

Meeting	Parks & Open Spaces Committee
Date	Tuesday 4th March 2025
Report Title	Increased Dog Mess Within The Parish
Agenda Reference	14
Author	Laura Cutter, Deputy Clerk/RFO, HR & Services Manager Jason Watts, POS Operations & Facility Manager

Officer's Recommendations

1. To note the report.
2. To consider mitigation ideas to resolve the increased presence of dog mess within the parish.

Background

There have been several reports from residents regarding dog waste within the parish. Hot spots include Rose Walk which is a frequent occurrence. Residents walking children to school are upset with the issue.

The Tidy Up Team is determined to stop this issue from being continued and feel annoyed that each time the mess is cleared the same issue reappears. The Team has tried polite reminder notices and extra vigilance. There are bin dog bins call along this site.

The Enforcement Officers from Swindon Borough Council have been informed about the issue but timing to observe the area and catch the offence in act is very difficult. The Parish Council does not have any enforcement powers or the appropriate training to conduct its own investigation.

There has also been reports of dog waste within local play areas, smeared on the play equipment, despite signage advising that dogs are not allowed into the play area. This is tidied by the Team as an urgent requirement whether that be within working hours or on the call out line.

Mitigation Ideas

1. The Team has plenty of the signs below, maybe a cover can be designed and placed at either end of the path to show residents that we are listening and acting.





2. Consider information notices and local campaign awareness notifying people of all the horrible illnesses associated with dog mess and how this can pass illnesses on to children.



3. CCTV cameras upon the lamp posts.
4. Asking local children to design posters and spend a day at this location handing them out to raise awareness of the issue locally.
5. Social media awareness to get the message out there, along with statistics and costs.
6. Poster campaign, use our bus stops to get the message out.
7. Consider updating the sponsorship arrangements of the public dog and litter waste bins, creating a new campaign locally.

National Issue

It appears that this is a national issue and entities such as Keep Britain Tidy is working on a campaign and dog fouling policy to roll out to parish councils and local authorities to eradicate dog fouling by 2030 <https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/local-authorities/reduce-litter/dog-fouling/policy>

Other parish councils have commented that they have volunteer action from other dog walkers who want to clear the stereotype of irresponsible dog owners, this enables support to keep the parish boundary clean and tidy, with eyes on the ground to act swiftly.