

Moving Forward



Dog friendly Cardiff

About the author as Cardiff Dog Action

Dog owner, Chair of Friends of Hailey Park, Llandaff North Festivals Committee member, volunteer with Four Paws Animal Rescue (South Wales) & passionate about responsible dog ownership (including organising/running fun dog shows each year, one for Cardiff Council Parks Dept with emphasis on responsible dog ownership).

Tel.: 07836532258

cardiffdogaction@gmail.com ✱ @CardiffDog

Contents

Foreword	3
Introduction	4
Green Dog Walker® schemes	5
Bag dispenser schemes	9
Foul play: give fouling the red card	13
Taking the lead: Keep Wales Tidy	15
Signage	17
The Big Scoop: Dogs Trust	20
Miscellaneous	22
Conclusions	26
List of Appendices	27

Foreword

Many thanks to Rose Francis, Michelle Verrill, Jeremy Sparkes, Richard Parnham and Jane Joughin for all their help with Cardiff Dog Action, Karen Stephens for organising the online petition and Clare Fanson for organising the mass dog walk. Many thanks also to the 3900+ members who joined the Facebook group page for Cardiff Dog Action, many of whom contributed to the hours of discussion, which have culminated in much interest in moving forward.

Introduction

Many responsible dog walkers fully support PSPOs that are well thought-out, well implemented and target those exhibiting irresponsible behaviours but not those that involve excluding dogs from areas such as marked sports pitches. In addition to this, we feel education and a proactive dog community supported by Cardiff Council are the way forward, with punitive measures for dog fouling.

Cardiff Dog Action was set up for three reasons: (1) to inform as many people as possible about the consultation; (2) fight the proposals for exclusions in areas of marked sports pitches throughout the city and give a reasoned argument as to why we believe this from many viewpoints of members of the dog walking community; and (3) see how we can move forward with the council not to victimise responsible dog walkers but punish those that don't pick up dog mess (or hang bags in bushes or trees!!!).

Cardiff Dog Action is an informal group of individuals that came together with the same goals – to prevent dogs being excluded from marked sports pitches, and thus fragmenting dog walking areas, and to be able work with the council to ensure greater responsibility for all dog walkers. As the consultation is over, the time is right now for all those dog owners/walkers to do something in their local areas to work towards these aims.

By making it easy for dog walkers to do the right thing, awareness raising schemes are more likely to be effective than only telling them what not to do and thus avoid unwanted displacement (always a risk when putting on anti-dog fouling schemes).

To reduce dog fouling it is necessary to change the behaviours of the minority of those irresponsible dog owners/walkers who are not clearing up and the best way is education and enforcement. However, it may well be that there is some value in the future at looking at further research on the social psychological elements for designing campaigns to change behaviour rather than a one size fits all approach.

There is a great need for a wider engagement and communication strategy rather than just relying on one approach. Community action by dog walkers on their own or as part of other groups to improve their local environmental can contribute a great deal to combatting antisocial behaviour or its results, e.g. dog fouling and hopefully have an effect on other aspects of irresponsible dog behaviour.

Most of the various options in this document can be implemented at low or minimal cost and have been trialled in various parts of the UK (and in some cases Ireland) and have helped to reduce dog fouling.

Green Dog Walkers[®] schemes

What is Green Dog Walkers[®]

Green Dog Walkers[®] (GDW) is a non-confrontational, friendly approach to help change attitudes about dog fouling. It also appears to be an easy to follow format, which requires minimal input too other than initially starting it up and rolling it out across as many areas as possible. It can then be promoted periodically at various events around the city.

GDW was originated by the Community Green Initiative in partnership with Falkirk Council Litter Strategy Team. It is a scheme that reportedly cut dog fouling problems in Falkirk by at least 50%. As the project was so successful Falkirk Council decided to trademark the scheme and licence it out to other local authority areas.

GDW is now an acknowledged scheme in Britain & Ireland that has previously won the UK Kennel Club Dog Recognition Award, featured at Crufts, and was a finalist for the CIWM Innovation in Waste Management Award.

How to go about it

Dog walkers are encouraged to sign a pledge (**Appendix 2**), then they receive a GDW badge, armbands, free poo bags, and an information pack.

Pledges can be signed online or paper (See **Appendix 2**, which is also in leaflet format) version <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/GDWpledge/> (Malvern Council, which also leads to a short survey in this case <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/greendogwalkers/>)

Once dog walkers have 'taken the GDW pledge' they can wear a GDW armband to show they are part of the scheme and undertake to

- Clean up after their dog
- Carry extra dog waste bags
- Be happy to be approached to 'lend' a dog waste bag to those without
- Be a friendly reminder to other dog walkers to clean up after their dogs

Often Community Councils, private organisations or voluntary organisations (e.g. community litter schemes or Friends of parks/other open space groups that are already up and running) can then be encouraged to

run GDW activities in their own areas and it would be easy for this to be implemented, as the handbook is quite self-explanatory. It is also a bright, well thought out project that enables it to be consistent.

