

## **Council – 13 July 2015**

### **Notice of Motion – Dog fouling**

*I set out below a notice of motion to Council on 13 July 2015 from Councillors Robertson, D. Coughlan, Burley, Jeavons, Jukes, Russell and Chambers:*

*“This Council welcomes the fact that most responsible dog owners clear up after their pet while walking the streets and in our parks.*

*A minority fail to clean up and this Council has introduced a number of initiatives to persuade compliance as an important public health measure.*

*Council proposes to lead a public consultation as is currently happening by Daventry Council, on proposals to introduce a spot fine to a dog walker if they fail to carry the means to clear up after their dog of £100 which will rise to £1000 if taken to court. The results of this consultation will form the basis of a report to be considered by the appropriate scrutiny committee to agree recommendations.”*

#### **Background Information:**

Dog fouling defaces the streets and open spaces of the Borough. It also poses a serious risk to public health particularly children and other vulnerable groups.

It is an offence to fail to clean up after a dog has defecated. In Walsall a fixed penalty of £50 can be issued as an alternative to prosecution. A local authority can set the level of a Fixed Penalty Notice in respect of this offence between £50 and £85. If the matter is taken to Court a fine of up to a maximum of £1,000 could be issued upon conviction.

The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 has introduced new powers which potentially could be used to tackle dog fouling. Community Protection Notices can be issued against person committing Anti-social Behaviour. Public Space Protection Orders can be made to stop individuals or groups committing anti-social behaviour in a public space. Fixed Penalties of £100 can be issued in respect of breaches of both these powers.

In 2014/15 Walsall Council received 117 complaints about dog fouling and 182 requests for dog fouling signs. In the Walsall People's Panel 2014 respondents were asked to score different types of litter on an 'acceptability scale' from 1 to 10 where 1 is not acceptable at all and 10 acceptable. Dog fouling scored the lowest and was seen as the most unacceptable type of waste.

Current levels of resources are not sufficient for the Council to be able to proactively conduct patrols in hot spot areas in order to witness persons committing dog fouling offences. The Council will monitor the initiative by Daventry Council and take into account its success in deciding how best to tackle the problem of dog fouling across the borough.

Simon Neilson  
2 July 2015