

PIGEONS, RAYLEIGH HIGH STREET – UPDATE (Minute 139/01)

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This [report](#) provides an update on progress to reduce the pigeon problem in Rayleigh.
- 1.2 The Control of pigeons in built up areas is a discretionary function, however there is a duty where a statutory nuisance arises.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Members previously considered the report of the Head of Housing, Health and Community Care about pigeons in Rayleigh. Among other things, it was resolved to continue to educate the public and businesses in order to minimise the pigeons food supply and to approach affected premises to request that pigeon proofing measures be carried out. A budget has been set aside to assist businesses with the cost.

3 PROGRESS

- 3.1 A meeting was held with officers, Ward Members and the Chamber of Trade to discuss how best to resolve the problem. It was decided that better "Do Not Feed The Pigeons" signs were needed. At the time of writing this report new signs are being produced.
- 3.2 A mailing has been sent to take-away food outlets explaining the problems associated with feeding pigeons and asking businesses to dispose of waste carefully. A leaflet has also been provided that is to be given out at take-away food premises warning against feeding pigeons.
- 3.3 A further meeting is to take place to finalise how financial assistance for proofing measures will be allocated to businesses.

4 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The proposed measures will reduce the fouling of buildings and pavements and help minimise potential health hazards caused by pigeons.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 A Budget provision of £5000 has been set aside.

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- 5.2 Action is diverting staff resources from other work, although the total amount is difficult to quantify.

6 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Accumulations of pigeon excrement can give rise to a statutory nuisance under the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. The Council has a duty to deal with such nuisances and action can be taken against owners/occupiers of premises where nuisance exists.
- 6.2 There are also provisions under this Act to deal with litter, although enforcement is likely to be contentious and difficult since the majority of the food is quickly eaten.
- 6.3 The Council also has powers (but no duty) under the provisions of the Public Health Act 1961 to deal with nuisance, annoyance or damage caused by pigeons congregating in built up areas.

7 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Rayleigh High Street is in the Rayleigh Town Council area.

8 RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

That Members note the content of this report. (HHHCC)

Graham Woolhouse

Head of Housing, Health and Community Care

Background Papers:

Letter to take-away food premises dated November 2001.

For further information please contact Elaine Prosser on:

Tel: 01702 318052
E-Mail: elaine.prosser@rochford.gov.uk