

# MEETING OF THE EB RECREATION GROUND WORKING PARTY

held in the

## Church Hall

at

**7:30 pm on Friday 20 October 2017**

### Those in attendance:

Terry Cantlon, Chairman  
Brian Martin, Resident  
David Buss, Parish Councillor  
John West, Football Club  
Jonathan Ponting, School Governor  
John Tresidder, Friends of East Budleigh Recreation Ground  
Sally Tresidder, Friends of East Budleigh Recreation Ground

1. **APOLOGIES:** Apologies for absence were received from Lesley Wensley.

### 2. **MATTERS DISCUSSED**

#### ***Agreement on objective of the Working Party***

It was acknowledged that the recreation ground is a space for the benefit of all in the community to enjoy. The WP's objective is to address the impact of animal fouling on the use of the recreation ground and attempt to find a system of control that was acceptable to all parties. The FOEBRC wished it to be noted that it had no issue with the FC's use of the recreation ground.

#### ***Sources of fouling***

The main sources of fouling came primarily from foxes and secondly from dogs whose owners did not clear up after them. (To a lesser extent badgers had previously been mentioned but outside this meeting).

JT provided a report and photographic evidence on findings carried out over 13 days from 26 Sep to 18 Oct which showed 28 fox and 2 dog incidents.

It was agreed that this monitoring was a useful quantification of the fouling problem and that another month's figures, to be presented at the next meeting, would be useful in the WP's deliberation. **JT to action.**

#### ***Effects of fouling***

Apart from the unpleasant results from coming into contact with any animal's faeces, the risk to health was discussed. ST said there were around 100 cases of Toxocariasis recorded in the UK each year. As the population of the UK is around 65m, this represents a low risk of contraction (0.00015%) and thus should not be considered a major

issue.

JW stated that the FC was concerned mainly with dog faeces due to the smell and that fox mess was of less concern to them. The WP felt it was important that the FC fed back instances of games being halted or delayed due to faeces. JW said Richard Slade was keeping a list of problems and incidents. It needed to be checked that this data was being passed on to the Parish Council. **JW to action.**

### ***Control of fouling***

**Dogs** - Most of the surrounding Parishes have dog exclusion areas as do all recreation grounds owned by EDDC. Other methods of control include keeping dogs on leads whilst in areas designated for public recreation.

FOEBRG has been clearing the football pitch of faeces before matches (which has been done on 15 occasions). One match had been missed and that one had to be halted to clear dog mess. The FC to ensure FOEBRG is informed of all matches to ensure sweeps are undertaken. **JW to action.**

The FC had proposed a fence to which there is opposition from FOEBRG. JP reported that the School was appreciative of the FC's maintenance of the pitch area, which is used for PE, football and other activities, but had no instances of children being affected by fouling and felt a fence would restrict the flexibility of the schools use of the field.

There was some concern that the fence would prevent full access around the perimeter to allow a circular walk particularly at the Pavilion. BM demonstrated that there was sufficient room including for the disabled .

DB suggested consideration of dog exclusion areas, similar to those imposed seasonally on beaches in the area, to ensure that the general public can have access to recreational spaces where there will be no dog excrement.

ST said that now that the Village is more aware of the faeces issue, she believed the incidents of dogs fouling was reducing. More data from the Recreation Ground Report required to validate this **ST/JT to action.**

Better signage, notices and education could be considered to encourage responsible dog control emphasising the obligation of owners to keep an eye on their dogs.

BM pointed out that contact information was missing from the gate. If the Parish Council will fund this he offered to get the job done. The clerk to be approached on this. **TC to action.**

CCTV was proposed to attempt to identify owners who did not control or pick up after their dogs. Possible location on top of the Pavilion. There was general agreement that this would be useful both to identify incidents and as a deterrent. Privacy issues need to be investigated. **TC to action.**

**Foxes** – It was agreed that any measures applied to dogs would have no impact on the fouling by foxes. DB suggested contacting other Parishes to see if they have experienced a fox fouling issue and if so how they have dealt with it. **DB to action.**



***Summary***

It was agreed that the WP needs to base any decisions on sound evidence and that the continuation of data collection via the Recreation Ground Report would provide it with a quantitative assessment of whether the current sweeping measures and heightened public awareness were improving matters.

**3. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

JW asked for clarification on whether permission was required from the Parish Council to mount a defibrillation unit on the pavilion. **TC to action.**

**4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was proposed that the WP meet next in one month's time. Date and location to be advised