

Questions from Councillors at City Council
Chief Executive's Department



Name of Member submitting the question Councillor Kelly

Date received by Democratic Support Team

To Councillor Haydon

Question

Following some recent litter picks I've done throughout the city, I've noticed a significant increase in the amount of dog fouling not only on pavements but in the green areas. I think there has been a concerted problem with regards to the dog mess being bagged and left but this is now actually the dog faeces on the streets, on the pavements and in the green areas and as we know that can carry quite a lot of germs and have a public protection issue with children playing.

Quite a lot of residents have also approached me and when I've asked around on the litter picks, it's noted that it's not just me that's seen an increase, it's throughout the city. So, with regards to your 100 pledges to make a city to be proud of, no 92 is 'we will work with responsible dog owners to campaign for zero tolerance of dog mess on our pavements and fine those who do not clean up after their dog'. You came into office in May 2018 so would you just share with us how many fines have been issued, or people have been prosecuted for this please.

Answer

There have been two FPNs issued for dog fouling since May 2018.

Dog fouling is something that we are actively trying to reduce across the city.

As you will appreciate dog fouling is very difficult to enforce against. This is because perpetrators know it is the wrong thing to do, and so tend to only commit the crime when there is no one to observe them (and certainly not a uniformed officer).

Signed

Date: 2 July 2019

Note

- Written questions must be submitted to the Monitoring Officer via the Democratic Support Team.
- Written questions will be replied to within 10 working days.
- Written questions and answers will be published on the last Friday of each month.

This is why our approach has been different; by bringing the environmental enforcement team in house, we wanted to enable them to focus more time on behaviour change, and less on making a profit. It must be recognised that it is far better to prevent people from committing the crime in the first place, than to focus just on enforcement.

We have campaigned extensively across social media, working with responsible dog owners to get the right messages across. Recently a local school Marlborough Primary Academy, came up with the fantastic idea of re-using old plastic bottles as dog-poo-bag dispensers and placed them around Devonport Park, to encourage people to do the right thing.

Our environmental enforcement officers are regularly patrolling parks at different times of day across the city, and also areas where local intelligence tells us there is a regular problem. We have increased signage to make sure people are reminded of the requirement to pick up after their dog.

We would welcome more reports especially where the perpetrator can be identified. This can be provided online at: <https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/streetcareandcleaning/reportdogfouling>