

REPORT TO ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP

DOG FOULING

Report Reference EN-21-02
Meeting Date 24th May 2021
Agenda Item 6
Prepared by Town Clerk



1.0 BACKGROUND

At its March meeting, the Environment and General Purposes committee discussed the apparent increase in dog fouling across Knutsford. It was agreed at the meeting that Cllr Houghton and the Town Clerk would prepare proposals for action the Town Council can take to tackle the issue.

Research was undertaken for options to install new litter bins, dog bins and poo bag dispensers, these are shown in appendix A. It is noted that some people may not be aware that dog waste can be deposited in standard litter bins.

ANSA has provided a list of the bins in Knutsford and these have been mapped to visually identify where there are gaps. Only one of the bins is a dog waste bin, all others are litter bins (in which dog waste can be deposited). The map (see appendix B) identifies notable gaps in coverage, for example there are few litter bins in the south of the Town but it is noted that this does not in itself indicate a problem.

2.0 PROPOSED ACTIVITY

It is proposed that the council seeks information from residents to ascertain where dog fouling (and littering) is the greatest issue. This would be through the council's social media and coverage in the Knutsford Guardian. The data gathered would then be used to determine which of the following actions would best tackle the problem:

Installation of new bins – the council would install new litter or dog fouling bins to tackle reported problems in areas where there is a dearth of conveniently located bins. Litterbins would feature signage to ensure users know that dog waste can be deposited.

Installation of poo bag dispensers - the council would install dog poo bag dispensers on existing street furniture to provide dog owners with easy access to bags in problem areas

Bin Signage - the council would install signage on existing litter bins to advise the public that dog waste can be deposited in the litterbin.

Temporary awareness signage - the council would install temporary signage / stickers on existing street furniture to remind people of the need to clean up after their dogs and the potential fines for not doing so. Signs would be deployed for short periods (e.g. 2 months) as an awareness campaign and redeployed to other areas where necessary.

The Town Clerk would collate the responses and prepare a plan to tackle the areas where the greatest

issues are reported; in some areas a combination of the four actions may be undertaken. The proposed action plan would be circulated to committee members for review and implemented within an approved budget; depending on the number of areas where a problem is identified, it may be necessary to phase implementation of a plan over a number of financial years and the areas with the greatest reported problem would be prioritised.

A budget of £2,500 is allocated under the Environment Committee's Environment Projects / Street Furniture budget line. Members should provide direction as to how much of this budget should be allocated for this activity in the current financial year.

The installation of bins and dispensers would be subject to the permission of Cheshire East Council where necessary e.g. consent from Cheshire East Highways would be required for installation onto street lighting columns and the emptying of bins would need to be agreed with ANSA. ANSA are generally supportive of the installation of new bins provided they are easily accessible from the highway for collection.

3.0 DIRECTION REQUIRED

Members are asked to provide direction on the activity outlined and advise a recommended budget.

APPENDIX A – PHOTOGRAPHS AND COSTS



Dog Poo Bag Dispenser

Can be mounted to existing poles, walls or streetlights.
£79 excluding fixings. £26 per refill pack of 800 bags.



Standard Litter Bin

Freestanding.
Includes 4 x poster frames for branding and messaging signage.
£450.



Dog Poo Bin and Bag Dispenser

£310 inclusive of pole and fixings.
£26 per refill pack of 800 bags.

APPENDIX B – BIN MAP

Overleaf