

Green Dog Walker event

Chelmsford City Council's Community Protection Officer has invited South Woodham Ferrers Town Council to host a Green Dog Walkers engagement event. The scheme is designed to promote responsible dog ownership by encouraging walkers to sign a voluntary pledge to always pick up after their dog and carry spare bags. Those who take part receive free promotional items to reinforce the message. The initiative is delivered by Chelmsford City Council's Public Health and Protection Services (Public Places) team.

South Woodham Ferrers has higher-than-average levels of dog ownership, and its parks and green corridors are heavily used by residents. Dog fouling continues to be one of the concerns raised locally. Although the issue has been discussed before, a Green Dog Walkers event has not previously been held in the town, and the City Council has suggested that this could be a useful opportunity to engage directly with dog walkers.

The offer from Chelmsford City Council includes setting up and staffing an engagement stall in a suitable location within the town, speaking with dog walkers, encouraging pledge sign-ups, and providing all materials and giveaways at no cost to the Town Council. The City Council officer recommends holding the event in spring or summer 2026, when footfall is higher and the weather is more suitable for outdoor engagement.

Hosting the event could provide a positive and educational approach to reducing dog fouling, support wider public health and environmental aims.

Councillors may wish to consider whether they wish to support or co-host the event, identify preferred locations such as Saltcoats Park or Compass Gardens.

<https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/environment-and-public-health/dogs/green-dog-walkers-scheme/>