

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 5 July 2021

Title: West Witney dog/litter bins/signage

Contact Officer: Operations & Estates Advisor - John Hickman

Background

Officers have received several complaints from users of West Witney Sports Ground about the amount of litter and dog faeces on the pitches/vicinity. The Sports & Social club has or did have 2 x litter bins to the edge of the patio area near the steps for club users to use. However, the club is requesting that Council install additional dog/litter bins for people to dispose of their rubbish, given the increase usage.

Current Situation

The teams booking pitches/wickets/training are all agreed on their terms and conditions -that the playing area, changing room, and surrounding area, be left in a clean and tidy condition; any damage to Council property will be charged for.

The terms and conditions state that whilst the Town Council endeavours to maintain the ground/pitches in a safe condition free of rubbish, debris, potholes etc., due to the nature of the siting of pitches, the hirer will take appropriate steps to ensure the pitch is safe before any use transpires. We strongly advise you to check the playing surface for sharp objects and animal faeces.

The Grounds Contractors as part of the grounds contract specification on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and before each cut litter pick the site. They also on the last working day prior to the match and on the day for mid-week matches check the pitches for glass, animal faeces and other harmful debris which will be removed and fill any depressions.

There are two signs stating that, "**In the interests of health and hygiene do not exercise dogs in these grounds**". These are positioned on the side of the clubhouse and the side of the rifle range. These signs are clearly ignored and are not practical to enforce especially as there is a dog bin existing onsite.

There are two dog bins already one just inside the vehicular entrance to West Witney and one in the Deer Park wood between the accesses from and to West Witney Field.

Currently council is installing recycling bins in replacement for all its existing litter bins, there is a small stock of approx. 5 recycling bins currently at the Leys Depot, 2 of these bins could

be installed in suitable location on the site, dog faeces can be placed in the litter side of these bins so there would be no requirement for additional dog bins and could be installed quickly as they are available. The most suitable locations would need to be decided avoiding areas of the field subject to water logging in order that the bins can be emptied throughout the year.

Council would need to allow a sum to cover the cost of the concrete bases and also for the two bins so they can be replaced in the Litter Recycling Bin Replacement Budget. Council would also need to agree the additional cost onto the grounds contract for emptying these two bins.

Council might want to consider removing the two signs about not exercising dogs in these grounds, as it is clear these are ignored and replacing them with more simple, “**Please Pick Up After Your Dog**” signs in A4 size in 5 locations - one at each entrance top of field, one at vehicle entrance and two on rear of club house. Council would need to agree a budget for the purchase of these signs, posts and materials as required.

Environmental impact

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 – with this in mind Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

Increasing bin provision would have the positive benefit of increasing users ability to recycle and reduced risk to public health from dog faeces.

Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability. Increasing bin provision would reduce the risk to public health from dog faeces.

Financial implications

Associated costs for litter bins, litter bin emptying and signage on separate sheet.

Recommendations

Member are invited to note the report and consider the following:

1. The installation of 2 x recycling litter bins at West Witney and their location.
2. The removal of the existing Dog signage at the site.
3. The instillation and wording of any new dog signage.