

Dog Mess on the Great Horkesley Village Green



Neighbourhood Watch recently received a report from a resident pointing out the dangers of dog mess on the Village Green. Here is that report.

My wife and I have three young children that go to bishop William school. My concern is about the alarming rise in dog mess on the green where my children and their friends. As a responsible dog owner, a few mums and myself walk our dogs to the school and back to collect our kids. We all clear up after our dogs!!!

There seems to be a few local residents that just let their dogs off the leads and go where they want and do what they want. Is there anything that can be done to enforce the clearing up after their dogs? Many thanks for your time and hope to hear from yourself soon.

This message was then sent from Neighbourhood Watch to Colin Rand at Colchester Borough Council.

Dear Colin

I have received the below (now above) message from a member of Neighbourhood Watch and our Residents' Association.

Dog mess has been a long running issue on the Village Green and due to the proximity of the Village School is a big issue for parents, but also anyone else using the Green for recreation. We have a number of activities for young children that take place on the Green and organisers are pretty careful to inspect the location before the activities begin. Generally the feeling is that there are too few bins and no signs to encourage dog walkers to behave responsibly. Of course most do but it doesn't take many to spoil things for others.

I live on the Green and I'm afraid to say that I never see any evidence of dog patrols. What I do see are a number of adults who choose to exercise their dogs after dark and also children who also walk dogs and may not be quite as caring as an adult.

Please respond with a copy to me and to Lance Williams and Penny Much who is our Parish Council Clerk.

*Kind regards and thank you for your attention,
Grahame Stehle, Aldercar Wood Neighbourhood Watch, Great Horkesley*

This reply came from Andrew Williams of Colchester Borough Council.

Hello All

I am aware of the problem of people not clearing up after their dogs and the problem does appear to be growing worse across the Borough. We have had some limited success in other areas and I aim to implement these tactics where possible in Great Horkesley.

Having said the above, the resources that are available from a Colchester Borough Council (CBC) perspective are limited and I would encourage members of the Community to speak to offenders if they are comfortable in doing so.

Hello Lou – is there anything that the Police can contribute towards a solution to this problem? Even if that is only making PCSO's aware of the problem.

Hello Neil (Parks & Rec Officer) – as discussed please can you look at sourcing some suitable signs informing / educating the public in clearing up after their dogs.

Hello Richard and Rob (Zone Wardens) – wherever possible when you are in the area of Great Horkesley ensure that you visit the area concerned and speak to any dog owner that you see to ensure compliance. Richard can you please look at the number of bins in the area and let me know your feelings on the quantity of them. It should be noted here that dog waste can also be disposed of in normal litterbins. I would also like the Wardens to be in the area of the School for a couple of times a week over the coming months, again speaking to dog owners.

I am also willing to explore the possibility of issuing a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) on the evidence of a resident, if that resident is prepared to make a statement and obviously if the offender is known. The Wardens will also of course take any necessary FPN action if occurrences of dog fouling without it being cleared up are observed.

Hopefully the above will go some way towards providing a solution but I do feel that those members of the Community that feel confident enough to do so should approach offenders themselves.

Many thanks

Andrew Williams

Zone Manager (Zone 3)

Community Services

Colchester Borough Council

Sergeant Lou Middleton commented as follows.

Andy

I will raise this as an issue with our PCSOs.

Some of them were accredited to issue penalty notices for dog fouling but as it has been pointed out previously, most do not offend in the presence of a uniform.

I will remind them that you will take proceedings on the basis of a witness statement from us once we have verified names and addresses.

Regards

Police Sergeant 1463 Lou Middleton

Neighbourhood Policing Team Sergeant - North Colchester

LITTERING
It's not smart

Bin your litter or face **A FINE FROM £75**

