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# Messenger

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**Council backs campaign to stop dog fouling in borough's parks – Page 10**

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10 21 July 2011

## Council backs *Messenger* campaign against dog poo

By Jessica Bell

TRAFFORD Council is backing a *Messenger* campaign to stop dog poo ruining a Stretford park.

Council officers have pledged to support the campaign, launched by Friends of Victoria Park and *Messenger* last week, after meeting committee member and mum-of-three Annoushka Deighton at the park on Tuesday.

Annoushka and the Friends decided something had to be done to tackle dog mess after repeatedly clearing it up from the children's play area.

She met Mark Dale, principal manager of environmental enforcement at Trafford Council, and Labour councillor for Stretford Cllr Dolores O'Sullivan to discuss the issue and a solution.

As a result, the council has agreed to step-up patrols at the park by community safety officers using videoing equipment to catch out offenders.

Dog owners who don't clear up after their pets face a £50 fixed penalty notice and repeat offenders risk prosecution.

The council is also encouraging park users to report persistent offenders and want to help the Friends raise awareness by providing A3 poster frames and supplying leaflets.

Annoushka said she was pleased with the outcome of the meeting and hoped it would raise awareness of the importance of picking up dog mess.

Cllr O'Sullivan said: "It is about getting the message out that it's not acceptable and that action will be taken."

Executive councillor John Reilly said: "I wholeheartedly support this campaign, which once again shows how passionate local people are about their parks."

"The council works hard to educate people about the issues associated with dog fouling, but we are not afraid to take enforcement action where necessary to send out a clear message that this kind of anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated in our borough."

Persistent dog fouling can be reported on 0161 912 2000.



Annoushka Deighton with her son Jamie, 4; Christine Barry, Friends of Victoria Park; Mark Dale, principal manager Environmental Enforcement; May Deighton, 1; and Cllr Dolores O'Sullivan

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