

## Dog Fouling – Background Information

The Parish Council is very aware of this problem, which is the same everywhere, but has no powers to do anything about it. The Council does, however, take the initiative by putting occasional awareness messages in the Parish Magazine to try to encourage responsible dog ownership. The last article said:

“Parts of the village continue to be spoilt by people who do not clear up after their dogs and complaints continue to be made to the Parish Council. When out with your dog you should always be prepared to clean up if your dog defecates. Dog waste bags are easily carried and readily available from most pet stores and vets. Plastic carrier bags can be re-used for the same purpose. Dog waste wrapped in this way can be disposed of in any ordinary litter bin, it does not have to be a dog waste bin. If no bins are available the waste should be taken home and placed with normal household waste. It is an offence not to clean up after a dog has defecated on public land. A £50 fixed penalty fine can be imposed or if prosecuted through the Magistrates Court a maximum fine of £1000.”

Generally speaking matters relating to dog mess in the village are dealt with by Great Yarmouth Borough Council and if you are aware of offenders you should contact the Environmental Health Rangers at the Borough Council who will investigate and take appropriate action. They can be contacted on 01493 846478 or by using a simple form on their website at [www.great-yarmouth.gov.uk](http://www.great-yarmouth.gov.uk)

If there are any lamp posts in your area that you think would benefit from the dog anti-fouling stickers please contact the Clerk on 01493 749938 who will provide them.

The Parish Council has ‘now clear it up’ dog fouling stencils that can be used to mark a sign on pavements in places that suffer a high degree of dog fouling.

Some people ask if the Parish Council can provide the red dog foul waste bins seen in other areas. The provision of waste bins and the cost of emptying them is the responsibility of Great Yarmouth Borough Council (GYBC). Legally the Parish Council could provide these bins but this is not currently Martham Parish Council policy because the cost would have to be charged to Martham Council Tax payers and this would amount to double taxation because GYBC already charge for waste bins within its share of Council Tax.

The cost of buying a red bin is about £40 to £60 depending on the type. The bigger problem is the cost of emptying them because of the environmental hazard presented by the contents in comparison to a normal waste bin. The annual cost of emptying each bin exceeds the cost of buying it in the first place, so if there were many red bins to empty Council Tax would increase accordingly. The policy of GYBC is therefore to allow bagged dog waste to be deposited in any black litter bin which means the Borough Council will not provide any dedicated red dog foul bins.

Many people see the problem of dog fouling as a social awareness issue, much the same as smoking in public places has been. Most dog owners are now more responsible than ever and the more the message of it being anti social is put across the more people seem to act to prevent it.