

# Pigeons



## Why are pigeons a problem?

The control of pigeons is a very emotive subject. Many people see them as part of the natural wildlife of South Gloucestershire. Others see them as a pest and would like to see them all removed from our streets and open spaces.

Over recent years there has been a marked increase in the number of feral (wild) pigeons. Feral pigeons have thrived by adapting to life; learning to roost and breed in the urban environment making use of man made ledges (e.g. window sills, pipe work, parapets etc.). In their natural cliff habitats they lead a healthy existence, but in the urban environment they can become unhealthy and survive scavenging on available food.

In areas where pigeons are excessively fed rats and mice may also be encouraged.

## Pigeons and Droppings

- Cause damage to buildings and machinery
- Carry insect pests
- Carry disease which may be transmitted to humans
- Create smell
- Cause accidents when walkways become slippery and dangerous
- Cause hazards to motorists and pedestrians when startled flocks take flight suddenly

## How you can help

- Don't provide food for pigeons
- Make sure you dispose of all food waste carefully
- Don't provide homes by ensuring your building is proofed against pigeons

## What will happen to the pigeons?

- They will find their own food naturally
- They will breed less often
- Flocks will become smaller

## What is South Gloucestershire Council doing?

The Council does not have a policy to control or cull birds within its area as such actions can only have a short-term impact. The Council may act to discourage situations where pigeons become a statutory nuisance and offer advice as necessary.

Pest Control is unable to provide a service to deal with specialist proofing of properties and would recommend that you contact a pest control company for further advice.

**Free Internet access is available at all South Gloucestershire libraries**

**South Gloucestershire Council  
Environmental Protection  
Department for Environment and Community Services  
PO Box 299, Civic Centre, High Street,  
Kingswood, Bristol  
BS15 0DR**

**Tel: 01454 868001**

**Email: [Environmental.protection@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:Environmental.protection@southglos.gov.uk)**

**Web: [www.southglos.gov.uk/envpro](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/envpro)**