

PRESS RELEASE

CONSULTATION – DOG CONTROLS IN BRAMPTON MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD

Brampton Parish Council has asked Huntingdonshire District Council to consider a Dog Control Order (DCO) for Dogs on a Lead whilst they are on the Playing Field

https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Brampton_Dogs

The consultation will be open for comment until Sunday 8 July 2018.

WHY ARE BRAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL CONSIDERING THIS?



The Memorial Playing Fields were established in part (and added to over the years) in the 1950s, acquired by the Parish Council to provide recreational sports facilities for Brampton residents and their families. The Parish Council (PC) has had a bye-law for many years that dogs must be kept on a lead on the Memorial Playing Field. This bye-law (and all other PC bye-laws for Public Open Spaces) was invalidated by the Governments new laws for Public Open Spaces, 2015.

Since that time PCs have not been able to create new bye-laws for any area that is a Public Open Space. For any control of dogs, we have to apply to the District Council to create a dog control order on our behalf. Due to the constant pollution of dog litter being left uncollected by dog owners, and despite our many pleas through local media, and the many friendly signs all around the field, the council decided to request an order that again requires dogs to be kept on a lead.

The Parish Council has not taken this decision lightly, and Huntingdonshire District Council has been presented with recent and consistent evidence of uncollected dog litter in order they could decide whether or not to proceed with a dog control order (DCO) for dogs on a lead. Clearly the evidence was enough for them to decide to proceed with the DCO. The first part of which is this public consultation.

Brampton PC takes its provision of recreational facilities very seriously, which is evident by what is provided on the Memorial Playing Field and thus can involve at times a large number of participants of all ages;

- 3 x mini soccer pitches
- 2 x standard soccer pitches
- 1 cricket wicket and field
- Sk8 Pk
- MUGA
- Youth Shelter
- Outdoor Gym
- Outdoor Table Tennis.



Photo courtesy of Airhopper Films

PRESS RELEASE

From Brampton Football Club (BFC):

FOUL

*By P. G. Doghouse
(aka. Tony Burnley of Brampton Football Club)*

A brief account of some doggy do's – and don'ts

When I go the playing fields at Thrapston Road on a Saturday morning to check that the football pitch is in good shape before the weekend game, I take a couple of plastic bags with me. Part of my mission is to ensure that recently laid dog faeces are removed to prevent normally sweet-smelling footballers from becoming fouled by dogs rather than the opposition.

It may appear simple enough and not too onerous a task to 'bag' the normally smallish, dried droppings left behind by healthily fed dogs, that I wonder why it should be me who is removing them rather than the owner or walker. I am now a dog owner and when I walk my dog on the playing field I always use a lead and pick-up any mess!

Occasionally one has to get to grips with an altogether different and unpleasant species of droppings. I understand the dilemma of the owner without a shovel, when an excrement of bovine proportions with the consistency of good brick-laying mortar has been deposited by a canine apparently the size of a small pony and suffering irritable bowel syndrome!

Now! I'll own up to beginning this piece in a light-hearted vein in order to grab attention and I don't wish to exaggerate the issue, but as a member of a Club which pays to use facilities I hope you'll have some sympathy with the point I'm making. I guess that many of you reading this will be responsible dog owners/walkers who clear up after their dog and I applaud you and bear no malice. Others will have noticed the problem or have been victims of pavement fouling in the village.

My particular concern is for the users of the playing fields, many of whom are children engaged in leisure activities and too full of the joys of life to watch where they're treading, or worse still actually rolling in the stuff. Writing about the problem is all very well but what can we actually do about it? Or must we just come afterwards with the bucket and shovel.

Bye-laws exist but enforcement is not easy when all hours of the day need to be covered. The only way to get complete compliance is to ban the bringing of dogs onto the field which may prove controversial. In the meantime, maybe we should all be more vociferous when we see dogs running loose and a long way off from the person walking them. I suspect but can't be certain that they and some of those in the charge of unprepared children (not uncommon) are the main culprits.

I could be persuaded that playing fields and dogs don'ts mix. What do you think?

Toxocariasis is an illness found in humans that occurs when they are infected with parasitic roundworms, originating from the faecal matter of dogs (*Toxocara canis*). Although most people might display symptoms similar to the flu, there are certain instances, where the illness can turn into a more severe form known as Ocular Toxocariasis, that has the potential to cause blindness

Although Toxocariasis can infect humans, the most common victims are actually children, for two reasons – One being that children have a weaker immune system than adults, and the other being that they are the ones that tend to place their hands on the ground and in the dirt while playing outside.

When infected dog poop is deposited, the eggs of certain **roundworms** and other parasites can linger in your soil for years.

SO PLEASE LET US HAVE DOGS ON A LEAD ON THE MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD FOR THE ENJOYMENT AND SAFETY OF ALL, IT WOULD BE SUCH A SHAME TO BAN DOGS COMPLETELY, SO LEAD UP AND SHARE WITH OTHERS SAFELY.

