

**Okehampton Town Council
Parks Committee Meeting 20th June 2022
Meeting Report**

Date:	13 th June 2022
Name:	Emma James

Dog and General Waste Bins

To consider a request for a dog waste bin in Clapps Wood

There aren't any dog or general litter bins within or at either end of Clapps Wood.

WDBC Waste Collection Costs:

Dog Waste	£3.06 per bin, per empty
General Waste	£2.30 per bin, per empty

Dog waste can be put in general litter bins that are collected by WDBC. Therefore, if the Committee resolved to provide a bin, it would be more cost effect and beneficial for a general waste bin to be provided.

1 x general waste bin emptied once per week would cost the council an additional £120 p/annum.

Note – this is subject to WDBC having the capacity to add the collection to their schedule.

Correspondence from Residents

To consider correspondence requesting a bench in Station Road and in relation to public toilets

1. Request that OTC install a bench halfway up Station Road so that those walking up can stop and rest if need be. He would like OTC to compulsory purchase a piece of land to do this.

I have investigated this requested and DCC Highways will not give permission for a bench to be sited on the pavement in Station Road because of its width and that it would back on to private dwellings which often causes problems and incurs complaints about littering and anti-social behaviour.

OTC could investigate the possibility of compulsory purchase but this would be a lengthy, probably expensive, process and would be subject to potential issues as noted above.

2. Concerns about the lack of public toilets in the park.

The toilets in the leisure centre are for public use and this information will be contained on the new boards.

3. Fairplace toilets. He is of the view that a visitor to the town wouldn't know about the toilets and has requested better signage.

To consider correspondence requesting fencing around the whole of the play area in Simmons Park

I have notices issues and heard complaints from both dog walkers and park goers about the problems with the new dog lead rules. On the West side is obviously dogs on leads but the West side where the field is for exercise but this is not working. People who are picnicking are now complaining about amount on dog poo building up, I have actually picked up mess that is not my dogs mess as I don't want well behaved dog and over responsible dog owners being penalised. I have also observed dogs who are clearly not controlled approaching people who are having picnics, when the weather warms up this is only going to get worse. Some dog owners are also not abiding by the new rules and having their dogs off the lead on the west side of the river and some people are still allowing dogs in the playground area. I understand these rules have been brought in by West Devon Borough Council but a few of us believe putting a fence around the playground area (all of it) perhaps with some extra benches and have this as a dog free family area where there is no risk of dog mess or being disturbed whilst eating.



I have attached an aerial view of the playground and where a fence can be added. I believe this would resolve a lot of the issues that have been happening.

Bus Shelters – To consider further information received in relation to a bus shelter advertising request

At the last meeting of the Committee, it was resolved that the Clerk obtain further information about the potential for anti-social behaviour if advertising screened the inside of the shelter and the following additional information has been obtained:

The company:

- supplies and installs new bus shelters with living roofs which are bee & insect friendly, carbon catching to help reduce carbon emissions, plus with the option of solar panel courtesy light.
- Insures and maintains the bus shelters
- state that they have not had any anti-social behaviour issues with shelters where the advertising panel is at the departure end, as this leaves the shelter open on 3 sides.

This is a 4-year agreement which can be extended if both parties are in agreement. If the agreement is not extended the bus shelters would be removed and would have to be replaced by OTC.

The advertising has to be on the shelter as that's what pays for the supply, installation & ongoing maintenance of the shelters.

Cemetery –

To consider a request for permission to route an electricity cable along the Public Bridleway end of the cemetery

Permission for an electricity supply trench to be dug, on behalf of Western Power, from the electricity pole in All Saints church cemetery (the new part), down to the fence bordering the field owned by the diocese.

It would be approximately 5 metres long as can be clearly seen on the attached photograph, showing the pole with fence on the other side. The trench would hug the edge of the cemetery.



Electricity post