

DOG FOULING IN BRANDESTON

Dog fouling, although not a big problem in Brandeston, has been an issue in recent weeks. I expect most dog owners are very responsible but dog faeces have been found on public paths, outside houses and even outside the committee room of the Village Hall. The Parish council has had discussions following concerns from parishioners and an environmental health officer has visited the village and proposed installing dog litter bins. It seems a shame to place these items of urban street furniture in our rural setting.

Dog litter is however very unpleasant when it is found in the wrong place and can be a health hazard. It is also against the law for an owner to let a dog foul certain public places.

The health issues are principally related to infections that can be caught from dog faeces. If accidentally ingested bacteria from faeces such as *E. coli* and *Salmonella* can cause a stomach upset. While unpleasant for most people these bacteria can cause serious illness in the young and elderly.

There is also a worm that can be present in dog faeces called *Toxocara canis*. If eggs of this worm are ingested they can hatch inside a human and migrate to the liver or the eye where they can cause liver damage or blindness. Although rare, cases do occur in the UK and again children are more susceptible.

Brandeston Parish Council hopes that by highlighting the hygiene, health and legal issues of dog fouling the paths pavements and roads around the village will be kept faeces free. Surely it is not too much to expect owners to clear up if their dog fouls a public place. The issue is going to be monitored for a year and if there is still a problem we may have to have the bins installed.

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