

South Northamptonshire Council encourages all dog owners to clean up after their dog has fouled in a public place, as dog fouling is unpleasant and poses a public health risk. If a dog fouls in a public place and the person responsible for the dog does not clean it up then they will be breaking a Dog Control Order under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.

The Parish Council organised a dog mess awareness day in July 2013 which I attended. I did a walk about with several of the Parish Councillors and we met a handful of dogs and their owners all of which were carrying bags. Unfortunately we did not witness any incidents for me to action on. Whilst members of the Grange Park community were invited to attend it was disappointing that no one attended or provided us with any specific information on regular offenders.

I have in the past undertaken early morning and evening patrols but have not witnessed any offences during these routine visits. Unfortunately dog fouling is a difficult offence to witness and the Environmental Protection team rely on members of the public to provide us with information on regular offenders. We are a small team of 5 officers covering a large rural district and it is not possible for us to monitor effectively without specific information.

If you witness someone letting their dog foul without cleaning it up afterwards in a public place, you should report this to the Environmental Protection Team. Include the name and address of the person in charge of the dog (if known), a description of the dog, plus details of the date, time and place of the offence. If fouling occurs at regular times, it may be possible for an officer to witness the fouling and take action accordingly.

If a council officer or any other authorised officer witnesses the dog owner not cleaning up after the dog, then they may be given a fixed penalty of £75. If they refuse to pay the fixed penalty the dog owner may be taken to court and be fined up to £1000 plus court costs.

If you are unaware when the dog fouling is taking place or which dog owner/s is causing the problem then consider contacting your Parish Council or nearby neighbours as they may have further information that could assist us in our investigation.