Funding can be sought through grants and sponsorship.

Links

Falkirk <http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/bins-rubbish-recycling/rubbish-litter/dog-fouling/green-dog-walkers.aspx>

Antrim <https://www.midandeantrim.gov.uk/news/green-dog-walkers-120218>

Chichester <https://www.chichester.gov.uk/greendogwalkers>

Bradley Stoke <https://www.bradleystoke.gov.uk/town-council/green-dog-walkers-scheme.php>

City of Bradford Metro District Council <https://www.bradford.gov.uk/your-council/council-budgets-and-spending/be-a-green-dog-walker/>

Wicklow <http://wicklowvoice.ie/need-for-green-dog-walkers-programme-in-wicklow/>

Malvern Hills <https://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/green-dog-walkers>

Northumberland

<https://youtu.be/tL8eJkID08I>

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Protection/Animals.aspx>

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Protection/Animals.aspx#thegreendogwalkers-responsible dogownership>

<http://www.northumberlandcoastaonb.org/green-dog-walkers-scheme-is-unleashed/b184>

Armagh <http://armaghi.com/news/green-dog-walkers-scheme-could-be-rolled-out-across-borough/28483>

Belfast <https://www.belfastlive.co.uk/news/belfast-news/green-dog-walkers-scheme-northern-12475139>

Aberdeen <https://myturriff.co.uk/2015/01/08/green-dog-walkers-scheme/>

Mundsley <https://www.mundesley-pc.gov.uk/join-the-green-dog-scheme/>

South Gloucs <http://ladden-frome.blogspot.com/2012/05/launch-of-green-dog-walkers-scheme.html>

Ryedale, N. Yorks <https://www.gazetteherald.co.uk/news/16128945.new-scheme-launched-to-tackle-dog-fouling/>

Wimblington, Fenland DC <http://www.cambstimes.co.uk/news/wimblington-fenland-district-council-dog-poop-green-ribbon-doodoo-1-5430411>

Whittlesey, Fenland DC <http://www.cambstimes.co.uk/news/green-dog-walkers-scheme-1-5757707>

Durham <https://www.durham.gov.uk/greendogwalkers>
(+<https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/2979/Environmental-education>)

South Dublin County Council, Dun Laoghaire—Rathdown County Council, Fingal County Council, Meath County Council and Wicklow County Council

<https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/environment/social-credits/green-dog-walkers/>

Dublin City <http://www.dublincity.ie/main-menu-services-water-waste-and-environment-waste-and-recycling-litter-graffiti-and-pollution-4>



leave only pawprints®...

Green Dog Walkers®

Dog Fouling


There's no excuse 

Dog Fouling - Your Responsibilities

- Dog Fouling is one of the most common and annoying types of litter.
- If not cleaned up and disposed of properly, dog fouling can cause serious infection in humans.
- Please be a responsible dog owner.
- Take a dog bag or plastic bag with you and clean up immediately after your dog has fouled.
- Put your dog bag in any litter or dog waste bin, or take it home and bin it.
- Failure to clean up may result in a fine from €150!
- Remember, always bag it and bin it.



Dog Fouling

There's no excuse 

For more information: Contact your Local Council

South Dublin County Council

01 4149000

info@sdblincoco.ie

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

01 2054817

environ@dlrcoco.ie

Fingal County Council

01 8906236

enviraware@fingalcoco.ie

Wicklow County Council

1890 222276

eao@wicklowcoco.ie

Dublin City Council

1800 251 500

waste.management@dublincity.ie

Meath County Council

1890 228 466

environment@meathcoco.ie

Drogheda Borough Council

1890 202 303

info@droghedaboro.ie



leave only
pawprints®...



Postcard for Dublin City: Green Dog Walkers®

Bag dispenser schemes

Around the UK, many are either funded by companies or groups fundraise for them. Bag dispensers may help by removing the 'excuse' used by irresponsible dog owners and walkers that they do not have a bag to clear up their mess. The supply of free bags onsite can help to alleviate the issue and seems to be what many dog walkers have raised as something that could help (just as many complain about lack of bins). It could, however, be also seen as a promotional tool to remind people that many responsible dog walkers use these areas and in combination with other methods.

