

Dog Fouling Strategy

1. Education and Awareness Campaigns

- a. **Highlight health risks:** Clearly communicate the dangers of dog mess, especially the risk of toxocariasis, which can cause blindness, to both children and livestock.
- b. **Utilise Effective Signage:** Employ eye-catching signs in problem areas. “We’re Watching You” signs with glaring eyes have proven effective in creating a feeling of being observed.
- c. **Social Media and Publicity:** Use the Council’s website and social media to raise awareness, publicize successful initiatives, and remind residents of their duty.

2. Provision of Facilities

- a. **Strategic Bin Placement:** Ensure an adequate network of bins in known dog walking areas and “hot spots,” positioning them a few hundred meters from access points where fouling is likely to occur.
- b. **Free Bag Dispensers:** Consider installing free dog waste bag dispensers in key locations. This removes the “I forgot my bag” excuse and can be sponsored by local vets or pet shops to manage costs.
- c. **Regular Servicing:** Ensure bins are emptied regularly by Denbighshire County Council, especially during busy periods like weekends and holidays, to prevent overflow and illegal dumping of bags nearby.

3. Community Engagement

- a. **Public Reporting:** Improve mechanisms for the public to report incidents to Denbighshire County Council, including online forms or social media, to help identify persistent offenders and specific problem areas.
- b. **Work with Responsible Owners:** Enlist the help of responsible dog owners as allies, as they are often the best advocates for good practice.

4. Enforcement

- a. **Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs):** Utilise PSPOs to legally require owners to pick up waste, carry bags, or keep dogs on leads in specific areas like children’s play areas or sports fields.
- b. **Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs):** Issue on-the-spot FPNs to those caught offending. Fines can range from £75 to £100, with potential court fines of up to £1,000 for non-payment or persistent offences. Refer to the Byelaws on the Llandegla County Council website for more information.
- c. **“Painting Poo” Initiative:** Use temporary, chalk-based marker paint (e.g. pink or other bright colours) to highlight the scale of the problem in a specific area. The visual demonstration can be a powerful shaming and deterrent tactic.