

Provision of Dog Waste Bags and Dispensers on Council Owned Open Spaces

Open Spaces Committee 13 April 2026.

To consider whether the Council should introduce the provision of free dog waste bags and dispensers at selected open spaces and Edenbridge High Street.

Background

Dog fouling remains a recurring public concern in Edenbridge. Nationally, Keep Britain Tidy reports dog fouling is one of the issues the public are most concerned about, with 89% of people regarding it as problematic ([Dog Fouling | Keep Britain Tidy](#)).

The Council already provides bins on it's open spaces, however, bag availability can be a barrier where owners have forgotten or ran out of bags.

Providing free dog waste bags in Edenbridge could help reduce fouling by making it easier for owners to clean up, particularly in local parks and sports pitches. Evidence included in an APSE (Association for Public Service Excellence) briefing, drawing on research by Tikspac UK, indicates that in council areas where these stations have been installed there has been an average 56.8% reduction in dog fouling complaints and a 49.4% reduction in littering. ([Microsoft Word - 19-41 Dog Fouling approaches by Councils](#)).

In 2023, Edenbridge Town Council (ETC) carried out a dogs on leads survey, within this survey one of the questions referenced the provision of dog waste bags at Council parks and open spaces. Over 75% of the responses were in favour.

Extract from survey:

Would you support the Town Council providing dog waste bags at Council parks and open spaces from its share of council tax? For example, installing and maintaining dog waste stations with refillable bags.



Ashurst Wood Village Council has installed dog waste bag dispensers across it's open spaces. Following discussions with the Clerk, she confirmed that 'public feedback has been largely positive, with the dispensers being well used by residents. While there are occasional instances of overuse, the overall impact has been beneficial.'

The Council has noted a reduction in dog fouling within its two parks since introducing the free bag provision. They currently purchase bags in batches of 5,000 at a cost of £178, with supplies typically lasting around six months before requiring replenishment.

Pros and Cons

Pro's

- Helps responsible owners who forget bags
- Demonstrates proactive action against dog fouling
- May reduce fouling incidents
- Visible sign of Council commitment to reducing dog waste

Con's

- Overuse and misuse (public taking more than required or for other uses)
- Ongoing cost
- Vandalism of dispensers and bags
- Additional staff time to dispensers and monitor usage

Indicative pricing information - Dispensers

Option 1

Dog bag dispenser (available in green or black) and ground post including post fixing kit - £160.08.

Can include bespoke ETC branding for an extra £15.00.



Option 2

Dog bag dispenser (available in green, red or grey) and ground post including post fixing kit - £216.09.

No branding option available.



Option 3

Dog bag dispenser (available in green), ground post and fixing kit not included - £147.56.

No branding option available.



Indicative pricing information – Compostable dog waste bags

- Biodegradable dog waste bags x 5,000 - £163.70
- Biodegradable dog waste bags x 10,000 - £268.50
- Biodegradable dog waste bags x 25,000 - £544.00

Recommendation and Proposal

It is recommended that Members approve the implementation of a pilot scheme for the provision of dog waste bag dispensers at three high-use locations: Lingfield Road Recreation Ground, Stangrove Park, and the High Street (Doggetts Barn Courtyard entrance).

The pilot scheme should be monitored over a period of 6–12 months to assess usage levels, ongoing costs, and any impact on incidents of dog fouling. A further report will then be presented to the Committee with findings and recommendations regarding any wider rollout.

Proposal

That the Council purchases three dog waste bag dispensers (Option 1), including posts, fixings, and Edenbridge Town Council branding, together with an initial supply of 10,000 biodegradable dog waste bags, at a cost of up to £793.74, to be funded from Open Spaces Small Projects budget.

Dispensers to be installed at:

- Lingfield Road Recreation Ground
- Stangrove Park
- Doggetts Barn Courtyard (High Street entrance)