



Brighter Bothwell

'Let's just do it!'



## DITCH THE DIRT

Brighter Bothwell started its planning for involvement in the **DITCH THE DIRT** campaign during the Bothwell Scarecrow Festival, which ran from 11 to 15 September 2013.



We used our cuddly canine friend, Bobby Bothwell, to help us publicise the **DITCH THE DIRT** campaign and recruit volunteers. The sign hanging from Bobby's neck said "Hello! Please will you help me to make Bothwell even brighter? Most of my friends have owners who know to 'bag it and bin it'. They are happy dogs. Please help my sad friends by encouraging them to 'bag it and bin it' too."

Our display was inspired by a Keep Scotland Tidy Poster about dog fouling. You can see how interested children were in seeing the contents of Bobby's toilet — a big knitted poo! The small sign above the toilet bowl showed a picture of a well-known bear called Winnie, who looked rather shocked. Underneath the picture were the words "Winnie the what?!"



We also created a Brighter Bothwell volunteer dog walker scarecrow. He was located near to the Main Street entrance to Bothwell.

We recruited members and volunteers to survey four public areas in Bothwell on Saturday 12 October 2012. We also sought help from a new residents' group based in one of the survey areas. The group is still in its infancy and the survey provided a good focus for a joint activity, as well as wider publicity for the **DITCH THE DIRT** campaign. Interestingly, the first thing that the group did was to arrange for South Lanarkshire Council to provide free poo bags to dog walkers in the group's area, by making packs of 50 available from a local shop. Bothwell Library also provides free bags for dog walkers.



With the help of Brighter Bothwell members and volunteers, we carried out our survey of four public areas in Bothwell on Saturday 12 October 2012. The results were as follows, and all the dog poo was unbagged.

Football pitch and surrounding grass areas at Appledore – 66 instances of dog fouling  
Woodlands Park – 45 instances of dog fouling  
Knockburnie Road, including grass verges – 42 instances of dog fouling  
Gilchrist Garden – 24 instances of dog fouling.

We also issued leaflets, based on the **DITCH THE DIRT** campaign poster, to dog owners whom we met during our survey, and we reminded them about where they can obtain free dog poo bags.



Volunteers after the survey at Woodlands Park



Bobby Bothwell helped us at Appledore football pitch

Brighter Bothwell takes regular action to reduce dog fouling, and it is good to be able to take part in a national campaign. Our survey results have helped to provide further evidence of the extent of the problem in our local area, and we will continue working with South Lanarkshire Council to seek ways of reducing the dog fouling problem.



Bobby Bothwell will continue to help us with our efforts, especially to encourage only responsible dog walkers in Gilchrist Garden. We are hoping to create eye-catching posters, using our copyright photos! We also plan to label unbagged deposits with messages for irresponsible owners!