

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

4 April 2018 at 2.00p.m.

Council Chamber, 28 Fore Street, Wellington

AGENDA

1. Apologies

2. Dog Fouling

At the April 2018 meeting of the Council, Lyn Partridge-Webber and Addy Bloodworth of Wellington Action Group for Dogs (WAG) drew attention once again to the continuing problem of dog mess caused by irresponsible dog owners. It was agreed to refer this matter to the Environment Committee for further consideration.

This recurring problem was discussed by the Committee last year when Lyn and Addy drew attention to a scheme currently operated by Boston Borough Council and Daventry District Council which made it an offence for dog walkers not to carry a bag. Enquiries of other Councils revealed that the requirement for dog walkers to carry bags with them had been incorporated in a Public Spaces Protection Order. This would mean that if the same path were to be followed here, the existing PSPO would need to be amended.

However, it was recognised that the problem would not be the introduction of the appropriate legislation but the ability to resource any kind of enforcement. Although Boston BC had the ability to take legal action they had never prosecuted anyone and had never found anyone challenged without a bag.

3. Emptying of Dog Bins

The DLO will once again be providing a dog bin emptying service for those bins in the Town Council's ownership. The rate will be £3.42 + vat per bin per visit. There are 31 bins in town, 8 of which we pay for. They are emptied twice a week. TDBC have informed us that they will not be providing any further bins. The cost of the supply and installation of a dog bin is £350 plus vat.

4. Town Centre Seating

When the Committee met last year Councillor Thorne indicated that it had been drawn to his attention that people with difficulty walking but who did not use mobility scooters, did not have many seats to sit on when in the town centre. Although it started as a 'town centre' issue, he had since become wider than that, particularly given the accent these days on healthy living styles. The Council subsequently agreed to support the project and £2,000 has been made available annually to cover the cost of installing up to two new public seating units each year together with their ongoing maintenance, with sites and seating design to be selected each year by the committee, with effect from the 2017-18 financial year.

Seats were provided last year in Longforth Road and the entrance to North Street car park. Attached to the agenda is the map of suggested locations for future seats.

5. Grit Bins

During the recent cold weather we received a request for a grit bin in Jasmine Gardens, Cades Farm.

I initially approached the County Council as grit bins have always been provided in the past by the County Highways. However, they have told me that the County Council's Policy regarding grit bins these days is that they do not provide them, they only fill them with a salt/grit mixture.

The Town Council have provided the odd one here and there in the past. In view of the County's policy to no longer provide bins the Committee might want to take a view on whether this Council should provide them. If any decision is made to become the provider of grit bins in the future it would be best to take an overall look at where they should go rather than respond to individual requests as and when they arise.

6. Defibrillators

At the January Council meeting Councillor Barr asked that a defibrillator be purchased and installed in a suitable location in Rockwell Green. It was explained that it would first be necessary to identify a suitable site with a power supply and be clear about where it is going, who would be responsible for maintaining it and who would pay for its installation and the power it used.

The Town Council have already provided a defibrillator in Longforth Road and grant aided the Sports Federation to provide one in North Street car park.

Council have suggested that a "mapping" exercise be undertaken to discuss whether there is a need to provide others elsewhere in the town.

7. Grass Cutting and Roadside Weedkilling

The Town Council are once again paying for an additional three cuts during the season. The cost last year was £1,175.48 per cut. I have asked the DLO to confirm when the cuts will be carried out so that they can be monitored.

The cost of roadside weed killing would be £1,000 per spray.

Greg Dyke
Town Clerk