

SURVEY RESULTS ON DOG FOULING IN SILVERDALE: WHETHER THE PARISH COUNCIL SHOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPLY DOG WASTE BAGS.

This short survey was live online through SurveyMonkey between the 10th of September and the 3rd of October. It was advertised on the Silverdale Parish Council Facebook page and both main Silverdale Village Facebook sites and the Silverdale Self-Isolation Group Facebook page. The survey was also advertised in the October edition of St Johns Parish Magazine, which was delivered to around 600 households during the week commencing 27th September.

The survey was 100% completed by 104 respondents.

RESULTS

Q1 Do you think dog fouling has reduced in Silverdale since the introduction of free dog waste bags?

Yes: 39.42% (41 respondents)

No: 25.00% (26 respondents)

Don't Know: 35.58% (37 respondents)

Q2 The Parish Council buys biodegradable dog bags made from corn starch, which are completely compostable, rather than conventional bags, which although are cheaper, create micro-plastic particles, not thought suitable for an AONB area. Do you agree that if the Parish Council continues to supply dog waste bags, that they should be completely biodegradable?

Yes: 89.42% (93 respondents)

No: 4.81% (5 respondents)

Don't Know: 5.77% (6 respondents)

Q3 Do you have any other comments about incidents of dog fouling in Silverdale? For instance, do we have dispensers in the right locations? Do we need more bins? Do we need more signs asking dog walkers to pick up their dog's waste?

From the 80 comments received, it appears that most respondents feel that without the dog waste bag service provided by the Parish Council, instances of dog fouling could be a lot worse. A few comments referred to the high cost of bio-degradable bags and suggested the Parish Council reviews its supplier. Note: some respondents commented that the dog waste bag dispensers allowed people to take handfuls of bags to take home (to save them buying any presumably).

The main comments included:

Bin and signs needed on Emesgate Lane near St John's primary school. More bins (including in the centre of the village) and the more frequent emptying of bins especially at Eaves Wood Car Park. Dispensers asked for Springbank, Eaves Wood, The Row, Woodwell and

Stankelt Road. Bins and dispenser also asked for the Wolfhouse area, Cove Road, the Cove and the north end of the Lots. (c. 31 respondents)

Approximately 12 respondents objected to the Parish Council supplying dog waste bags and said that the dog owner is responsible for having a waste bag available.

Most respondents (81) said they would supply their own waste bags if the service from the Parish Council was not available.

A few comments objected to more signs being placed within the village but generally, it appears that people would like to see 'light-weight' educational signs to ask dog owners to pick up their dog's waste and dispose of it responsibly.

[All comments are recorded under Appendix A.]

Q4 If you are a dog owner, would you be prepared to supply your own bags?

Yes: 91.19% (81 respondents)

No: 5.81% (5 respondents)

APPENDIX A – COMMENTS FROM RESPONDENTS

- The path next to Townsfield on Cove Road is really bad. Lost count how many times I've had to hose down my pram due to this spot catching me out.
- Bin needed near school, but very rarely see any dog mess?? Think it's a bit of a non-issue if I'm completely honest.
- I think there needs to be a lot more signs and to not just pick it up but dispose of it into an appropriate place not launched into hedge rows!
- We need more bins especially one near the school.
- A bin somewhere near the school or church would be great.
- Another bin more central to the village may be useful. Quite often there is dog poo left outside the school right under the sign asking to pick it up. I think the problem lies more with people who actually can't be bothered to pick it up. No amount of bins or signs will change this.
- I think so.
- There needs to be more bins, more dispensers and more signage. Silverdale is an affluent parish and needs to continue the environmental commitment the council has committed to. Take away the biodegradable bags and not only will there be more dog waste left by ignorant irresponsible owners, worse still there will be an increase in plastic bag poo baubles all over this beautiful area. Do not end this vital service. More Bins. More bags. More signs.
- Dispenser near Spring Bank and an additional bin on Emesgate Lane near the school as no bin for dog waste or other litter until you reach the village centre. As a responsible dog owner, sometimes you get caught out and it is good to know bags

are to hand. I also pick up other dog waste with council bags as I feel a sense of duty if the bags are being provided. Please do not stop providing them!

