

Tewin Parish Council

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November 2020

Policy Statement on Dog Fouling

INTRODUCTION

An analysis of the results of the Parish Plan Questionnaire highlighted the need for a Parish Council Statement on the subject of Dog Fouling.

BACKGROUND

The whole of the East Herts Council's Area is designated for the purpose of the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996. This means all land that the public have access to is "poop scoop" area. If a dog fouls on designated land it is an offence if the person in charge of the dog fails to pick up the mess.

Land includes pedestrian areas, footways, verges, play areas and highways within a speed limit less than 40 mph. Dogs are banned from children's fenced play areas. *The Parish Council would also emphasise that designated land being "land that the public has access to" also includes village greens, common land and Public Rights of Way (e.g. footpaths and bridleways).*

The Parish Council endorses the following advice published on the East Herts Council website

- Be a responsible dog owner and carry disposable bags to ensure you can clean up after your dog, keep your dog under control at all times, keep your dog out of dog restricted areas, and do not allow the dog out alone.
- Use a poop scoop or a suitable bag and dispose of deposits at home in the dustbin or in any Council litter or "doggie" bins. In the interests of hygiene, always please tie the neck of used bags.
- Dog fouling is a nuisance and can also be a danger, particularly to young children, as it can lead to serious illnesses such as toxocariasis.
- Failure to clean up after a dog in your charge will lead to a Fixed Penalty Notice for £50, or prosecution, which may lead to a fine of £1,000 plus costs. It is not an acceptable defence to claim ignorance of the dog's actions or that you did not carry means to dispose of the fouling at the time.
- Report irresponsible dog owners to our Animal Warden by telephone on 01279 655261, by using our online form Dog Fouling Notification Form or by email. Please provide us with as much information as possible about the dog, dog owner, and the times and locations the owner regularly walks the dog.

PARISH COUNCIL POLICY

- Tewin Parish Council endorses the views of East Herts Council as stated above.
- It is Parish Council policy not to install "doggie" bins, as they are not in keeping with the rural environment, and litterbins can be used instead.
- The Parish Council will consider requests for additional litterbins from significant groups of local residents.