



Allerton Grange Fields Dog Fouling Strategy



March 2016

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Introduction

The purpose of this strategy is to identify how Friends of Allerton Grange Fields and Leeds City Council intends to tackle irresponsible dog ownership with particular focus on dog fouling. The strategy outlines how, in accordance with the Leeds City Council Dog Warden Service Strategy Responsible Dog Ownership Scheme we will encourage and promote responsible dog ownership and enforce available legislation to address dog control issues such as dog fouling.

This strategy includes a 'Plan of Action' which identifies ways to educate our communities and foster positive joint working between Friends of Allerton Grange Fields and Leeds City Council along with other agencies to ensure we maintain a clean green and safe environment for the enjoyment of all.

Friends of Allerton Grange Fields recognise that improving joint working with key partners is key to the success of the Strategy.

The Site

The Green Flag Community Award winning Allerton Grange Fields is a 3 hectare (8 acre) green open space situated four miles from Leeds city centre in north Leeds.

Friends of Allerton Grange Fields (formed in 2009) are working in partnership with Leeds City Council Parks & Countryside Service (through a Partnership Agreement Scheme) to protect, enhance and maintain the Allerton Grange Fields as a public green open space for present and future generation to enjoy.



Who are Friends of Allerton Grange Fields?

The Friends of Allerton Grange Fields was formally established by local residents as a voluntary association in the summer of 2009.

The Friends of Allerton Grange Fields work with Leeds City Council and its partners to protect, enhance and maintain the Keep Britain Tidy Green Flag Community Award winning Allerton Grange playing fields as a public recreation ground for present and future generation through a formal Partnership Agreement Scheme (formerly known as Stewardship Agreement Scheme).

The Friends of Allerton Grange Fields Core Group is made up of a Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and local residents as members.

The Core Group is also made up of local residents, local councillors from Moortown and Roundhay wards as well as representatives from the following public and voluntary organisations:-

- West Yorkshire Police – Neighbourhood Policing Team
- Leeds City Council – Youth Services
- Lidgett Lane Allotments Association
- Lidgett Park Court Residents Association
- Moor Allerton Hall Residents Association
- Local Neighbourhood Watch groups.

It has a written constitution, community bank account and holds regular Core Group meetings at North East Leeds City Learning Centre, Talbot Avenue, Leeds. Membership is FREE and open to all. The Friends have been supported by Members Improvement in the Community and the Environment (MICE) grant funding from local councillors representing Roundhay ward and Moortown ward, the Wades Charity, Housing Advisory Panel and West Yorkshire Police.



The Issue

There has been an increase in reported incidents of dog fouling at Allerton Grange Fields by members of the public and Friends of Allerton Grange Fields.

There are approximately 8million dogs in the UK and between them they produce 1,000 tonnes of dog excrement each day. The majority of dog owners are responsible and take care of their dogs and clean up do excrement off pavements and grassed areas. However, there is a minority of dog owners who fail to clean up after their dogs which is anti-social, a serious public health concern and is against the law. Dog fouling on grassed areas and pavements can spread a disease called Toxocariasis which can affect organs, cause loss of sight and blindness. Link below:

<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Toxocariasis/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

Legislative Context

What is the legislation regarding dog fouling?

The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 has repealed the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 and dog fouling is now one of five dog control matters that can be regulated by way of Dog Control Orders. The authority can designate areas of land and make a Dog Control Order to apply to that land.

This could be any land which is open to the air on at least one side and to which the public have access (with or without payment). There are exceptions which apply (or could be applied) to certain types of land, for example, roads (and highways) in respect of a Dog Control Order excluding dogs from land.

This system of Dog Control Orders replaces that of making bylaws, or designations under the now repealed Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996. However, existing bylaws will continue to apply until a control order is made in concern of the same offence and relating to the same land. Existing dog fouling designations will continue to apply until a control order is made for any of the dog offences in respect of that land. In considering how appropriate a measure a Dog Control Order is for an area, an authority is urged to have a regard to balancing the needs of dog owners with the interests of the wider public, as well as practical considerations for the enforcement of the land.

The responsibility for cleaning up dog fouling is ultimately the owner or handler of the dog.

However, bodies with a duty to keep land clear of litter and refuse, or highways clean under s. 89 of the Environment Protection Act 1990, are required under the Litter (Animal Droppings) Order 1991, to keep the following types of land clear of dog faeces:

- Any public walk or pleasure ground;
- Any land laid out as a garden and used for the purpose of recreation;

- Any part of the seashore which is frequently used by large numbers of people, and managed by the person having direct control of it as a tourist resort or recreational facility;
- Any esplanade or promenade which is above the place where the tide flows;
- Any land not forming part of a highway, which is open to the air, which the public are permitted to use on foot only, and which provides access to retail premises;
- A trunk road picnic area;
- A picnic site.

Dog Fouling and the Law

<http://kb.keepbritaintidy.org/dogs/publications/guidedog.pdf>

Policy Context

Draft Dog Warden Service Strategy Responsible Dog Ownership Scheme

This strategy has been informed by the

<http://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/documents/s34954/Draft%20dog%20strategy%204%2021.9.09.pdf>

Dog Wardens main duties include tackling Dog Fouling (patrols and prosecutions/fixed penalties) in accordance with Section 55 Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act 2005 (Dog Control Order)

Dog Fouling Control Order

At present, Leeds has five Dog Control Order in place. The Dog Fouling Control Order relates to dog fouling. Link below:

<http://www.leeds.gov.uk/docs/Dog%20control%20order%20-%20dog%20fouling.pdf>

Where a person is found committing an offence of failing to pick up dog fouling they may be issued with a fixed penalty notice. The order applies to all land to which the public have access. If the offender fails to pay the fine, the council will prosecute them for the offence committed. Such an offence is punishable upon conviction by a maximum fine of up to £1000.

