

Attention all Footpath Walkers and Enthusiasts!

Andy Stevenson, the Somerset County Council Officer responsible for footpaths has sent me the following.

"I am emailing to inform you of a new Adopt-a-path scheme that we are intending to launch in the near future. The attached leaflet highlights the role and provides background information. It will enable individuals to adopt a local definitive public right of way that they use regularly and help to keep the vegetation clipped back.

When a volunteer sends/emails their request to adopt-a-path we will have the ultimate approval in case there are paths that have long standing issues (legal or otherwise), conflicting landowners or other problems.

You may already operate a similar scheme in your parish or town. If you do I would encourage you to register the individuals with us they can benefit from being covered by our insurance and receive a pair of secateurs and gloves (if required) as well as avoiding any potential duplication of paths being adopted.

The scheme will be advertised quite widely across the county through newspaper articles, the SCC website as well as through health centres and vets. A major health link can be attributed to the scheme by encouraging people to get out and walk, ride or cycle whatever distance they choose".

Those who would like to know more are invited to email me and I'll forward the leaflet and Andy's email address. You can then decide if you wish to take up the offer and contact Andy.

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Dog Fouling



It is estimated that there are in excess of 60 dog owning households in Spaxton, so it not surprising that the Parish Council receives regular complaints about dog mess in our village. It is unfortunate that we seem to have some irresponsible dog owners who do not clean up after their dogs. The areas of great concern are Church Rd, the footpath area between Four Forks and Spaxton, Barford Rd, Charlynch Lane and Peartwater Rd.

Dog mess is an eyesore and a health hazard. If you are a dog owner, you have a legal duty to clean up every time your dog messes in a public place – the only exceptions to this are registered blind people and dog owners on some kinds of public land, including:

Land used for agriculture or woodlands

Rural common land

Land that is predominantly marshland, moor or heath

Highways with a speed limit of 50mph or more.

The habit of picking up the dog mess and then throwing the bag in a ditch or hanging it on a tree or in a hedge is also completely unacceptable.

Sedgemoor District Council can issue dog control orders against individual dog owners for certain offences, including allowing a dog to foul a public space, and fixed penalties can be imposed – this is likely to be £75, but in very serious cases, magistrates can issue a maximum penalty of £1,000!

So, please clean up after your dog and dispose of the mess correctly.

Spaxton Parish Council

A person walking their dog on Church Road at the Peartwater end, has been disposing their dog 'poo' bags in my black bin when it on the roadside awaiting emptying. Last year I taped a request on the lid, asking they desist and it was respected. The notice deteriorated and I removed it. As a result, the 'poo' disposal has started again.

JN