

Red Dog waste Bins

The people of St Asaph are justifiably proud of the beautiful open spaces along the riverside, from Pont Begard to the south end of Mill Race Meadow, which are enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. While these green spaces are a wonderful asset to the community, responsibility for managing the land falls to the City Council, as landowners. In north Wales we are in a unique position, as a community council, in owning and tending over 50 acres of land, five play areas and three community buildings.

The City Council works hard to ensure that the land is managed responsibly, balancing its responsibilities for biodiversity and with providing amenity spaces. The City Council pays for the grass to be cut, the litter bins to be emptied and for trees to be planted and maintained. When including staff time and projects such as Jubilee Copse, these costs represent approximately 45% of our annual expenditure. This means that we do not have the same funding available as other councils for initiatives such as Christmas lighting and we have to plan our activities very carefully.

The City Council has historically provided red dog waste bins throughout the city, although most of them are not located on City Council land. Denbighshire County Council, as the principal council, is responsible for litter, including dog waste, on the highways. This includes servicing any litter bins. We recently met with officers from Denbighshire, who confirmed there is no issue with dog walkers using the general litter bins or their own domestic bin for bagged dog waste. They advised that in other communities, dog walkers have adapted to the new arrangements with little disruption. In most locations, there is a litter bin nearby which could be used instead.

The conclusion was that continuing the use of dog waste bins was not an effective use of the City Council's resources. In other communities, where this waste is collected by Denbighshire, this service is included in the general council tax, so in effect St Asaph residents have been paying extra for emptying these red bins. The City Council therefore decided at its November meeting to discontinue the use of the red bins. The red dog waste bins will be removed during March 2023 and a temporary sign will be placed at the location of the removed red bins to inform dog walkers where the nearest litter bins are. We hope that, as in other communities, it will cause minimal disruption.