

Campaigns

Whilst the WG is concerned about a number of issues such as litter, weed management, biodiversity, it was agreed to concentrate on the dog poo issue as a priority, especially in light of the FB post from the Post Office about dogs weeing and pooing in their shop recently.

Bins

Following on from the last meeting, Lesley shared her updated litter and dog poo bin report from 2021, confirming any changes found since the WG's recent survey. She also confirmed that the Clerk had contacted Somerset council to try to set up a meeting to discuss the Service Level Agreement which is quite out of date and contains a number of bins that are missing or in the wrong places. Lesley confirmed that the rusty dog poo bin in Sparkhayes Lane near the campsite had been reported as needing replacing and this would be chased up. She confirmed that the rusty one on the Church railings was replaced last year after that was reported and hopefully something similar (red, metal bin) would be installed by the Somerset Waste Partnership/Somerset Council.

Lesley confirmed that she had provided details of the SLA between PPC and idverde for the dog bins at Doverly car park and in the junction of the A39 and the Toll Road. It was agreed that the latter should be moved to the side of the Toll Road opposite as it was dangerous to encourage people to use the bin where currently located.

It was agreed that the areas of most concern for dog fouling were in the Drang (as close to the school and children's playground so used a lot by children) and down Sparkhayes Lane and Villes Lane which dog walkers use regularly to access the Marsh.

Education

It was agreed that a robust campaign using posters and Social Media was needed. The children's posters could be used on FB regularly to reinforce the message. We're Watching You signs from Keep Britain Tidy may provoke comments but it was felt by the WG that the profile of the campaign does need to be raised and no one should argue against an anti-dog fouling campaign. Stickers on bins and elsewhere promoting the message, 'Bag that poo – any bin will do', 'There's no such thing as the poo fairy' and 'Walk it home with your dog' were needed. Use of videos from Keep Britain Tidy on FB to again reinforce the message.

Setting up of a dedicated FB group/page for 'Love Where You Live...Porlock' would allow discussion of issues with the public in a more positive way than using other sites, although sharing of the message would be encouraged. Lesley will discuss with Clerk best way to do this, with WG having administrator rights. The FB page could be used to gather information to monitor the campaign and to encourage more involvement from the public with the WG.

Public awareness of and responsibility for looking after Porlock Parish in general should be encouraged. If everyone took a little responsibility for litter, dog poo, weed control, etc. rather than making it someone else's problem such as PPC or Somerset Council, more could be achieved.

Recommendations:

A new bin is needed at the top of the steps from Meadowhayes to Villes Lane as the next bin is not until the bottom of Villes Lane or back in Doverhay car park. Ideally, this would be provided under the Somerset Council SLA, but if not, the WG would like PC to consider funding this.

'Repeater signs' on lamppost advising of nearest dog poo bin to be placed on lampposts on Sparkhayes and Villes Lane halfway between the two bins.

Dog bins need to be more visible. Some re-positioning to be considered and all green bins should be replaced with more visible red bins. Lesley will enquire what is available under the existing SLA and obtain prices for plastic and/or metal bins for comparison. The WG would like PPC to consider funding to replace these if necessary.

Other discussion topics

Agreement that attitudes to littering, weeds vs wildflowers, biodiversity and individual responsibility may need improving/changing to improve the environment generally. These ideas would be passed on to PPC to develop further, if possible.

Information provided at last meeting for reference

Posters – can be purchased from Keep Britain Tidy

There's no such thing as the poo fairy posters - 10 x A3 correx signs, 10 x bin stickers, 1 x social media asset £275

A3 glow-in the dark correx We're watching you signs (min order 5), with signs 3 and 4 available. £28 each

A4 bin stickers (non glow in the dark) when you purchase the signs. £7 each

Glow in the dark bin stickers are available, please contact us for a quote.

YouTube videos with talking dogs for FB ([Do it for your Dog: Sarah the Spaniel 'Love it' \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...) and [Do it for your Dog: Ben the Boxer 'Bags on Trees' \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...) could be posted (monthly?) on FB (PPC FB and Porlock FB) and as permanent links on websites (PPC? And Visitor Centre?)

Actions pending from last meeting

Article in the next Porlock Vale Newsletter.

Actions following the meeeting

Provide notes of meeting to WG (LT)

Provide recommendations to FC May meeting and quotes for campaign materials, etc. and costings for bins and request a budget for these (LT to ask Clerk to add to agenda)

Discuss SLA for public bin emptying with SC (LT & Clerk)

Produce logos/marketing materials for the Love where you live campaign/WG or raise pblic awareness with a design competition (LT)