

Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board
Dog Fouling Task Group

Notes of meeting held on 17th February 2014 and recommendation to Area Board

Meeting attendance

Rod Case – Cricklade Town Council
Ray Bourton – Broad Town Parish Council
Tom Blundell – member of the public representing Lyneham
Penny Bell – Community Area Manager

Background

The Dog Fouling Task Group was formed by the Area Board in 2012 in response to local concern that had been raised on the issue.

After holding a series of meetings to discuss the issues, the Task Group made a series of recommendations and presented them to the Area Board in September 2013. Following this, the Area Board commissioned a public opinion survey to gauge the level of public support for each of the recommendations.

This was completed and presented to the Area Board in November 2013, with the Area Board subsequently tasking the Group to assess the survey results and form a more detailed recommendation to be taken forward within the community area.

Recommendation to Area Board

At its meeting on 17 February 2014, the Dog Fouling Task Group reviewed the work carried out to date, including the results of the public survey, and decided that it would be more effective to concentrate efforts on one of the recommendations at a time. The other recommendations would not be dismissed, but would remain in the Area Board's 'toolkit' to be pursued at a later date, if required.

The Dog Fouling Task Group recommends to the Area Board that 'education' would be the most effective priority to take forward at this stage. The group felt that education, particularly amongst primary and junior school-aged children, but also amongst the wider community, was key to tackling the root causes of the problem. The following actions have been identified:

Action	By who	When
Source/compile a list of the key health risks associated with dog faeces	Cllr. Jacqui Lay	By end April
Investigate what educational initiatives are taking place within schools and whether these can be enhanced locally by way of assemblies, competitions, etc	Penny Bell	By end April
Source existing literature/leaflets on the subject and determine whether there are any gaps that need to be filled	Task Group	By end May
Contact local vets and re-homing centres to enquire what educational steps they take and identify any room for improvements	Task Group	By end May
Encourage positive community action by offering financial assistance to community groups and parish/town councils that identify local initiatives in response to the problem	Parish/Town councils, community groups	2014/15 and ongoing

Area Board funding

The Task Group would like to request that the Area Board commits the sum of £2,000 from its 2013/14 budget to commit to taking these actions forward.

This sum of money could be used to support parish and town councils and local communities to produce or improve educational literature, run poster campaigns, hold road shows, install or relocate waste bins, supply waste bags, or any other local initiatives that might come forward.

It is proposed that any application for funding would be made to the Area Board via the usual application process, and determined by the Area Board individually on merit.

The Task Group would also like to recommend to the Area Board that a commitment is made to encourage and support local community initiatives that tackle dog fouling by welcoming such applications through the Community Area Grant scheme on an ongoing basis.

Future role of the Task Group

It is recommended that the Area Board reviews progress on a regular basis and reconvenes the Dog Fouling Task Group on an ad hoc basis according to need.

Contacts:

Councillor Jacqui Lay – Area Board representative leading the Task Group
Jacqui.lay@wiltshire.gov.uk

Penny Bell – Community Area Manager
Penny.bell@wiltshire.gov.uk