

Deputy Clerk | Swaffham Town Council

From: Reception | Swaffham Town Council
Sent: 16 February 2021 15:33
To: Deputy Clerk | Swaffham Town Council
Subject: FW: Contact via HugoFox
Attachments: TiksPac_CSR_UK.pdf

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16 February 2021 12:20
To: Town Clerk | Swaffham Town Council <townclerk@swaffhamtowncouncil.gov.uk>
Cc: Reception | Swaffham Town Council <reception@swaffhamtowncouncil.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Contact via HugoFox

Dear Mr Bishop,

Thank you for responding to my contact regarding dog fouling.

I am pleased to read that my concern is echoed by others and that it remains a priority for the council.

You asked if I had ideas from my former council. My wife and I previously lived in Didcot in Oxfordshire so came under South Oxfordshire District Council. The Town Council addressed the problem many years ago by continual media coverage in local newspapers, free papers, posters etc. They also provided many bins within the town centre, residential areas and ALL open spaces such as parks and playing fields. You refer to Swaffham having 'lots of bins' but in comparison, I believe there to be far less than Didcot. Literally, they are everywhere around the town. There is however, one item you do not appear to provide, dog waste bag dispensers. Across many of the above areas, particularly those where dogs are regularly exercised, sponsored bag dispensers can be found, usually near or adjacent to bins. I have therefore attached a pdf document which provides full details of the bins (although I am not sure if this is the actual provider for Didcot). I have also added a link to the company's website, Ticspac UK Ltd. where you will see that many councils have adopted this method.

Having lived in Didcot for circa 30 years, I witnessed how bad the issue used to be but also the transformation. If the issue can be resolved in Didcot, I see no reason why it cannot be in Swaffham. Ultimately, it needs people to change their behaviour and the best way to do it is with a carrot and not stick. If the carrot does not work then we need to be prepared to use the stick. Dog wardens and fines being the last resort.

By walking in and around the town daily we find the following two roads to be the worst areas, the north end of Cley Road and Northwell Pool Road - although nowhere is immune.

FYI, I live at Swans Nest and so far have not experienced a problem on the site (although I have not walked the open spaces).

I hope my suggestion and attached details are of interest and look forward to your feedback.

www.ticspac.co.uk

On 9 Feb 2021, at 17:20, Town Clerk | Swaffham Town Council
<townclerk@swaffhamtowncouncil.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

Your e-mail has been passed to me for a response. First of all, welcome to Swaffham, I hope you will be very happy in the Town.

I have been a Clerk for 37 years, the last 20 as Town Clerk here in Swaffham and there has never been a time when 'dog poo' has not been an issue of concern. I think that this, together with pot holes, litter and street lights that are not working, are top of the repeat list. Please don't think that this means that there is any less of a concern, it is just a constant problem that we have to work in partnership to address. There are a lot of bins around the Town, some dedicated dog poo bins and other dual purpose dog poo and litter bins; the Town Council are always receptive to ideas where new bins can be located, indeed we are in the process of getting this matter addressed at the Swans Nest site with the developer Abel Homes Ltd.

The behavioural issues to which you refer i.e. picking up the dog mess and putting in the bins, is something we have worked with Breckland Council in the past from time to time, as the educational side of things is their responsibility. The Town Council take responsibility for providing the bins, with the capital cost of the bin and installation, Breckland Council are responsible for emptying the bins. Unfortunately, there are a lot of irresponsible dog owners who do not pick up after their dog. The reality is that doubling the amount of bins would not encourage these people to use them, it is a social problem that we press that 'refresh and remind' button every so often. I will try and get a further message out there in our Swaffham Newsletter, on our website and on social media in the next few weeks, and hopefully this will address some of your concerns.

In the meantime, if you have any of the ideas from your previous Parish/Town, then I would be only too pleased to pass these on to Breckland Council, for when we discuss this matter again in the not too distant future. Please be assured we will continue to do our best to highlight the social responsibility of dog owners and hopefully you will see an improvement in the months ahead.

Best regards,

Richard Bishop
Town Clerk

<image001.jpg> <image002.jpg> < image003 . jpg >

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Dear Swaffham,

You have received the following message from [REDACTED]

I recently moved to Swaffham with my wife and we are thrilled to make the town our new home. It is a great place to live and we have been made very welcome by all we meet.

During the current lock-down we have walked virtually every road, street and field path which has been a great way to get to know the area. However, we are extremely disappointed to find dog fouling on many footpaths in and around the town centre. We came from an area where this was rare due partly to the council's forthright approach and action some years ago. Poo bins were located across the whole town and a regular collection facility organised. The council also stepped up communication of the issue and over time, turned the problem into an anti-social matter. Fines were issued and the situation improved markedly. We were able to walk the town and look around whereas here, we have to scour the footpath ahead so as not to 'step in it'! On our walks we have come across people who simply avoid picking it up, even when they see people observing them. There appears to be no shame. My question to the council is, what if anything, is being done to improve this situation? It's not a great advert for the town, especially for visitors. [REDACTED]

This message was sent from the following page:

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Any questions? Please don't hesitate to contact us:
team@hugofox.com.

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