

# Dartmoor Forest Parish Council



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Councillor Lynne Rose  
West Devon Borough Council  
Kilworthy Park  
Drake Road  
Tavistock  
PL19 0BZ

14 August 2014

Dear Lynne

## PROPOSED BOROUGH OF WEST DEVON FOULING OF LAND BY DOGS ORDER 2014

Dartmoor Forest Parish Council reviewed its stance on the proposed new Dog Control Orders at its monthly meeting on 11 August and has decided to withdraw support for the proposed Fouling of Land By Dogs Order.

In February 2014, when the Parish Council was first consulted about the proposed Fouling of Land By Dogs Order, the Council had not appreciated these orders would apply to open moorland. The recent exchange of letters in the Princetown and Tavistock Times Gazette during the public consultation has, however, highlighted that this is the intention of West Devon Borough Council. The Parish Council considers this to be unreasonable.

The Parish Council also noted the suggestion that West Devon Borough Council would selectively enforce this Order guided by common sense. This is also considered unreasonable as it puts members of the public in the position where they may be technically committing an offence that may or may not be penalised, depending on the whim of an enforcement officer.

As you are aware, Dartmoor Forest Parish includes over 11,000 hectares of open moorland that is used by parishioners and visitors for work and leisure. Neighbouring Parishes have similar circumstances. Dartmoor Forest Parish Council firmly believes this open moorland should be exempted from the Fouling of Land By Dogs Order, as is Forestry Commission land. Having reviewed various definitions of the open moorland, the Parish Council considers this is best defined as "all access land in the context of the Dartmoor Commons Act 1985".

Consequently, Dartmoor Forest Parish Council strongly recommends you seek and/or support an amendment to the proposed Borough of West Devon Fouling of Land By Dogs Order Schedule Paragraph 2 to read:

*Excepted from the description in paragraph 1 above is:*

- (i) land that is placed at the disposal of the Forestry Commissioners under section 39 (1) of the Forestry Act 1967.*
- (ii) all access land in the context of the Dartmoor Commons Act 1985.*

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Tigwell'.

Nigel Tigwell  
Parish Clerk