

Background

At the Parish Meeting held in September – Members agreed the following:

125.21 Provision of Dog Poo Bags

Members NOTED and CONSIDERED the provision of free dog poo bags at the Jubilee Club House site. Main points were:

- The dispenser and a supply of bags were originally purchased via a £150 grant from the Area Board in July 2015.
- Ten local councils were approached, only one Council from the ten contacted supplies free bags.
- The dispenser requires a specific type of bag, currently the bags used are of good quality, in size and composition.
- The Council received a delivery of 800 bags in May 2021 at a cost of approximately £58 including delivery, which have run out this equates to £300 - £350.

Feedback received

- There are free poo bags available, for example at Neigh Bridge Country Park, but they are provided by the organisation that manages the location, rather than the councils.
- Wiltshire Council as the principal authority does not supply free dog poo bags on any sites.

Dog Owners responses to the question:

- responsible dog owners, take their own bags when out walking, but that they would use the free ones and take some to top up their personal supplies.
- the locals bring their own and they felt they were being removed in vast quantities and not used for the field walkers.
- Dog poo can be found on the field even with the Council provided free bags.

Members debated the issue at length, but eventually AGREED to postpone making a decision, until more investigations could take place into types of alternative dispensers and bags, possible relocation of bin, whether complaints are received because there are no bags, or if there are more unbagged deposits - the Handyman was asked to monitor the situation as a trial to see if there is any difference, report back to the November meeting.

Other Information

Risk of Toxocariasis – Quite often, animals that carry this parasite may show no signs of infection. However, infected animals can shed eggs of Toxocara in their faeces. Even if you pick up your dog waste, the ground can be left contaminated. Some children have a tendency to eat soil and sand or they may just put their fingers in their mouths after putting their hands on the ground, enabling them to contract the parasite. Toxocara larvae can in some cases migrate to other body organs and even the eyes. This can lead to a variety of more serious symptoms such as **fever, abdominal pain or even permanent vision loss**. Dogs may also carry E. coli or hepatitis in their faeces.

Clerks Update

I have not found any other Council supplying dog poo bags

Many Councils have excluded dogs from Council-owned marked sports and playing pitches.

Feedback Received:

- The Handyman reported, no increase in un-bagged faeces – as at end of September
- Cllr Harden reported that dog walkers were asking about more poo bags complaining about mess not being removed and they were ignoring the lead. leash sign
- Cllr Curtis emailed as follows:

At last meeting we discussed at length, poo bags. It was suggested whether or not to allow dogs on the recreation field going forward. This is obviously a separate agenda item to discuss and it has got me thinking about it.

I have played football at facilities similar to JCH and can speak from experience the frustration when dog poo is discovered on the pitch, unfortunately it is not always spotted first and removed.

I'm also a dog owner and witnessed over the past couple of days a significant amount of owners walking their dogs on the field and feel it would have a severe negative impact on the parish to stop dog walkers using the facility.

The supply of poo bags, drinking water and "dog park" sign is clearly a message that the area is dog friendly and we as a council invite owners and dogs to walk around. There is however, not a lot of information or suggestions to owners to keep off the playing areas of the grass.

Please can we add an item to the next agenda to discuss options to facilitate a symbiotic relationship between dog walkers and sports enthusiasts.

Summary

Members to CONSIDER:

- whether to provide free dog poo bags
- whether new clearer signage is required
- whether to investigate further the banning of dogs from the Recreation Field

Tina Jones
October 2021