Withersfield Parish Council

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22 May 2018

Dear Sirs

Haverhill Flood Park – West Town Park

The meeting of Withersfield Parish Council held on 13 March was attended by a representative from the Environment Agency, Jo Parkinson, Essex Flood Storage Reservoir Co-ordinator following a complaint from a parishioner about a number of issues relating to the above site.

One such issue related to the amount of rubbish left on the site by members of the Angling Club which uses the reservoir for fishing, and a further one, raised particularly by Jo Parkinson, was the amount of dog poo left on the site. Other problems related to the killing of swans, and inappropriate car parking and dumping of hard core in the car parking area intended for use by disabled members only.

The Environment Agency is continuing to monitor the situation and is in touch with the Angling Club, but has indicated that it is difficult to solve problems relating to rubbish and dog poo, in that they have no remit to collect waste.

I understand that the Environment Agency has an open space agreement with the County Council and all recognise that this should be retained for the enjoyment of as many people as possible. There is also considerable interest in the site for environmental reasons but the more it is used the greater the need for waste and dog poo collection. In view of these problems, it was agreed at the 13 March meeting that the Parish Council should make contact with both the County Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council with a view to opening discussions about the provision of more waste bins, both for general rubbish and dog poo, and arrangements for collection of such waste. The Environment Agency has indicated that it would consider funding such bins if appropriate locations and collection arrangements could be agreed with the relevant organisations.

Given the increasing use of the site by dog walkers, runners and families enjoying the environment we believe that resolving the growing problem of unmanaged litter and dog-waste should be addressed as a priority.

I would very much appreciate help from both Councils in respect of future provision for waste bins and collection of waste.

Yours faithfully

Terry Rich
Chairman
Withersfield Parish Council

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