

## RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP DAY

There are many residents in Thorpe, Southchurch and West Shoebury wards who own dogs, the vast majority of whom are very responsible owners and pick up after their pets. Unfortunately there are still a few that don't, leaving an unsightly mess and major health hazard, especially in our parks and open spaces, places where a lot of children play. Councillor Martin Terry has been looking into this problem, and thanks to his initiative, an event is taking place at Southchurch Park on Thursday 20th October from 11am to 3pm.

The Dogs Trust will be there, assisted by the council's dog warden, offering a free micro chipping service. Volunteers from departments around the council, and partner organisations that have an interest in responsible dog ownership, will also be present so that they can canvas the park, giving out information leaflets and bags, and to offer advice/education. South Essex Homes are keen to send a representative, and a Park Ranger will also be in attendance. It is also hoped that a volunteer from the police will be present.

This event is something that we hope will be replicated once a month at different venues throughout the town, so that the word can be spread and awareness raised across the Borough.