



Open Space and Leisure Committee meeting 19th November 2025

Item 12 To consider a project to renew the dog control signage at public open spaces and playground sites, including a design competition and any funding required for a recommendation to Full Council

Background - Concerns around dog fouling, loose dogs and general antisocial behaviour by dog walkers make up many of the resident complaints brought to your attention.

Unfortunately there are no dog control orders in Mid Suffolk that can stop people exercising or letting their dogs off the lead and the parish council cannot enforce a dog ban. Our only recourse is to ask members of the public to be aware our public spaces are shared areas, to be mindful of letting your dog off the lead if they are not under control and to clear up after their dogs.

Some years ago a competition was launched to create a design for dog information signs and these were erected in various locations around the play areas and open spaces.

Current position - Officers have carried out a review of the signage at all public open spaces and have ensured regular newsletter articles asking people to keep dogs under control with emphasis on the fact that not clearing up after your dog is an offence. As a result of this review signage at Heath Road will be updated to include additional dog information.

The design competition dog info signs have become very faded and in some cases damaged. We don't appear to have the original artwork so cannot replace them with the same design.

It is suggested that a new design be approved and new signs be erected to promote the message that you should clear up after your pets, this could include another design completion for children. Thurston Primary School have a current litter theme as part of their Eco Council programme and would be very keen to facilitate this competition for us.



An initial price for printing a new design on a 410 x 290 aluminium sign is £133 for 6 no. plus consideration should be given to the provision of a prize and the possible need for additional wooden posts.

Recommendation

To consider a project to replace the dog information signage with a new design via a competition facilitated by Thurston Primary School and to agree the funding required in order to make a recommendation to Full Council.