

Report to Langley with Hardley Parish Council

Meeting date: Tuesday 16 May 2023.

Author: Emma Webster, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (RFO).

Subject: Provision of dog waste bins in Langley and Hardley, South Norfolk.

Purpose: To enable Councillors to make a decision on the costs associated with the provision of a new dog waste bin.

<p>Recommendations: That Council instructs the Clerk to both purchase and pay the annual emptying charge for a dog bin to be installed on Fish's Lane/Hardley Street, Hardley.</p>

1. Background

The Council currently owns three dog bins in the Parish and pays for the annual emptying of 1 and 2. The emptying charge for the bin on Hardley Staithe is paid annually by a local resident as a result of a long standing agreement.

1. Located on Forge Road, Langley.
2. Located on Langley Street opposite the Village Hall, Langley.
3. Located on Hardley Staithe, Hardley.

Three local residents have made individual representation to the Parish Council for the provision of a dog waste bin at Fish's Lane, Hardley Street. A local resident attended the meeting of the Parish Council on 7 March 2023 and there was a wide ranging discussion about dog walkers using Hardley Street and bags of excrement being left on the side of the road, in hedges or hung from trees or indeed not picked up at all. There was general agreement by Councillors at the meeting that the provision of a dog waste bin would discourage this activity and make for a more pleasant environment for all. The Chair said that whilst the local need was agreed the funding to Parish Council's was limited, especially as the precept was not raised this year. A Councillor suggested that she would be willing to contribute towards the cost, as did the local resident and thought that fellow dog walkers would also contribute. With these contributions the Council agreed to proceed further and asked the Clerk to follow-up the discussion with a view to bringing a proposal back to the next meeting. This report is the proposal.

South Norfolk District Council have a policy for the installation of dog waste and litter bins which can be accessed here: <https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/types-waste/litter-dog-bin-information-parish-councils>

A Glasdon green 25l bin with mounting would meet the requirements of the policy and they are currently available at £138.82 plus £15 delivery. The Parish would be responsible for the installation of the bin to meet policy requirements, and would seek a volunteer to do this.

Current annual emptying costs are approx £75 per bin per year plus VAT. This is invoiced to the Parish Council by South Norfolk District Council each April.

2. Options for Council

- a. Do nothing
- b. The Council funds the cost of a bin to be installed at Fish's Lane/Hardley Street and a nominated resident will be asked to raise and be responsible for paying the annual emptying on receipt of an invoice from the Parish Council.
- c. The Council funds both the cost of the bin to be placed at Fish's Lane/Hardley Street and the annual emptying charge.
- d. A nominated resident funds both the cost of the bin to be placed at Fish's Lane/Hardley Street and the annual emptying charge.
- e. Move an existing bin to Fish's Lane/Hardley Street.

3. Reason for recommendation

It is recommended that the Council accepts option C.

Option A is not recommended as this does not meet the requirement for the Parish to represent the views of its residents.

Option B is a model already successfully used in the Parish.

Option C The RFO confirms that the Parish has funds available to pay for the bin and the annual emptying charge from money raised via the precept, however it has not been budgeted for in this financial year. Subject to Council approval it could be listed as a budget variance.

Option D is not recommended as ongoing ownership and maintenance could be an issue. If the dog bin is damaged in the future, if it is in the ownership of the Parish Council it would be nominally covered by insurance (street furniture insured up to the value of £24,000 with £125 excess). It is right that costs of replacement due to vandalism is borne by the Parish, not by an individual.

Option E would not benefit the Parish as it is likely to 'shift' the problem.

4. Expected benefits

The local community. That the Parish Council can listen and respond to the needs of its residents.

The environment. That the Parish Council considers a pleasant environment for all as a priority.

5. Implications

5.1 Legal. The bin needs to be placed on land owned by either the Parish or SNDC. (Research shows that the site proposed is owned by SNDC, it is a Public Byway).

5.2 Risks. None.

5.3 Financial. None – the cost of recommendation B or C can be met within existing Parish funds.

Report to Langley with Hardley Parish Council

5.4 Time scales – SNDC assessment of site is out of the Parish control. Bin purchase is dependant on the Parish's ability to make on-line payments and the installation will be dependant on the ability to find a willing volunteer.

5.5 Stakeholders – Local residents have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

5.6 Contracts. None. It is not intended that the agreement with the local resident regarding the emptying charges for the dog bin on Hardley Staithe will be impacted in any way by this proposal.

5.7 Crime & Disorder. None.

5.8 Biodiversity. None.

5.9 Privacy Impact. None.

5.10 Equality & Diversity. None.

6. Appendices

None