

Cricklade Report to the Area Board on May 20th
Dog Fouling Campaign
held in February 2015

Following on from the work of area board dog fouling task group Cricklade Town Council and Purton Parish Council jointly agreed to hold a campaign focus week to raise awareness of the negative aspects of dog fouling and encourage owners to 'bin it and bag it'. The dates for the campaign were 7th – 14th February 2015.

The campaign in Cricklade involved:

- Posters about clearing up after your dog were put up on stakes around the town by the grounds team and messages sprayed onto paths using stencils in areas where dog fouling is most prevalent
- An information sheet about the hazards of dog fouling, a related word search and information about the 'dog poo fairy' story competition were delivered to St Sampsons Primary School, Meadow Park Nursery and Primary School and Prior Park School with sufficient copies for every pupil
- On Saturdays 7th and 14th February officers, councillors and volunteer members of the community set up and manned an information stall in the High Street. Leaflets from the Dogs Trust, dog poo bags and badges were given to passers-by as well as information about the short story competition. On 7th February the Dogs Trust also chipped dogs free of charge. The Dogs Trust returned for two further visits to the town to chip dogs. In total the Dogs Trust micro chipped 8,540 dogs in the south west in their recent campaign
- Leaflets and dog poo bags were given out on Fairview Fields where many dogs are exercised and the rugby pitch is situated
- Following complaints from residents a regular dog walker who reportedly did not clean up was reported to the Wiltshire dog warden
- Information about the dog fouling awareness campaign was made available at the CTC tourist information point, the CTC web site and face book page including the 'dog poo fairy' short story competitions for under 15s and over 15s.
- The chair and vice chair of the Community and Leisure Committee jointly judged the story competitions and the prize winners announced and book token prizes presented at the Annual Town Meeting on 13th April.
- Providing additional bins at Hatchetts and in Fairview Fields (total number of bins in Cricklade is now 61)

Cricklade Town Council were successful in bidding for £ 449 from the £2,000 made available to town and parish councils by the area board to assist in tackling the dog fouling issue. The funding was used to:

- Purchase book token prizes for the short story competition with 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes awarded in each age category
- Photocopying of campaign posters, dangers leaflet, short story leaflet; children's' word search, dog warden leaflets
- Information for schools and the library
- Posters, boards, stakes and laminating of posters
- Stencils and spray paint

Response:

- Positive feedback from members of the community to councillors and officers on seeking to address the issue and raising awareness of the possible health hazards. For example, a resident commented to me on April 19th that the campaign had seen "a marked improvement with the reduction of dog fouling"

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- 18 dogs chipped by the Dogs Trust
- Prizes awarded to the short story winners and their success publicized in the Wilts and Glos Standard and on Facebook. The two winning entries to be published in Ripples magazine.
- Noticeable reduction in dog fouling; although there is an ongoing issue in some areas
- Some residents provided additional posters and signs to encourage 'bagging and binning it' in areas around the town

At the Cricklade Town Council Community and Leisure committee meeting on 18th May a number of recommendations are being presented to members to consider how to continue to raise awareness and educate our community further about the dog fouling issue and to ensure our town continues to be 'a delightful place'.



Councillor Angela Jensen

Chair of Cricklade Community and Leisure Committee

May 2015