Welcome to the dog fouling special!

Welcome to the December edition of the Tonbridge and Malling Street Monitor newsletter – Dog Fouling special! Thank you to all of you for your continued support and dedication in keeping the borough clean. I would also like to welcome the twenty new monitors from across the borough who have recently joined the scheme. We now have 125 street monitors in the borough. In this edition we give an update on litter enforcement actions, prosecutions and ongoing environmental campaigns.

Council bags it, flags it and bins it in dog fouling awareness drive in Eccles

Dog mess is one of the country's biggest litter problems but in Eccles the problem has been flagged-up and dealt with in the latest drive by Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council to promote responsible dog ownership.

Borough Council officers worked with Aylesford Parish Council representatives to 'Bag it and Flag it' dog mess at Eccles Recreation Ground on Tuesday 7 July. The Council's enforcement officers joined Tonbridge and Malling's Dog Warden, KCC Community Warden for Eccles, Burham and Wouldham and parish councillors for an early start at 7am. Altogether, 119 lots of dog mess were bagged in bright yellow bags and left, along with a flag, in place of the unwelcome deposits found in the recreation ground and three nearby footpaths.

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The idea was to highlight the dog mess problem in the area and encourage dog walkers to clear up after their dogs in future. At the end of the day, all the bags of mess were removed and disposed of appropriately. During the six-hour operation, officers issued a fixed penalty notice for £50 to one person who was caught not clearing up after their dog. The clean-up team also noticed many responsible dog owners out on the Recreation Ground that morning and 12 people who were seen clearing up after their dogs were given "Caught doing right" cards. 'Caught doing right' is a national campaign organised by Animal Wardens and the Borough Council, which recognises responsible dog owners who do clean up after their dogs with a reward card. Dog owners can then choose to send off their completed cards to be entered into a free national prize draw for a chance to win a year's supply of dog food or a VIP ticket to Crufts, and a free local prize draw to win various other prizes.

Cllr Owen Baldock, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, says: "Nobody wants to see, smell or step in dog mess and the solution is so simple - if all dog owners would just clear up after their dogs then this problem would disappear. This latest campaign is an innovative way of raising awareness of just how dangerous and damaging dog mess can be while at the same time rewarding the many responsible people who do clean up after their dogs."

Cllr Joyce Gadd, Chair of Aylesford Parish Council, says: "Eccles is such a lovely village and it's a shame to see it blighted by a few irresponsible dog owners who can't be bothered to help keep the area clean. However, it was encouraging to be able to hand out so many reward cards to those who did clear up after their dogs - let's hope this latest campaign will convince all dog walkers to do the same."

**Dog Fouling Prosecution**

A woman from East Malling has been successfully prosecuted by Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council under the Dog (Fouling of Land) Act 1996.

Mrs Patricia Cody failed to clear up after her Jack Russell dog when it fouled the grassed area in Temple Way, East Malling on 17 October 2008. The offence was witnessed by a police officer who reported the incident to the Borough Council. Mrs Cody was issued with a fixed penalty notice of £50, which she failed to pay. As a result, Mrs Cody was prosecuted by the Borough Council under Section 3 of the Dog (Fouling of Land) Act 1996.

The case was heard at Sevenoaks Magistrates' Court on Monday 8 June 2009. Mrs Cody failed to attend the hearing but the Court heard the evidence in her absence and Mrs Cody was found guilty of the offence and fined £175. She was also ordered to pay £50 towards the Council's costs and a further £15 surcharge.

Phil Beddoes, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council's Head of Waste and Street Scene Services, says: "Thankfully, most people do clear up after their dogs but we want to send out a very clear message to the irresponsible few that fail to do so that this Council takes a 'zero-tolerance' approach towards dog fouling and anyone caught failing to clear up after their dog will be fined and, if necessary, prosecuted."
Council staff went clubbing to promote Noise Action Week

Following on from a seminar at the Council offices in Kings Hill on Wednesday 20 May to promote Noise Action Week, attended by landlords and managers of pubs and clubs in the Tonbridge and Malling area, officers from Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council’s Environmental Health team and Community Safety Partnership and supported by Police Community Support Officers visited a number of pubs and clubs in Tonbridge during the evening of Friday 22 May to talk to staff and customers about protecting their ears, keeping the noise down on the way home and as they leave premises and ‘putting a sock in it’ in the smoking shelter.

The officers visited the Slug and Lettuce, The Chequers, The Castle and the Humphrey Bean pubs and carried out some noise measurements using a sound level meter and offered practical guidance to managers about protecting their staff from the dangers of high noise levels. They also went to the Source of Sound Nightclub in Avebury Avenue where a bright and informative powerpoint presentation on Noise Action Week (NAW) was shown on the screens. Ali Jeerooburkhan, Director of Source of Sound, allowed Council staff into the club to carry out some decibel testing using a sound level meter. Officers handed out flyers, earplugs and sugar-free lollies with the GNAW (Go! Noise Action Week) message printed on them and introduced Decibella, the ‘put a sock in it’ mascot, to pubbers and clubbers both young and old who were out and about in Tonbridge that evening.

