

Members are requested to NOTE this report and CONSIDER the way forward.

Background

The Council provides free dog poo bags at the Jubilee Cub House site.

The dispenser and a supply of bags were originally purchased via a £150 grant from the Area Board in July 2015.

The bags are placed in a dispenser that requires a specific type of bag as they are packaged to be hung from two points internal to the lockable unit, which allow the bags to be easily accessed - the bags are good quality, in size and composition.

The Handyman has suggested that if the Council decides to continue with the supply of bags long term, perhaps a different type of dispenser could be identified ie "bags-on-a-roll" or "bags-in-a-box" where the bags themselves may well be cheaper.

The Council received a delivery of 800 bags in May 2021 at a cost of around £58 including delivery, which have run out. Based on the May cost and assuming the Council was low/out of bags at time of delivery, the Council is paying approximately £300 - £350 per year for bags

Feedback Received

There are free poo bags available, but these tend to be located in parks or at managed nature areas, for example at Neigh Bridge Country Park, but they are provided by the organisation that manages the location, rather than the local council.

Wiltshire Council as the principal authority does not supply free dog poo bags on any sites.

I contacted several Councils of various sizes to see if they supply free dog poo bags:

Brinkworth	No	Lydiard Tregoze	No reply
Broad Town	No reply	Purton	No
Cricklade	No	Royal Wootton Bassett	No reply
South Marston	No	Stratton St Margaret	No
Latton	No	Wroughton	No

Dog Owners have said:

- 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.

From Wiltshire Council Website

Please don't let your dog foul a public right of way or open space. It is easy to train your dog to go in the garden before taking it out for a walk.

Always carry a plastic bag with you so that if your dog is caught short you can pick up its mess and dispose of it. If you don't clear up after your dog, Community Police Officers and the council's dog warden can serve you with a fixed penalty notice; you could be prosecuted and, if found guilty, fined up to £1,000.

Recommendation

Members to decide whether they still wish to provide free dog poo bags.

Tina Jones – August 2021