

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Monday, 3rd March, 2014

6.00 - 8.30 pm

Attendees	
Councillors:	Barbara Driver (Chair), Klara Sudbury (Vice-Chair), Andrew Chard, Nigel Britter, Helena McCloskey, Chris Ryder, Charles Stewart, Garth Barnes (Reserve) and Rob Reid (Reserve)
Also in attendance:	Councillor Ian Bickerton, Councillor Penny Hall, Councillor Jon Walklett, Councillor Roger Whyborn and Councillor Chris Coleman

Minutes

1. DOG FOULING IN CHELTENHAM

Councillor Penny Hall, chair of the task group, presented the final report which had been circulated with the agenda.

A review of dog fouling in Cheltenham was initiated by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in June 2013 following local concern at what was becoming a worsening problem. The Chair of the task group reported that subsequent to the publication of the task group report she had been informed that the Council had received numerous complaints from football clubs who hire pitches on council playing fields (including King George V, The Beeches, Naunton Park, The Burrows and Whaddon Rec) about the unacceptable level of dog fouling. The football clubs felt that they were paying a substantial amount of money for the use of the pitches and were urging the council to take some action to alleviate the problem. The Chair of the task group advised that this information would be included as an extra piece of evidence to the group's work.

A discussion ensued on the report. It was noted that dog fouling was worse during the winter months due to the darker mornings and early evenings when it was also harder for dog owners to keep track of their animal's movements. Members highlighted the importance of raising awareness including in schools as these children would be the dog owners of tomorrow. The idea of catching offenders in particular hotspot areas by using mobile CCTV was welcomed. One member urged that bins should be appropriately sited. Several members commented that the situation was growing increasingly worse in Montpellier Gardens and Warden Hill.

The Chair referred to comments received from a member who could not be present which wholeheartedly supported the recommendation for adequate enforcement despite the resource issues involved. It had been suggested that car parking attendants could assist in this but the Chair of the Task Group said this would not be possible due to their service agreements with the County Council. In response to a comment on the use of the blue stencil the Chair said

that CPOs had found these useful as it brought dog fouling to the attention of the small minority who were irresponsible.

Councillor Hall thanked members, officers, Community Protection Officers and Ubico officers for their ongoing vigilance and actions to reduce the problem.

RESOLVED THAT

The recommendations of the Dog Fouling in Cheltenham Scrutiny Task Group are endorsed for onward recommendations to Cabinet.