



Uphill Village Society

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Date: 27 January 2010

Dee Mawn
Principal Environmental Health Officer
North Somerset Council
Town Hall
Weston-super-Mare

Dear Ms Mawn

Re: Consultation on proposal for dog control order - Uphill Hill

The Uphill Village Society existing to protect, preserve and enhance the village of Uphill for the benefit of the village and residents. The above proposal was discussed at a meeting of the Society held today, 27th January.

Since our formation we have worked in close consultation and cooperation with the relevant authorities in the management and protection of the Uphill Local and adjacent Nature Reserves. We believe this has been to the benefit of the council, the village and most of all the reserves.

Whilst the environmental importance of the reserve as a SSSI area is acknowledged it's importance as a major recreational area is of equal relevance including it's use as an area for the walking and exercise of dogs.

The law already provides protection from nuisance by dogs for farm animals, wildlife and people.

You must control your dog so that it does not disturb or scare farm animals or wildlife. You do not have to put your dog on a lead on public paths, as long as it is under close control. By law, farmers are entitled to destroy a dog that injures or worries their animals.

The advice is that if a farm animal chases you and your dog, it is safer to let your dog off the lead and not to risk getting hurt by trying to restrain it.

Suitable measures also exist to deal with the issue of dog fouling - measures which, for no doubt a variety of reasons seem to be seldom enforced.

These laws have been available to enforce for sometime and it was the view of tonight's meeting that further orders and regulations was therefore unnecessary. The hill and it's wildlife continues to thrive and the vast majority of users of the hill reserve do so with respect for it's importance and the stock grazed there.

The need to ensure a proper balance between the importance of the site as a SSSI and it's recreational use, including by dog walkers must not be lost in the Councils consideration of this proposed order.

Yours sincerely,

Stewart Castle
Chair