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£100 fine from today if you cannot produce a dog poo bag

Today's the day that walking your dog and not being able to produce a poo bag could cost you £100.

Dog poo bags are not expensive and are available from shops. Some people like to use scented nappy bags.

Although Boston Borough Council approved new fines under new Public Spaces Protection Order legislation in October, residents have been given until today to get used to the new regime.

Fines for failing to clean up after a dog, allowing a dog into an enclosed children's play area or refusing to put a dangerous or nuisance dog on a lead are being doubled to £100 from today.

The new powers to control dogs are being introduced under the Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 which allows councils to create a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO).

Public consultation showed that 90 per cent were in favour of it being an offence for dog walkers not to carry a bag or the means at all times to clean up after their dog. And 74 per cent agreed the fine should be £100.

Chewing gum clean-up

A clean-up team was also busy in Boston town centre before most folk were out of their beds on Thursday.

They were making haste cleaning chewing gum off pavements before the town got too busy with people arriving for work or going shopping.

Cllr Paul Skinner, Boston Borough Council's Cabinet member with responsibility for

the town centre, and Teresa Key, who has responsibility for town centre maintenance, were using a specialist machine to steam away thousands of sticky gum marks.

It is a littering offence to spit gum out, punishable by a £75 fine. Chewing gum is among the worst kind of litter. One piece, trodden in, can spread and spread and leave many sticky and unsightly marks on the ground which, unlike other types of litter, cannot be simply picked up.

Cllr Skinner said: "There are no excuses for littering of any sort. Spitting, urinating and defecating are all covered by the same littering legislation and those caught will face a £75 fine. The same goes for anyone depositing what we might call conventional litter.

"Spitting chewing gum or bubble gum out is particularly distasteful as it sticks to shoes and gets tramped everywhere. Look down the next time you are walking through town and see all the little white and grey blobs."

It was the second time Cllr Skinner and Teresa (pictured below) had been out on early-morning patrol cleaning up gum.



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Read more at <http://bit.ly/2kqIKWn>



Boston health walkers celebrate their 10 years

More than 100 members from Boston Health Walks came together to celebrate the beginning of their 10th year of walking and to celebrate the launch of them becoming a community walking group. Read more at <http://bit.ly/2kKYNLB>



Avian Flu confirmed in farm near Boston

Lincolnshire County Council has been informed by the Chief Veterinary Officer that Avian Flu has been found at a farm near Boston. Read more at <http://bit.ly/2kzXhzZ>

Windfalls for hospices

Two Boston charities have received an unexpected windfall from Boston Borough Council. Local hospices, St. Barnabas Hospice and Butterfly Hospice, each received £2,108.22 gained from the recycling of reclaimed metals removed after cremations. Read more at <http://bit.ly/2ksh94T>



COMING SOON

Keep a look out next week for final information on signing up for your garden waste collections for 2017/18.

Read more at <http://bit.ly/2knvbHt>



Boston Marathon 2017

Last year's first Boston Marathon recorded the fastest times for both men and women of all the Association of Running Clubs' marathons in 2016.

Read more at <http://bit.ly/2jqXTYs>



Friendly club for those with disabilities

Boston has its own club for people aged 20 and over who have physical and visual impairments.

The Wednesday Community Group meets at the Conservative Club, Main Ridge West, from 10am to 2pm every... Wednesday!

The friendly group welcomes new members and the cost per session is just £2, which includes refreshments. Read more at <http://bit.ly/2knqmOh>