

## **Dogs**

From 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2016, a new law requiring owners to have their dogs microchipped and recorded on an authorised database came into force. The big benefit is that if the dog is lost, then found and handed over to the police or RSPCA, it can be rapidly reunited with its owner. However, from that date, it will also be an offence to own a dog which is not microchipped as above. Police and local authorities personnel will be able to carry devices which instantly read and check the chip. If there is not one present or not recorded, at first owners may be given a time window in which to get the work done. A £500 fine will apply if this is not done. Further advice is available from various sources, such as the link below:

<http://www.pet-owners.co.uk/Expert-Advice/Legal-Advice/The-2016-Dog-Microchipping-Legislation.aspx>

This comes on top of new regulations last year regarding the responsibilities of owners where dogs are not under control ie off the lead, and there were several incidents last year in the village which involved the dog warden service.

Dog owners/walkers will need to be aware of these new rules and also be mindful of the rules about dog fouling. It is still a requirement to clean up dog mess on the byways around the village, for example on the full length of Springdale Lane, where problems have been reported.

Dogs are much loved pets and companions, and with responsible ownership, problems for the whole community can be avoided.

Coun. Phil Clarke