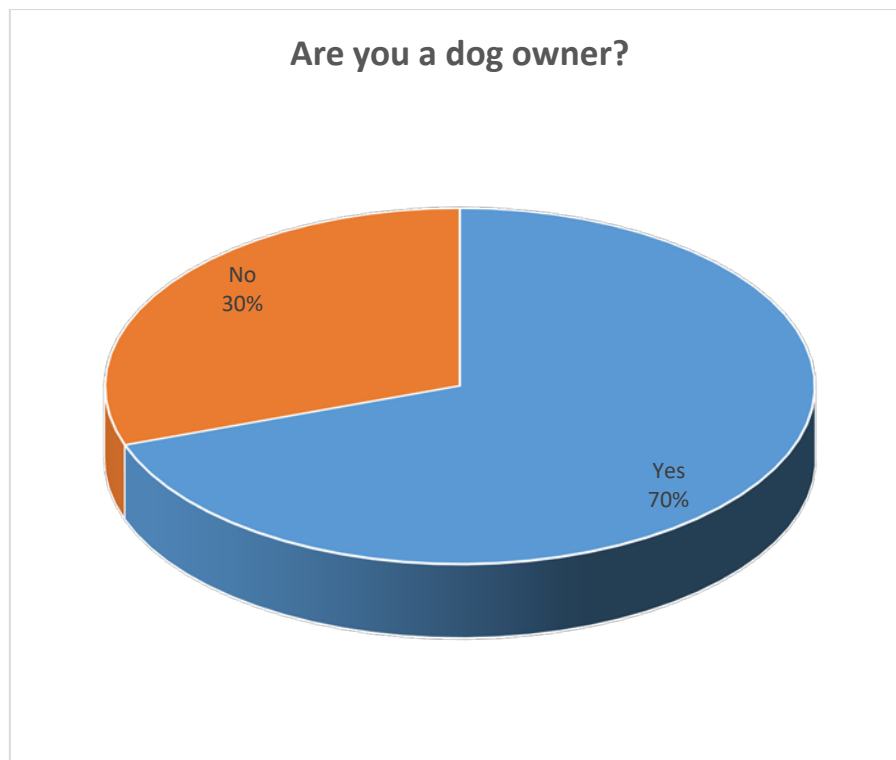
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### Appendix 2 Consultation responses and analysis

The consultation response form asked 8 specific questions and a 9<sup>th</sup> question invited comments (500 words maximum). 352 fully or partially completed consultation response forms were received, either by post or email. 41 one of the response forms received did not contain any comments, but answered each of the other 8 questions. 36 of the response forms only contained comments, making a total of 352 data responses and 388 comments received.

The analysis of responses for each consultation question is shown below.

Q1.



#### Comments

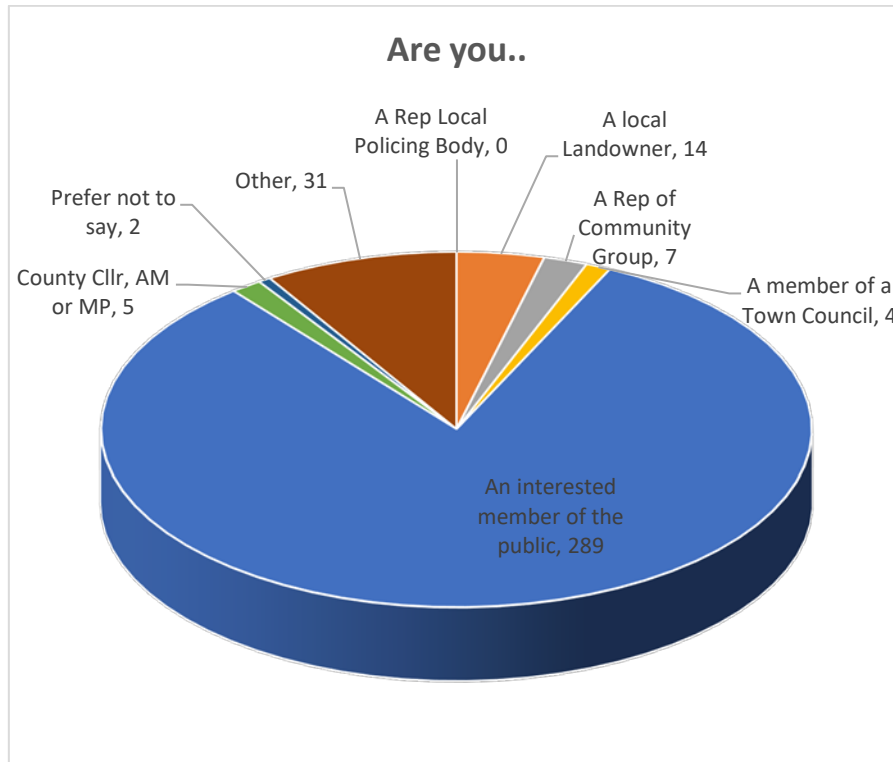
3 out of 388 (0.77%), whilst showing support for the proposals, clearly indicated a dislike for dogs.

