SUPPORTING STATEMENT FOR INCREASE IN DOG NUMBERS AVA/2026/0357

I am writing to ask if the numbers allowed on the dog field could be increased from four dogs in any given period to six. My reasons are three fold.

Firstly we have a lot of dog walkers walk past the field each day and I have been stopped on numerous occasions asking if I could consider increasing the allowance to six dogs enabling the walkers to stop and have an “off lead play” in the dog park as part of their exercise. Responsible professional dog walkers do not like to let their charges off unless they are sure the area is secure and being able to include off lead work would give the dogs better variety of activity in their walks.

Secondly I have two families who come to the field regularly but have more than 4 dogs because both families also have assistance dogs for disabled members of their family. At present they only bring some of their pets in order to ensure that they can bring the assistance dogs too but in an ideal world it would be nice to allow them a chance for all their four legged companions to be included at one time.

Thirdly, I am delighted that we have a large number of users who not only take the time to exercise their dogs but also use it to catch up with friends, family, grandparents etc (always keeping the human number below 6). Often this means that more than four dog spaces are needed as two households often include more than four dogs. Covid was incredibly hard for so many people. It has left quite a mark on many lives and some people are still nervous about meeting in shops or busy places. The dog field lets people walk and talk, enjoy the birdsong and moments together and I would like the opportunity of ensuring more people get this chance without being in a crowd.

I have no intention of making the dog field a rabble rousing place of noise and chaos. It is a beautiful spot which I enjoy keeping clean, well mown and sharing with people who want their dog to have fun. It is this enjoyment of sharing the spot that leads me to ask for an increase in dog numbers so more people can enjoy it with their dogs. The positives of my field are its position, how it is managed, the off field parking and proximity to so many parts of Derby, however currently being restricted on numbers, unlike many other local fields, means some people are choosing to take their dogs to places less convenient, clean or well managed. Please consider increasing my numbers from four to six dogs