

Proposal for Trial of a Dog Waste Bin in Nunton Field

Background

The Parish Council has received several complaints over the past few years about dog faeces being left both bagged and un-bagged in the two parish recreation fields. There have also been requests by dog owners for the installation of dog waste bins.

Objectives

The objectives of this proposal are to:

1. Respond to requests from our community in a positive manner
2. Address the problem of dog faeces left in the recreations grounds
3. Provide a valuable service for those parishioners who exercise their dogs in the parish recreation grounds

Proposal

It is proposed to install a dog waste bin in Nunton Field, initially on a trial basis. The supplier recommended by Wiltshire Council is Glasdon. According to Glasdon, the model selected by the majority of local councils is the Fido 25, which is available in red or green plastic, and can be mounted on either a flat surface or a circular post.

The bin will be emptied on a regular basis by a team of volunteers. There is also an option to enter into a contract for emptying by a commercial waste disposal company, but this is likely to increase costs considerably.

Costs

- The Fido 25 bin costs £86.52 excluding VAT. There is no charge for delivery.
- There will be a modest on-going cost for disposable plastic bin liners.
- Preliminary investigations suggest that emptying by a commercial waste disposal company is likely to be unaffordable. The quotation received from Iverde (the Wiltshire Council contractor for emptying of street bins) is as follows:
 - The cost for emptying a dog waste bin at Nunton Field would be £ 10.91 + VAT per occasion.
 - To empty an additional 2 bins at the same location (provided they are emptied on the same day) would cost an additional £5.35 + VAT per occasion.
 - The cost to empty 2 bins at Odstock Recreation Ground (again, provided that they are emptied on the same day as the bins at Nunton) would be £7.07 + VAT per occasion.

Benefits

1. The provision of a dog waste bin is expected to prevent dog waste being abandoned within and around the recreation field. A bin will provide a more convenient means of disposal for dog owners who currently are obliged to carry their dog waste home with them. It therefore would provide a service to residents of the parish.
2. The installation of a bin will help to encourage responsible behaviour by dog owners. This will help to reduce the health risks which dog faeces pose to humans, dogs and other mammals, including gastroenteritis, and infection with the dog roundworm *Toxocara canis*.
3. It will be demonstrate that the Parish Council is responding to the concerns and requests of parish residents.
4. Provision of the bin on a trial basis keeps open the option of removal if the scheme proves unsuccessful.
5. If the trial proves successful the scheme can be continued and extended to Odstock recreation ground.
6. The scheme will encourage a sense of community spirit.

Potential risks

| Risk | Mitigation |
|---|---|
| If the scheme is not successful the investment may have to be written off | Investment minimised by undertaking a trial of one bin in the first instance. The cost of the bin is modest, and is the cheapest in the supplier's range The bin may have a re-sale value |
| The scheme may be unsuccessful | Undertake on a trial basis initially |
| Some parishioners may object to the installation of a bin | Seek views via News and Notes prior to agreeing the trial |
| The bin may not get emptied regularly | Identify a team of volunteers Consider a commercial contract for emptying If all else fails the bin can be removed |

Recommendations

1. To approve the purchase of a dog waste bin for Nunton Field on a trial basis.
2. To agree upon one of the following options:
 - a. To appoint a small team of volunteers willing to empty the bin on a regular basis (frequency to be determined according to need) **or**
 - b. to enter into a contract for bin emptying by a commercial waste company
3. To review the success of the scheme at 3 months, on the basis of:
 - a. Utilisation of the bin
 - b. Improvement in the amount of dog waste left in the field
 - c. Feedback from the local community
 - d. Feedback from the bin monitoring team
4. Depending upon the outcome of the trial, to consider continuation of the scheme and extension to Odstock recreation ground, with an option to enter into a contract for bin emptying by a commercial waste company at this stage.