

Report to	Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board
Date of Meeting	Wednesday 27 November 2013
Title of Report	Dog Fouling Task Group – survey results

Purpose of Report

To present the Area Board with the results of the online public survey that was recently conducted based on the recommendations from the Dog Fouling Task Group, to enable the Area Board to determine the way forward.

1. Background

- 1.1. At its meeting on 30 May 2012, the Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board responded to local concern and began a debate on the issue of dog fouling in the community.
- 1.2. At the meeting, an information and discussion item was led by Yvonne Bennett of Wiltshire Council, Consumer Protection and Councillor Jacqui Lay, to hear what action Wiltshire Council and local communities were taking against dog fouling, and to consider further potential action.
- 1.3. As a result of the meeting, the Area Board resolved to set up a Dog Fouling Task Group to fully investigate the issue of dog fouling locally, including education, training and enforcement, and to develop a detailed proposal as to how the issue could be most effectively addressed locally.
- 1.4. Parish and town councils and relevant local partners were invited to nominate representatives to participate in the work of the Task Group.
- 1.5. The Task Group held a series of meetings over the past 12 months and concluded its recommendations, presenting them to the Area Board at its meeting on 25 September 2013. The Task Group had come up with a total of 11 recommendations for the Area Board's consideration.
- 1.6. The Area Board decided to put the recommendations out to informal public consultation by way of an online survey, in an attempt to increase public participation and obtain a feedback from the general public as to the most popular solutions.
- 1.7. An online survey via Survey Monkey was conducted between 7 October and 1 November 2013.
- 1.8. The Area Board is to review the results and determine which of the recommendations should be taken forward.

Background documents used in the preparation of this report	Minutes of Area Board meeting 30 May 2012 Task Group report and recommendations to Area Board Survey results
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2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. A total of 212 people took part in the online survey which is a very positive response when considering that average attendance at Area Board meetings ranges from 30-60 people, so the online survey has proved to be a very effective way of engaging with a greater number of people from the local community.
- 2.2. 74% of respondents indicated that they had never attended an Area Board meeting. This confirms that alternative methods of public engagement can be used with positive results, and that local people do not always wish to attend meetings, but still wish to have their say on local issues that affect them.
- 2.3. Of the total respondents, 47% lived in Cricklade, 24% lived in Royal Wootton Bassett, 18% lived in Purton and the remainder lived in villages. There were no responses from residents of Braydon or Tockenham. This could indicate that the issue of dog fouling is of greater concern in the urban areas, particularly Cricklade, as opposed to the rural areas of the community area.
- 2.4. When asked how concerned they were that dog fouling was a problem in their area, 69% of respondents stated that they were 'very concerned' and 23% stated that they were 'slightly concerned' which means that the large majority of respondents see dog fouling as a concern in the area where they live.
- 2.5. Respondents were asked to look at each of the Dog Fouling Task Group's recommendations in turn and then indicate how strongly they agreed that the Area Board should take that recommendation forward.
- 2.6. All 11 of the recommendations received high levels of support from respondents. The order of popularity of each of the 11 recommendations is shown below, with the first figure being the percentage of respondents who 'strongly agreed' and the second figure being the percentage that 'agreed':
 1. Public awareness – 54% (35%)
 2. Reinstatement of dog licenses – 48% (21%)
 3. Mapping – 46% (35%)
 4. Developer contributions – 44% (28%)
 5. Publicity – 43% (38%)
 6. Rent a Warden – 42% (32%)
 7. New residents pack – 36% (37%)
 8. Roadshows – 35% (35%)
 9. Funding – 30% (39%)
 10. Education – 29% (44%)
 11. Community volunteer scheme – 29% (43%)

2.7. A full summary of the survey results and the additional comments that were made can be found at Appendix 1 (available online or upon request from the report author).

3. Environmental & Community Implications

3.1. There are no specific environmental and community implications related to this report.

4. Financial Implications

4.1. There are no specific financial implications related to this report.

5. Legal Implications

5.1. There are no specific legal implications related to this report.

6. HR Implications

6.1. There are no specific HR implications related to this report.

7. Equality and Inclusion Implications

7.1. There are no specific equality and inclusion implications related to this report.

Appendices	Appendix 1: Summary of Survey Monkey results (available online or on request from the report author)
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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