

## **Item 11 : Dog Fouling**

### **Introduction**

A growing number of concerns have been made recently by residents about dog fouling.

### **Background**

Dog fouling is an on going problem. Members may recall that this, together with litter, was one of the most common concerns raised by residents in the consultation exercise that led to the development of the community led Parish Plan.

The Parish Plan , approved by the Parish Council in May 2017, included a number of actions for the Parish Council to take to help address these concerns.

Actions taken so far include:

- Purchase of 8 black waste bins – for use for dog and general waste
- Pride in Our Village Day – Promotion of the work of DCC neighbourhood wardens /anti social behaviour , Civic Pride team etc in a drop session at the Jubilee Hall.

One agreed action was, in consultation with Durham County Council, to:

*“Carry out a publicity campaign to raise awareness of the extent of the problem of dog fouling, the health risks etc. and the new Public Space Protection Order which comes into effect 1/6/2017. More Pick-Up Notices, stickers, signs etc. throughout the village, regular coverage in Village News, use of social media etc.”*

Whilst some publicity was given to the Public Space Protection Order when it was introduced, with publicity material provided by DCC, a more locally targeted campaign to encourage all dog owners to pick up after there dogs has not been progressed.

Given recent concerns, it would seem an opportune time to revisit this outstanding action and consider other potential measures that could further help to try and reduce dog fouling.

### **Publicity Campaign**

The attached publicity campaign ideas have been drafted for members consideration. Laminated A3 posters could be put up in known hot spot areas across the parish, but these could also be put on the Website for residents to download and print off themselves, if they knew of a problem area near them

These draft ideas have been shared with relevant DCC officers to seek their thoughts on progressing this option. A summary of comments received is given below:

- Think this is quite a good idea. Any assistance from the PC to help tackle dog fouling is welcome
- Posters don't really work unless they are for a short period of time, its fly posting, they fall down and become litter. They will degrade over time so should be moved and refreshed
- I would not encourage this approach. My approach is to educate; in normal times we would visit schools and work with enforcement to ask residents to feed back as to who are the people not picking up. We know that rates of reported failure to pick up are high at this time of year. Suggest the Civic pride team work with enforcement who would up patrols in the village. The use of spray signs are also useful and have more impact.

### **Other potential options**

- More black waste bins in hot spot – e.g in the churchyard near South Street entrance – reports of disgarded food/litter as well as dog mess in this area. Cost to PC £300 each.
- CCTV. In addition to the initial cost of installation, footage would need to be regularly reviewed to try to identify potential offenders for referral to the enforcement team. This may deter some people in areas where it is known they are being watched, but would it help educate the need to pick up whether or not they are being watched?

### **Parish Council is asked to consider:**

- 1). In view of comments made by DCC, whether or not it wishes to proceed with a publicly campaign based on the draft campaign material attached.
- 2) What, if any, other measures it would like to pursue to help reduce dog fouling.

M Ramshaw  
12/3/2021