Following a chance encounter with the 14th Tonbridge Sea Scouts who were enjoying an evening on the river, Council officers visited their headquarters just off Avebury Avenue and talked to the Scouts about the impact of noise before testing them to see how loud they actually were. The Boatswain’s Whistle measured 92dB and when the Scouts were challenged to beat the volume of the whistle they reached 122dB - more than the volume of the siren of a passing fire engine! District Commissioner, Mr Rob Lewis, said: "We all knew they could be a bit noisy at times. Now we know just how noisy! I hope that the Scouts understand the message this campaign has given them, and am delighted to have participated in Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council's initiative to reduce the impact of noisy behaviour in residential neighbourhoods."

For more information on NAW nationally visit [www.noiseactionweek.org.uk](http://www.noiseactionweek.org.uk)

[noiseactionweek@environmental-protection.org.uk](mailto:noiseactionweek@environmental-protection.org.uk)
or call 01273 878770.
Offham pupils win prizes for dog fouling campaign posters

Three pupils at The Quest School in Offham received prizes from the Mayor of Tonbridge and Malling, Cllr Sue Murray, on Thursday 18 June for their innovative anti dog fouling campaign posters.

Twelve pupils at the school took part in the competition as part of an ongoing campaign to raise awareness of how some irresponsible dog owners fail to clean up after their dogs in the village. All the pupils who took part received certificates and prizes were presented to the three winners:

1st prize Harry Quested, who won £15 worth of High Street vouchers. Joint 2nd prize Rachel Goode and Girish Birdi, who each won £10 worth of High Street vouchers. The winning posters, which contain innovative slogans such as 'Do what your dog can't...or a £50 fine', 'Pick up or pay up' and 'If you can't scoop it, don't poop it', are displayed around the village and on the dog mess bins in the area.

Cllr Owen Baldock, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council's Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, says: "Congratulations to the winners and all who took part in the competition. The posters are really eye-catching and it's great to see young people taking such a proactive role in helping to keep Offham village clean."

Alyson Smith, Fundraising & Community Engagement Manager for The Quest School, says: "We are so proud of all the children who took part. They worked hard to design posters that would convince local dog owners to make sure they clear up after their pets and I think the winning designs will certainly have the desired effect."

The competition is the second phase of the anti-dog fouling campaign, which is being led by Offham Parish Council with the support of Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council. Parish Councillors joined Borough Council officers for a 'Bag it and Flag it' day to launch the campaign on Saturday 6 June. Officers bagged and flagged 93 bags of dog mess on the Village Green, North Meadow, Church Road, Teston Road and footpaths and car parks in the village. The bright yellow bags were left in place around the village for the whole day to highlight the dog mess problem and encourage dog walkers to clear up after their pets in future.
Litter offenders fined in enforcement campaign

Litter offenders in Tonbridge got more than they bargained for during a week-long enforcement campaign from 2 – 6 November 2009. Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council enforcement officers, supported by Kent Police, handed out Fixed Penalty Notices for £80 to anyone caught in the act of dropping litter.

During the operation, forty-eight people were served Fixed Penalty Notices for dropping cigarette ends, train tickets and fast food wrappings. Many more people, including several children, were warned for dropping litter and one offence is being considered for a prosecution.

The Tonbridge enforcement initiative was part of a series of operations aimed at tackling litter offenders in known hot spots across the borough. The enforcement campaign is supported by posters warning of the penalties for dropping litter. The posters are displayed in all the target hot spot areas, which include busy shopping areas around the borough, parks and public open spaces.

Phil Beddoes, the Council's Head of Waste and Street Scene Services, says: "Most people we saw during the enforcement campaign were very pleased to see us out on the streets doing something pro-active to stop littering outside the station. We will continue to take a zero tolerance approach towards any kind of littering, which costs the Council (and taxpayers) more that £1m every year in clean up fees."

We have served 156 fixed-penalty notices this year (2009/10) compared to only 99 for the whole of last year (2008/09).

Bash the Trash

Forthcoming Events:

**Saturday, 21 November 2009**
St Philips Church, Tonbridge
Contact: PCSO Linda Baker, 07772226021
linda.baker@kent.pnn.police.uk

**Saturday, 28 November 2009**
Burham Recreation Ground
Contact: Cllr Roger Dalton, 01634 867281
roger.dalton@tmbc.gov.uk

Tonbridge Baptist Church
Long Mead, Tonbridge
Contact: Barry Lock, 01732 352824
barry.lock@tbc-online.org.uk

Join in at [www.thebigtidyup.org](http://www.thebigtidyup.org)
Dog Fouling ‘Bag and Flag’ results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locations</th>
<th>Month and total bags collected (2009)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aylesford – Ferry Field Recreation Ground</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burham – recreation ground</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burham - footpaths</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ditton – playing fields (Kiln Barn Road)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ditton – recreation ground (New Road)</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ditton – footpath (rear of Cherry Orchard)</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Peckham – recreation ground</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Peckham – footpaths (various)</td>
<td>301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eccles – recreation ground</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leybourne – Oxley Shaw Lane / Baywell</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leybourne – Castle Way / footpaths</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offham (North Meadow /Church Road)</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tonbridge Farm Sportsground</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statistics from previous events:

- Tonbridge Farm Sportsground: 201 (Feb 2009)
- Haysden Country Park: 97 (Feb 2009)
- Snodland Nevill Park: 73 (Nov 2008)
- Snodland Recreation Ground: 42 (Nov 2008)

We will also be focusing on dog fouling hotspots over the next couple of months in East Malling, Wrotham, Walderslade (Tunbury Recreation Ground), Tonbridge Farm Sportsground, Swanmead Sportsground, Manor Park, West Malling and Wouldham Common.

