

## Haverhill Area Working Party: 25 February 2015

### Dog Fouling

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 At the last meeting of the Haverhill Area Working Party on 11 December 2014, Members discussed a number of issues concerning dog fouling. There was generally a perception that not enough was being done in the town to deal with this anti-social issue caused by irresponsible dog owners.
- 1.2 In order to inform further discussion on this issue officers from the Waste and Street Scene Service have summarised recent actions on dog fouling in Haverhill in this paper.

#### 2. Warning Signs, Stickers and Stencils

- 2.1 Haverhill was the trial location in 2013 for a different approach in highlighting the issue of dog fouling 'hot spot' locations. A stencil was developed to spray a temporary message on a footpath reminding dog owners to 'clean it up'.
- 2.2 This followed work with a local neighbourhood police officer who assisted us in investigating a complaint of persistent dog fouling along Chalkstone Way (an issue which at this location has now been resolved).
- 2.3 Since then the stencils have been used in numerous locations of persistent fouling where our standard notices and signs have been ignored. In Haverhill such locations as the Clements Estate, School Lane and Green Lane have had stencils applied.
- 2.4 In 2014 the following locations in Haverhill also had new or refreshed signage following complaints of dog fouling:



Railway Walk	Haverhill	17.01.14	New Stickers on Lampposts
Norton Rd	Haverhill	04.02.14	New Stickers on Lampposts
Puddlebrook	Haverhill	04.02.14	New Stickers on Lampposts
Chedburgh Place	Haverhill	04.02.14	New Stickers on Lampposts
Pentlow Hawke Close	Haverhill	04.02.14	New Stickers on Lampposts
Hawthorn Road	Haverhill	07.04.14	New Stickers on Lampposts
Green Road	Haverhill	20.05.14	Stickers on Lampposts
Green Road	Haverhill	01.08.14	Signs and Stencils
Greenwood Close	Haverhill	19.08.14	Stickers on Lampposts
Railway Walk	Haverhill	02.09.14	Signs/Stickers
Cambridge Way	Haverhill	08.09.14	Signs/Stickers
Burnt House Close	Haverhill	04.11.14	New Stickers on Lampposts
Aragon Road	Haverhill	25.11.14	Stickers on Lampposts
Monarch Close	Haverhill	26.01.15	Stickers on Lampposts/Letters

### 3. Enforcement

- 3.1 Dog fouling enforcement is difficult as we need a witness to an offence and residents reporting incidents often have not witnessed the actual event and have no information of any particular day and most importantly a specific time for us to target. Fouling often occurs when it is still dark and often local residents are unaware until well after the fouling has taken place so will invariably not have any information to provide us with.
- 3.2 Up until 2011 the Borough employed two dog wardens. Over the ten year period from 1999 to 2011 these wardens only issued 5 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) for dog fouling offences. This demonstrates that even when we had dedicated resources, it was extremely difficult to catch offending owners in the act of letting their dogs foul public spaces and having sufficient evidence to issue an FPN.
- 3.3 Currently, where a complaint occurs, as well as clearing up the mess from any public locations we also look at what warning signs are in the area, whether they need replacing or updating or if there is an ongoing issue if stencils need to be used. If there are residential properties nearby we will also do a letter drop highlighting the issue to the residents that dog fouling is occurring in their community and to report anyone they see not clearing up (see attached example letter).
- 3.4 The issuing of a FPN would be the next step in enforcement but it is reliant on having a witness to the offence as stated above. For a persistent offender who had already had a FPN or someone not paying the fine then prosecution would be the next step.

### 4. Dog and Litter Bins

- 4.1 Haverhill has 216 litter bins which can be used for the disposal of bagged dog waste along with 66 specific dog bins of which only 12 are currently rated as in poor condition. These 12 dog bins are scheduled to be assessed for replacement by summer 2015, at which time if they are incorrectly located they will be moved or if a different type of bin is needed this will be installed.
- 4.2 A replacement program is our main priority ahead of installing new bins at new locations; we are also assessing the locations of our current bins as they are now electronically logged on a mapping system. Historically we have not had any maps of these locations and previously dog bins were installed at sites set by the environmental health team both of which has led to some irregularities in bin locations.
- 4.3 With the same team looking after litter, dog and recycling bins we now have a coordinated approach to locate the most appropriate bin at the best location. We are also trying to change some of the bin inconsistencies where possible when replacing existing stock.



