

Newsletter

October 2013

Hunston Parish Council takes action against dog fouling

AKA Faeces, Poo, Dog Mess

It's an unavoidable by-product of owning a dog, and therefore it's every owner's moral duty and legal responsibility to clean up after their dog.

Playing fields and footpaths

The disgust that dog mess causes to those who have stepped in it, sat by it in their local parks is felt by responsible dog owners as much as any other visitor. Letters of complaint on the subject are received daily by MPs and councillors across the UK, such is the offence and anger caused. Sometimes the complaints lead to the provision of more special bins and awareness projects, but they have also led to negative campaigns and policies that punish all dog owners, not just the guilty, selfish ones. You and your companion could end up being banned from your own local park. These are the places where other people picnic and children play. Please be thoughtful no matter where you are.

The Law

Local Authorities (LAs) including the Parish Council, have the power to introduce and enforce dog fouling byelaws, under which a person in charge of a dog can be heavily fined for allowing dogs to foul in a public place. The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 applies to LA-designated land. This could include any land which is open to the air and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access, including roads and parks.

Look out for signs stating this.

It is no defence to claim ignorance of the dog's actions or the law; neither is not having a device available to remove the faeces. Failure to promptly clean up dog mess can result in a prosecution and fine.

Why clean up after your dog?



We all know how unpleasant it is to see dog mess lying around the pavements and public spaces and it's even more unpleasant to step in!



It is simply unhygienic. Dog faeces may contain worms that can cause a threat to human health.



The minority of irresponsible dog owners who do not clean up after their dogs damage the reputation of responsible dog owners who do.



Leave it behind and you could get fined! It is an offence to leave your dog's mess behind. If you are caught not scooping your dog's poop you could be prosecuted and fined up to £1000.

Solutions



Always carry a means to clear up after your dog, whether this is a simple plastic bag or a 'poop scoop' device.



If you have a garden, train your dog to go there before you leave home – this way you can bag it and bin it straight away.



Don't rely on the rain to wash it away – this is just a lazy excuse to not pick it up!



Respect your local authority's rules on dog free areas. Keep your dog away from children's play areas and sports pitches if signposted and use dog waste bins if they have been provided.



Never let your dog out alone to toilet.



Politely encourage guilty owners you meet to do their duty. You do not need to be rude, simply offer them one of your poo bags. Embarrassment over their unacceptable behaviour gets Better results and is safer than abuse.

Parish Council actions

The Parish Council has agreed that it will run a campaign using posters to try and improve the situation on the playing field and throughout the footpaths in the village. If this does not improve the situation it may well consider putting in place a Dog Control Order to ensure that action can be taken against irresponsible dog owners.



Hunston Parish Council

Chairman's Report



On a very wet and windy October morning my thoughts inevitably turn to Halloween, Bonfire Night

and Christmas looming on the horizon. Before we get to those special days, however, the Parish Council has a lot of work on hand. You will see elsewhere in the newsletter that we are still looking for Parish Councillors to join us. There must be two people out there somewhere who are looking for a challenge, care about our village and want to protect it for the future.

The only way we can effect and manage the changes coming in the future for all of us, is to have active people who dedicate some time to the Parish Council. Yes, we do have work to do; yes, we do have to deal with a fair amount of local government bureaucracy; yes, it can get very frustrating at times.

BUT – when we achieve something, however small, it is very rewarding. So I am making a personal appeal to everyone who cares enough to take time to read our newsletter, to give it some thought. Come along and sit at a Parish Council meeting; listen to the issues we discuss and decide then if you feel you have something to offer.

Often, a new perspective is all we need to see a project or issue through! It would be particularly good if we could attract some younger people to help us. Youth is a positive advantage, and young people see our world in a very different way to those of us who are

more mature in age! So please don't be put off by thinking that you are too young, and don't have anything to offer – you do.

The other issue I want to talk about is that of families. As we get closer to Christmas, think about your neighbours. Perhaps some of them are in financial difficulty, or are elderly and alone. Think about whether you can spare some time to see if you can help in some way, even if it is only to lend a listening ear or some companionship. We are a great community, and we all need to try and maintain our small village community spirit.

