

# ***London Borough of Bexley***

## ***News Release***

**For Immediate Release**

**21 March 2017 / PR 9465**

### **WARNING FOR CARELESS DOG WALKERS**

Dog walkers are being urged to dispose of their dog waste properly or face a fine. The call follows an increase in the number of full dog waste bags being left hanging on trees or fences across the borough.

Dog owners should be aware that it is a criminal offence not to clean up after your dog and an on-the-spot fine can be issued. But it is also a criminal offence not to dispose of the dog waste bags correctly once used. Along with a fine, offenders could receive a criminal record.

Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Environment and Leisure Cllr Peter Craske said: "It's not difficult to use a dog waste bin or public litter bin to throw your dog waste away. If that's not possible, take it home and dispose of it in your own household waste bin."

"If you own a dog you have the responsibility not only to clear up after it but to dispose of their waste in the right way. Leaving it tied to a fence or tree means it will become a health hazard for other animals and people as well as looking disgusting. More importantly – it's a criminal offence."

Since the Council introduced its Litter Enforcement programme 11 people have received on-the-spot fines for dog fouling. Residents can help take a stand against dog fouling in Bexley by reporting incidents online to the Enviro-Crime Team. The team will need to know who may be committing an offence, where and at what times.

The London Borough of Bexley provides sponsored dog waste bags free to its residents to encourage dog owners to clean up after their pets. The bags are available from the libraries at Bexleyheath, Sidcup, Thamesmead, Erith, Welling and Crayford. Sponsorship of the bags allows them to be provided free of charge.

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