

Dog Control Order 2009

Bush lane Sports field

The Parish Council will be holding a Public meeting in the Village Hall **on Monday 15th November 2010, starting at 7:15pm**, to seek the views of the residents of Freckleton on the above mentioned Dog Control order.

The Council want your views on:-

- 1. Should dogs be allowed on the sports field, where children and adults play sport (the Council want to avoid a repeat of the recent case of the little girl in Manchester that contracted toxocariasis)**
- 2. Should dogs be allowed on all areas of the Sports field, provided it is on a short lead and the owner picks up after it.**
- 3. Should the Council spend Rate payers' money to employ an Enforcement officer to ensure this Order is enforced and to control dog fouling in other parts of the Village.**

Please come along to this meeting because the Council are keen to ensure that the wishes of the Parishioners are met in relation to this sports field.

The history of the Bush lane sports field

In 1910 - The sports field, together with the land where the agricultural allotments are situated, was left in trust to the Parish Council with the condition that it was used for the benefit of the people residing in or near Freckleton, for the use of Recreational facilities or allotment or public pleasure. The Parish Council were given full power to determine how the land should be used.

Over the years the Allotments and Sporting facilities have been developed on this piece of land.

In the 1970s, the Parish Council was granted permission, by the Secretary of State, to introduce a bye-law that banned dogs, horses and the playing of golf, on the Sports field.

In 1996, this bye-law was rescinded when Fylde Borough Council introduced a Borough wide bye-law that set out areas where dogs would be allowed on leads. The Bush Lane sports field was one of these areas.

In 2007, the Football club approached the Parish Council because they were experiencing large volumes of dog dirt on the playing and training areas. The Parish council considered the introduction of the Dog Control Order, under recently introduced legislation entitled "The Clean neighbourhood and Environments Act 2005".

In 2007/08 The Council advertised the proposals, held a public meeting and went through a lengthy consultation period, including setting up a working group, with the dog owners, to try to resolve the dog fouling problem. This committee recommended setting up a Community watch scheme, where villagers were asked to report incidents of dog fouling. The scheme was partially successful, but the fouling on the Football and Cricket pitches continued.

In October 2008, the Parish council decided that the introduction of the Dog Control Order was the only way to stop the fouling. The intention was to have a complete ban on the Sports field and to set up a separate area (in the section where the fair is held) for dogs to be exercised off the lead. At the last working party meeting the dog owners asked for an area around the field to be set aside for people to walk their dogs on the lead.

In March 2009 - The Order was introduced, which included the exercise area to the south of the car park and a ban on dogs on the Sports field, except for an area around the perimeter of the field. The FBC Bye-law was rescinded.

It is this area around the field, where dogs are allowed on the lead, which is causing problems, as it is difficult for members of the public to understand where they should be with their dogs.