New dog bag dispenser at Riverside Park

The Friends of Riverside Park have purchased and installed a dog poop bag dispenser with the help of grant aid from Newhaven Town Council and a donation from Meridian Pets in Peacehaven. The Friends have volunteered to manage the refilling of the dispenser and ensure it is maintained for the safety of the community using Riverside Park. A notice on the dispenser gives contact details if it is empty. The Friends plan to buy another dispenser in the new year together with a litter bin and some new litter picking equipment.



From <https://www.newhaventowncouncil.gov.uk/news/new-dog-bag-dispenser-riverside-park/>



Dog mess problems are 'in the bag' thanks to successful parks pilot (Wirral Council, 2017)

"A pilot project in four Wirral parks where there are dispensers in place giving out free dog poo bags has proved successful. These dispensers are currently situated at Dibbinsdale, Royden, Harrison and Victoria parks, but more are due to be installed at other parks in the coming weeks. Providing owners with a free supply of bags helps to remove one of the most common excuses enforcement officers hear when they catch an offender; that they forgot to bring their own bag on a walk."



Free dog waste bag dispensers to stop foul play

The latest weapon in the war on dog fouling has been unleashed by **Northumberland County Council**.

“Dog owners no longer have an excuse of falling foul of the law when it comes to picking up after their four-legged friends after the installation of free dog waste bag dispensers at two dog fouling hot spots.

The dispensers hold 100 percent compostable and biodegradable dog waste bags which are free and accessible 24/7.

...

The stations have been provided free of charge by international market-leading company, TiksPac, who will cover the cost of the stations through advertising. The company will also provide replacement dog bags and replace any damaged stations for free. The only cost to the council will be the initial siting of the dispensers.

The council's efforts to crack down on dog fouling are continuing across the county. Dog wardens are working hard to educate the public on responsible dog ownership and patrol problem areas, issuing on the spot fines to anyone who is spotted failing to pick up after their dog. Earlier in the year the council also launched a Green Dog Walker's Scheme, a community-led programme to reduce dog fouling and promote responsible dog ownership across the county.”

From <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/News/2017/Oct/Free-dog-waste-bag-dispensers-to-stop-foul-play.aspx>



Free dog waste bag dispensers to stop foul play
 (St Helens Council, 23 June 2017)

“Ten Tikspac stations, which hold sufficient 100 percent compostable and biodegradable dog waste bags, are accessible 24/7 in various parks, cemeteries and visitor attractions for dog owners to use – rather than face an on the spot fine of £80 if found caught short of failing to clear up after their pet.

The news should also get tails wagging among non-dog owners, too, who won't have to foot the bill through council tax.

Stations have been provided free of charge by international market-leading company, Tikspac, through station sponsorship opportunities as part of a unique deal to St Helens from the Swedish company, whose UK office is based in the Newton-le-Willows area of the borough.

Tikspac – whose goal is to bring about the kind of involvement to help create a cleaner environment in a sustainable society – will also provide replacement dog bags and replace any damaged stations for free.”

From

<https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/news/2017/june/23/free-dog-waste-bag-dispensers-to-stop-foul-play/>



Dog poo bag dispensers installed to make park cleaner
 (Trowbridge, 25 April 2017)

‘The dispensers, which each contain bio-degradable bags, have been placed in four locations in the park after a collaborative effort by Trowbridge Town Council and Garston Veterinary Group. Aby Cooper, the council’s customer services manager, contacted all veterinary practices in the Trowbridge area to ask if they could supply the dispensers and Garston agreed to help.

Miss Cooper said: “We want to continue welcoming dogs in the park but dog owners must take responsibility for cleaning up their dog’s mess. These dispensers are a reminder to people to do that and they also add a bit of social pressure.” ...’

<https://www.wiltshiretimes.co.uk/news/15244853.dog-poo-bag-dispensers-installed-to-make-park-cleaner/>

Council to install new dog waste bag dispensers

“HARTLEPOOL Borough Council (21 March 2018) announced plans to install 40 free dog waste bag dispensers at key locations across the town.

Working in partnership with a company called TiksPac, the dispensers will be installed at zero cost to the Council. TiksPac is an innovative environmental concept whereby stations for the free distribution of dog waste bags are sponsored by businesses which have their logo on display.

Hartlepool’s dispensers were identified within the Clean and Green Strategy, which sets out the Council’s vision for clean and well maintained streets, parks, other green spaces and highways.”



From https://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/news/article/1188/council_to_install_new_dog_waste_bag_dispensers

Miscellaneous

Interactive map of 40 free dog poo bag dispensers installed across Surrey Heath (example of an idea to ensure people are aware of where these stations are in case dog walkers need one if about to be caught short)

<https://www.getsurrey.co.uk/news/surrey-news/interactive-map-40-free-dog-14725891?>

Example of business involvement in combatting dog waste

<https://www.tikspac.co.uk/> (NB have mentioned TiksPac as their name comes up often as many councils are using their services particularly as they are offered for **free**, but other companies may also offer same or can be purchased cheaply by community groups).