3 responses stated that they did not support the reduction of dog restricted zones (0.77%).

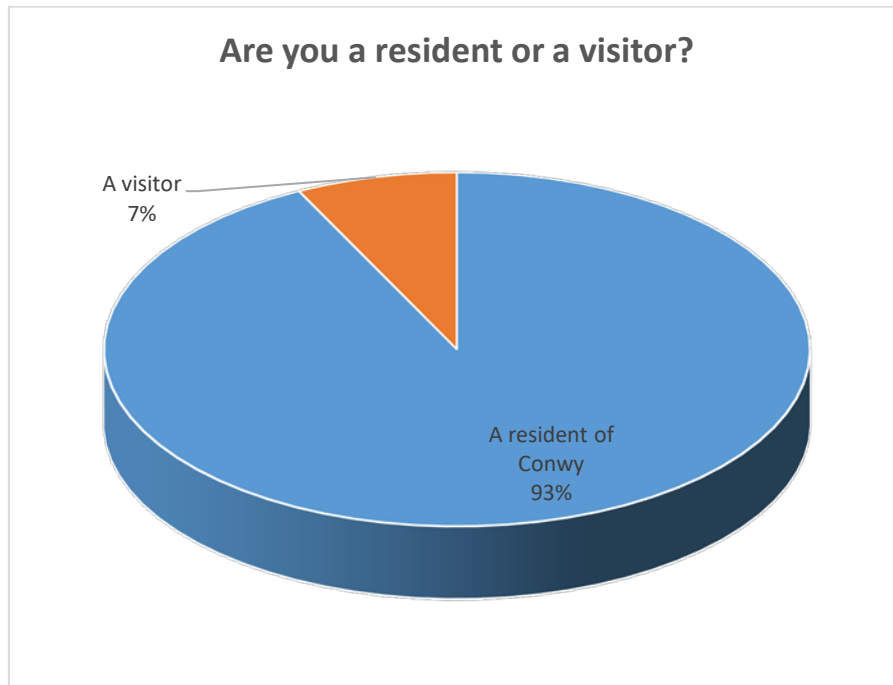
4 made general comments complaining about irresponsible dog owners (1.03%).

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Q2a.

