

A few thoughts for your letters/e-mails of objection to Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown (DLR) Council and to your elected DLR Councillors:

1. Why do you have a dog and what does it mean to you – companion; security; family pet; physical and/or mental health of owner; therapy dog ...
2. Why your dog needs off-leash exercise – dog socialisation with other dogs and humans; water dog who loves to swim; chase a ball or stick; play and run with other dogs ...
3. Dog behaviour – how your dog interacts with humans; with other dogs; does your dog act as therapy dog for your family members; through voluntary visits to nursing homes, rehabilitation centres and other institutions catering to the disadvantaged in society; by involving you in dog circles and other local communities ...
4. Why you object to the current DLR Beach and Parks Bye-Laws and their impact on both you and your dog's physical and mental health.
5. You are a responsible dog owner who understands the full implications of owning and nurturing your dog and who is responsible for your dog's behaviour in your neighbourhood and while outside the confines of your home.
6. You abide by the Control of Dogs Acts and the Litter Laws.
7. You may be restricted to exercising your dog in your immediate locale.
8. Do you agree with the DLR policy of allowing dogs off leash *only* in 'dog pens' in public parks?
9. Is your dog your constant companion whom you want or need by your side? Does your dog suffer when left alone?
10. How you with your dog contribute to society, as a constituent with votes to give, in return for the relaxation of the DLR 'dog control' bye-laws.
11. How you abhor the behaviour of a minority of dog owners who give *all* dogs a bad name, for example, by not cleaning up after their dog or allowing it to be out of control.
12. How you object to scare-mongering and misinformation being put about in the media by our Council and our elected representatives, in particular as they relate to 'dog attacks' and public health concerns. The increasing spread of obesity and diabetes is of far greater concern to public health than the very rare infection of Toxocariasis, which is spread by untreated dog, cat and fox faeces.

HANDY REFERENCE

The complete list of **DLR Councillors** and their e-mail addresses can be found on <http://www.dlrcoco.ie/aboutus/councilbusiness/listofcouncillors/>

The names and e-mails of the **DLR Council officials** we are particularly interested in contacting (i.e. the County Manager, Deputy County Manager and the Director of Environment, Culture and Community) can be found on <http://www.dlrcoco.ie/aboutus/managementteam/>

The names and e-mails of managers in the **DLR Parks Department** can be found on <http://www.dlrcoco.ie/Parks/contact.html>