Foul play: give fouling the red card

Some councils are 'tackling' the problem of dog fouling particularly on sports pitches by putting on awareness events in their areas and using the tactic of trying to 'give fouling the red card'. Monmouth in particular has been a fan of this approach plus the community of responsible dog walkers and sportspeople can get behind it to raise awareness. Again a simple idea that with planning could be part of various awareness raising events around Cardiff and as they find in Monmouth that it still continues to be a problem, so may be in combination with other methods too as there is a need to work together with dog walkers, councils and sports clubs.

Groups work together to combat dog fouling

"MONMOUTHSHIRE County Council (MCC) worked in partnership with other public bodies to hold a dog fouling awareness day recently.

The council's environmental health and waste and street cleaning teams, as well as town and community councils and the police continue to raise awareness of the anti-social nature of fouling through the Give Dog Fouling the Red Card initiative. ..." 31 May 2018, <https://bit.ly/2FheDwY>

Monmouthshire Council 2015 <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/2015/11/25/monmouthshires-local-communities-give-dog-fouling-the-red-card>

Monmouthshire Council 2017 <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/2017/06/29/sir-yn-dweud-na-faw-cwn>

Youtube Monmouth sports video <https://youtu.be/7XGfqkyNsRs>

31 May 2018 Monmouthshire <https://bit.ly/2FheDwY>



**FOUL
PLAY!**
Show dog
fouling the
red card!

 **ROCHDALE
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH
COUNCIL**

www.rochdale.gov.uk/foulplay



**Blow the whistle
on dog fouling.
Report it and sort it!**

Is dog poo blighting your area?
Are the culprits ignoring their
responsibilities – putting your health
and children at risk?

Report Foul Play today – go to
www.rochdale.gov.uk/foulplay
or call 0845 226 1800.

Dog owners who don't bag and bin their dog's
mess are breaking the law and letting you and your
community down.
Our enforcement team will act on the information you
give in confidence – and help you tackle Foul Play in
your area.

www.rochdale.gov.uk/foulplay

Keep Wales Tidy: taking-the-lead-on-dog-fouling

This was a project (in 2016) funded by the Welsh Government to tackle hotspots in various areas around South Wales.

They used brightly coloured signs and paw prints directing people to bins – all reinforcing the message ‘bag it, bin it or take it home’. This pilot project was felt to be successful.

There is no information on their site to suggest if it is something they will use again in other areas. One thing they do highlight is about looking at hotspots and acting upon those with special projects. But, it would also be better to ensure they are not just a one-off as these things can be easily forgotten by some or may be those irresponsible dog owners have gone elsewhere at times when these projects are on.

The **full report** of this pilot project forms part of this document as **Appendix 4** (Tackling dog fouling through social marketing: a trial by Keep Wales Tidy).

KWT have reported on their website that it seems on Wednesday 10 October local authorities across Wales took part in a ‘day of action’ to raise awareness of the far-reaching impacts of littering and dog fouling. Some areas concentrated on dog fouling more than others.

Keep Britain Tidy’s award winning campaign was about suggesting irresponsible dog owners are being watched particularly at night when some are more inclined to leave dog mess than if during the day. Another successful poster campaign is their ‘There’s no such thing as the poo fairy’ in their attempt to tackle those dog owners who do bag their dog’s mess but feel the need to hang the bag around on bushes. They also have a wealth of resources available to inform more about the whole issue, including a research document in 2014 ‘Keeping an eye on it: A social experiment to combat dog fouling’ (**See Appendix 8**).

Keep Scotland Beautiful address the issue of dog fouling with their ideas of working with other stakeholders to ensure that dog fouling is tackled in a strategic and coordinated way and they monitor more than 14 000 sites a year to identify problems and trends in dog fouling (they also monitor these sites for other environmental issues too). They are keen promote that communities have a role too, including one idea of creating "dog sharing stations", where people are encouraged to pick up their dog's mess (sadly the links to examples of "dog sharing stations" are broken but there’s a separate section in this document that highlights them throughout UK anyway).

