

Dog fouling continues to be an issue in Pevensey and Pevensey Bay. One of the most frequent subjects referred to Pevensey Parish Council is dog walkers not bagging, binning – or even taking home to bin – excrement.

Despite poster campaigns, a well supported village Dog Show, the provision of bins and even a supply of bags in both villages the problem continues.

On 26 and 27 September 5 Pevensey Parish Councillors, who are all VOLUNTEERS helping the community, met at 7 am and 8 am on consecutive days, together with 3 members of the public to conduct a Litter pick of Pevensey Recreation Ground. This ground is well used by dog walkers and families with children and is owned by Pevensey Parish Council, leased to the local cricket and football clubs who play year round.

In light of complaints Council decided to highlight the failure to collect of dog excrement. On the first day 10 dog fouling incidents were discovered and on the second a further 12 (one was fouling by a fox) were identified. Two were on the sports playing areas where minutes later children were either training or playing matches. Markers (donated by another Councillor) were placed on the spot after the fouling had been removed and on Monday 28<sup>th</sup>, some of the places were painted with a stencil reminding people to “bag it, bin it”. On that morning a further 6 fresh dog fouling incidents were found, including three on the sports playing areas.

Many regular dog walkers spoke to those conducting the litter pick commenting that they frequently collect up dog fouling and place it in the waste bins. None could understand why individuals do not ensure that they collect fouling from their dogs. There were also concerns raised about dogs running loose and often let out of cars without owners.... just to have a run around.

Pevensey Parish Council spends over £7k per year by providing 22 waste bins in the parish and a further amount is spent in providing waste bag dispensers at two sites. These would seem to be emptied by individuals, not for emergency purposes and a decision will have to be made about whether these bag supplies can be justified. Bagged dog fouling can also be placed in ordinary Litter bins across the parish and there are many bins around, paid for by Council taxes, so there is no excuse for fouling to be left anywhere including the beach areas. The aim should be to take all litter, including dog waste home.

In addition to dog fouling 4 bags full of ordinary rubbish were collected from the ground and from the High street in Pevensey village. All in all, the time given by our volunteer Councillors and local residents was worthwhile, but as one member of the public said “Having to do something that should not have to be done”.

Pevensey Parish Council arranges formal litter picks 4 times per year, which builds on those arranged informally by local people. It would be ideal to get a formal group going and anyone interested should contact The Clerk, Pevensey Parish Clerk on 01323 743900. Dog

fouling not picked up should be reported to The Clerk or to the Street Scene Team at Wealden District Council.

People will also like to know that the second Pevensey Dog Show is planned for 13 June 2021 at the same ground.

Here are some photos to show what we found and two of our local residents, including Ava who has just started at Senior school. The family are the proud owners of two 3 month old German Shepherds! They pick up any fouling found and reported three incidents on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> within the Castle Grounds, another area of concern locally.“

