

**PELSALL & RUSHALL LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP**

**SPRAY ON ANTI-DOG FOULING SIGNS**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

This report is to advise members of the Local Neighbourhood Partnership of the proposed use of anti fouling dogs sprayed on the pavement.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

The Local Neighbourhood Partnership is requested to accept a stencil for use on public pavements and authorise its use in accordance with guidance from officers regarding location and safety.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 All land in Walsall to which the public have access whether publicly or privately owned is subject to the controls of the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996. Despite the revocation of this legislation by the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2006 the controls introduced by it remain in place.
- 3.2 The Act created the offence by a person in charge of a dog of failure to immediately remove any faeces deposited by that dog in a public place. The maximum penalty for contravention is a fine of £1000, alternatively a Fixed Penalty of £50 may be imposed. Exemptions apply to those persons who are registered blind.
- 3.3 The Act applies to all school land, parks, footpaths, highways and amenity greens around blocks of flats or residential homes. It does not apply to rural commons, heath land or woodland, nor does it apply to householders' gardens. The largest area of privately owned land subject to control is canal towpaths.
- 3.4 Over the years the Environmental Health Division has erected many thousands of warning signs both metal and self adhesive PVC. Traditionally they were placed on lamp posts. A substantial majority of these signs were vandalised and in need of constant replacement which was demanding in terms of both staff and financial resources.
- 3.5 The portfolio holder for the Built Environment, Cllr. Rachel Walker, informed officers of anti fouling signs she had seen sprayed on pavements in other local authority areas and requested that consideration be given to using them in Walsall. Enquiries identified a

local supplier of both stencils and paint and quantities of both have been purchased by the Environmental Health Division.

- 3.6 The Division's proposal is that each LNP area be given a stencil and an initial supply of spray paint for use by the Street Champions or other suitable persons. Instead of requests for signs being dealt with by the Dog Wardens, with the usual delay in responding, requests would be direct to the Local Neighbourhood Partnership who could investigate and determine the most appropriate location for signs and then apply them to the pavement. This would also overcome some of the problems with signs being unlawfully removed and the often quoted defence of offenders that they didn't see the sign because it was too high or facing the wrong way. It would also provide more time for enforcement and education by the Dog Wardens.
- 3.7 No charge will be levied for the stencil and first can of paint, however, future paint supplies or additional stencils would need to be funded by the LNP.
- 3.8 There are no official guidelines on the use of signs, however, the Highways Engineers have advised that they are only used in those locations where there is a fouling problem and that about one hundred yards apart would be appropriate spacing.
- 3.9 Simple safety guidelines on use will be issued along with the stencils.

### **Contact Officers**

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