Liz Kenney
Chairman

Parish Councillors Wanted

There are still two vacancies on the Parish Council and current members would like to co-opt new Councillors to join them.

If you can spare one evening a month to attend our regular meeting, are community minded, and interested in making a difference locally we would be very glad to hear from you! You must be over 18, and live or have a business in the Parish. There is full training available and you will have plenty of support as you learn the ropes. We would like to appoint new councillors at the next Parish Council meeting on the 6th November 2012. If you are interested and would like more details please contact the Clerk, Carol Smith on 01243 203203

Community Resilience Workshop

Chichester District Council organised a Community Resilience Workshop in September 2013.

The intention was to raise awareness and encourage communities to develop their own Resilience Plans.

Typical examples of situations where a well documented and robust plan can help is where sudden emergencies arise such as flooding, heavy snow or a major fire. Having a plan will not necessarily prevent such occurrences but it can help to get action started early and to help to minimise the impact.

The Parish Council will look to develop such a plan but will seek assistance from members of the community in order to identify issues that may affect Hunston and consider what measures should be in place.



Annual Village Clean Up

The annual clean up will take place on Saturday 12th October.

Volunteers should meet at the Village Hall at 10.00 a.m. where bags, high visibility jackets and litter pickers will be provided.

Children are welcome but they must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

We look forward to a good turnout this year.

Hunston Parish Council

Chairman	Liz Kenney - Fieldview, Southover Way, Hunston PO20 1NY	532131
Vice Chairman	Steve Baker - 2 Foxbridge Drive, Hunston PO20 1NQ	538832
Councillors	Dianne Bonthron - Swan Cottage, Main Road, Hunston PO20 1NR	773272
	Leon New - 4 Little Boultons, Hunston PO20 PO20 1AP	778315
	Roger Pagram - 32 St Leodegars Way, Hunston PO20 1PF	785536

Parish Clerk : Carol Smith - 6 Locksash Close, West Wittering. PO20 8QP

203203

Hunston Parish Council

Neighbourhood Plan

In our previous newsletter there was an article on a Neighbourhood Plan for Hunston. The Neighbourhood Plan is intended to be the local community's document setting out how, where and what sort of development it would like to take place.

The local news media has covered the Chichester District Council's Local Plan quite extensively and details are featured on the Chichester District Council's website.

The Neighbourhood Plan is intended to influence and inform the Local Plan to reflect CDC's requirements but in a way that local people feel is sustainable.

The Neighbourhood Plan requires input from Villagers and we are once again asking for expressions of interest from anyone who would like to participate. Expertise or experience is not required but a genuine interest in the future of the Village is.

It would be preferable if a broad range of interests and age groups are involved and both local businesses and residents participate as they are all an integral part of the Village and have equally important roles to play.

Anyone interested should contact the Parish Clerk or any of the Councillors. We hope to convene a public meeting in the near future so that any questions, clarifications or suggestions can be addressed.

HUNSTON CANOE CLUB

We had a great afternoon of fun at our annual community canoe event. The main activity was rafted canoe races, where 12 teams representing local groups, and youth organisations competed in a tournament. Nearly 100 people participated, and there were many spectators on the bank. This was followed by kayak taster sessions for people to have a go at the sport. The



Hunston's Grand Old Lady

It seems a long time now since I sat in Joan Wood's lounge on 19th May, the day she celebrated her 100th birthday. What an incredible lady she is – maybe not as spritely as she once must have been but certainly possessing a sharp mind and a very long memory. We talked about her life as an Army wife, her family and her life in Hunston. I was moved by her stories about how she and her husband first met, and their reunion some five years later, when they eventually were married.

Thinking back on it now, I realise that she was born before the start of the Great War. So she has lived through two World Wars, three (or possibly even four) monarchs, countless Prime Ministers and the best and worst of governments. She has survived good times and bad times, and still managed to maintain a wonderful sense of humour. I can only imagine what she was like as a young girl.

It was truly a privilege to talk to you, Joan, and I hope you can continue to maintain your independence and clear thinking. You are an example to us all.