If you would like to nominate an area for a ‘Bag it and Flag it’ event. Please contact Waste Services (see back page).

Meet the Dog Warden: Lorraine Baseden

Lorraine Baseden, the Borough Councils Dog Warden, is contracted from Animal Wardens. Lorraine is responsible for promoting responsible dog ownership, dealing with micro-chipping, fouling, lost and stray dogs, dangerous dogs and noisy dogs.

Any enquiries concerned with animal cruelty or animals in distress should be made directly to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) on 08705 555999.

The Council’s Dog Warden can be contacted on 01732 876181 or by email dog.warden@tmbc.gov.uk
Environmental Champions Award

Eighteen Tonbridge and Malling residents were rewarded for ‘going the extra mile’ to improve their local environment on Thursday 24 September at Tonbridge Castle.

Mayor of Tonbridge and Malling, Cllr Sue Murray, presented certificates and bird boxes to the winners, who were all nominated through Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council’s Environmental Champions scheme.

The scheme, which was launched earlier this year to encourage more people to make an extra effort to improve the environment, is open to all Tonbridge and Malling residents and anyone can nominate a person to become an Environmental Champion.

Five Street Monitors received awards; Mr David Williams, Mr Stuart and Mrs Anne Ollson all from Larkfield, Mr Roger Sopp from Snodland and Barry Glew from St Marys Platt. Six young people from the Tonbridge and Malling Youth Forum were also recognised for their green credentials as well as a brave six year-old litter hero, Connor Parris from Snodland.

Community Payback Update

The Community Payback Team work to deliver projects such as graffiti removal, vegetation clearance and painting and decorating. Since April 2009, projects have been carried out in Ryarsh, East Malling, Hadlow, Snodland and East Peckham. The work in Hadlow has been running for seven months involving vegetation clearance and litter picking. The team was also featured on a Radio 4 programme on restorative justice. The work has been valued at £9,512.88. Vegetation clearance and littering picking work was also nominated via the Snodland Goes Cleaner Group which has been valued at £6,389.25. The weekly litter clearance around East Peckham has been valued at £8,944.95. The overall value of the all the project work carried out from April this year is £29,532.53. This is based on a contractor’s hourly rate. Most recently, as part of ‘Not in my Neighbourhood Week’ the probationers have painted out the graffiti on New Hythe Lane road bridge in Larkfield.
The Snodland Goes Cleaner Campaign was launched in March 2008 following a multi-agency street cleansing review which highlighted certain areas of the town as hotspots for littering, dog fouling and flytipping. Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council and Snodland Town Council convened with Kent Police, The Snodland Chamber of Commerce, St Katherine’s Primary School, Snodland Church of England Primary School, Holmesdale Technology College, The Beat Project and Russet Homes to set an Action Plan to improve the cleanliness of the town through partnership work. The Beat Project secured funding from the Kent Waste Partnerships’ Community Action Fund to work with Snodland Church of England Primary School and an Environmental Artist to construct an igloo in the school grounds. The igloo was built from over five-hundred, four-pint plastic milk bottles which were collected by Snodland residents. The project educated the pupils about the importance of reusing materials in the waste management chain. The igloo was officially opened on 7 October by the Mayor. (See photo, right) Nevill Park Lake was given a clean-up with the support from young anglers who use the lake for fishing. The clean-up was supported by Snodland Town Council.

Useful contact details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Safety Partnership</th>
<th><a href="mailto:csp@tmbc.gov.uk">csp@tmbc.gov.uk</a></th>
<th>01732 876132</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kent Highways (West)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:westkent.highways@kent.gov.uk">westkent.highways@kent.gov.uk</a></td>
<td>08458 247800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kent Police</td>
<td>To report a non 999 emergency call</td>
<td>01732 771055</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kent Crimestoppers</td>
<td>Calls are free and anonymous</td>
<td>0800 555 111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighbourhood Watch</td>
<td>West Kent area</td>
<td>01892 502159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streetline</td>
<td>To report a street related problem</td>
<td>01732 876060</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Contact details for all local neighbourhood policing teams, Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and Community Wardens can be found on [www.tmcommunitysafety.org.uk](http://www.tmcommunitysafety.org.uk)

Newsletter produced by TMBC Waste Services (Environmental Health & Housing Services)

Enquires to Tamsin Ritchie, Environmental Projects Coordinator, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling Kent ME19 4LZ.
Tel: 01732 876147 Email: waste.services@tmbc.gov.uk

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