

Dog Fouling and other Anti Social Behaviour

Discussion Paper

We are all aware of the increasing problems of dog fouling and litter. Each week it seems that the problems get worse, yet we are faced with a situation where the body primarily responsible for tackling this simply does not have the resources to be able to do this effectively. For a long time we have been handicapped by the restrictions on who can issue penalty notices, however some recent changes now mean that a realistic and locally affordable scheme can be brought in.

As of 3 April 2017 legislation that requires those who have care of a dog in a public place to carry with them the means of collecting and disposing of dog excrement. A failure to be able to produce these means at the request of a 'suitably authorised official' means that the person is liable to an immediate fixed penalty of up to £100.

The problem with this under present resources is that it still will not happen, however Shropshire Council are now prepared to train any number of people to be Enforcement Officers who are empowered to issue the tickets. This means that the task of enforcement can now be spread amongst a team of volunteers and, if anyone is interested, Councillors.

Church Stretton Town Council have introduced this scheme already. They have created a position of Town Warden by restructuring their existing staff and adding a few more hours. The Post has variable hours so that weekends and evenings can be covered, and the Warden is able to issue tickets for littering too. In addition they have recruited volunteers (at least one is a Town Councillor) who carry a book of tickets and appropriate ID from amongst those dog walkers who do pick up the droppings. These are, as you might expect, only too happy to catch those who give them a bad name.

The suggestion is that we:

1. Agree to look at creating a Post of Town Warden (Personnel to deal with the details) from existing budgets
2. Agree to take on the enforcement role from Shropshire Council
3. Advertise for volunteers to be trained by Shropshire Council as authorized officials

Cllr David Minnery
Town Mayor