Liz Kenney

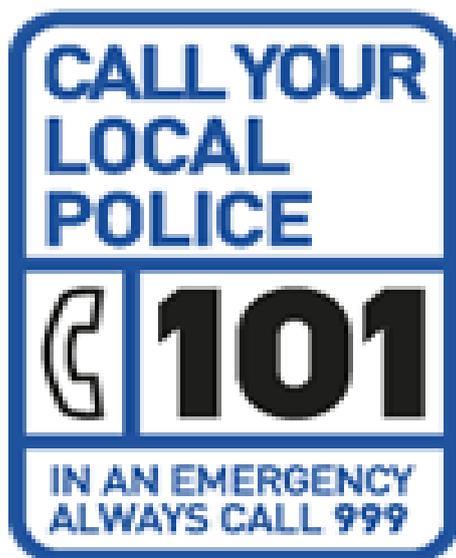
Apology

In the Spring Newsletter the Parish Council produced an article that suggested that the canal footpath was not a cycle route or a bridleway.

The Parish Council would like to apologise for giving out incorrect information. The canal footpath both towards Donnington and up to the canal basin is a registered cycle route.

Some residents have reported being on the receiving end of verbal abuse because they were cycling on the canal path. Please be aware that cyclist have every right to be there and giving verbal abuse unpleasant and is against the law.

Hunston Parish Council



Other useful contact numbers

Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
Citizens Advice	01243 784231
Age Concern	01243 528346
Childline	0800 1111
Victim Support	01243 829089
NHS Direct	0845 4647
Chichester	
Community Bus	01243 816616

For problems with:

Street Lighting	0845 7581622
Gas Services	0800 111 999
Electricity	0800 7838866
Portsmouth	023 9247 7999
Water	
Southern	0800 820 999
Water	

When to call 101?

You should call 101 to report crime and other concerns that do not require an emergency response.

For example, you should call 101 if:

- your car has been stolen
- your property has been damaged
- you suspect drug use or dealing in your neighbourhood

Or to:

- report a minor traffic collision
- give the police information about crime in your area

101 has been introduced as part of the government's wider work to improve access to the police, ease pressure on 999, and help to efficiently and effectively tackle crime and disorder.

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What is the difference between 101 and 999?

You should continue to call 999 when it is an emergency, such as when a crime is in progress, someone suspected of a crime is nearby, when there is danger to life or when violence is being used or threatened. To contact the police for any other reason, call 101.

What does it cost to call 101?

Calls to 101 (from both landlines and mobile networks) cost 15 pence per call, no matter what time of day you call, or how long you are on the phone.

Who will answer my 101 call?

Calls to 101 are answered by police officers and staff in the control room of the local police force. This ensures that staff with local knowledge can answer and deal with the calls and respond appropriately.

You will not be put through to a large national call centre. When you call 101, the system will determine your location and connect you to the police force covering that area. You will hear a recorded message announcing the police force you are being connected to. If you are on a boundary between two or more forces, the recorded message will give you a choice of which force to be connected to.

Do you smoke? Do you think about going smokefree?

This October, people in West Sussex who smoke have the opportunity to join the first ever mass quit attempt across the country. Called Stoptober, the campaign is calling for people to take part and start their quit attempt on the 1st October.

By signing up to the campaign, you will be supported by a detailed 28 day programme to help you along the way.

In addition to the national support, you can also get help and advice from our Wellbeing services and our specialist NHS Stop Smoking teams.

During October there will be events in town centres, work places and in your local community so you can find out more and discover what support is available.

Research shows that if you can stop smoking for 28 days you are five times more likely to stay smokefree.

It's hoped that Stoptober will mean you can share your experience with others going through the same process and tap into all of the support that is available to help you in your quit attempt.

What is available?

If you sign up you'll receive advice and encouragement through a daily messaging service, and expert advice through the Stoptober mobile phone app and Smokefree facebook page. It will also provide you with a new preparation pack, 28 day Quit Calendar and Health & Wealth wheel that can be ordered through the [Stoptober](#) website.

All you need to do is visit the [Stoptober](#) website.

Locally there are more than 150 places across West Sussex where you can get help to stop smoking. Call our local NHS Stop Smoking Helpline on 0300 100 1823 to find out what's available close to where you live or work.

