

*Editorial*

*6<sup>th</sup> November 2012*

### **Dog Control Orders**

Dog fouling and dog control are important issues. Not picking up after your dog is a real issue that we all find unpleasant and one which poses health risks – particularly to children and teenagers. New measures, which focus on prevention, will help reduce these problems even further. These allow local authorities to adopt ‘Dog Control Orders’ to try and tackle the problem and Stroud District Council will be adopting them as of 1st December 2012.

Action can be taken for:

- Failing to remove dog faeces
- Not keeping a dog on a lead in a designated area
- Not putting and keeping, a dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer
- Permitting a dog to enter land from which dogs are excluded.

The order relating to dog fouling will apply to all land within the district which is open to the air and to which the public have a right of access (with or without payment). This will include all common and access land within the district, to include Rodborough, Minchinhampton, Selsley commons and Haresfield Beacon.

Council officers will be working closely with National Trust Rangers on the commons to spread the word and give out leaflets advising the public about the new orders, as part of the initial educational campaign. Patrols will then take place and anyone witnessed failing to clean up after their dog is likely to receive a fixed penalty notice.

Many complaints are received every year from walkers, mountain bikers and other dog walkers saying they have trodden, run or cycled through un-cleared dog mess or had to hose their dogs down to remove other people’s dogs mess from their pet’s feet. Dog waste can also cause ill health effects in cattle if they eat affected grass, in some cases causing them to abort unborn calves.

For further information and to view the orders, please visit the council’s website: [www.stroud.gov.uk](http://www.stroud.gov.uk)

A copy of the orders may also be viewed free of charge at the Council Offices, Ebley Mill, Ebley Wharf, Stroud between 09:00 and 17:00 Monday to Friday.