Resources

Keep Wales Tidy

KWT news of project <https://www.keepwalestidy.cymru/News/were-taking-the-lead-on-dog-fouling>

<https://www.keepwalestidy.cymru/News/action-to-prevent-littering-and-dog-fouling>

<https://www.keepwalestidy.cymru/dog-fouling>

Keep Britain Tidy

General <http://www.keepbritaintidy.org/local-authorities/reduce-litter/dog-fouling>

Policy (i.e. How can government help, How can local authorities help, How can NGOs help)

<http://www.keepbritaintidy.org/local-authorities/reduce-litter/dog-fouling/policy>

Solutions (i.e. Package campaign solutions, Dog fouling & control training, Learn from each other & from our experts) <http://www.keepbritaintidy.org/local-authorities/reduce-litter/dog-fouling/solutions>

'We're Watching You' <http://www.keepbritaintidy.org/local-authorities/reduce-litter/dog-fouling/solutions/were-watching-you>

'Portsmouth pilot using 'We're Watching You' campaign https://youtu.be/J3XX8zl_W-s

'There's no such thing as the poo fairy' <http://www.keepbritaintidy.org/local-authorities/reduce-litter/dog-fouling/solutions/dog-poo-fairy>

Research document 2014 *Keeping an eye on it: A social experiment to combat dog fouling* (See also Appendix 8)

Keep Scotland Beautiful

<https://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/local-environmental-quality/clean-up-scotland/the-problems/dog-fouling/>



Signage

Most if not all signage won't work as a standalone solution for combatting dog mess but it can work as a useful reminder to all who see it.

Dog owners are probably less receptive to signage at access points, as this is where their dogs are most likely excited and prone to foul – many owners' attentions are more likely to be on the dog itself. Multiple access points mean visitors will pass required signage, which can in themselves be difficult, unsightly and expensive. Recall of all but the most targeted, clear and simple messages on signage can often be low. It also doesn't help if signs and panels have a lot of content, so that the most important messages lost presence and emphasis. Signage is not the primary influence on dog walker behaviour, but it does have a significant supporting role. Messages that are written to help dog walkers have a safe, enjoyable and hassle-free visit, rather than just telling them what not to do are the best way forward. However, there is a great need for a wider engagement and communication strategy rather than just relying on one approach.

In Southampton they have combined their signage with a dog code and the idea that dogs are brilliant (see below) – so many dog codes and signage can put dog walkers off by being negative about dogs so Southampton went for the more positive approach. Too much emphasis on punitive measures rather than proactive encouragement does not make for good practice.



Dogs are brilliant and dog walkers, as regular park users, help look after our open spaces by reporting any problems or damage in the park, collecting litter and help improve safety.

Owning a dog can improve your physical and mental health, so let's not give dogs a bad name in shared spaces by following these simple rules. ...

<https://www.southampton.gov.uk/people-places/parks-open-spaces/parks/dog-code.aspx>

In Torfaen, they're also using Green Dog Walker® signage to accompany their awareness raising campaign.



In Cardiff, we tend to use these along parts of the Taff Trail but this is more about setting a code for all users of the trail.



One item that is meant to work very well and deter and prevent anti-social activities is by displaying images of 'watching eyes'. This has been shown to make people behave in more socially desirable ways in a number of settings. It is an evidence-based initiative that has proved very cost-effective in the past. Newcastle University have experimented with similar posters with increasingly more sinister eyes, to deter pedal cycle thefts. By fixing the poster below near to the cycle racks they found that the thefts reduced by over 60%. It was also suggested that students felt safer in those areas where the eyes were fixed.

These were then developed to combat dog fouling by Keep Britain Tidy (Keep Wales Tidy also have a role to play in the fight against dog fouling) as part of their award winning campaign, 'We're Watching You' (see Resources below and **Appendix 7**).



Resources

<https://www.southampton.gov.uk/people-places/parks-open-spaces/parks/dog-code.aspx>

<http://www.keepbritaintidy.org/local-authorities/reduce-litter/dog-fouling/solutions/were-watching-you>

Portsmouth pilot using 'We're Watching You' campaign https://youtu.be/J3XX8zl_W-s

Images of watching eyes research Bateson et al. Do images of 'watching eyes' induce behaviour that is more pro-social or more normative? a field experiment on littering. *PLoS One* 2013; **8**(12): e82055. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0082055 (**available in Appendix 7**).

The Big Scoop: Dogs Trust

The Dogs Trust campaign team regularly run campaigns to remind people about their responsibilities when owning a dog.

One such campaign is to tackle the issue of dog fouling by encouraging owners to be more responsible and changing the attitudes of the minority who fail to pick up after their dogs. This is an annual awareness campaign and with a different theme each year (e.g. 'scooperhero'). They often provide materials and sometimes installations in various parts of the UK to generate awareness about the issue of dog fouling and to encourage dog owners to dispose of their dog's poop and that any bin will do.

"The Big Scoop is all about reminding everyone that this unpleasant, anti-social and unhygienic problem can be sorted by remembering one simple rule: Any public bin will do."

