

The case for allowing dogs on the village playing field

1. To make better use of a village asset, which is currently under-used.
2. To improve security with the regular presence of people walking their dogs, thus cutting down the vandalism and anti-social behaviour.

Currently dog owners in the village seem to bag their dog's poos – there doesn't appear to be more than an occasional issue. There's no reason to believe their behaviour will change in the playing field.

The installation of a dog-poo bin would be wise (£140.00 inc VAT)

There is a commonly held belief that significant numbers of dog-owners are irresponsible and do not pick up after their dogs. Also it is believed that children contract a disease (Toxocarosis), from contact with dog poo.

Evidence and academic research around this area is thin on the ground but the following piece of commissioned research indicates that both perceived problems are extremely minor.

Extract from:- Critical Public Health. Published online 2012 Oct 7

(Commissioned by the Greater London Authority)

Complaints about dog faeces as a symbolic representation of incivility in London, a qualitative study

Abstract

During a 'Well London' study, residents were asked about their neighbourhood and its environment. Above all other complaints, 'dog poo' was mentioned as a key concern. Despite low rates of infection and disease among the human population resulting from contact with canine faecal matter, the concerns of the public continue to rate it as a serious public health issue...

...In terms of risk to human health, the incidence of transmitted infection from canine faeces in England and Wales is negligible. For example, since 2000 between one and eight laboratory confirmed reports per year of toxocarosis have been received annually by the Health Protection Agency. In addition, a 'Keep Britain Tidy' report into litter cites a 40% drop in the incidence of dog faeces in the UK over recent years.

Enquiries with a nearby Parish Clerk who is responsible for 3 local villages which allow dogs on their playing field, reports that the number of 'dog-incidents' over the last 20 years is minimal.

This evidence is encouraging and should allay any fears that people may have. The time for a change in the 'no dogs' rule is therefore strongly recommended.