

Dog Fouling in the Ward

I am writing to Residents, Colleagues and community representatives regarding dog fouling within Our Ward, which is a frequent complaint from residents.

Whilst following up on complaints about the footpath between Broomholme and Herons Wharf area, I visited the footpath and identified a large amount of dog fouling left behind by pet owners, I have also had reports about people picking up after their pet with a bag and then leaving the bag behind on the grass or hanging on nearby branches etc. This is a very lazy, selfish and inconsiderate practice and not only does it lower the tone of the whole area for everyone, it leaves an unpleasant mess behind where other pedestrians need to walk and children need to play safely. I'm sure you will agree that a major part of being a responsible pet owner is to clear up after your pet and not leave it for someone else to deal with. Always carry poo bags with you when you take your pet for a walk to pick up any mess and put the sealed bag in the nearest litter bin, in situations where there isn't a nearby bin, take the bag home and place it in your black bin.

I have asked for one of our Waste Officers to apply some anti-dog fouling stencils in this area and for the dog fouling to be cleared. My colleagues, Councillors Mike Crosby, Damian Edwardson, and I have requested that 3 new bins be purchased out of our Brighter Borough funds, one for this footpath and two additional bins to be situated on Miles Lane to help address this and other littering issues in the area as we receive a lot of complaints about this. I will also arrange to have some poo bags left in the library but these can be purchased very cheaply at most supermarkets.

However, we need to focus on dealing with the cause and not the effect of dog fouling. I am encouraging residents and other responsible pet owners to help us to identify the person(s) responsible by providing details of the description of the owner and dog, a name and address or dates and times when the incident(s) occurred, locations of fouling, patterns and times that fouling takes place, etc. This will enable our environment officers to patrol the area at the right time with the best chance of witnessing and dealing with the culprits who are committing an environmental crime and nuisance to all who reside and use an area. The officer needs to witness the fouling to take enforcement action. If names and addresses are supplied, we can arrange for officers to visit the area and have educational and awareness conversations to help pet owners comply with their duty of care and clean up after their pet. This has the potential to stop the offence happening again. If they are not able to provide this information, we would encourage them to take some ownership and self help by starting to keep a diary of events on a daily basis before reporting it, as officers have limited time and need as much information as possible to be able to respond with a positive outcome.

Residents can also report issues through our Council website [Click Here to Report a Problem](#) or from your smart phone via our new Report It app available through your phones app store.

I do hope you find this information helpful and hopefully together we may be able to reduce this menace.

Dist Cllr Paul Collins
16.02.17