However, many of their educational campaigns about being a responsible dog owner will include the topic of dog fouling and a dog owner's responsibility.

The Dogs Trust believes that the best way to tackle irresponsible dog ownership is through prevention (rather than punitive measures alone), and that education is fundamental to this. Therefore, the Dogs Trust also have an extensive programme for learning about dogs through educational workshops, promotional materials and other resources, aiming for responsible dog ownership among adults and children alike (e.g. through local schools, antenatal/postnatal group, library, community centre or other suitable community location).

Much of what they do is led by the Dogs Trust so often by request of the institution or group, or they provide materials for teachers for curriculum-based activities linking dog safety and responsible dog ownership.

While theirs is a top-down approach rather than community-led like some other schemes, some of what they do can be integrated into a good community/volunteer programme particularly as their resources are very good. Having a well-known celebrity to promote the Big Scoop can sometimes help too.

Complaining about the mess left behind in his local park, TV presenter Ben Fogle – who is involved in The Big Scoop – said he sometimes cleared it up himself. "I pick up one extra poo each time I pick up after my dog but authorities ... need to do more to enforce it," he said.

Resources

Big Scoop campaign <https://www.dogstrust.org.uk/news-events/issues-campaigns/dog-fouling/>

Themed campaign example <https://www.dogstrust.org.uk/news-events/issues-campaigns/dog-fouling/a-tail-of-true-love>

Educating children about responsible dog ownership and safety is an important part of what they do at the Dogs Trust <https://www.learnwithdogstrust.org.uk/>

Poop scoop game <https://www.learnwithdogstrust.org.uk/assets/games/poop-scoop/>

Did you know that the UK's 9 million dogs produce over 1,000 tonnes of waste each day?!

That's as much as...

	200 Elephants
	3 airplanes
	100 double decker buses
	Over 8.5m mobile phones
	Over 2m footballs!

 **The Big Scoop**
Bag it, Bin it

 DogsTrust

That's a lot of waste to clear up but we can each do our bit to help; just **BAG IT** and **BIN IT** and become a **SCOOPERHERO!** It's that simple!

Miscellaneous

Paws on patrol, dogwatch and other similar schemes

Dog walkers can provide useful provide a useful service, e.g. natural surveillance and informal 'wardening' if engaged with in the right way.

Paws on Patrol, dogwatch, etc. ask local dog walkers to be the eyes and ears of emergency services and report any suspicious activity, graffiti, vandalism, fly tipping, injured wildlife, fires etc. encountered while walking, to the police/fire service or council as appropriate. These types of schemes build on the concept of Neighbourhood Watch as dog walkers are ideally placed.

They can be set up in partnership with the council/fire/police services and work better if they are periodically promoted. They would be easy to integrate with a Green Dog Walkers® initiative too as often dog walkers are out and about at all times of day in all weathers so often by their 24/7 presence they are the eyes and ears of most public spaces by default. These schemes often promote responsible dog ownership anyway and could be a useful tool to report dog fouling hotspots too.

These schemes are important, as they are reminders to dog walkers that it is important to report anything out of place (as long as it is safe to do so) or suspicious rather than thinking someone else may have done it.

Funding for resources can be from grants and sponsorship.

Links

<https://www.essex.police.uk/advice/essex-watch/dog-watch/>

<https://www.facebook.com/StevenageDogWatch>

<https://www.facebook.com/gwentpolice/posts/torfaens-paws-on-patrol-initiative-has-now-been-launchedpaws-on-patrol-asks-loca/10154679407160452/>

<https://www.richmond.gov.uk/watches> (page includes all types of 'watch' scheme)

Preston: Canine volunteers

From <https://www.preston.gov.uk/yourservices/environmental-health/dogs/dog-groups-and-events-in-preston/canine-volunteers/>

Also see attached **Appendix 6**.

The council encourages park users to be the eyes and ears of the communities they often walk in so can report any dog control issues to the council. Volunteers will also have the ability to talk to dog owners about responsible dog ownership and reward good behaviour. Any residents of Preston (you do not need to own a dog) are eligible and they make observations when they are walking around in their area and report any issues to the council Dog Control Team. If the volunteer is happy to do so, they will be given training to approach and educate dog walkers in the city and have a friendly chat. Volunteers will also be able to give a small reward to dog owners who are acting responsibly.

All volunteers are trained and receive assistance and advice from the Dog Control Team as well as take part in prearranged patrols with the Dog Control Team.

