



DOG FOULING

What a mess!

Unfortunately the problem of dog fouling has been causing concern in Morton, particularly along Station Road and in the surrounding area.

Following complaints an officer from the District Council began making regular inspections in the area and although little evidence was found extra warning notices were erected.

After suggestions that dog fouling bins should be provided the Parish Council Chairman, Councillor David Creasey, said that he felt sure the majority of dog owners in Morton & Hanthorpe were acting responsibly and were cleaning up after their animals, and went on to say that just putting extra bins in the area would not make the irresponsible minority clean up after their dogs.

Visits were also made by the District Council's enforcement rangers. These rangers patrol on foot or on 650cc motorcycles and are equipped with CCTV cameras. On one of her visits, at the end of January, the District Council officer issued a fixed penalty notice, for £50.

The main threat from dog faeces, if they are not cleared up, is the

infection of Toxocariasis.

Use a doggy bag, or a carrier bag, to pick up the faeces and take the bag home to dispose of. The mistaken habit of leaving the faeces in a bag, in public, is not an alternative to taking it home, as this provides a 'forcing house' for the Toxocara eggs.

Everybody has a legal and moral duty to clear up after their dogs, and indeed not to leave any litter or rubbish in public.

**Be Responsible
CLEAN IT UP**

**BAG IT,
TIE IT,
BIN IT.**

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MORTON & HANTHORPE PARISH

Sunrise across the fens—Sunset over the hills

The Parish of Morton and Hanthorpe is a around six and a half miles in length from East to West. You can enjoy a spectacular fenland sunrise at sea level, and a superb, restful sunset over the hills, at two hundred feet above sea level. The eastern boundary of the parish is the South Forty Foot Drain, which stretches from Boston to Guthram. The drain was most likely dug in the 1700s when the fens were finally drained. The last time it was cleaned out by hand was in 1914.

At the end of Morton Drove is the quaint, tiled Forty Foot Farm, built in the mid 1800s. This drove, along the south part of the fen, was once quite bendy and was straightened when the roads were metalled.

There are several farms along Morton North Drove, and one of these is Engine Farm. The distinctive white engine house, containing a drainage pump, still stands and is maintained by the Richardson family. The building resembles many of the local chapels, built in the same period. It originally housed a steam pump, which was fed with coal transported from the village railhead at Morton Station. It was converted to diesel power in 1932 and ceased operating in 1968 when the new pump house was built across the Forty Foot.

The fen, at one point at sea level, is now rich arable farming land but until the 19th century it would have been moist cattle pastureland.

In the fen the parish boundary, in the North, bordering Haconby Fen, runs along a drain called Lane Dike and, a mile and a half to the South, bordering Dyke Fen, along New Dike.

At the 'top' of the fen is Scotten Dike and, close to edge of the village is the Car Dyke, built in Roman times, which originally linked Lincoln, via Peterborough, to Cambridge.

Morton village has, of course, increased in size over recent years. The village railway station was closed to passengers in 1930 and to freight in 1963. What a great boon it would be to today's commuters! Some of the old railway track is now a footpath.

Morton, a Saxon settlement, is mentioned in the Domesday Book. The oldest parts of the village are mostly in the High Street. In the centre of the village, around 25 feet above sea level, is the Church of St. John the Baptist, built in the 14th century, but retaining a priest's door from an earlier, 12th century, building.

Along the Haconby road the edge of the football field is the parish boundary .

The A15 passes through the parish at the western end of the High Street, with the Kings Head on one side of the cross-roads and the Nelson on the other. The road leaves the parish at the first lay-by to the North, and just beyond the cactus nursery in the South.

Part of Morton village spreads west along Hanthorpe road and here, at the moment, there are still some cattle fields.

After a small gap the hamlet of Hanthorpe, a Viking settlement, begins. Now it is also enlarged by modern houses but until relatively recent times was a collection of stone-built farms and farm-workers cottages. Both Edenham Road and Stainfield Road twist through Hanthorpe, at around 80 feet above sea level.

Towards Stainfield the parish boundary is near the water treatment station. Towards Bourne Woods Clipseygap Lane joins Hanthorpe to Cawthorpe, and along the bend in this track, just past the wood entrance, runs the parish boundary.

A small piece of Bourne Woods, called Fox Wood, is actually in the Parish. The main wood 'ride' from the entrance is the boundary. Further westwards a small privately-owned woodland, called Nabb Wood, is also within the Parish.

