



Radcliffe on Trent Parish Council

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Statement from Cllr John Thorn – Chair of Amenities Committee

The matter of dog fouling was raised again at the Amenities Committee meeting on 22 January. This is, unfortunately, a regular problem which recedes from time to time but is on the increase again, and we have had a number of recent complaints, particularly with regard to the Cliff Path but also the Cemetery.

- * The policy at the Cemetery is clear, **dogs are not allowed at all**, not even on a lead, unless they are support dogs for disabled people.
- * Similarly, **dogs are not allowed in any of the** playground areas for obvious safety reasons.
- * Dogs are allowed in the Rockley Park but they **must be kept on a lead**.
- * On the Cliff Walk and at Dewberry Hill, dogs are allowed off their leads and the Parish Council recognises that these walks are an important facility for responsible dog owners. For that reason we provide dog mess bins at a number of points on those walks and, for the most part, they are well used and they are regularly emptied. However **dog owners should still be able to control their dogs behaviour and this means they should keep them in sight at all times**. Because we allow dogs to run free off a lead there appears to be a growing problem of owners enjoying their own walk and not noticing that their dogs are making a mess behind them or ahead of them where they cannot see them. If this continues, the Parish Council may be forced to implement a policy of “only dogs on leads”. We know that dog walkers (and many Councillors are dog walkers) would not be happy about that and so we ask all dog walkers to be both vigilant about dealing with their own dogs when they make a mess and to address the issue with any of the dog walking fraternity they may see letting their dogs making a mess and not clearing it up. Otherwise it spoils a valuable Amenities for everyone. In addition we would welcome help from members of the public... if you see dog mess on footpaths or any other public areas please take a photograph on your phone and email it to the Clerk of the Council with a note of where it is. This would help us manage the situation better and be useful evidence for the Council if we need to raise this issue further with the Borough Council to take any enforcement action.