

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO HEALTH & HOUSING COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No. 11

meeting date: THURSDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER 2017
 title: DOG WASTE BAG INITIATIVE
 submitted by: MARSHAL SCOTT – CHIEF EXECUTIVE
 principal author: HEATHER BARTON – HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To advise Committee of the disposal of dog bags free to Parish Councils.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Community Objectives - }
 - Corporate Priorities - }
 - Other Considerations - }
- The following reports generally relate to the Council's ambitions to make people's lives healthier and safer.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Dog fouling within the Ribble Valley is a high profile subject. Ribble Valley Borough Council has been proactive for many years in reiterating the message to irresponsible dog owners within the Ribble Valley who let their pets foul in public.

2.2 Ribble Valley Borough Council received over 215 of complaints about dog fouling and spends over 415 hours amount of time disposing of it each year.

2.3 Dog faeces takes 2 months to break down and can give humans infections such as Toxocariasis which can cause difficulties in breathing, red and painful eyes, clouded vision and further infections.

3 ISSUES

3.1 Ribble Valley Borough Council issuing dog poo bags is a ground breaking scheme to tackle dog waste across the borough to Parish Council.

3.2 This project allows communities to come forward to request more free dog bags in areas where they see persistent dog fouling to be a problem from irresponsible pet owners.

3.3 The project is not a replacement for dog walkers taking their own bags out when they are out with their dogs, it is just they are there in times of need or as a gentle helpful reminder to clean up after their pet.

3.4 Ribble Valley Borough Council are looking to increase partnership working and by undertaking this scheme, we are allowing the local authority and companies to work together to make cleaner public spaces.

3.5 The project promotes the idea that leaving dog waste behind is unacceptable and acts as a reminder to residents for their responsibility to keep our open spaces clean. Parish Councillors would be asked to provide a 'champion' who would hold responsibility for requesting more bags as required.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

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

- Resources – The cost of supplying the dog bags, but after this, resource would be minimal as Parish Representatives would be made via Parish Councils.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – None.
- Political – None.
- Reputation – None.
- Equality & Diversity – None.

5 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

5.1 Acknowledge for a trial providing dog waste bags in the borough.

HEATHER BARTON
HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

MARSHAL SCOTT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

For further information please ask for Heather Barton, extension 4466.

REF: HC/CMS/H&H/12 Sept 17