

Gentle Reminder to Dog Owners Using Furze Hill Playing Field

Dog fouling is a major concern for many people users of the Furze Hill Playing Field, including parents with young children, walkers, and our Village Football and Rugby Clubs who have to clear up dog faeces before every training and match in order to protect players and in particular children. Sadly, the problem seems to be growing.

While most dog owners are caring, responsible individuals, there are still some people who do not clean up after their pets.

The law states that being unaware a dog has fouled or not having a suitable bag is not a reasonable excuse.

Legally bye-laws are in place in this area under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. Please note the following:

- Fouling of Land by Dogs Order – for failing to pick up dog faeces.
- The Dog on Lead Order – for failing to keep your dog on a lead.
- The fixed penalty fine is £75. Serious cases can lead to a criminal prosecution in a Magistrates Court which carries a maximum penalty of £500.

The symptoms of toxocariasis caused by dog faeces can be particularly nasty. They can include seizures, stomach upsets, sore throats, breathing difficulties such as asthma, and eye problems. Typically, it leads to a very red and painful eye and clouded vision, and this only usually happens in one eye. If it is not treated, it can lead to permanent blindness in the affected eye.

Thank you in advance for your consideration to help all of our residents and visitors.

Mistley Parish Council – 1st December 2020