

Feral pigeons

Feral pigeons are found in association with human habitation in all our towns and cities. They are related to the Rock Dove which is now only found in remote cliffs and are a result of interbreeding between the Rock Dove and Racing pigeons which have gone feral.

They build their nests in or on buildings, particularly on ledges, under eaves and on girders under railway bridges. The mess they make underneath their nests from droppings, feathers and egg shells is not only unsightly but dangerous:

- gutters and drain pipes may become blocked which may lead to flooding
- pavements, ladders and fire escapes may be made unsafe due to the hazard of slipping on droppings
- feral pigeons can also carry diseases including salmonella - this could be a potential hazard if they gain access to food premises

Control of pigeons

The council does not offer a pest control service for pigeons but is permitted by law to take steps to control pigeons in public areas. However, please note:

- it is the responsibility of building owners to carry out any protective or preventative measures to deal with problem pigeons
- eaves of buildings and gable end walls should not have any gaps larger than 20mm and any gaps that are left for ventilation should be netted
- areas such as exposed girders, canopies, etc can be protected with suitable netting
- anti perching devices such as wires or spikes can be applied to areas such as ledges, windows sills and roofs
- to discourage feral pigeons from infesting gardens, public areas and streets is by not feeding them