

REPORT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

(Meeting held on 7 September 2000)

1. PROVISION OF DOG FOULING SIGNS (REPORT B) (MINUTE NO. 28)

The Committee reviewed the position with regard to the provision of dog fouling signs. When the Dog (Fouling of Land) Act was introduced in 1996 it did not require the Local Authority to erect signs advising people of the possible fines for committing an offence. However, a limited number of heavy duty metal signs were erected around the District. A number of these signs have subsequently been vandalised and defaced which has resulted in some of them being removed for safety reasons.

The raised profile of the Dog Warden Service and the issue of fouling penalties has resulted in more public contact concerning the erection of signs. The Committee have therefore agreed to the use of plastic stick on dog fouling signs at suitable locations in the District which are covered by the Act. The small stick on signs will be easy to apply and can be easily replaced should they become damaged in any way.

The Committee have also agreed that to increase public awareness further a dog fouling sign will be incorporated in new street name signs and on litter bins.

The Dog Warden Service is involved with the day to day enforcement of the Council's statutory responsibilities and wider reminders of individuals' responsibilities may reduce the level of offences committed.

2. THE DOG WARDEN SERVICE (REPORT C) (MINUTE NO. 29)

The Dog Warden Service have now micro-chipped over 500 dogs. Whilst it is anticipated that the scheme will continue it is felt that it will do so at a reduced level. However, the service will continue to be publicised to encourage responsible dog ownership.

A number of parish councils have approached the District Council requesting that the Dog Warden Service carry out patrolling on their land. Service Level Agreements are currently being set up with three parishes to enable Dog Wardens to act as agents.

It may be possible in the future for Town and Parish Councils themselves to provide a Dog Warden Service by utilising existing employees. However, it was noted that some Town and Parish Councils would not have sufficient resources to cover this service. The Committee noted the need for an additional Dog Warden and agreed that this should be drawn to the attention of the Portfolio Holder for future consideration.

**COUNCILLOR J WADDINGTON
CHAIRMAN**