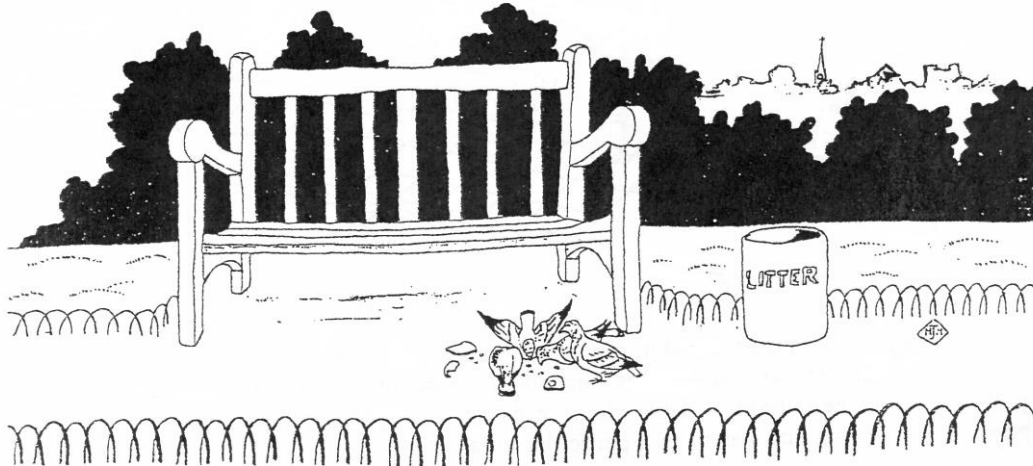


Birds

Information and control advice



There are in Lewisham, as in the rest of London, a large number of feral pigeons. These are a part of our natural environment and London would not be the same without them. However we recognize that there are mixed feelings amongst residents and business owners regarding the presence of large numbers of these birds in some parts of the Borough.



Whilst some people actively encourage them by supplying a regular source of food others consider them to be a pest because of the mess they cause with their droppings (see pictures).

Pigeons roosting or nesting in or on buildings or other structures often leads to excessively fouled areas. The resulting smell, dust and insect infestations are extremely unpleasant. It must be remembered



that pigeons faeces is deemed to be a hazardous substance and can cause a number of health issues.

Fouled areas can also be very slippery when wet and there have been instances of people injuring themselves in a fall.



The droppings can also cause structural problems to buildings they can cause blockages to drains, down pipes, gutters. This can cause flooding and/or dampness to penetrate the building. The acidic nature of the droppings can also cause erosion of stonework and leave unsightly, permanent stains.

Because they are creatures of habit they will stay in an area if a regular food source is available and can become dependant on this for a large part of their diet. This will often lead to a disproportionate number of

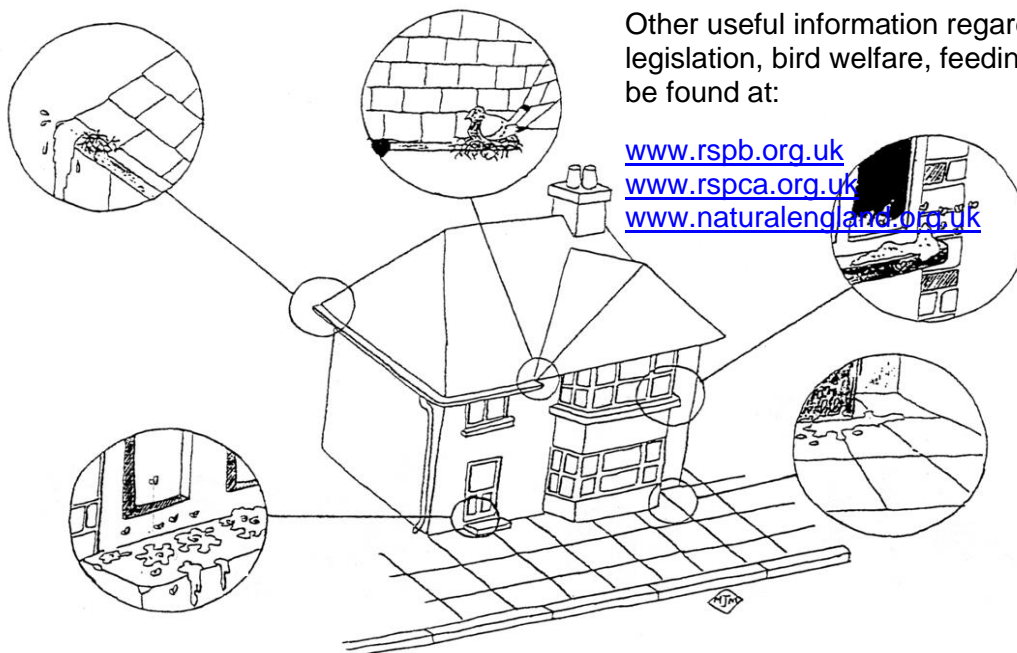
information and control advice

pigeons in an area.

In areas where bird feeding does not take place the population, and its associated problems, are significantly reduced. We do appreciate that some people get a great deal of enjoyment from feeding birds on or around their properties, however we would ask that you consider, carefully, whether the area you are encouraging the birds into is entirely suitable. For example if you live on a housing estate or are surrounded by other properties, trees etc. that provide good roosting sites you may be contributing to the problems mentioned above. If you would like to continue supporting the local wild birds please do so, but consider your neighbours perhaps only feed the smaller birds using feeders inaccessible to pigeons. Pigeons don't need to be fed by us, they will find ample food, but if you insist on feeding them please do so in an area where their presence is less likely to create a health risk to neighbours or damage to property.

There are number of other birds that will occasionally take up residence in or on your home such as starlings and sparrows, house martins etc.

Although all birds and their nests are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside act 1981, there is a general licence allowing authorised persons such as ourselves to remove certain birds and their nests. This is especially true of feral pigeons.



With this in mind Lewisham Council's Pest Control Section offers a service to both clean and get any necessary proofing done on your property. However there are costs involved and these will be subject to survey.

Access to this service is as follows:

1. If you are a tenant of Lewisham Homes and the problem is in a communal area you will need to contact Lewisham Homes Environmental Services 0800 028 2028 or email
2. www.Lewishamhomes.org.uk
3. Private balconies are the tenants responsibility to keep clean. You can contact us direct to discuss a personal quote.
4. Tenants of other Housing Associations or Private Landlords will need to speak to them in the first instance. If they are unwilling to carry out the works you can discuss costs directly with us. Initial contact should be made via Call point on 020 8314 7171 via email www.Lewisham.gov.uk
5. If you are a homeowner or business then you can call the above number direct.

If you are suffering bird nuisance from the activities of neighbours feeding birds or allowing birds to roost or nest in their property i.e. lofts. Lewisham's Environmental Enforcement may be able to help, contact them via 020 8314 2170.

Other useful information regarding legislation, bird welfare, feeding etc can be found at:

- www.rspb.org.uk
- www.rspca.org.uk
- www.naturalengland.org.uk