

GREAT LINFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Dog Bin Policy

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FAQs about Dog Bins

A clean neighbourhood?

We all want it. We can all help to achieve it.

WHAT SHOULD I DO WHEN MY DOG POOS?

SIMPLE - BAG IT, BIN IT, OR TAKE IT HOME.

When you take a dog out onto a public shared space it is the responsibility of the owner to ensure that they pick up the dog's poop. The dog's poo is your mess, and you need to pick it up yourself, not make excuses that it can be left to rot, or that someone else will deal with it, or there aren't enough bins.

A common excuse people use, is that dog poo is natural fertilizer. If that were the case, we probably wouldn't have to invest so much in sewage treatment for our own waste. Cow manure has a very different make up from dog poo; because their digestive systems, and diets are very different. Dog poo is so high in nitrogen and phosphorus that it can have the opposite effect of fertilizer and burns grass if you don't pick it up.

Another common misconception is that if you don't pick it up, it will quickly break down or wash away. In fact, dog poo can take as long as a year to naturally break down in our colder wetter winters. Even if you leave the dog poo on the ground and it does eventually break down, all the bacteria and parasites it contains will be left to linger in the ground for several more years.

HOW DO I CARRY MY DOG'S POO HOME?

To avoid smells, buy biodegradable bags from a shop or the GLPC office. Better still use a "dicky bag" to store empty and full bags – easy to carry or clip to your belt.

WHY ARE THERE NOT ENOUGH BINS?

GLPC inherited some of the bins when MKC stopped looking after them – so in some areas it does feel like there is a cluster of the bins.

But bins cost £157 each to buy and £257 each a year to maintain and empty the bins once a week, currently £7,000 a year on everyone's parish precept.

It would be more sensible and fairer for all residents and the environment; if dog owners **BAG IT, BIN IT OR TAKE IT HOME** to put in their own black waste sack.

CAN I HAVE A BIN ON MY STREET?

Everyone wants a bin that is convenient to them on their dog walking route, it is a matter of planning your walk, not having a bin around every corner.

There are many different walks in our lovely parish and there are currently 28 dog bins in 25 locations in the parish. And the MKC black bins in local centres and larger parks can be used.

WHAT IS GLPC DOG BIN POLICY?

GLPC Policy is to place a limited number of dog bins where children and dogs are likely to roam.

WHY ARE THERE TWO BINS BACK TO BACK?

If a bin is overflowing on a regular basis. GLPC may install a new bin or relocate one from a low use area.

WHAT BINS CAN I USE AND WHERE ARE THEY?

You can put dog poo in many different bins

- GLPC red or green bins
- Canal & Rivers Trust green bins
- MKC black bins at local centres and in larger play parks
[double bag the poo for the health of the MKC operatives who empty the bin]
- Your own black bin bag at home
(NOT the green wheelie bin)

Look at the map on the GLPC website <https://www.great-linford.gov.uk/services-we-provide/dog-bins/> for the dog poo bins locations and remember most local centres and larger play parks have bins.

WHY DON'T YOU GET RID OF THE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER AND USE THE MONEY FOR MORE BINS?

GLPC does not have the powers to carry out the enforcement itself; but pays for this service on behalf of residents. The Enforcement Officer is a contractor authorised by MKC to issue fixed penalty notices on a variety of environmental issues including fly tipping, dog fouling, litter in public places, graffiti, and liaison with MKC about nuisance litter in private locations. The Officer investigates abandoned vehicles, or those without MOT, tax or insurance. A lot of time is spent educating people and providing witness statements. Be assured the Enforcement Officer works hours best suitable to catch people.

As dog walkers know; GLPC is a large area so reports from residents is helpful to target offenders.

DOG WASTE AND THE LAW

Milton Keynes Council has proposed a Public Space Protection Order (2019) for the whole of Milton Keynes. This means that the failure to remove dog faeces from land to which the public or any section of the public has access will result in the transgressor facing a fixed penalty notice of a £100 or if it goes to court a £1,000 charge.

Being unaware that your dog has fouled or not have a suitable bag is nor a reasonable excuse

An Officer of the Council or authorised officer can issue a fixed penalty notice but the public reporting problems and providing witness statements can help to get transgressors fined.

PLEASE CLEAR UP AFTER YOUR DOG