

PRESS RELEASE

1st December 2006

Doggies do it, but not here



Photo opportunity with Pooper the Dog on a toilet outside Wellington Parade, Dukinfield SK16 4LE (near Tameside Blind Centre) at 12.45pm on Monday, 4th December 2006.

It's not a pleasant subject, but doggy doo dominated concerns in one New Charter neighbourhood.

Dog fouling was top of residents concerns in a recent survey of Central estate in Dukinfield run by New Charter and the Central Estate Crime Panel.

So New Charter joined forces with the Dukinfield District Assembly, Tameside Patrollers and CRAG (Central Residents Action Group) to launch an anti-fouling campaign.

New Charter's Director of Tenancy Services, Tony Powell said: "We are not anti-dog but are responding to residents' justifiable concerns about this element of local anti-social behaviour. All dog owners should know about the danger to health for younger children especially. Our residents are particularly concerned as a primary school is next to the estate. We are urging dog owners to be responsible, but sanctions will be enforced."

One resident, Belinda Jeffery of Pleasant Terrace, said: "The problem is lying around our estates, but it's not all caused by dogs owned on this estate. We are surrounded by areas of terraced housing and we already know some irresponsible owners think our grassed areas are their dog toilets."

Leaflets are being provided to residents warning that dog fouling is anti-social, criminal and a potential public health danger. The primary danger is from Toxocara – microscopic eggs spread in the faeces of infected animals. If the larva is accidentally swallowed by young children putting their fingers into their mouths, it can penetrate the intestine, liver and other body tissue, and can also result in blindness.



Chair of Dukinfield District Assembly, Councillor Brian Wild said: “We welcome this campaign and hope it will make a real difference to the estate. ‘Bag it and bin it’ is our message. For the sake of our residents, particularly young children, dog owners must start taking responsibility and clearing up after their dogs. We want residents to help us by passing on information to the patrollers about anyone who lets their dog foul. Persistent offenders must realise they can and will be prosecuted.”

Tameside Patrollers are handing out poop scoop bags, and urging residents to take their dog waste home with them.

But the Patrollers have the power to issue an on the spot fine of £50 to any owner caught being irresponsible. New CCTV cameras installed on the estate will also be used to prosecute. Any owner refusing to pay will have their fine increased. Earlier this year, a woman in North Manchester faced costs of £500 after allowing her dog to foul without cleaning up.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. New Charter formed in 1999 as the new landlords to own and manage homes transferred from Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council in Greater Manchester. With a turnover of £48million a year and a workforce of 800, New Charter is one of the country’s largest Registered Social Landlords, and is regulated by The Housing Corporation, a Government watchdog. By incorporating Aksa Housing Association recently, the Group owns over 15,000 homes.
2. The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 allows local authorities to designate any public land as poop scoop areas where dog owners **MUST** clean up after their pets. Failure to comply will mean issue of £50 fixed penalty notices, and potential prosecution for offenders.
3. **iN business for neighbourhoods** is a long-term project highlighting housing associations’ performance. As social businesses, housing associations do not make profit. They offer homes for rent and sale at prices local people can afford. Housing associations provide more than homes - they help create places where people want to live. Wherever you see the **iN business for Neighbourhoods** sign, something great is happening in the area. Housing Associations who display this logo are committed to their customers, the neighbourhoods they work in and strive for excellence in everything they do.

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