

# Urban Gull Working Group Meeting Notes 12/7/18

7pm Mayors Parlour

## Attendees

Cllr C Whitty

Cllr D Ambler

Cllr A Clarke

Tony Mission – Facilities manager

## Apologies

Cllr I Goldsworthy

## 1) Gull Report presented to LTC by Mr P Rock

The report was felt to be worthwhile but couldn't provide the magic answer. It was felt the report now meant the gull working group were no longer talking about advice and hearsay given by, 'an old chap down the pub', but something with a scientific basis. If LTC are going to manage the gull population, we now have some idea of a starting point.

A fundamental question exists on whether residents of Liskeard want a gull population? Gulls have learnt to live in Liskeard and cannot be returned to the wild.

Complaints will continue while gulls live in the Liskeard area. Residents could learn to manage and live with gulls more effectively.

## 2) Next Steps

### Roof clearance – housing associations

It was felt there was a need to meet with CC and housing associations to discuss getting roofs cleaned. A Clarke pointed out that roofs and properties are getting damaged and it is in everyone's interest to clear roofs from moss and nest build ups.

It was recommended that LTC write to business property owners to ask them to consider clearing their roof and to avoid providing nesting sites.

Based on the report, residents and businesses might want to consider wires, and netting to block suitable nesting sites such as behind chimneys and roof gully's.

**Action: T Mission and C Whitty as mayor, to contact CC to request a meeting to discuss the issue or roof clearance.**

## Noise – causing stress for residents

Residents have complained of losing sleep due to gull noise, especially in the early morning hours. This is a clear health and lifestyle issue. It was pointed out that losing sleep was particularly bad for those going to work during the early hours.

It was thought that the gulls waking during the early morning is down to the streets being illuminated and the gulls then being able to see food left on the streets. In the summer the early sun rise, and light evenings, may also contribute.

It was agreed to ask Mr Rock's advice and to inquire of CC whether a trial of turning lights off next year could be considered. There are potential benefits in cost savings, mental and physical health improvements for residents, improved sleep, reduced impact on those with early starts, dark skies and reduced gull noise? Risk on building security and people walking home at night though most people now have torches on their phones. C Whitty suggested an option to turn off every other or third light. It would be useful to know if other towns have tried this?

**Action: T Mission to contact CC and find out if turning off lights is possible and practical.**

**Action: D Ambler to contact Mr Rock to discuss idea.**

## Grants for Research

It would be good if grants could be found to support and report on any solutions trialled in Liskeard.

## Enforcement

It was agreed to ask CC to start enforcing poor rubbish management and promoting the reporting procedure. It was noted CC are in negotiations on a new waste contract.

**Action: T Mission to contact CC to find out the latest on CC waste contract negotiations.**

## False Eggs

The working group agreed to provide false eggs in the TIC, but with the advice from the gull report about their effectiveness and the risk that the parent gulls might sit for longer on false eggs.

## Planning

It was suggested to recommend to planning that gull issues should be considered in the planning process. With the positioning of chimneys, and roofs designed to prevent suitable gull nesting opportunities.

## Promotion of gull message

It was stressed the need to keep reinforcing the gull message and the need for residents to manage rubbish. The side effect of residents not managing rubbish and litter is gulls/vermin attacking waste sacks.

Promote the correct reporting of waste problems. Signs to be developed or requested?

**Action: T. Misson to design a poster to promote rubbish and correct reporting procedure.**

**Action: LTC to keep regular gull and waste reminders/updates on TIC/LTC/Town Forum social media sites. Updates/reminders to local press.**

Budget.

Recommend £500 budget for next year, with carryover of underspend from this year. Money used to support promotion and publicity of gull message. Purchase of False eggs.