

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO HEALTH & HOUSING COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: THURSDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2010
title: PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL DOG WASTE BINS
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
principal author: JAMES RUSSELL

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To consider information regarding the provision of 20 additional dog waste bins.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Council Ambitions – This report relates to providing efficient and effective services based on customer needs and making peoples lives safer and healthier.
- Community Objectives – To promote and support the health, environmental, economic and social well-being of people who live, work and visit the Ribble Valley.
- Corporate Priorities – To promote a healthier environment and lifestyle.
- Other Considerations – None.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Following a meeting with the Leader, Chairman and Vice Chair of this Committee on 14 July 2009, officers were asked to present a joint report to the next cycle of Council Committee meetings setting out the current position, policy and associated costs and implications of extending the present number of dog bins provided and maintained by the Council. Furthermore, in August 2009, the Council's declared priorities for the coming year included: 'to provide extra dog bins and the means to collect the waste as well as to go out to schools and re-start the authority's litter education programme'.

2.2 The issue of extending the provision of dog bins was subsequently considered in detail in a report to Health & Housing Committee on 17 September 2009. In the report it was explained that any further increase in numbers of dog bins would require a significant step change in investment. In particular, the Council's Direct Works Department have indicated that they have no spare capacity to absorb any further introduction of dog waste bins within existing resources, particularly following the budget cuts which had to be found and have remained in place since 2004. Similarly, the Dog Warden post has no capacity to take on enhanced dog bin emptying and have only just had the hours extended to full time to undertake enhanced patrols and enforcement.

2.3 At the meeting of Health & Housing Committee on 18 March 2010, Committee considered the proposed Environmental Health Service Plan 2010/11 and instructed

'that the Environmental Health Manager to seek to find resources within the budget under his control to allow the provision of the 20 extra dog bins'

- 2.4 A further matter of concern remains that any siting of additional dog bins in outlying villages and remote locations shall have considerable implications on travelling times and emptying. Furthermore, the siting of bins in near proximity to residential properties is highly unpopular with the residents concerned.

3 ISSUES

- 3.1 Since the last meeting, I am pleased to report the following significant progress:

- A letter has been sent to all Parish and Town Councils asking for their suggestions and seeking a contribution if possible;
- An application has been approved for funding from PRG Grant to fund the provision of 20 additional dog waste bins subject to ratification and approval by Policy & Finance Committee;
- It is therefore proposed that the most efficient way to maintain any future enhanced provision is to reduce collection from twice weekly to once weekly collection for bins with sufficient capacity ie those being more lightly used.

- 3.2 I have provided a summary of the responses for additional dog waste bins received from the Ribble Valley Parish and Town Councils which is attached as the Appendix to this report for your information. The final column indicates the officer's recommendations as to location.

- 3.3 A further issue that needs to be recognised is that Council may not be allowed to continue to deliver dog waste for disposal through Salthill Depot due to new waste transfer arrangements and possible restrictions. The Council may at some stage be required to exclude this waste from the present waste stream and make alternative arrangements to take dog waste direct to Whinney Hill for final disposal. This will, by its nature, be relatively time consuming and costly.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:

- Resources – Subject to the successful PRG grant application the cost of purchasing the 20 additional dog waste bins has been secured;
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – the provision of additional dog waste bins will enhance current facilities provided for dog owners to behave responsibly. Although the provision of additional facilities may not result in their use by irresponsible dog owners, without enhanced enforcement activity.
- Political – None.
- Reputation – the Council is seen as being proactive in making appropriate arrangements to enhance current provision.

5 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

- 5.1 Note the content of the report.
- 5.2 Approve the provision of an additional 20 dog waste bins subject to successful grant funding
- 5.3 Approve the recommended locations as set out in Appendix B.

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

For further information please ask for either James Russell, 01200 414466.

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPENDIX

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION
LIST OF PROPOSED DOG WASTE BIN SITES – SEPTEMBER 2010

| PARISH COUNCIL | LOCATION | REQUEST | APPROVAL |
|---------------------|--|---------|-----------------|
| BILLINGTON & LANGHO | Pasturelands Drive Neddy Lane Elker Lane Whalley Rd Playground | 4 | 1 |
| | <i>Resident: The Rydings</i> | 1 | 1 – Rail Bridge |
| BOLTON B BOWLAND | Bolton by Bowland village | 1 | 1 |
| BOWLAND W LEAGRAM | | 0 | |
| CHATBURN | Ribble Lane /Park Ave Playing Field – Lower LHS | 2 | 1 |
| CLITHEROE | <i>Resident: Bolland Prospect – allotments</i> | 1 | 1 |
| DOWNHAM | Village Car park (tbc) | 1 | 1 |
| GRINDLETON | Entrance @ Greendale Wood | 3 | 1 |
| | Grindleton Bridge Lane Field House Farm | | 1 |
| LONGRIDGE | No additional requested | 0 | |
| | <i>Resident: Lower Lane</i> | 3 | |
| | <i>Chapel Brow</i> | 1 | |
| MELLOR | | 0 | |
| PENDLETON | | 0 | |
| READ | | 0 | |
| SABDEN | | 0 | |
| SIMONSTONE | | 0 | |
| WADDINGTON | Top croft (entrance to field) Church Croft (top of steps) Stile to Edisford Road Bottom of village near 30 mph sign | 4 | 1 |
| | | | 1 |
| WEST BRADFORD | Waddington Road/ Strait Gate | 1 | 1 |
| WILPSHIRE | Ribchester Road opp. Wilpshire Hotel <small>*Wilpshire PC prepared to contribute to purchase cost</small> | 1 | 1 (tbc) |

| PARISH COUNCIL APPROVAL | LOCATION | REQUEST | |
|--------------------------------|--|----------------|-----------|
| WISWELL* | Whiteacre Lane Lay-by Clitheroe Road opp. Oakfield | 3 | 1 |
| | Moor Lane Wiswell * Wiswell PC prepared to empty if required | | 1 |
| WHALLEY | R. Calder footpath Accrington Rd Near Whalley & Wiswell Cemetery | 2 | 1 |
| OFFICER RECOMMENDATION: | | | |
| CLITHEROE | Low Moor Footbridge | | 1 |
| | Taylor Street /Brook Street Bridge | | 1 |
| | Kendal Street Footpath (Ultraframe) | | 1 |
| | West Bradford Bridge (Below Hanson Cem) | | 1 |
| | Pendle Road | | 1 |
| | | Total: | 20 |