In summer Nightingales sing here. To the West of Hanthorpe the mile-long Gunboro Hill, flowered in Spring with primroses, cowslips and orchids, climbs away from the village. The western boundary, at the highest point of the Parish, runs along the edge of Gunboro Wood, at the road-side, and then North across the fields to Spring Wood.



THE FORGOTTEN QUIET LANES OF ENGLAND

The Government has still failed to publish long-promised Regulations for designating Quiet Lanes, says the CPRE.

These are shared use roads where the needs of ramblers, cyclists and horse riders are given greater priority.

Although highway authorities are able to designate minor rural roads as Quiet Lanes under the Act, they must abide by Regulations issued by the Government

But in the absence of the Regulations they have been reluctant to pursue Quiet Lane designations.

The CPRE is urging the Government to publish the Regulations without delay and have written to the Transport Minister about this.

Paul Hamblin, CPRE's Head of Transport, said " Highway authorities are stalling on Quiet Lanes in the absence of Government Regulations, despite frequent requests from residents for them to be established. We are urging the Government to help highway authorities take action to create a pleasant, less intimidating and safer country road network for the benefit of all users".

Recent statistics show that traffic levels on minor rural

roads continue to rise faster than roads in towns and cities, making the need for Quiet Lanes ever greater. Traffic is forecast to grow further—by 30% on these roads between 2000 and 2010.

"The Government's failure to publish Regulations is critical as highway authorities are now finalising their five year Local

Transport Plans.

Repeated assurances from the Government that the Regulations will be out 'soon' have come to little.

The silence that has followed is now deafening. ***It appears the Government has forgotten England's precious country lanes*** ".

MORTON TOWN LANDS CHARITY

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Dividends	£3,308.18	Donations	
Interest	£17.82	<u>St. John the Baptist P.C.C.</u>	
Land Rents	£3,283.00	25% of Charity's Income	£1,509.89
		Electricity for floodlights	£50.00
		Bell Fund donation	£2000.00
		<u>St. Thomas Day Charity</u>	£250.00
		<u>Morton P.T.A.</u>	
		School swimming	£850.00
		<u>Morton Baptist Church</u>	
		Wheelchair access	£1200.00
		<u>Morton W.I.</u>	
		Summer show	£100.00
TOTAL INCOME	£6,609.00	TOTAL	£5,959.89
Opening Balance	£2,479.81	Running Costs	£408.13
GRAND TOTAL	£9,088.81	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£6,368.02
		Closing Balance	£2,720.79
		GRAND TOTAL	£9,088.81

The Current Trustees are :- Father G. Williams., Mr. D. Creasey, Mrs J. Lees, Mr. D. Ward, Mrs. B. Hammond, Mr. T. Barnatt, Mr. A. Bates and Mr. R. J. Wells. The Trustees usually meet on two or three occasions a year and any request for donations should be sent to the clerk :- **Mr. D. J. Thomas**
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A QUALITY COUNCIL

We are on the Web
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Countryside Agency being replaced

It has been officially confirmed that changes are afoot at the Countryside Agency and that it will be replaced.

Chairman, Stuart Burgess, says they will be closing their doors towards the end of this year but he is heartened by the fact that all the good work they have been doing will continue through Natural England and the Commission for Rural Communities, two organisations who are focussed on achieving the best possible countryside with a common view and objectives and, he trusts, with an understanding of each other's point of view.

Stuart says that over the past six years the Countryside Agency has been working to champion the rural agenda from government level right down to the grass roots community level. He said "In that time, through research and through working with numerous organisations, we have striven to understand as many issues as possible"

How to contact

Lincolnshire County Council

CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE

Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages	01522 782244
Cultural Services	01522 782040
Community Safety	01522 782050
Corporate Services	01522 782060
Education	01522 782030
Highways and Planning	01522 782070
Social Services—Adults	01522 782155
Social Services—Children	01522 782111
Schools Transport	01522 782020
Consumer Direct (East Midlands)	08454 040506

For general enquiries and departments not listed above, please

call— 01522 552222. Email—customer_services@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Recycle Recycle Recycle

A MASSIVE 1.8 million steel cans are used in Lincolnshire every year—about 600 per household.

But they can all be easily recycled by using the District council's can banks in car parks and at waste recycling centres.

By separating your cans for recycling you are reducing the waste sent to landfill and saving all the energy and raw materials. Your can could become part of a car, plane, fridge or another can.

County Council recycling officer Kenton Vigus says " It really is worthwhile, so please make sure every can you use goes in the recycling facilities and encourage everyone you know to do the same".

For more information about recycling phone 01522 782070 or visit

the council's website, LCC Connects, at :-
www.lincolnshire.gov.uk.