

Dog Fouling and Irresponsible Dog Owners

Once again, the subject of dog fouling has been raised with a marked increase in the number of irresponsible people not clearing dog mess whilst out walking. This has been especially prevalent in Church Lane where children going to school are exposed to the mess left behind on pavements and grass verges. The District Council's policy on what is considered to be anti-social behaviour is that dog owners are now required by law to have disposal bags on their person when out walking their animals. District Enforcement Officers now have the powers to issue spot fines to those not complying with the Public Space Protection Orders issued by NSC. The new orders state:

Public space protection orders have replaced dog control orders

If you are in charge of a dog the orders require, as a minimum, that you must:

- Keep your dog under close control at all times
- Carry a poo bag
- Bag it and bin it
- Keep your dog(s) out of children's play areas.

There are also orders for specific locations which set out certain rules if you are in charge of a dog:

- You must not allow your dog(s) to go on land that they are banned from
- You must keep your dog(s) on a lead in set areas.

Areas where dogs are banned are shown on the NSC website under "Public Protection Orders"

Enforcement Officers are increasing patrols around areas reported to them and will enforce the law on behalf of North Somerset Council.

Hutton has 18 dog bins place around the Parish and there is no excuse for not using them. It should also be noted that dog mess can now be placed in domestic rubbish for removal.

Dog bins are increasingly being used by households to dispose of bags of cat and puppy litter. This gives the impression that bins are full, which results in dog walkers leaving bags of dog waste on the floor in the vicinity if bins. Do not fill the bins with cat or puppy litter. Please take your dog's mess home with you if the bins are full. Act responsibly and help to maintain our beautiful Parish as a place of which we can be proud.