

**8. Seagulls – Discussion** It has been suggested that it might be worth a general discussion on the issue of seagulls. Contact has been made with Sara Mason at C.A.L.C. with a view as to which Town Councils might have a good approach to the issue. It was advised that Looe Town Council and Truro City Council would be worth contacting.

**Looe Town Council** report that they have previously tried both egg oiling and egg pricking and found them not to be effective. They have considered the use of birds of prey. It has been suggested that the use of a birds of prey might well disturb the birds away to another part of the town.

For the last 5 years Looe Town Council have been using false eggs weighted with sand. The contractor they currently use is also that retained by the MoD to deal with the seagull issue at HMS Raleigh. The contractor tackles 70 – 80 houses per year. Looe Town Council wait until the birds have started nesting and then call in the contractor. The contractor usually place 2 to 3 eggs per nest and returns in the season to check. The annual cost to Looe Town Council is £2,000. This does not include the false eggs which have been purchased and owned by the Town Council. The Town Council involved the Guides in the actual filling of the hollow egg with sand. This has the benefit of helping to educate young people on the issue of seagull control.

**Truro City Council** The Clerk at Truro City Council used previously to be an environment health specialist including dealing with landfill sites. His advice was that seagulls are very clever and very aggressive. He gave examples of the seagulls waiting in adjacent fields until the landfill staff went home and then descending within minutes to commence feeding. He also recounted seagulls attacking birds of prey when the birds of prey used were of the smaller species. His advice is that food sources need to be controlled as this is always what attracts vermin. Hence, Truro City Council try to encourage the wider community to modify their buildings and food waste disposal to make the city

less attractive to seagulls. Attached is the page from their website regarding seagull control. It should be noted they do not undertake any form of egg pricking, oiling, false egg placement nor use birds of prey.

**Liskeard Town Council** The Town Council has previously used:

- egg oiling – which was organised by the County Council on their own building stock and the Town Council took part. This only lasted for one year.
- weighted false eggs – the Town Council obtained and still has weighted false eggs for use on the Public Hall. They were used in conjunction with an initial batch of seagull spikes. The weighted false eggs were only used for a year. The seagull spikes were extending and the roof silver lined to deter seagulls from landing.
- Seagull scarer – this is still in the clock tower of the Guildhall. It appears that there were complaints from adjacent residential properties about the volume and timings of the noise.

**Conclusion** The availability of food appears key to attracting seagulls. The Town Council could modify the seagull control guidance of Truro City Council and put it on its website and make the information available to the Chambers of Commerce, Traders Association and South East Cornwall Tourism Association businesses.

Re-use of the seagull scarer if it has previously upset residents is not advisable. We do have some weighted false eggs. That might help reduce the cost of using that method. We do not have an approved budget for such measures which needs to be considered if the Committee consider that we should initiate any form of active control beyond an information notice.