- No waste dispensers all along The Row or at Eaves Wood car park.
- Desperately need a bin and bag dispenser down towards Woodwell off Stankelt Road. CONSTANTLY finding filled bags in the garden as people, literally, throw them over the wall.
- I personally think that it is the dog owner's responsibility to supply their own dog waste bags, after all it's their dog. £1000 could be spent on more worthwhile projects.
- I am a local dog owner. I didn't know that there were dispensers. Also, given that a neighbour is allowing her/his dog to stray in my garden in the early hours and foul in my garden. Yes, we need more bins, yes we need more signs, but more importantly owners need educating to be more responsible and use them.
- Reminders that there is no dog poo fairy seem needed.
- More signs definitely needed.
- I think the provision of bags is essential for visitors to the village, especially near the Lots. I've definitely noticed more dog poo on the Lots since the bag dispenser has been mostly empty over the last few months especially during the summer holidays. Same with Woodwell. I often collect 6-7 lots of dog poo on my morning walk and only 1 bag belongs to our dog... Not sure if there are any dispensers at Eaves Wood but that would arguably be a better location than the one downhill from school by the public footpath. Perhaps have a sign on the dispensers saying 'please only take 2 maximum or the service will have to stop? Some people do take handfuls... Perhaps also add a few friendly signs around the place encouraging people to pick up after their dogs so that kids and elderly people with mobility issues don't step in it/ have to avoid it. Still often 2-3 dog pops on the footpath through the village in a morning which is really disappointing. I'm not a fan of the angry signs - I think encouragement and reasons why is better than telling people what to do.
- More warnings of the dangers to children and cattle of dog faeces would be useful , along with signs of the offence of fouling.
- The dog bag dispenser near the Lots is broken and needs a new one.
- A bin and dispenser by the Cove!
- No idea.
- Dog owners should be responsible for the supply of bags. More signs would be good especially at the start of a lot of the paths e.g Eaves Wood etc
- More signs please.
- I think we need more bins, and more signs.
- More signs asking for waste to be picked up would be good.
- Bags in Eaves Wood car park would be a good idea. Over the summer there was a big problem with dog waste. It's got better now the weather has turned but some areas are still unpleasant.
- More bins and more frequently emptied bins.

- Lots of dog fouling in Eaves Wood. The bin at the start of Eaves Wood is far too small, it is full a few days after being emptied (several residents that have at least two dogs take carrier bags full of their own dog waste and empty it in the bin.). Others leave it on the floor or on the top of the bin. as it is too full. On several occasions the bag has split with the weight of dog waste when the LCC driver has tried to empty it. It smells terrible and isn't pleasant for the many people that use the bench opposite it. It either needs a bigger bin with a metal container inside to hold the weight of the waste or moving to a different site and maybe next to the Castle Bank Road sign, which is away from the bench and will allow space for a bigger bin.
- It is a menace. Bins are sadly necessary, but the ethos of the country code is to 'leave no trace' which is understood to mean take your rubbish home with you, however far away home is, not overload the services of the region in which you happen to be walking your dog.
- More bins /dispensers would always be useful.
- Unsure.
- More bins (and replacing the one at Eaves Wood) and more signs would be welcome.
- The situation has improved but a few signs (maybe of the slightly humorous but 'point well made' variety) would not go amiss. Maybe a dispenser at the north end of the Lots would be beneficial. Maybe need more waste bins (although Silverdale is better provided than many places).
- Dog owners should be paying for and supplying their own bags - the council should make sure that there are enough bins.
- Dog fouling, I observe appears to be unrelated to the availability of bags. Owners should buy their own bags - individuals have been noticed 'stocking up' from the dispensers.
- Yes.
- I have a dog and buy my own poo bags ... I believe signage would be a better use of money in the long term ... people either pick up the poo or they don't ...!
- Dog walkers have the responsibility to pick up their dogs waste and the public should not pick up the bill.
- Bring back the dog licence to pay for the bags. Some dog owners have no shame. If you own a dog, then respect the dog and your fellow human beings
- On the odd occasion that I've forgotten to take out a dog poo bag - or when the dog has produced more than anticipated - the parish council poo bags have been a god send!
- More bins.
- There is enough. But again I question the purchasing decisions of the parish councils and the amount they are spending.
- More signs and at peak times more frequent emptying of bins.
- Paying for someone else's dog poo bags is unjust. Irresponsible dog owners who don't buy and bring their own poo bags are getting a free service. Buying a dog is a

personal choice and all ongoing costs should be considered by owners, as well as preparation for a walk with your dog. I fail to believe the £1000 pounds worth of bags is due to only the odd person running out of bags, people are taking large amounts for their own. Some dog owners are prolific non scoopers and no number of bags will stop this behaviour, enforcement would be a better deterrent to these people.

