



Braydon, Broad Town, Clyffe Pypard, Cricklade, Latton, Lydiard Millicent, Lydiard Tregoz, Lyneham & Bradenstoke, Marston Meysey, Purton, Tockenham and Royal Wootton Bassett

Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Community Area

Dog Fouling Task Group

Final report to RWB&C Area Board on 24th September 2014

Since its report at the last area board meeting, the task group met on 5th August 2014 at Cricklade Town Council Offices and had a planned meeting for September 3rd at RWB Library.

Representatives from Broad Town, Cricklade, Lyneham and RWB attended the first meeting.

The second meeting had a poor attendance due to other commitments so action notes and outcomes from the first meeting were circulated.

'Bag It and Bin It' Campaign Week

Following the group's agreed remit of education, a campaign week from Saturday 4th Oct to Saturday 11th Oct with community leadership was agreed. This would include to include a poster design for primary school children via their book bags, individual town and parish councils to take responsibility for their own poster campaign, and the use of a 'Bag it and Flag it' kit – flags, bags and A-boards. All the town and parish councils were invited to be involved with the campaign, and take the lead in their local areas with posters funded by the task group budget.

The Dogs Trust agreed to support the campaign and offered leaflets, badges and dog bags plus a community education officer who would be willing to come out to local schools and events.

A child-friendly poster was drafted.

Further Research

We looked at what other communities had been doing – Royal Tunbridge Wells had carried out a Scrutiny programme in 2013 and from this had a Bag it and Flag it Campaign which seem to work well. We discussed if this was something that the community area could do and it was agreed that something similar could be part of the initial campaign with the materials then passed around the area in following months whenever there was a particular Hot Spot.

We also noted that Westbury and Warminster Town Councils were considering recruiting a shared dog warden.

Training for Dog Wardens is available from Keep Britain Tidy at an approximate cost of £1000 for up to 10 candidates. Further costs would be uniform, identity documents and legal costs for taking prosecutions where Fixed Penalties are unpaid.



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Paul Harris, Wiltshire Council's Highways Enforcement (Environmental Health) is looking into a more community-friendly system for educating dog walkers and hopefully will advise Area Boards how this might work.

Outcomes

There was a low response from the town/parish councils to the invitation to take part in the week-long 'Bag It and Bin It' campaign. However, the following responses were received:

- RWB Town Council agreed that a poster campaign reminding dog owners to take a torch in the darker months to check for fouling.
- Cricklade Town Council agreed to a campaign week and to design their posters.
- Lyneham Parish Council did not want to take part in the 'Bag It and Bin It' campaign at this time.
- Purton Parish Council was keen to have a 'Bag It and Bin It' campaign week with posters for school children.
- Tockenham Parish Council agreed to a poster campaign in their community.

Recommendations

- 1. The task group has met its terms of reference to engage with, research and make suggestions about ways in which towns and parish councils can address the issue of dog fouling.**
- 2. The remaining fund of £1,940 be set aside until the area board meeting on 21 January 2015 for town and parishes to apply for their own projects that address issues of dog fouling where the criteria is one of public education about the necessity to clear up after your dog. Any applications for funding should be sent to the Community Area Manager.**
- 3. The dog fouling task group may wish continue to meet as an area-wide community group led by its area representatives.**