

From: Andy Wilde andy.wilde@shropshire.gov.uk 
Subject: FW: !! REMINDER TO REPLY !! PSPO for Dogs in Shropshire
Date: 25 April 2025 at 16:39
To: Action Against Foxhunting info@actionagainstfoxhunting.org
Cc: Sue Wedlock suewedlock9@gmail.com

AW

Dear Ms Donavan

My sincere apologies for the delay in responding. Further to your points you have raised in relation to the organised Boxing Day Event and provide further clarification in response to your email dated 7th January 2025 and our response provided on the 13th February 2025 Shropshire Council position is as follows.

Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) are one of the tools available under the Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014. PSPOs are wide-ranging and flexible powers for local authorities, which recognise that councils are often best placed to identify the type of activities which are having a detrimental effect upon the quality of life for those who live in, work in or visit the local authority area.

Concerns were raised through the consultation process about the potential impact of a PSPO on working animals and the rural economy of the county. Plainly problems of dog fouling are more acute in an urban setting, but not exclusively so, and any order introduced should not impact unduly on the ability of the farming community to go about its business. However, neither should their activity impinge significantly on the public or in public areas. Farming activity will be mostly confined to private property except where movement is required for livestock, hunts, and possibly shoots. In these circumstances it would be reasonable to exempt working animals albeit for organised and timed events, for example hunts to avoid abuse and to enable enforcement should it be necessary.

The consultation indicates agreement with the proposal to direct owners to put their dogs on leads where they are being a nuisance in a public area and for the safety of the public enjoying this space. Similarly, the consultation suggests dogs should be under control on the highway and whilst there have been objections raised about this particular aspect of the proposed control the safety consideration associated with dogs straying uncontrolled into live traffic would suggest this control is reasonable.

We have also taken into consideration the concerns raised about the ability of the public to access open spaces for their own mental health considerations and for the welfare of their animals when exercising that the PSPO is sufficient at this time to control dogs and to take enforcement action where owners fail to comply or are inconsiderate of others.

Therefore the PSPO does provide for the control of dogs on the highway and on leads by direction to prevent dogs straying uncontrolled into live traffic, in consideration of this point and on the understanding that this activity is limited to an annual organised event, delivered under permitted road closures our position is that it is reasonable and proportionate that the restriction does not apply given the absence of live traffic or likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, be persistent or continuing in nature.

We are in discussion with the organisers who have confirmed that they do clean up after themselves, as has been the case in previous years. In relation to any breaches we advise that people can contact Shropshire Council directly and that the order can be enforced by a police officer, a police community support officer that may be within the vicinity and the time of the alleged offence taking place.

Regards.

Andy Wilde
Assistant Director
Infrastructure
Place Directorate
andy.wilde@shropshire.gov.uk

Our organisation is working flexibly, so if you've received this email 'out of hours', whilst it suits me to email now, I do not expect a response or action outside of your working hours

From: Action Against Foxhunting <info@actionagainstfoxhunting.org>
Sent: 14 February 2025 09:34
To: StreetScene <StreetScene@shropshire.gov.uk>
Cc: Sue Wedlock <suewedlock9@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: **!!** REMINDER TO REPLY **!!** PSPO for Dogs in Shropshire

Dear Ms Salisbury

I have taken advice and completely disagree with your conclusions. The hunt is a business - if the hounds are promoting a commercial business, that does not mean they are working. Working dogs - sheep dogs, guide dogs etc, are trained to provide a service to people. These hounds were not providing any service for which they are trained. Hounds are trained to follow scent - they were not doing that at the meet. They were running about, unleashed in the streets. If any other dog did that, no matter who owned them, you would take action. The 'working dog' exemption cannot possibly apply to 30 or so hounds running about unleashed in the middle of a town.

If I brought one dog into Ludlow and let it run about unleashed - and then claim it was promoting my dog breeding business, would I be exempt? If your answer is "yes" then your response to the hunt is consistent. If your answer is "no", then you are clearly favouring the hunt over other people. Please explain why the hunt is allowed to do this, when no one else is.

Please provide legal support for your conclusions. Please also let me know who answered your enquiries as to whether the faeces were cleared up. Was the person independent of the hunt?

We also have photos of horse dung left in the streets after the hunt left. I understand that the entire meet was chaotic.

Please also note - in Battle at another Boxing Day meet in a place with a PSPO, hounds were not brought because of the PSPO.

Best regards
Pip Donovan
Action Against Foxhunting



On 13 Feb 2025, at 14:29, StreetScene
<StreetScene@shropshire.gov.uk> wrote:

Good Morning Pip Donavan

In response to your email dated the 7th of January 2025

For the purpose of the Public Space Protection Order for Dog Control, there are many aspects to the term, working dogs and it would not be realistic to try and identify all types of working dogs.

Hounds at a public event such as the one in Ludlow on Boxing Day were working to, promote, educate and gain supporters for the hunt group, we would therefore consider them exempt from the Order.

After your initial report I made enquiries and have been informed that the area was thoroughly cleaned afterwards to remove any dog or horse faeces.

Regards

Jane Salisbury
Dog Warden for Shropshire Council

From: Action Against Foxhunting <info@actionagainstfoxhunting.org>

Sent: 07 January 2025 12:04

To: StreetScene <StreetScene@shropshire.gov.uk>

Cc: Sue Wedlock <suewedlock9@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: **!!** REMINDER TO REPLY **!!** PSPO for Dogs in Shropshire

Dear Ms Salisbury

Thank you for your response.