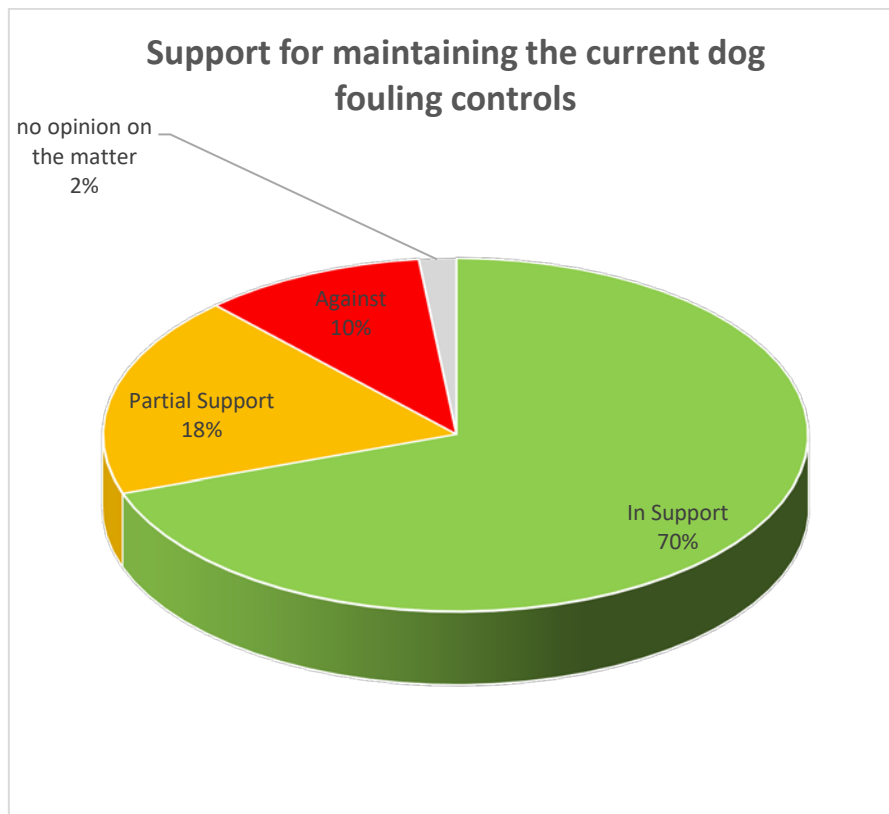


Q2b.



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Q3.



### Comments

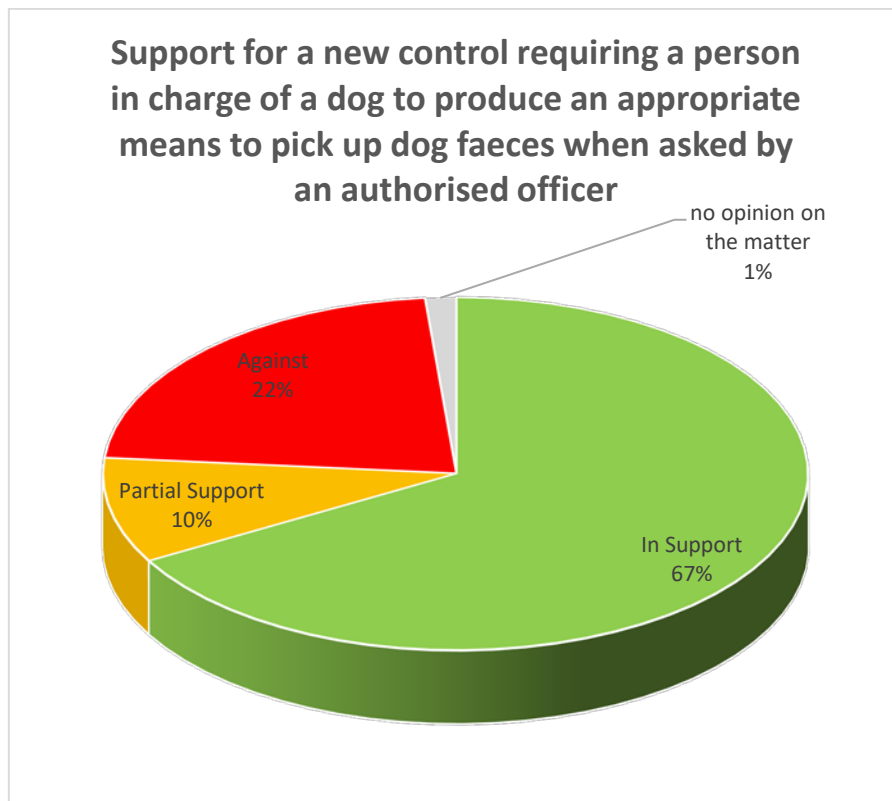
48 out of 388 (12.37%) didn't agree with the council employing Kingdom, or made reference to Kingdom in a negative way. The consultation however was about an amended PSPO, rather than any method of implementation, so such comments are not relevant to any decisions regarding the creation or otherwise of any PSPO.