Preston PAD (Positive About Dogs)

From <https://www.preston.gov.uk/yourservices/environmental-health/dogs/dog-groups-and-events-in-preston/preston-pad-positive-about-dogs/> & <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PostiveAboutDogs/>

“PAD is a group that connects people together based on their common love for dogs. The PAD group is run by local volunteers and supported by the Dog Control Team. The Dog Control Team will sometimes attend the monthly dog walks, offering advice and guidance to dog owners. ... “

Note that in South Wales there is the successful South Wales Dog Walking Group, which is based on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SWDWC/>), whose aims were originally to have dog socialising walks, but their active Facebook page often acts as a self-help guide for many other dog owners about dogs. May be any schemes could also make use of some of this too. The page admins are quite receptive to ideas and seems a shame to ignore all their hard work.

Doodoowatch: a crowdsourced solution to our cities' dog mess minefield?

(The Guardian, 4 May 2018)

“Major cities worldwide have tried and failed to cut dog fouling. Could a Cambridgeshire village’s ‘mess map’ be the answer? ... Now a community in Cambridgeshire claims to have solved the problem by combining crowdsourced data with the spirit of Neighbourhood Watch. Residents of the village of Wimblington are maintaining a collaborative map of uncollected droppings in a bid to identify hotspots and possible repeat offenders. There is even the option for especially engaged users to upload photographs of individual stools, for veracity. ...”

More at <https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2018/may/04/poo-patrol-how-doodoowatch-could-solve-our-cities-dog-mess-problems?>

Community Action Plan—Dog Fouling: Reducing the Problem (see Appendix 5)

An easy to follow toolkit Put together by the Waste Strategy Team in West Suffolk. They outlined various options that could be implemented at low or minimal cost. All the options in the document were trialled across West Suffolk and all helped to reduce dog fouling.

DNA registration

This idea has often been seen as a quick fix but it still might not change people’s behaviour, and has been dismissed by critics as an expensive step for a council on a tight budget and not necessarily that cost-effective either.

<https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/press-releases/2017/july/dna-registration-likely-to-be-costly-and-complex-warns-the-kennel-club/>

Appendix 3 [KC Dog Briefing: dog fouling (DNA registers) (also see attached)]

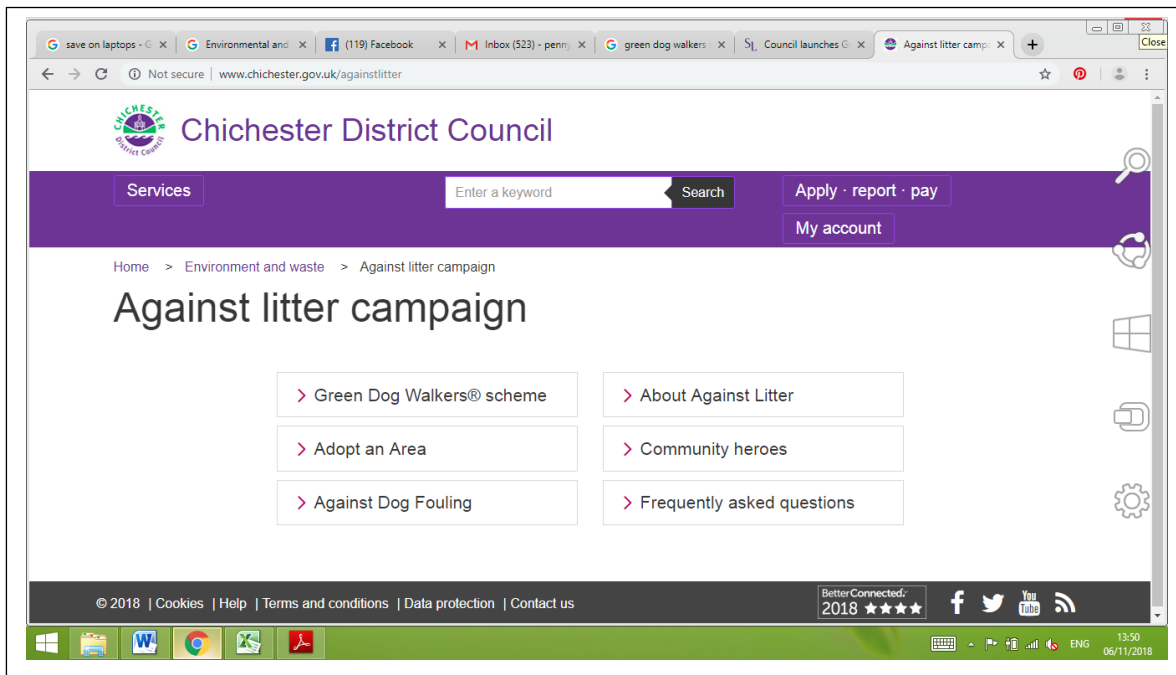
<https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/media/1159275/kc-dog-briefing-dog-fouling-dna-registers.pdf>

<https://www.gazettelive.co.uk/news/teesside-news/council-decides-test-dna-dog-12453717>

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/the-dna-database-for-canine-excrement-in-barking-10220169.html>

Platform for holistic litter campaigns led by council

Idea is to have the information all in one place, which shows the positive aspect of how individuals can get involved to help improve their local areas.



