



London Borough of Barnet,
2 Bristol Avenue,
Colindale,
London NW9 4EW
6 May 2021
Our ref: 7194792

Thank you for your request received on 7 April 2021, for the following information:

I

would like to know the rules/laws for dogs being off lead in Bittacy Hill Park, Barnet Copthall Playing Fields, Dollis Valley Greenwalk and the surrounding green paths. I would also like to know the rules/laws for how many dogs one dog owner can walk and how many of those dogs have to be on leads. I would also like to know what measures Barnet Council takes to enforce those rules/laws.

I have been going running in the above areas for the past five years, but recently I have become afraid to do so. Dog owners don't always have their dogs on leads or under control and in a usual 5km run I usually encounter at least 12 dogs, half of whom are off lead. The owners cannot always control the dogs and I have been growled at, barked at, jumped up on and chased by the dogs (two weeks ago I was chased for 200m by a dog and I couldn't see any other option but to get away). These incidents are always very distressing, I am always really worried that I will be bitten or attacked and I can no longer enjoy my usual runs. I always slow down around dogs and try to walk slowly so they don't bark at/jump at/chase me but this doesn't make much difference. I am also worried because there have been times I saw young children playing in the green areas and large, dangerous-looking dogs growling and barking at them while the owners/dog-walkers sat by and didn't do anything. I have also seen dogs jump at and injure pensioners out on a walk whilst completely disregarding their owners' commands. I don't have anything against dogs and I normally view them as friendly and sociable animals, but with so many dogs being off lead and out of control I am really afraid for my safety and for the safety of other people. This is a concern shared by many people I know.

I would greatly appreciate it if you could let me know where to report this problem and whether Barnet Council can take any action to remedy it.

We have processed this request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Response

The council holds the information requested and it is attached/ the answers to your questions are below

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The London Borough of Barnet does not have any set rules on the numbers of dogs permitted in its parks and open spaces, the council does have Byelaws that relate to the where dogs are strictly prohibited (please find attached), additionally there is mention that dogs must remain under control in the LBB Byelaws 1978 (see section 13, 14 and Third Schedule).

Further information

If you are interested in the data that the council holds you may wish to visit Open Barnet, the council's data portal. This brings together all our published datasets and other information of interest on one searchable database for anyone, anywhere to access. <http://open.barnet.gov.uk/>

Advice and Assistance : Direct Marketing

If you are a company that intends to use the names and contact details of council officers (or other officers) provided in this response for direct marketing, you need to be registered with the Information Commissioner to process personal data for this purpose. You must also check that the individual (whom you wish to contact for direct marketing purposes) is not registered with one of the Preference Services to prevent Direct Marketing. If they are you must adhere to this preference.

You must also ensure you comply with the Privacy Electronic and Communications Regulations (PECR). For more information follow this Link www.ico.org.uk

For the avoidance of doubt the provision of council (and other) officer names and contact details under FOI does not give consent to receive direct marketing via any media and expressly does not constitute a 'soft opt-in' under PECR.

Your rights

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review within the next 40 working days by writing to the Information Management Team at: foi@barnet.gov.uk. Or by post to Information Management Team (FOI) London Borough of Barnet, 2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW

If, having exhausted our review procedure, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you will have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF (telephone: 0303 123 1113; website www.ico.org.uk). There is no charge for making an appeal.