

**Dog Fouling**

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**1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Dog Fouling continues to be a serious issue in the MAKI area and Amenity Services Enforcement Officers are aware of the issue and will deal with complaints/offenders as part of their daily routine.

A campaign to advise the general public on how they can support the council along with communication via our Web team and Community Council forums is the best way to tackle this issue.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that Members note the actions summarised in the report.

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**DOG FOULING**

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**1 SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to advise members on current actions being taken to deal with the level of complaints regarding dog fouling

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

That the members of the Mid-Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands, Area Committee, note the contents of this report and options available to the council in tackling dog fouling.

**3. BACKGROUND**

The Warden Service (Amenity Service Enforcement Officers) as well as being responsible for dog fouling & litter patrols are responsible for the enforcement of fly-tipping, abandoned vehicles, liaising with area teams on commercial and domestic waste contract issues and give support to the DPE enforcement officers with regards to On/Off-street parking, emptying of meters and carry out formal street litter survey's (CIMS). The ASEO's are also responsible for ensuring an educational role is carried out in all aspects of its littering & dog fouling enforcement within local groups and schools etc.

**3.2**

**Introduction**

In the last six months there has been an increase in reported dog fouling incidents in certain areas within the MAKI area. Ardrishaig and Tarbert have both shown a rise with Lochgilphead seeing a moderate increase. With this in mind, the actions below have been undertaken.

See Appendix 1 (Dog Fouling complaints via A&B)

**3.3**

**Current Actions to Address Fouling Issue**  
**Community Councils**

Both Tarbert and Ardrishaig Community Councils were approached and permission given for our staff to address the committees at their meetings recently. An informal presentation was given and a questions and answer session held post presentation. Staff also left their contact details in order to make it easier for members of the public to get in touch. Both the presentation and the Q & A threw up unreported incidents and some valuable intelligence was gathered. However, since these presentations there have been few calls received by our staff. We intend following up these presentations by sending out leaflets and advice to local community groups with our contact details etc.

### **3.4**

#### **Retail Premises**

In Tarbert, Ardrishaig and Lochgilphead staff have approached shop owners to make them aware of the reporting process and for them to 'put a face' to the area representative of the Council. This has led to some increase in contact and a Fixed Penalty Notice was issued thanks to information received from a Lochgilphead shop owner recently. This remains an on-going source of liaison and information and will be rolled in out the Kintyre area over the coming months.

### **3.5**

#### **Foot & Vehicle Patrols**

While covering a large area such as Mid-Argyll, Kintyre & Islay, our staff use their travelling time to 'multi-task' observing the areas while carrying out allotted tasks and addressing any dog fouling issues when witnessed.

### **3.6**

#### **Publicity**

Following the visit to Ardrishaig Community Council the issue of dog fouling did appear on the front page of the Argyllshire Advertiser. Staff also make a point of making people aware of the different avenues open to them to lodge a concern/complaint regarding fouling. This is done via verbal means and handing out written information.

### **3.7**

#### **Suggested Actions to Address the Dog Fouling Issue**

- Reinforcing the message via Community Councils
- Retail Premises (leaflet drops to advertise our details / advice on issue)
- Use of local radio station adverts with council details and how to contact the relevant department.
- Argyll and Bute Council wide campaign via our Communications team to address the issue and get message out via Web page, Local newspapers & council Facebook page with details on how to contact us.

- Work more closely with Keep Scotland Beautiful to support us in getting the message across through a national campaign and education via Eco-School scheme.

### 3.8

#### **CONCLUSION**

The current fine of £40 for anyone allowing their dog to defecate in a public place may be deemed inadequate and may be seen as too lenient.

We must work closely with the Police and where a person does not pay their Fixed Penalty Fine, ensure a more robust position concerning prosecution which will potentially send a very clear message to those guilty of allowing their dog to foul and would, in turn, see a decrease in incidences.

Amenity Services staff are keen to eradicate this problem and promote good dog ownership. In dealing with complaints and other public requests, as much detail as possible is required to allow the wardens to act appropriately. It is beneficial if a name and contact details of the complainant are available. The other details critical in allowing the warden service to deal with the complaint, are;-

- name of person suspected of allowing their dog to foul.
- address if possible, the area where offence is being committed.
- an approximate time if appropriate (pattern of offence taking place).
- the type/colour of dog.

These are the details that are not always forthcoming, therefore, not allowing the warden service to close off complaints in a successful manner in all instances, however, any information provided may allow our wardens to make tentative enquiries via site / door visits where they have what they believe to be adequate detail to go on.

Council Web contact detail via A to Z (Dog Fouling) or [Tel:- 01546 605514](tel:01546605514)

#### 5. IMPLICATIONS

POLICY:	None
FINANCIAL:	Cost to compile case / follow up
PERSONNEL:	Staff resourcing levels
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY:	None
LEGAL:	Fixed Penalty Notices (follow up where necessary)

Executive Director of Development & Infrastructure

For further information contact:

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