The Dog Wardens within the Inner North East Locality Team will tackle dog fouling in the Inner North East area of Leeds as follows:-

- Investigate Complaints of Dog Fouling
- Utilise data to highlight “hot-spot areas”
- Conduct Patrols (from both uniformed and none-uniformed officers)
- Issue fixed penalty notices where offences are witnessed in accordance with the Council’s zero tolerance policy

- Offer dog walkers advice
- Issue “poo bags” where appropriate
- Erect anti dog fouling signage
- Liaise with the Council’s Streetscene Services to ensure the area is swept/cleaned on the scheduled day
- Request provision Request Provision of dog fouling and litter bins where appropriate and subject to funding.

Prevention and Education

At present Dog Wardens, as part of the Inner North East Locality Team addresses prevention and education through:-

- advice and action taken when responding to service requests, following existing enforcement policies
- identification of hotspot areas and targeted responses to address issues
- partnership working
- participation in local and national education campaigns
- Issuing supportive measures such as dog poo bags, micro-chipping and erecting antifouling signage.
- Clear and up to date information on the Council’s website

More proactive work by the Dog Wardens, carried out in primary and high schools may also help to educate younger members of the community. This could assist in the prevention of offences in the future. Many campaigns with social responsibility at their roots have been taken into schools to reach the younger audiences, with great success. From the age of fourteen, young people may still be issued a fixed penalty notice for an offence of dog fouling and many young people are tasked with walking the family dog. Responsible ownership is something that they need to be aware of and will inevitably take home with them and pass on to their parents.

One of the most effective ways of tackling the dog fouling problem is with dog wardens. The dog warden has three important roles in the community:

Enforcement - enforcing the legislation relating to dog fouling, dogs in general and local bylaws.

Educational - to promote responsible attitudes to dog ownership, to develop an understanding of the role of the dog warden and how the public can be supportive.

Practical - handling and securing stray dogs, dealing with problems relating to noisy and nuisance dogs.

Plan of Action

Tasks	LCC Draft Dog Warden Service Strategy Fit (YES/NO)	Indicative Timescales and Costs
<p>The Dog Wardens as part of INE Locality Team will tackle dog fouling at Allerton Grange Fields as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate Complaints of Dog Fouling • Utilise data to highlight “hot-spot areas” • Conduct Patrols (from both uniformed and non-uniformed officers) • Liaise with West Yorkshire PCSOs through PACT Meetings • Issue fixed penalty notices where offences are witnessed in accordance with the Council’s zero tolerance policy • Offer dog walkers advice • Issue “poo bags” (where appropriate and subject to funding) • Erect anti dog fouling signage • Liaise with the Council’s Streetscene Services to ensure the area is swept/cleaned on the scheduled day • Request provision Request Provision of dog fouling and litter bins (where appropriate and subject to funding). • Conduct joint patrols of the site with FOAGF volunteers (as appropriate) • Provide FoAGF with ‘Responsible Dog Ownership leaflets (as appropriate and subject to funding) so volunteers can distribute to users of the site during monthly Action Mornings <p>http://www.leeds.gov.uk/docs/DOGLeaflet_final.pdf</p>	YES	Ongoing
<p>FoAGF will support the work of LCC Dog Warden Service as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers to keep ‘dog poo diaries’ and report dog fouling incidents to LCC INE Locality Team • Conduct joint patrols (from both uniformed and non-uniformed officers) • Provide evidence (utilising ‘dog poo diaries’) to that LCC can issue fixed penalty notices where offences are witnessed in accordance with the Council’s zero tolerance policy • Remove smaller amounts of fresh dog fouling incidents using polythene bags as part of regular Action Morning in accordance with Action Morning Risk Assessments. • Report incidents of heavily amounts of soiled dog fouling on cycle footway to LCC immediately • Supplement anti dog fouling signage by installing Keep Britain Tidy campaign posters to lamp posts. 	YES	Ongoing

• Actively participate in national and local campaigns such as Dogs Trust National Poop Scoop (Big Scoop) Week (usually June/July), KBT Dog Poo Fairy campaign, Big Tidy Up, Love Parks Week		
Prevention and Education LCC and FoAGF to explore opportunities to educate younger members of the community on responsible dog ownership through established links with Allerton Grange School.	YES	Medium/Long
Establish above roles and responsibilities through a Partnership Agreement to recognise pressure on LCC resources and explore opportunities for partnership working with FOAGF volunteer support to add value and maintain cleaner, safer environment for all.	YES	Medium/Long

Monitoring Framework

LCC INE Locality Team and FoAGF will monitor the effectiveness of the above tasks by:

1. Conducting joint patrols (frequency to be determined)
2. Respond to best practice from local and national case studies including lessons learnt from Garforth Dog Watch Scheme
3. LCC Dog Wardens and FoAGF to hold monthly meetings on site to discuss dog fouling issues
4. Attend PACT meetings as and when appropriate to discuss dog fouling issues with WY Police and Local Councillors
5. Review Action Plan and Strategy in light of monitoring activities.

Friends of Allerton Grange Fields

Love Dogs but Hate Dog Poo!

Bag that poo any rubbish bin will do to keep Allerton Grange Fields clean and safe for all.

