



**REPORT FROM: HOUSING, HEALTH AND ENGINEERING SERVICES  
MANAGER**

**TO: COLNE AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE**

**DATE: 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

**Report Author: Sarah Whitwell/Julie Whittaker**  
**Tel. No: 01282 661033**  
**E-mail: sarah.whitwell@pendle.gov.uk**

## **Pigeons in Colne Town Centre**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To provide information on the location and extent of the pigeons affecting Colne Town Centre and provide recommendations for action.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That officers engage in initial discussions with the owners of the buildings to see if they will carry out the works required and report back to a future meeting of the Committee.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

To seek to reduce the numbers of pigeons along with the availability of nesting sites in Colne Town Centre.

### **ISSUE**

Pigeons can cause persistent problems at locations where they roost and nest, including bridges, flyovers and other structures.

Whilst it is recognised that pigeons can create a hazard to health, building owners cannot be compelled into protecting their own buildings from providing safe roosting and nesting sites.

Failure to effectively deal with pigeon infestations can result in build-up of guano in public areas. This not only brings about the need for continual monitoring and cleaning but it also has a detrimental impact upon the visual appearance of the Town Centre.

Urban pigeon populations are often sustained, almost exclusively, by deliberate and persistent feeding on the part of a small number of individuals. This single act should be seen as the root cause of most pigeon problems and whilst we can put up signs to try to deter feeding of pigeons in town centre areas, Environmental Health is unable to take enforcement action in order to prevent, cease or deter such behaviour.

Whilst the eradication of pigeons to the Town Centre will never be completely achieved, we would recommend the works set out below for reducing the population and nuisance caused by the pigeons to the Town Centre.

<b>Site</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
1.	Pigeons accessing roof space for nesting and roosting in guttering.  Pigeons roosting to canopy over commercial premises.	Block Access to roof space so as to prevent nesting / breeding.  Provide pigeon proofing to the guttering and canopy.
2.	Pigeons nesting to wall vents to the rear of the property.	Block Access for nesting.  Reduce pigeon numbers in the immediate vicinity.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

**Policy:** None arising directly from the report.

**Financial:** It is estimated that the works will cost £1,700. There is no budget allocation specifically for pigeon proofing and, as the works are not of a capital nature this cannot be funded from the Committee's capital programme. If we cannot negotiate for the owner(s) to carry out the works, an alternative source of funding will need to be found.

**Legal:** For any building in private ownership, permission to carry out the works will be required from the owner(s).

**Risk Management:** None arising directly from this report

**Health and Safety:** None arising directly from this report

**Sustainability:** None arising directly from this report

**Community Safety:** None arising directly from this Report

**Equality and Diversity:** This will be considered for each individual scheme

**APPENDICES**      None

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**      None