

WESTBURY AREA BOARD

Date: 11 February 2010

Dog fouling

Purpose of the Report

1. To update the Area Board on the reported issue of dog fouling in Westbury and action currently being taken to resolve the issue.

Background

Through the area board issues system, a member of the public has raised an issue about dog fouling in the vicinity of Bitham Brook School and the network of paths nearby. The Wiltshire Council dog warden has visited the site and is updating signage and assessing the need for more refuse bins. Westbury area board and Westbury town council are working together to meet funding should more bins be needed. The town council currently gives away dog refuse bags free of charge from the town council offices at the Laverton and from the Westbury Heritage Centre in Edward Street. Plans are also underway for awareness raising posters to remind people of their obligations as dog owners and the law governing this.

Main Considerations

- The legislation governing dog fouling changed in April 2006 when the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 became law.
- Dogs must NOT be allowed to foul footpaths, grass verges or public places.
- People breaching the order may be issued with a fixed penalty notice set at £75 with a reduction to £50 if paid within 10 days of the date of the fine.
- All a dog owner needs to do is use a plastic bag to pick up the faeces and then place it in any bin (it does not have to be a designated dog fouling bin - any bagged waste can be placed into any public litter bin.).
- Dog mess can contain a number of things which can make people ill.
- Incidents regarding Dog Fouling can be reported to Wiltshire Council on 0300 456 0100

Environmental Impact of the Proposals

The decrease in dog fouling hoped to be achieved from raising awareness that owners should be picking up after their dogs would decrease the amount of faeces present in public areas and therefore decrease the risk of disease spread between other dogs and also to humans.

Financial Implications

There are no specific financial implications at this stage. Should more bins be required, joint funding may be secured via the area board and town council. Costs of new signage and posters will be met through Wiltshire Council funding.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications but see above for reference to consequences of contravening the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005

HR Implications

There are no HR implications.

Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no equality and diversity implications

Recommendation

To support the work in raising awareness about dog fouling.

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