

Proposed dog exercise area

In our recent Parish Council newsletter we asked residents for their thoughts on a proposed new dog exercise area at the old quarry site off Westfield Lane. We had nearly 50 responses, and would like to thank everyone for taking the time to contact us about this proposal.

Over two thirds of the responses were opposed to the idea. These objections were wide ranging and from residents living near the site, dog owners and non dog owners, families with young children and older residents.

The main objections raised were:

- children use the area
- it's a natural beauty spot - all residents should be able to enjoy it
- a dog exercise area would damage the natural environment
- dogs use it anyway, so there is no need to fence it off
- other dog parks are now available in the village at relatively low cost
- it could undermine those new dog exercise businesses in the village
- there are lots of quiet roads/tracks to let dogs exercise safely around here
- it may attract non-local visitors, so the council's money would not just be benefiting local residents
- it would lead to increased road traffic on Westfield Lane, increasing the risk to walkers on a busy walking route with no footpath
- visitor parking could damage verges
- it would lead to increased dog fouling
- the fencing would be an eyesore

These objections are all valid, and having considered carefully we have decided not to go ahead with the proposed dog exercise area.

We respect the views of those who supported the suggestion, and appreciate that they will be disappointed by our decision. We would suggest that they consider using the existing dog exercise areas in the village.

We are looking at alternative uses of the Section 106 funding (which we had earmarked for the possible dog exercise area) and will provide further updates as and when they are available.