

June Player (Cllr) <June_Player@BATHNES.GOV.UK>

To: June Player (Cllr) June_Player@BATHNES.GOV.UK;

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Hi there

Information about how to deal with Gull issues.

BANES are collaborating with Worcester Council as they have a very similar approach to us in dealing with Gulls and so have employed Gull Officer Gordon Dugan through Worcester Council.

His contact details are:

Mobile: 07917592887.

Email: Gordon.dugan@worcsregservices.gov.uk

Please direct any queries to Gordon.

Gull Officer for Bath and North East Somerset Council

- The gull officer can assist residents, businesses, and other organisations in Bath and North East Somerset with any issues relating to gulls.
- Information and advice can be provided in relation to deterring gulls from both nesting and frequenting certain areas, and in regard to proofing existing and potential nest sites.
- The gull officer may also be able to arrange subsidies for proofing nest sites. This normally involves Bath and North East Somerset Council providing access (e.g. by cherry picker) and the property owner paying for the gull exclusion and deterrent works themselves. Such works include: chimney top and chimney base gull nest steel mesh exclusion cages, gull exclusion netting, and anti-perching devices such as spikes and wires.
- The gull officer can also facilitate the licensed removal of occupied gull nests, including eggs. In special circumstances chicks may also be safely removed and relocated to an animal hospital; they are subsequently reared and released into the wild in a rural coastal environment.
- The removal of gull nests, eggs and chicks under licence from Natural England can only take place where the gull officer and Natural England are satisfied that the gulls in a specific location present a threat to public health and/or public safety. Both species of gull which nest in Bath - the herring gull and the lesser black-backed gull – are afforded a very high level of protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The licensed removal of occupied nests and their contents cannot take place if the issues caused are

matters of nuisance such as noise, droppings, blocked drains, and scavenging of food from bins for example.

- A key threat to public health caused by gulls is chronic sleep deprivation. This is where the overnight and early morning noise caused by nesting gulls is so great and so sustained that specific residents cannot get adequate sleep and where their physical and/or mental health may suffer in consequence. In such circumstances it may be possible to remove the nests under licence from Natural England.
- A key threat to public safety is where gulls may swoop upon vulnerable people when defending their nests. An elderly person for example, may lose their balance and fall while protecting themselves against a gull attack. Such a fall could potentially cause serious injury. Nest and egg removal may therefore be permitted under licence.
- Bath and North East Somerset Council engages in research on urban nesting gulls and their management. This includes a recent gull population survey in the city. Other related activities include deterrent hawking and researching other approaches such as high intensity gull management zones in parts of the city which are particularly sensitive to the presence of nesting gulls.

Regards

June

June Player

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*Keeping it Clean, Green & Friendly -
Promoting Pride in our Community.*