- No more signs please. Is it worth stopping and seeing what happens? People take the bags instead of bringing their own.
- Definitely more bins, one at the steps to Woodwell by Healds Brow Gate is perfect to pop them in, also by Wolf House perhaps by the blue bins.
- Probably more bins needed, or if possible, more regular emptying. There are so many dogs here, both resident and visitors, that doing away with the free bags would likely make the problem worse.
- Please no more signs in the village!
- Dog fouling is particularly bad on Shore Road and towards both Schools Bleasdale and St. Johns. Perhaps some bags in the centre of the village might help.
- More small signs in remoter areas e.g., Jack Scout. Bin bags that open easier. Dispensers that work easier. Dog waste has reduced because more dog owners, like us, pick up ours and others waste. We do supply our own bags. Please pass on thanks to the persons that empty the bins. 😊
- More bins and more dispensers plus signs asking to pick up dog waste.
- Too much dog fouling on every footpath and too many dog bags left by footpaths or hanging from trees.
- A dispenser in the Wolfhouse area could be useful. More signs would help to remind people. I think an extra bin near the Primary School would be useful.
- I have watched people walk their dogs and when the dog runs ahead or keeps behind, they do not watch in case it fouls, especially on the beach.
- Given the high frequency of dogs the current programme is impressively successful.
- Bins being regularly emptied would help - the one at Woodwell is presently full to the top. The present bags are very difficult to open, come out of the container in lumps. The Swiss have got it right - have a look at their bins & bags.
- More bins and signs needed.
- Wondering why it's £1000. Just looked on eBay. That would buy 1800 bio bags. Seems a lot of bags.
- More signs - maybe the school could have campaign and provide signs to be placed not just in the village but at popular carparks. Don't know where all the dispensers are, or bins. More signs thanking responsible owners and raising the issues irresponsible owners create for all dog owners. We always carry poo bags and either deposit in bins or bring them home would never leave them for someone else to pick up!
- A bin - walking from village over fields to the Row. no more signs, they don't work. Consider rises in Council Tax a real worry. Please cut back and start charging for the public loos, as they do in Arnside.

- Unfortunately, there still is dog fouling and even if it is picked up the full bags are tied and left on the ground??!! There are enough dispensers but if you were to add one, could do with one on approach to the Cove.
- Silverdale shore is full of dog waste and the bins are regularly overflowing. I have heard locals say they don't pick up as it gets washed away with the tide!! Maybe bags and notices could go there?
- Yes - notices requesting owners to clean up after their dogs is a good idea.
- I don't think the council should be providing dog waste bags at all.
- More bins.
- We need all of the above and more dispensers. Also actually enforcing fines etc., of the culprits.
- Responsible dog owners will always carry their own bags and pick up what their dog leaves behind. Irresponsible dog owners will just let their dog do its business and will just turn a blind eye and not pick up whether bags are left for them or not.
- No.
- There are significant incidences of dog fouling, but I feel the issues are down to a lack of responsibility on the part of owners - e.g. those who collect it and then hang the bags or dispose of them irresponsibly. The rules, signage etc. is fine.
- More bins are required.
- There should be more monitoring against the fouling of dog walkers not picking up the dog waste.
- Definitely more signage is needed.
- It surprises me how often we witness dog fouling in the area. I think it's great that the local council supplies bags to help encourage people to pick it up. The pavements down Stankelt Road and Cove Road always seem to be the worst.
- People who want dogs should provide their own bags. The rest of us shouldn't have to subsidise them wanting pets.
- Yes.
- The dispensers make it difficult to take just one bag. Is there a better system that makes it easier? I think encouraging one bag at a time would reduce usage and subsequent cost.
- More signs needed.
- No.
- Dog-owners should dispose of their own dogs' messes at their own expense – and I object strongly to parish council money being spent on this.
- Works well overall.
- More bins and more signs.

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Liz Unsworth, Silverdale Parish Council