**Purpose**

This policy outlines the management of dogs in green spaces managed by Bovey Tracey Town Council (BTTC). These areas include Mill Marsh Park, the Recreation Ground, open Space at Prince Rupert Way (Heathfield), Rendell’s Meadow, Bulland’s Field and any other green space managed by BTTC. The purpose is to ensure the safety, enjoyment, and well-being of all park users and their pets. It provides clear guidelines for responsible dog ownership within the park, addressing concerns related to dog fouling, off-lead dogs, and access to designated areas.

**Legal Basis**

This policy is established under the authority of:

• **Section 164 of the Public Health Act 1875**

• **Sections 12 and 15 of the Open Spaces Act 1906**

These provisions allow the implementation of byelaws for the effective management of public spaces, including regulating the behaviour and access of dogs.

**Policy Objectives**

1. **Enhance Park Safety and Enjoyment**: Ensure that all park visitors, including children, feel safe and enjoy their time in the park.

2. **Promote Responsible Dog Ownership**: Encourage dog owners to maintain proper control of their pets and clean up after them.

3. **Protect Wildlife and Sensitive Areas**: Prevent dogs from disturbing wildlife or causing damage to the park environment.

4. **Ensure Compliance with Byelaws**: Uphold existing legal requirements regarding dog behaviour and access.

**Key Regulations**

1. **Dogs under Control**

Owners are requested to keep dogs on leads in the following areas:

• Owners need to be in control of your dog(s) at all times.

* Around the children’s playground.

• Near park entrances and crowded areas

**2.** **Dog-Free Zones**

• Dogs are strictly prohibited inside fenced children’s play areas, and skate parks, except for registered assistance dogs

• Dog access to designated wildlife conservation zones may also be restricted.

3. **Dog Fouling**

• Owners must clean up after their dogs immediately.

• Dog waste should be disposed of in the bins provided throughout the park. Failure to comply may result in penalties.

4. **Aggressive Behaviour**

• Dogs demonstrating aggressive behaviour towards people or other animals must be removed from the park immediately.

• Owners of aggressive dogs may face restrictions on future access to the park.

**The Recreation Ground**

**This green space has a Public Space Protection Order in place requiring dogs to be kept on leads.**

**Enforcement**

• **Monitoring**: Park staff and Teignbridge Community Environment Warden will monitor compliance and report any violations.

• **Penalties**: Non-compliance with these rules may result in fines.

• **Awareness**: Signs displaying these regulations will be installed throughout the park.

**Reporting**

* Please report any concerns direct with the Community Environment Warden at Teignbridge District Council ([www.teignbridge.gov.uk](http://www.teignbridge.gov.uk)) or Bovey Tracey Town Council ([www.boveytracey.gov.uk](http://www.boveytracey.gov.uk))

**Review and Amendments**

This policy will be reviewed in 6 months and then annually or as required to address new challenges and ensure its effectiveness. Amendments will be made following consultation with the community and approval by the Recreation, Parks & Property Committee.

This policy aims to foster a harmonious environment in Council managed green spaces, balancing the interests of dog owners, other park users, and wildlife.