

Admin Officer

Subject: FW: Dog fouling in Ilminster

From:
Sent: 28 January 2022 09:57
To: Town Council <town.council@ilminster.gov.uk>
Subject: Fwd: Dog fouling in Ilminster

Dear Mayor Burton and Clerk,

Since the return of the school in January the issue of dog fouling in Ilminster has got to the point of being unbearable.

Attached is a selection of photographs I took this morning (28-01-22) between the school and Bay Hill. There is no less than 7 incidences of dog fouling on the pavements. Not only is this unsightly and unpleasant but presents a health risk by the transmission of toxocariasis (especially as 2 incidents are in front of the school gate and on the path at wharf lane – so children are literally walking it into the classroom.)

I appreciate that the council has a sufficient number of bins for irresponsible dog owners not to pick it up and bin it, but I feel something now has to be done.

SSDC could impose a PSPO under the anti-social behaviour, crime and policing Act 2014 which can cover "fouling of land by dogs and the removal of dog faeces".

Alternatively, assuming the council has healthy reserves from either S106 or CIL money from the building on Winterhay lane, an initiative could be sort and invested in under the infrastructure guidelines as more people with more dogs are now in the town.

The council could consider:

- The green dog walker's scheme
- Chalk stencils with messages highlighting fouling
- Glow in the dark posters targeting night-time fouling (I am almost certain this problem is exasperated under the cover of darkness)
- A council reporting App
- Local PCSO's enforcing dog fouling fixed fines under s8 of the Anti-social behaviour, crime, and policing Act 2014
- Involving the school in making/displaying posters highlighting to the community and families the issue within the town
- Adopt an app called pooper snooper and set incentives
- Engaging with the community on social media outlets to highlight the issue dog fouling has become.

I would appreciate your consideration in including this item for discussion at the next full council meeting.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this email.

Kind regards,



Admin Officer

Subject: FW: Dog Fouling in Ilminster

>

Subject: Dog Fouling in Ilminster

Good morning .

Thank you for your detailed email to us and also your suggestions.

South Somerset District Council take dog fouling very seriously and welcome your communication with us.

I will patrol, clear and sign the area over the next few weeks and assess the need for a bin.

Unfortunately I have been proven that even with a bin in place, some dog owners will still not clear up the mess so education is key. I will be looking into the examples you have given of how we can address this issue not only in your area but others. Some of which we have already started to look at.

If you can give me an idea of when it happens, or if others have seen it happen or have a clue who the perpetrator/s maybe I can leaflet drop the area and patrol around those times.

Fining people is difficult but not impossible, as they need to be caught at the time of the fouling occurring. Any evidence we receive from members of the public are looked into where an identification has taken place.

SSDC will also be using Social Media in the next few months to make people aware of this issue and remind them that officers are out and about patrolling ad hoc or in response to a problem area.

I will put some time in my calendar to come out this week to make an initial patrol and sign / clear the area.

If I can be of any further assistance or you wish to get in touch please feel free to contact me by email.

Have a lovely day.

Kind regards,