

# Hilly Fields User Group

## Dogs

### THE DOG'S DANGLIES, RATHER THAN A DOG'S DINNER

Responsible dog owners are welcome on Hilly Fields but that does mean thinking about other park users.

Dog owners must keep their dogs under control and clean up after them or face dogs being banned from Hilly Fields.

- 1 Do not let your dog run at, or jump up at, people you don't know. You may know your dog is harmless, but it can be terrifying for joggers, children and parents to have a dog run or jump at them. **Do not be surprised if your dog is kicked or punched** as people react instinctively in defence.
- 2 Train your dog to go to the toilet at home before you come out for a walk. If your dog does mess in the park, clear it up immediately and put it in one of the many special, red bins provided, or take it home with you. That means **watching over your dog the whole time, not texting, chatting with other dog owners or sitting on benches** while your dog plays behind you.
- 3 Clear up any other dogs' mess you find and challenge and report any dog owners who do not clear up their own dogs' mess. Even responsible dog owners get a bad reputation if there is any dogs' mess in the park. It will not be possible to ban only a few dog owners so that means all dog owners need to clear up any dogs' mess they find.

Dogs' mess is not just disgusting, it is dangerous.

**The council can pass a bylaw banning dogs from Hilly Fields, as it has done for Brookmill Gardens.**

Dogs' mess is national issue, as reported on in The Guardian article [The mess we're in \(opens new window\)](#) on 12 February 2019.

Lewisham Council has issued its own, similar advice on [animal fouling \(link opens new window\)](#)