

Appendix A – Review of Action Plan in 2017 - Reducing public nuisance from the local gull populations

Background

The action plan below, relating to the local gull populations and ways to minimise public nuisance caused by them, was approved by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Board on 11 January 2017. Cabinet approved the budget to implement the disruption and dispersal programme in 2017 in Whitby and Scarborough at its meeting on 14 February 2017.

The table below reproduces this Action plan. The "Implementation comments" column provides a summary against each action of what was implemented and when:

Action	Lead Officer(s)	Deadline date	Implementation comments
1) Mailshot commercial property owners/occupiers within a radius of the coastal areas in Whitby and Scarborough and provide direct advice about effective proofing methods in relation to kittiwake nesting (and methods to avoid using) and importance of maintenance.	Jonathan Bramley (JMB)	End of November 2016.	Mailshot letter was sent out to over 3,000 properties on 18 November 2016.
2) Consider a proposal from a specialist company to implement	JMB	To be confirmed – before SBC's budgets are set	NBC Environment carried out this programme from April to August 2017. A total of 499

a long term disruption and dispersal programme in specific areas in Whitby and Scarborough (6 years) in relation to herring gulls.		for 2017/18.	nests and 852 eggs were removed and destroyed in specific areas in Whitby and Scarborough.
3) Review work done in 2016 to appropriately proof SBC's properties against kittiwakes nesting, identify additional measures necessary and implement them.	JMB/Martin Pedley (MP).	Proofing programme completed by end of February 2017.	Proofing programme agreed before seagull nesting season began and implemented prior to the start of March 2017.
4) Continue to collect evidence of reported gull muggings from visitors/residents in 2017. Also to contact other coastal local authorities to compare data and share good practice.	JMB	On-going.	Residents/visitors have continued to report incidents of gull muggings/aggressive behaviour via our on-line forms, which was launched in March 2016. A total of 36 gull muggings were reported from March to December 2016. So far in 2017 41 have been reported (January to November 2017).
5) Consider implementing an awareness/educative campaign in local	JMB in liaison with Jo Ireland (JI) and Gabrielle	Before the end of the School Summer term in 2017.	Due to limited resources we were unable to arrange visits to local Schools. However, SBC staff and members, in

Primary/Secondary Schools	Jandzio (GJ).		partnership with NBC Environment, held a total of 5 public information days to raise awareness of the project and promote our key messages of “don’t feed the gulls” and “don’t drop your litter”. Many residents and visitors showed in interest in our work. Furthermore, they attracted local and regional media interest and coverage.
6) Explore other options for coordinated displacement programme of Scarborough’s urban nesting kittiwakes back to Castle Headland.	JMB	End of February 2017.	Due to limited resources we were unable to explore this action. Recommend it is to be brought forward under a new Action plan. This is a long term strategic aim that needs detailed planning and coordination with Natural England, RSPB and other relevant wildlife experts. Furthermore, this aim may require more staff/financial resources than were available when this plan was approved.
7) Promote/facilitate wider business engagement to build partnerships to better coordinate key	JMB	Before the start of the Summer seasons in 2017.	Contacts were made with key figures of Scarborough’s “South Bay Traders” Association and Whitby

<p>messages – “don’t feed the gulls” and “do not drop your litter”. For example, explore working with suppliers of chip boxes to local food establishments to print on the insides of chip boxes these key messages.</p> <p>Other examples include working with North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) to explore proofing the Spa Bridge in Scarborough. Furthermore, working with local businesses in “hotspots” where nuisance caused by seagulls has been reported to be an issue (e.g. Huntriss Row”) to promote good practices in proofing buildings.</p>		<p>Before end of February 2017.</p>	<p>business community to highlight/promote the work of this project. Furthermore, we received some local/regional coverage during the summer of 2017.</p> <p>Carry forward proposals to explore working with suppliers of chip boxes to local food establishments as part of action plan for 2018.</p> <p>Provisional arrangements had been made with NYCC for them to proof the Spa Bridge. However, by the time their contractors were on site the kittiwake population had already returned to nest and could not be disturbed, therefore, no proofing took place.</p>
<p>8) Roll out more prominent seagull signage across Council bins, hand railings and street</p>	<p>JMB in liaison with SBC’s Property Services;</p>	<p>By June/July 2017.</p>	<p>Prominent signage promoting the key messages of “don’t feed the gulls” and “don’t drop your litter” were rolled out</p>

<p>lighting near the seafront locations in Whitby, Scarborough and Filey in 2017.</p>	<p>North Yorkshire CC</p>		<p>across the 3 main towns of Whitby, Scarborough and Filey at seafront locations where visitors congregate to eat their takeaway foods or access/egress from our beaches. This occurred at the end of July 2017.</p> <p><i>The launch of the signs was supported by press and media activity and social media awareness posts featuring 'Steven the Seagull' (SAFC mascot).</i></p>
<p>9) Liaise with Environmental Health Team to carry out educational initiative at appropriate commercial properties (e.g. food businesses; other non-food businesses – B&B/offices/retail shops, etc..) to promote good practices in waste management.</p>	<p>JMB Julie Peirson (JP).</p>	<p>Complete plan for initiative by end of February 2017.</p>	<p>Revised and updated seagull posters were made available to EHOs to deliver to food establishments during the summer months of 2017 where planned FH inspection visits were due.</p>

Resource implications for implementing the above action plan

The resources entailed in implementing the above plan involved a combination of Council staff time and financial outlay. The financial resources involved the following:

- 1) Implementing a seagull proofing programme at certain Council buildings (action point 3).
- 2) Revenue costs of implementing the disruption and dispersal programme for herring gulls during the 2017 nesting season (action points 2). A budget of £36,500 had been agreed at the outset.
- 3) Cost of promotional material in the form of signage and posters and installing the signage at various locations across the borough (action points 8) and 9)). The total cost came to £3,172.

In future, options will be explored to minimise financial costs highlighted above by approaching other organisations who may be persuaded to act as sponsors.

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