We disagree with your answer to our question. We also feel it is

we disagree with your answer to our question. We also feel it is inconsistent.

The hounds are not working when they are at a public event. Hounds are classified as "hunting dogs". Their job is to hunt - by following scent and leading the riders. At the Boxing Day event, the hounds were not hunting. They were not using any of their job-training for the event. Hence, they are not working. They were behaving as any other dog would in the town centre, except that domestic dogs would be on leads, and not running around freely. If the hunt itself was taking place in Ludlow, that would be different. Then they would be working. A hunting dog, when not hunting, is not working. Additionally, in other counties, hounds are **specifically** exempted from the PSPOs. As Shropshire's PSPO does not exempt hounds, then that clearly suggests that they are included when they are in a public space. At a Boxing Day event, the hounds are not displaying anything - they aren't performing tricks or anything of that nature. They're just being dogs - and that is all. They have no practical function at all.

Also, either the PSPO does apply or it does not. If they should not be on leads (which we dispute), then the owner should not have to clean up the faeces. This means that there is no point in our sending evidence and witness statements as you will say they are exempt. The dogs cannot be considered to be working in one context, and not working in the other.

Thank you.

Best regards
Pip Donovan
Action Against Foxhunting
Education Outreach Campaigns
www.actionagainstfoxhunting.org

On 7 Jan 2025, at 10:46, StreetScene
<StreetScene@shropshire.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear Pip

Thank you for your email which has been passed to the StreetScene team for response. Our responses are below.

That you will ask the hunt to adhere to the PSPO and keep their dogs on leads while they are not working.

Our response: The hounds would have been working as a publicity event, going from or to a hunt, and as such the dogs would have been working.

That you will fine the persons in control of the hounds if they do not pick up the faeces immediately and That you will fine the persons in control of the hounds if they deposit the faeces in an

persons in control of the hounds if they deposit the hounds in an inappropriate place.-

Our response: As there was no authorised officer present at the time this will not be possible, however if someone would be able to provide a full Section 9 witness statement to identify the hounds and the handler, we would look at the evidence provided and decide on what or if action should be taken

Kind regards

Sent on behalf of Jane Salisbury
Dog Warden for Shropshire

From: Kaylie Skelhon **On Behalf Of** Dan Morris
Sent: 07 January 2025 09:34
To: Action Against Foxhunting <info@actionagainstfoxhunting.org>
Subject: RE: !!! REMINDER TO REPLY !!! PSPO for Dogs in Shropshire

Dear Pip

Thank you for your email, Dan is liaising with colleagues and a response will be provided as soon as possible.

Kind regards,

Kaylie Skelhon
Personal Assistant to
Andy Wilde Assistant Director for Growth & Infrastructure

From: Action Against Foxhunting
<info@actionagainstfoxhunting.org>
Sent: 06 January 2025 11:33
To: Dan Morris <Dan.Morris@shropshire.gov.uk>; Sue Wedlock
<suewedlock9@gmail.com>
Subject: !!! REMINDER TO REPLY !!! PSPO for Dogs in Shropshire

You don't often get email from info@actionagainstfoxhunting.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Cllr Morris

I have not received a reply to my email of 17th December. Since the email, the hunt has met in the Square in Ludlow, and we have had reports of what happened on the day. As we anticipated, the hunt breached the PSPO concerning dog fouling and dogs on leads.

Please respond to my question (repeated below for your convenience).

Public Space Protection Order for Shropshire, dogs used for hunting and the Boxing Day Meet in Ludlow.

In answer to Mrs Wedlock's question raised at the council meeting on 12th December, you stated this:

This is an organised event with the use of working dogs and the organisers have advised that they will clean up after themselves, as has been the case in previous years. You define hounds as “working dogs”. This interpretation means that you believe that these hounds do not need to be kept on leads in public places. However, hounds are only “working” when they are out hunting. This is when they are using the specific skills they have been trained for. During a Boxing Day parade, these hounds are not “working” - ie not following a scent or hunting. The dogs are not using any of their skills for hunting. They behave like any other dog at the meet.

The PSPO for Shropshire clearly states that the “exemptions” (ie no need to have the dog on a lead) “will only apply whilst the dog is working”.

This means that all the hounds in Ludlow must be kept on a lead until they leave the public area and actually go hunting.

Secondly, the PSPO clearly states that dog faeces must be cleaned up “immediately”. This means that a person must be watching every single hound all the time and if the faeces are not cleaned up at once, the person in control of the dog should be fined. Also, the PSPO states that the faeces must be disposed of accordingly, or taken away. In our experience, the chaos of a Boxing Day meet makes it almost impossible to watch every hound and pick up after it immediately. Also, the hounds deposit a great deal of faeces during the meet, and we have seen hunts throwing the faeces in bushes, rather than taking them away in a vehicle.

We will be present at the meet, and we will be recording any breaches of the PSPO.

Please confirm:

That you will ask the hunt to adhere to the PSPO and keep their dogs on leads while they are not working.

That you will fine the persons in control of the

hounds if they do not pick up the faeces immediately
and
That you will fine the persons in control of the
hounds if they deposit the faeces in an inappropriate
place.

Thank you.

Best regards
Pip Donovan
Action Against Foxhunting
Education Outreach Campaigns
www.actionagainstfoxhunting.org

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Council services, please [visit our website](#) or [sign up for
email updates](#)



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