

Appendix 2

Additional Measures to Support Enforcement Activities

On 5th January 2017 an All Member workshop considered additional measure that could be utilised to assist Flintshire County Councils team of Environmental Enforcement Officers to reduce the amount of dog fouling through the authority. The options are listed within this document and identifies those measures supported. The Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee then recommended progressing these options on 11th January.

Options Supported

1. Provision of Dual use litter bins/dog faces bins

Presently Litter waste and dog faces are collected in separate bins. This increases the resources needed to service the bins and limits the availability of disposal locations for waste. Currently the waste within the litter bin is not recycled due to the level of contamination and people will place their dog faces within them.

It is proposed that both litter and dog faces should be placed in the same waste bin to increase the available locations. These bins will be clearly marked with both a litter and dog waste symbol.

This option will support members of the public with increased disposal locations and potentially reduce the waste being left on the ground. It will also reduce the servicing cost as only one vehicle will be utilised to service all bins.

2. Spraying it Pink' campaigns

In known dog fouling 'hotspot' areas it is proposed to have short term campaigns of spraying the deposited faces with a bright pink temporary paint to highlight the problem in the area. This will raise awareness to members of the public and notify those offenders that the problem has been identified and will not be tolerated.

The spray painted waste will stay in situ for a number of days then be removed by the Streetscene team.

3. Stencilling Footways/Pathways

In known dog fouling 'hotspot' areas it is proposed to place temporary 'No Dog Fouling' symbols on the footways/pathways. This would be a visual aid to remind dog walkers of their responsibility to pick up after their dog. Once the problem is resolved the symbol would be removed.

4. 'We are watching you' Campaign

Keep Britain Tidy launched a poster campaign in 2014 to raise awareness of the issues of dog fouling in known problem areas. The campaign involves placing 'We are watching you' signs in prominent location to notify those who do not pick up after their dog that enforcement officers are patrolling in the area.

These signs are in addition to the 'No fouling' signs and stickers currently used within Flintshire.

Flintshire proposes to utilise this scheme, or create a similar localised campaign, to assist enforcement. These signs would be erected in known dog fouling 'hotspot' areas for short periods of time until an improvement in cleanliness could be seen.

5. Dog walkers to carry a means of collecting their dog waste

It is proposed that a dog walkers must have a means upon them, in the form of a dog poo bag or such like, to collect their deposited dog waste. If, when stopped by an authorised officer, a dog walker cannot produce a bag then a Fixed Penalty Notice would be issued.

This would ensure that at all times, faces can be removed from the location. If a person cannot produce a suitable means of collection then it is presumed that that would not be able to remove the waste and it would remain in situ on the ground.

When a Fixed Penalty Notice is issued an enforcement officer would provide the member of the public with a roll of 'poo bags' in order for that person to collect their waste if necessary.

6. Plain Clothes Enforcement

All Environmental Enforcement Officer currently acting for Flintshire County Council wear a distinctive uniform that clearly identifies them as Enforcement Officers. When on patrol officers are clearly identifiable and it is noted that those who would regularly commit an offence would not do so when an officer is present.

Wearing 'plain clothes' would allow officer to patrol areas assessing dog walkers habits and identifying regular offenders. The officers would retain on them their Flintshire ID, authorisation card and body work CCTV units at all times.

7. Training

Train and authorise officers within the Council, e.g. Streetscene Co-Ordinators and Countryside Officers, to ensure against dog fouling.

Options not supported

1. The Provision of Dog Bag Dispensers

Fixed location dog bag dispensers were considered but it was not supported due to identified problems such as refilling units, increased littering form vandalism and limitations in securing successful prosecutions.