21 out of 388 (5.41%) didn't support the proposals as they thought it would affect tourism and businesses.

15 out of 388 (3.86 %) expressed the opinion that they fully supported a tough response to dog fouling but did not support the other proposals

## Dog Control Public Space Protection Order. Consultation response analysis and next steps

Q4.



### Comments

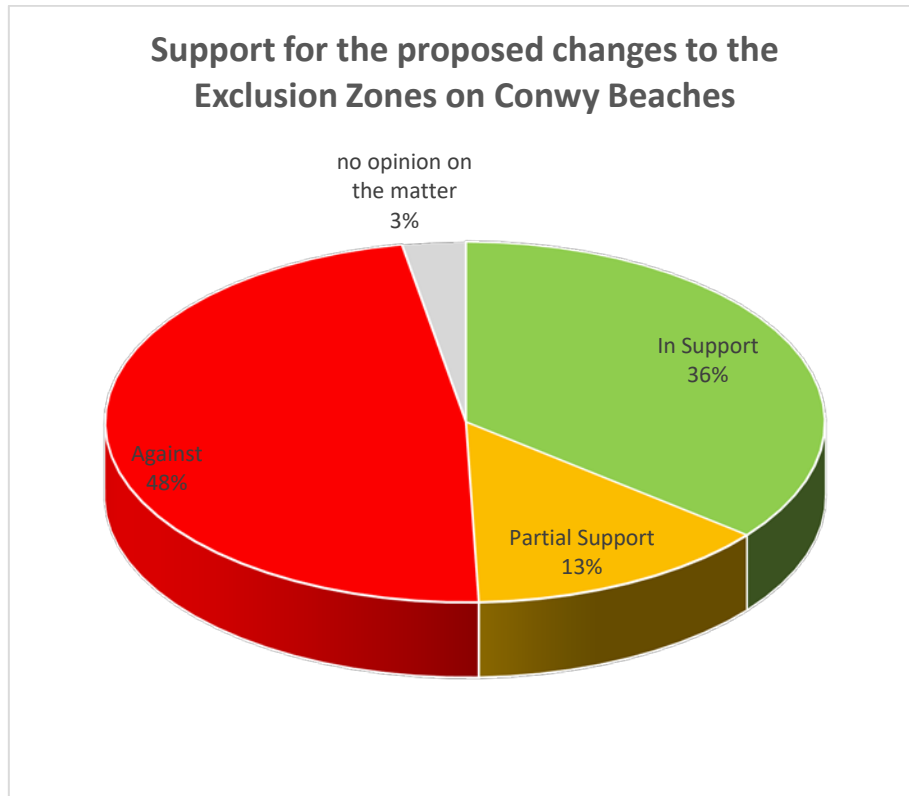
73 responses (18.81%), whilst expressing support to the proposals, made suggestions for improvement, including some requests for stricter restrictions than proposed (and enforcement), whilst some others had some minor reservations.

26 responses (7.47%), showed agreement in principle, but had too many alternative suggestion to count them as being in total agreement, but they were not negative about the proposals.

73 responses (18.81%) didn't support the new proposals for various reasons but in the main didn't agree with zero tolerance enforcement.

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Q5.



