



## HARROGATE & DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION

Serving Harrogate, Knaresborough, Ripon, Boroughbridge, Pateley Bridge, and all rural areas

Helping to protect over 18,000 homes

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### DOG FOULING AWARENESS

Residents who attend Safer Neighbourhood Group Meetings (SNGs) usually hear more complaints about dog fouling than criminal activity. This article has been prepared by Mark Lee, the Area Environmental Health Officer in order to increase the awareness of the service offered by Harrogate Borough Council's Dog Warden Service. It explains the work undertaken at present in order to enforce fouling legislation and gives advice on how to contact the authorities. The reporting of fouling by NHW coordinators and members can help prioritise the work of the wardens and make our neighbourhoods a better place to live, work and play.

#### IT'S A DOG'S LIFE

Each year on average HBC's Dog Warden Service deals with 220 stray dogs, 300 dog fouling complaints and 180 barking complaints. Their daily dog fouling patrols target well used dog walking areas and with the support of fellow enforcement officers within the Environmental Protection Team these daily patrols are supplemented by monthly all day enforcement at localised hot spots. The patrols are a mix of high and low profile, so as to provide a balance between being a visual deterrent and witnessing offences.

Anyone found committing a fouling offence is issued with a £50 fixed penalty notice.

With our area having a population in excess of 150,000, distributed over a large mixed urban and rural area, and being a popular destination for tourists and dog walkers, the Wardens rely heavily upon the public's co-operation in targeting their enforcement work.

To raise awareness of responsible dog ownership, they have put up over 10,000 dog-fouling signs, handed out more than 25,000 fouling leaflets, given out 50,000 waste bags, micro chipped 300 dogs and introduced a Code of Conduct. These are supplemented with displays and educational talks when requested.

In spite of all this preventative work we still witness extensive fouling, with soiled children's clothing being the evidence in many cases.

If anyone receives specific information that will help the targeting of the culprits please contact the Environmental Health Protection specialists by email at [environmentalprotection@harrogate.gov.uk](mailto:environmentalprotection@harrogate.gov.uk) or by telephone 01423 556633. For more information on the services offered search for Dog Warden Service on [www.harrogate.gov.uk](http://www.harrogate.gov.uk).

From Mark Lee - Area Environmental Health Officer - Harrogate Borough Council– April 2012