

Is Tow Law Going to the Dogs?

It seems everyone is complaining about it, but who is doing anything? Dog dirt! Some owners do clean up after their pets, but it appears a lot don't, by the state of the main street, the path at the rear of Bond's Foundry, and the Millennium Green.

Wear Valley District Council are aware of this pollution, but do not appear to put themselves out to prosecute, which would make the guilty owners think twice before allowing their dogs to foul and not clean it up.

Also, does anyone notice the litter in the main street? It cannot create a good impression of the town, especially on people driving through. The cleanliness of the street leaves a lot to be desired. The problem is not just dropped litter, it is also wind-blown spillage from the green box and commercial collections, and from over-filled bins outside businesses.

The motorised sweeper is O.K. on straight stretches of pavement, but is useless around bollards and the stone planters. This is where litter and dust collect, eventually finding their way into sinks, causing blocked drains and flooding in wet weather. I know the litter picking men are in town each week, but a proper manual road –sweep is the answer, not only that, but surely residents could take a pride in their town, and clean up outside their own homes and businesses?

And finally the last complaint – vandalism to trees on all sides of the Millennium green and youths riding track motor bikes and quads all over the green, turning it into a quagmire, and riding all over the town, on main roads, back roads paths and pavements.

These machines are noisy, dangerous to pedestrians, their riders do not observe the Highway Code, and I suspect in many instances are un-licensed and un-insured.

We are losing the task Force, so who will maintain our green spaces when they are no longer available? We have no permanent town policeman, so who will deter anti-social behaviour?

We all need to pull together, report everything we see to our Town Council, the District Council, and if necessary the Police, until some positive action is taken which recognises that the majority of Tow Law people do care about their environment.

If small but not insignificant matters like these are addressed, it is possible that more serious issues may not arise.

Action, not words is what is needed.

(Christine Rand – Councillor – Tow Law Town Council)

