



Report Title: Review of Cocklemoor - Dog's on leads policy

Report author: – Gerard Tucker, Clerk, Langport Town Council

Date: 12th January 2026

Recommendation: That the amendment to the Dog's on leads policy is approved

Background

The Joint Council Committee (JCC) considered a request at a meeting held in July 2025 requesting that all dogs on Cocklemoor should be placed on leads throughout the year, commencing on 1st December 2025. The reasoning behind the request was due to the increased activity of people using Cocklemoor for recreational purposes, particularly during the summer months. There have been incidents reported of a minority of users who use Cocklemoor where their dogs have caused distress to others. The JCC approved the request by majority. As the Joint Council Committee can only make recommendations, each of the two participating councils Huish Episcopi Parish Council (HEPC) and Langport Town Council (LTC) were to take a report to their respective councils. Langport Town Council considered a report in July 2025 to request that dogs are kept on leads whilst using Cocklemoor. No report was presented to Huish Episcopi Parish Council.

Signs were purchased informing that dog owners are requested to keep their dogs on leads whilst using Cocklemoor. In November LTC commenced, through social media to inform of the pending request which was planned to start on 1st December 2025. There was a considerable amount of response generated by the social media messages, some people in support of the request, others against it. In response to the number of concerned users and the fact that HEPC had not debated the request, the proposed request was postponed to be considered again at a future meeting of the JCC.

Report

The Joint Council Committee discussed the item at their January meeting. The committee received a verbal report and update on the situation. Three options were considered:

1. To continue with the current arrangement that dogs can be off leads whilst using Cocklemoor.
2. To have a year round request that dogs should be kept on leads
3. Between 1st April and 30th September each year, dogs are requested to be kept on leads

The third point detailed above was recommended for approval by both HEPC and LTC by majority.

Financial commitment

In anticipation that both councils will adopt the amended recommendation, six A4 size signs will be purchased with amended wording. The six signs previously purchased cost a total of £66 plus VAT which was paid for by Langport Town Council. There is a budget for Cocklemoor held by LTC which is currently underspent. It is therefore proposed that LTC will carry the cost of purchasing the amended signs. A social media campaign informing that local concerns have been considered resulting in an amended policy will be relayed from 1st March.