

Dog Fouling Campaign

Between September 20th and 17th October 2010 Keep Britain Tidy environmental charity and the anti-litter campaign for England, will be launching a national dog fouling campaign to encourage the public to dispose of their dog mess responsibly.

Background

The Local Environmental Quality Survey of England has shown that dog fouling is on the increase nationally and at a local level requests for clear up of dog mess in Mid Suffolk District have also increased. In 2006 we received 12 requests for clear up, 13 in 2007, 28 in 2008, 35 in 2009 and 33 already this year. If we continue receiving requests at the same rate throughout 2010 it will result in 56 requests which is a 366% increase on 2006.

Surveys show that 1 in 10 households in Mid Suffolk own a dog.

What are the problems?

Dog fouling is a major issue for many of our towns and parishes. It is the most offensive type of litter on our streets and it is consistently raised as a public concern.

A minority of dog owners allow their dogs to foul and for whatever reason do not then clear up afterwards.

Some owners put their dog waste from home into the street dog waste bins which causes collection problems.

Why is dog fouling a problem?

At the least, it can cover shoes and clothes and at worst contact with canine excrement can lead to blindness due to a worm carried by dogs called "Toxocara Canis".

Whose responsibility is it to clear away dog fouling?

It is the responsibility of the dog owner or the person in charge of the dog to clear up any dog foul left by their dog. Owners who fail to clean up after their dog you can be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice, or if the case goes to court a fine of up to £1,000.

What do Parish and Town Councils do?

Most town and parish councils provide litter and dog waste bins for use by members of the public out with their animals. Some owners are under the misconception that only designated dog waste bins can be used for disposing of dog waste however in reality any street waste bin may be used as long **as the waste is bagged**.

What does Mid Suffolk District Council do?

Currently Mid Suffolk District Council street cleansing team empties litter and dog waste bins free of charge mostly on a weekly basis although some, situated in popular areas, are emptied more frequently. The team also removes dog waste not cleared by owners on an as requested basis from pavements and recreational areas.

In addition to this the authority employs a part-time dog warden, three days per week, who deals with all aspects of dog complaints. As part of this function the warden will respond to complaints of dog fouling associated with specific dogs and patrol areas where dog fouling is identified as a local concern.

What can members of the public do?

If you spot someone allowing their dog to foul then you can report this to the dog warden for further investigation any information given will be treated in confidence. The information you would need to supply is to the dog warden is; the name (if known) and address of an offender along with the location of the incident and time & day of occurrence.

Take part during the 4 week period by giving out bags to other dog owners who may not have a collection bag with them.

Each parish and town council will be furnished with a supply of dog poo bags for distribution to volunteers.

If there is sufficient interest and bags are still available we will continue with the campaign throughout October.

With the help of dog owners this problem can be made a thing of the past.

Issued by Mid Suffolk District Council and supported by Drinkstone Parish Council

The Parish Clerk has been supplied with a quantity of dog bags. If you would like a sample please ring 01449 736221