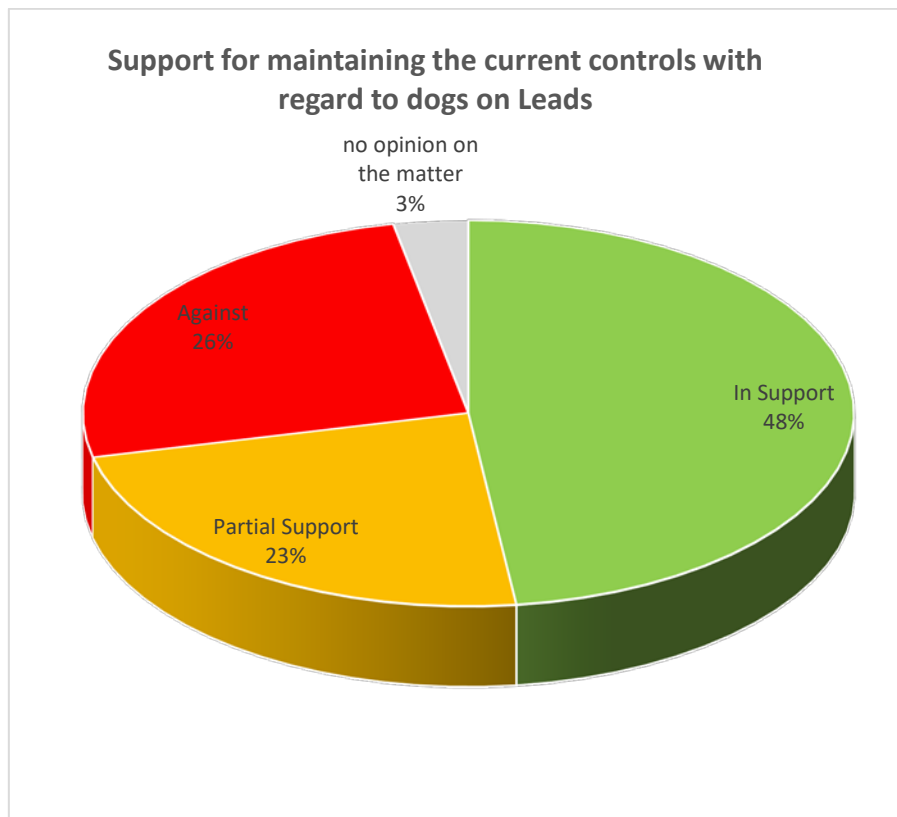
Comments

52 responses out of 388 (13.40%) said that they didn't support the new proposals and mentioned in particular the beaches. These responses could have been influenced by wrongly reported information regarding the beach proposals in the local press during the consultation period.



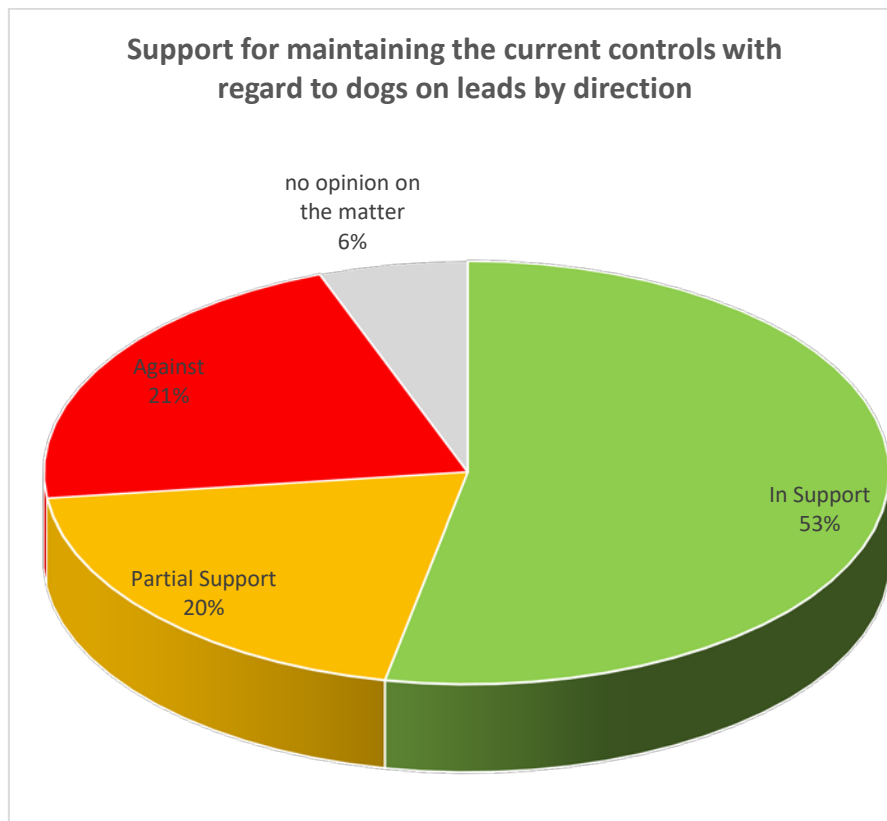
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Q6.