Green Dog Walkers tackle green bags in trees mystery

"It is a cultural phenomenon, not only in Scotland but throughout the UK, that people are taking the trouble to put their dog's poo in a bag, but then they are leaving the bags on the ground, in shrubs, up in tree branches, in bodies of water, tossed onto motorways, etc. Even when a bin is in full view, people are doing this."

To try to get to the bottom of this puzzling behaviour, the Green Dog Walkers Project is hosting a series of Falkirk area Community Conversations called "Why Are There Green Bags in the Trees?" about dog fouling issues, which will include big maps to help people identify dog walking areas, "poo hot spots" and bin locations in their neighbourhood; find out more about the health risks of dog poo on the ground (local vets will be there to talk about worming); Community Safety Team officers on hand to talk with people about the fines and enforcement side of things, etc."

A flyer for 'Green Bags in the Trees' community conversations. The flyer features a photograph of a green bag hanging from a tree branch. A speech bubble from a cartoon dog asks, 'HELP! WHY are there GREEN BAGS in the TREES????'. The text on the flyer includes: 'Please join us for a Community Conversation about the DOG FOULING ISSUES in your town!'. It lists three events: 'DENNY Tuesday 5th June DROP IN 3-6pm YMCA West Boreland Rd FK6 6PA', 'HALLGLEN Thurs 21st June DROP IN 3-6pm Hallglen PS New Hallglen Road FK1 2RA', and 'LAURIESTON Sun 15 July Noon to 4pm at CANINE CAPERS Laurieston Public Park FK2 9LR'. A list of features includes: 'MAPS to identify dog walking paths, bins and "dog poo hot spots"', 'COMMUNITY SAFETY TEAM officers on hand to answer enforcement questions', 'CHAT with the Litter Strategy Team', 'SIGN UP! Green Dog Walkers pledge', 'Contest: Name the Doggie!', 'LOCAL VET on hand for health risk and worming info', 'ALL AGES WELCOME, children under 18 accompanied by teacher or parent', and 'Refreshments & Door Prizes'. At the bottom, it states: 'THE GREEN BAGS IN TREES 2012 COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS are being sponsored by: Green Dog Walkers, Falkirk Council Litter Strategy Team, Community Safety Team and Your Local Vet. There will be more Community Conversations in other areas of Falkirk this year. For more info: 01324 581108 (leave message) or greendogwalkers@falkirk.gov.uk'.

Conclusions

Incidences of dog fouling need to be reduced and if possible stopped all together. However, to do this it is necessary to change the behaviours of the minority of those irresponsible dog owners/walkers who are not clearing up.

The various approaches in this document aim to remove some of the excuses for not clearing up and to reinforce the message that this was not an acceptable behaviour.

It is possible to adapt the examples cited this document either as a standalone or in combination with other methods that have helped to reduce dog fouling in various parts of Cardiff. Sometimes this may depend on area and many dog walkers know the areas they walk in very well and many have expressed an interest in being involved in raising awareness of this issue.

The way forward should be a mixture of education and enforcement and a combination of top-down, council (or other large organisation, e.g. Dogs Trust, KWT) led approaches with those that are bottom-up community-led (either singly, forming their own local responsible dog walking group, or under the umbrella of another more established group, e.g. Friends of parks groups, KWT community litter groups).

While some dog walkers are keen to work with sports clubs in tackling the issue others are wanting to look at a more holistic approach and deal with the problem as a whole. It is hoped that because of all this there will be improvements in other areas of what is considered irresponsible dog behaviour.

There is also need to continue to organise and participate in awareness campaigns as reminders each year.

List of appendices

Appendix 1 Your Green Dog Walker® guide

Appendix 2 The Green Dog Walkers® pledge (form and leaflet)

Appendix 3 KC Dog Briefing: dog fouling (DNA registers)

Appendix 4 Tackling dog fouling through social marketing: a trial by Keep Wales Tidy

Appendix 5 Community Action Plan Toolkit—dog fouling: reducing the problem (Suffolk)

Appendix 6 Preston City Council: canine volunteer scheme

Appendix 7 Do images of ‘watching eyes’ induce behaviour (*PLoS One* 2013)

Appendix 8 Keeping an eye on it: social experiment to combat dog fouling (Keep Britain Tidy final report 2014)

Appendix 9 Out of order: the impact of access restrictions on dogs and their owners