In Haverhill, the main Playing Fields, East Town Park, Railway Walk and the Recreation Ground all have separate dog bins located at appropriate entrances/exits and most of these locations also have several litter bins as well.

There is no separation of general litter and dog mess waste so new dual litter/dog bins are being introduced. These are a single bin with better capacity and clear signage to indicate to users that both types of waste can be deposited.

- 4.4 These will be installed at appropriate locations as we replace existing bin stocks of poor condition, we will still install separate dog waste bins at locations where these are deemed more appropriate.
- 4.5 There is a need to increase awareness that 'any public bin will do' when it comes to disposing of bagged dogs mess as the misconception still exists that it has to go in a specific dog waste bin.
- 4.6 We do have stickers we use on some litter bins to make it clearer and we try to promote this message whenever possible so residents are aware of being able to use the general litter bins as well as specific dog bins.

## **5. Dog Bin Emptying**

- 5.1 The table below lists the emptying of litter and dog bins in Haverhill which have a daily, twice weekly or three times a week emptying schedule due to their high usage, all other dog and litter bins in Haverhill are emptied once a week.
- 5.2 We empty 17 dog and 54 litter bins in Haverhill on a daily basis (Monday to Friday); we also complete 123 dog bin and 353 litter bin empties in Haverhill a total of 831 bin empties just in Haverhill from Monday to Friday.

		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday					
		Dog	Litter	Dog	Litter	Dog	Litter	Dog	Litter	Dog	Litter				
Locations	Bus Station/Jubilee Walk	1	14	1	14	1	14	1	14	1	14				
	Haverhill High Street		11		11		11		11		11				
	Market Square	7	6	7	6	7	6	7	6	7	6				
	Opposite Keebles Yard	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1				
	Queen Street	4	7	4	7	4	7	4	7	4	7				
	Rose & Crown	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2				
	Shops (Chalk, Park, Clem)	1	6	1	6	1	6	1	6	1	6				
	Sports Centre	1	4	1	4	1	4	1	4	1	4				
	Town Hall	1	3	1	3	1	3	1	3	1	3				
<b>Daily Totals</b>		<b>17</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>54</b>				
Locations	Bergamot Road	1		Chivers Road	1		East Town Park	2	6	Bergamot Road	1		Chalkstone Way	1	2
	Chalkstone Way	3	2	Meeting Walk		1	Julian Close	2		Chimswell Way	3		Horace Eves		1
	Chimswell Estate	3		Princess Way		3	Murco Playing Fields	1	2	East Town Park	2	6	Meeting Walk		1
	Chivers Road	1		Queensway	1	4	Railway Walk (Manor to Chalk)	3	3	Henderson Close	1		Notley Drive/Estate	3	6
	East Town Park	2	6	Recreation Ground	4	24	Railway Walk (Manor to Howe)	4	26	Julian Close	2	1	Princess Way		6
	Henderson Close	1		School Lane	2	10			Murco Playing Field	2	4	Queensway	2	7	
	Horace Eves		1	Shaftesbury Court		2			Notley Drive/Hopton Rise	2	6	School Lane	2	3	
	Julian Close	2	1	York Road	1	1			Park Road	1		Shaftesbury Court		2	
	Murco Playing Field	2	4						Railway Walk (Manor to Chalk)	3	3	York Road	1		
	Notley Drive/Estate	3	6						Railway Walk (Manor to Howe)	4	26				
	Park Road	1							Recreation Ground	4	24				
	Railway Walk (Manor to Chalk)	3	3						Spindle Road		2				
	Railway Walk (Manor to Howe)	4	26												
	Spindle Road		2												
	<b>Other Weekly Totals</b>		<b>26</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>45</b>			<b>12</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>28</b>	

Daily
Twice Weekly
3 x Weekly

**Grand Totals 81 233**

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Dear Householder

**DOGS (FOULING OF LAND) ACT 1996**

We have recently received complaints regarding dog fouling within the area and want to make you aware of this problem.

It would be helpful if you witness any dog owner who is not clearing up to make a note of incident and pass the details to us for further investigate.

Dog fouling is not only a nuisance but is an offence under the above act and could result in the dog owner receiving a £50.00 fixed penalty or facing prosecution at Magistrates Court where the maximum fine is currently £1,000.00.

Should you have any information regarding this matter please do not hesitate to contact Andrew Harvey in confidence on (01284) 757687.

Yours



Mark Walsh  
Head of Operations