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Q7.



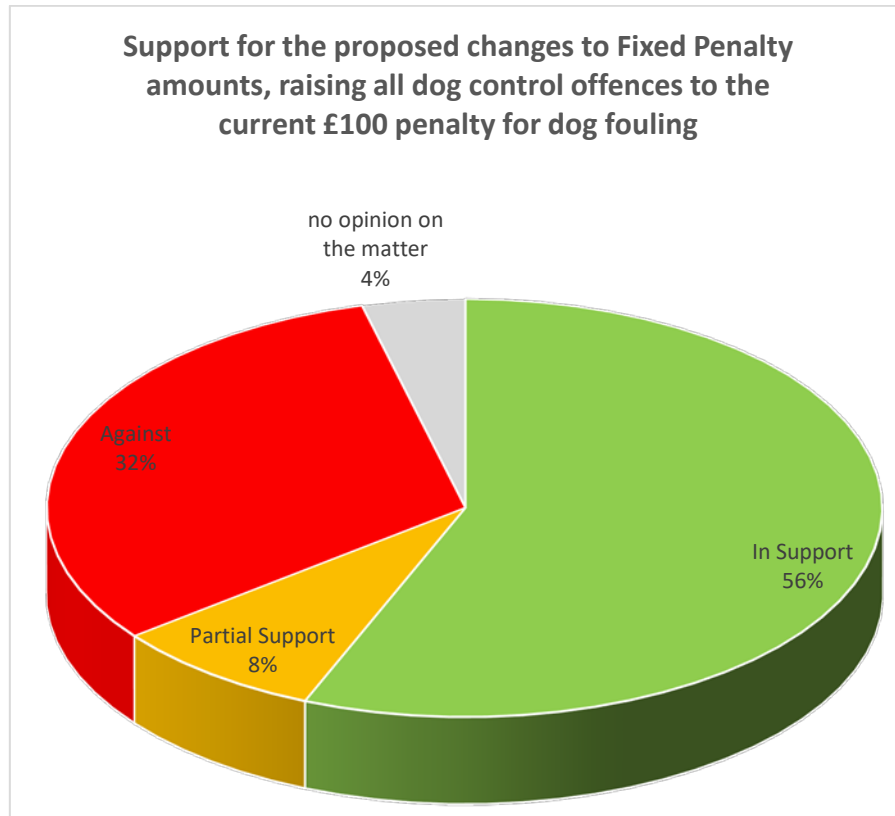
Comments

3 responses (0.77%) made rambling comments bordering on being offensive which didn't contribute to the consultation in any way.

26 responses (4.42%) provided general comments such as requests for clearer signage, more bins or more information.

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Q8.



Comments

36 out of the 388 responses (9.3%) made specific reference to the proposed change to raise all dog control offences to the current £100 penalty for dog fouling. These comments ranged from thinking £100 is not enough (and should be very much higher) to £100 is very high.