

Winster Village Dog Mess Survey

We had a great attendance at the Village Consultation and 21 residents completed a survey. First thing to say is we are obviously a village of dog lovers as 2/3rd of people were pet owners, and it seems on paper also responsible ones.

When polled on where should be kept clear of dog mess there was unanimous support for:

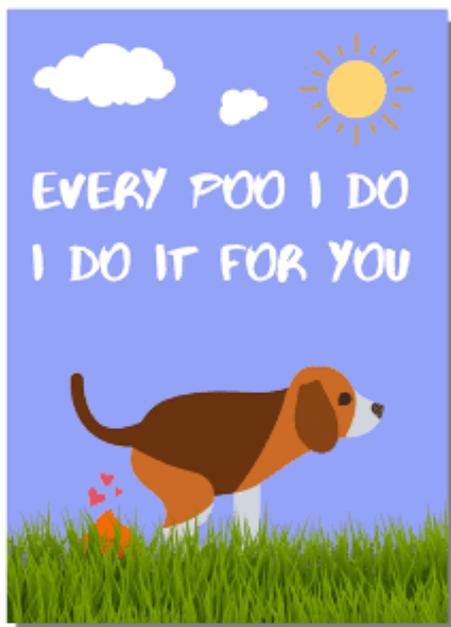
All pavements throughout the village, church yard and cemetery, children's play area and outdoor gym. grassed areas eg Leacroft, 4 sites identified for wildflower meadows, orchard and pond area. 81% of respondents also said farmland.

The Forestry Commission advocates stick and flick in woodland, so what do the residents of Winster think about this approach to keep the main pathways clear in the countryside? 71% of dog owners would advocate stick and flick, whilst this drops to 28% for non-dog owners.

86% of people do feel more dog waste bins are required and here are the potential locations: Churchyard into Oddo, Leacroft Road, Near Leacroft Garage, Bottom of East Bank or Shop, Near School, Top of Bank by swings, in the Gennels linking East & West Bank, Near Pond and Points on Limestone Way.

Some of the suggested locations, however, do tie in with places where there is already a litter bin, so just to ensure all are aware these can be used for disposing of bagged dog waste.

On bagging dog poo, but not disposing of it, 61% find this worse than not picking up at all. I would like to think that people are only doing this until they get back from the walk, but unfortunately this is not borne out by the evidence of bags just inside Oddo field for weeks on end or the revolting site of them dangling from trees. So please ensure timely disposal, don't stick them in cracks in the graveyard wall and leave them.



There were many suggestions on how we can make Winster a poo free zone, ranging from softer options; increasing signage, more poos bins, notices in holiday homes to the harder hitting; Tasering, CCTV, name & shame and confronting owners.

So, owners please make a big effort not to embarrass your dog – it's not their fault.

The Parish Council will be further reviewing the responses and coming up with a package of activities to help tackle irresponsible owners.