

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL**Dog Park Area as requested by Cllr Swinyard****1. Dog Walking**

- 1.1 Over the last 12 months, Cllr Swinyard has highlighted a large number of new dog owners in West Swindon many of which are interested in being able to train their dogs in a safe environment.
- 1.2 West Swindon Parish has many parks and open spaces that have no restrictions for dog walkers however there are none that are fully enclosed spaces. It is possible to privately hire dog walking fields in Swindon and costs are in the region of £10-15 per hour.
- 1.3 Any new enclosed space would still be subject to legal requirements around the control of dogs and dog fouling.

2. Options

- 2.1 *Locations:* There are a number of areas that could allocate space for an enclosure. These include:
 - Shaw Ridge Linear Park
 - Shaw Forest park
 - Russley Close backland
 - Nine Elms park
 - Shaw Village centre
 - Hay Lane (Cabot Close side)
 - Middleleaze drive (Saltway playing field)
 - Toothill Park
- 2.2 *Facilities:* A secure enclosure would allow dog training to take place. Agility equipment could be added.
- 2.3 *Considerations:*
 - Any changes to public open space is likely to attract mixed feedback.
 - There is limited evidence of the levels of interest or likely levels of participation.
 - Fencing would be required and access for grass cutting would need to be part of the design to ensure gated access.
 - Consideration of the potential impact for additional vehicles/car parking.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 In the current financial year, this is not an approved budgeted project. Any expenditure would be classed as new however it could be allocated from an existing budget such as fencing (£3,000) or play refurbishment (£91,000).

- 3.2 Costs for a new enclosure would primarily be associated with fencing and would be dependent on height, size and location. For example, just materials alone, 10 metres of 1.2 metre chain link fencing costs approximately £400.00

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 Councillors consider whether they wish to progress a project to introduce an enclosure for dog owners within the Parish.
- 4.2 Councillors consider the costs associated and if agreed, timeframe from implementation.

Paula Harrison
Parish Manager