



## **Measures to Reduce Pigeon Numbers in Waterlooville Precinct Area**

### **Consultation Report**

**November 2017**

## Measures to Reduce Pigeon Numbers in Waterlooville Precinct Area

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## Measures to Reduce Pigeon Numbers in Waterlooville Precinct Area

### Consultation on Measures to Reduce Pigeon Numbers in Waterlooville Precinct Area

#### Introduction

This report considers the results of the consultation carried out by Havant Borough Council from 25<sup>th</sup> September 2017 to 31st October 2017, concerning measures to try and reduce the number of pigeons in the Waterlooville Precinct area.

#### Background

Havant Borough Council (HBC) would like to reduce the number of pigeons in the Waterlooville Precinct area. There are several areas where pigeons are causing a particular nuisance, as shown by the red circles in the aerial view below:



The problem was initially raised by local businesses. In response, HBC created signs advising people not to feed the pigeons and issued a corresponding press release. However, the pigeons remain a problem. HBC is now considering other measures, including a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO), because:

## Measures to Reduce Pigeon Numbers in Waterlooville Precinct Area

- Pigeons are roosting on balconies facing onto the pedestrian precinct. This prevents residents from using their balconies or opening their French windows.
- Pigeons are roosting above café premises and defecating on tables and chairs intended for customers' use.
- Pigeon waste, feathers and faeces are being blown and walked into shops in the precinct.

Moreover:

- Pigeon droppings are acidic and cause damage to buildings and machinery, and also to lawns and shrubberies.
- Nest material, droppings and feathers can clog drains and air vents.
- Pigeons carry many diseases, some of which can be transmitted to humans if droppings contaminate food stores, bakeries or canteens. They also carry a mite which causes skin disease, and feather dust can cause allergic alveolitis or 'pigeon fancier's lung'.
- Feral pigeon flocks can harbour Newcastle disease which can be passed to domestic poultry if their feed is contaminated by droppings.

Prevention Measures:

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) advises

*“When trying to deter pigeons, preventing access to food is key.”*

[ <https://ww2.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/bird-and-wildlife-guides/gardening-for-wildlife/animal-deterrents/feral-pigeon-deterrents#mWtjivyw9sQTHgoG.99> as of 14/11/2017]

Similarly, the Pigeon Control Advisory Service (PiCAS) advises

*“The size of a pigeon flock is dictated absolutely by the extent of food available to it”*

[[http://www.picasuk.com/problem\\_birds.html](http://www.picasuk.com/problem_birds.html)] as of 14/11/2017]

Accordingly, Havant Borough Council is considering further measures to limit the food available to pigeons in the Waterlooville Precinct area:

- Producing leaflets and posters highlighting problems caused by feeding pigeons
- Providing of advice on how to feed smaller birds without attracting pigeons
- Introducing a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) making it a criminal offence to feed pigeons in designated areas

HBC would have the power to issue Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs, fines) for PSPO offences. These powers are provided to councils by the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

## Measures to Reduce Pigeon Numbers in Waterlooville Precinct Area

### Consultation Objectives

The objectives of the consultation were to:

- Assess the perceived problem with pigeons in this area.
- Understand the extent to which pigeons are having a detrimental effect on the quality of life of different groups locally.
- Give all interested parties the relevant information.
- Engage with relevant stakeholders including residents, business owners, the general public and other relevant bodies and ensure that their views are considered.
- Allow these key groups a say in the possible introduction of measures, including a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO), in Waterlooville Precinct.
- Seek views on other measures that the Council could take to combat the issues raised.

### Methodology

A methodology was designed and agreed by the Neighbourhood Quality Team at Havant Borough Council.

Initially a stakeholder analysis was undertaken to ascertain stakeholders who needed to be notified of, and included in, the consultation. This list of stakeholders included:

- Waterlooville Precinct area businesses
- Waterlooville Precinct area residents
- Waterlooville Precinct area visitors
- Ward councillors
- The chief officer of police and the local policing body for the Waterlooville Precinct area
- Liberty (human rights organisation)
- The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
- The Pigeon Control Advisory Service (PiCAS)

Two consultation questionnaires were designed - one for businesses and one for residents and visitors - to obtain feedback in a consistent and structured way across all consultees.

Paper questionnaires were hand-delivered to businesses and the reasons for the consultation explained to a relevant representative / staff member.

Paper questionnaires were hand-delivered to local residents.

The questionnaire was also made available online, with awareness raised through the HBC website, Twitter and Facebook - both the HBC page and the Havant Community Page (which covers Waterlooville).

A questionnaire link was sent to the HBC ward councillors.

The Chief Inspector for Havant and Police Officers at other levels were consulted.

Consultation material was sent to Liberty (human rights organisation).

## Measures to Reduce Pigeon Numbers in Waterlooville Precinct Area

The RSPB and PiCAS were contacted.

HBC also shared the consultation at a 'Partnership Action Group' meeting, made up of around 30 different partner organisations within Havant, and at the strategic 'Locality Board' again made up of some key organisations HBC work with in Hampshire. HBC encouraged completion of the online survey.

38 businesses completed the business questionnaire and 43 respondents completed the residents/visitors questionnaire. Responses have been collated and summarised. All percentages are rounded to the nearest whole digit - rounding errors mean percentages occasionally may appear not to add up exactly.

The resident/visitor questionnaire is shown in [Appendix A1](#) and the business questionnaire is shown in [Appendix A2](#).

### Key Messages from Consultation with All Groups

- i. There is overall support for all measures proposed.
- ii. Resident/visitor support is about the same for leaflets and posters highlighting the problems caused by feeding pigeons and for a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) making it an offence to feed pigeons in designated areas.
- iii. Business support is strongest for a PSPO and even so is still overall slightly stronger than resident/visitor support for leaflets and posters as above.
- iv. Support is not as strong from businesses or residents/visitors for providing advice on feeding smaller birds without attracting pigeons. This may be because of concern that problems would be reproduced with the smaller birds. Consideration should therefore perhaps be given to not implementing this as the first option.
- v. All measures have those who strongly agree and those who strongly disagree.
- vi. As there are polarised opinions, posters saying 'Do not feed the pigeons' have proved ineffectual previously and some specific information as to when the birds are fed is given in the survey responses, consideration should be given to actively trying to speak with those people who habitually feed the pigeons, if this has not already happened.
- vii. Reducing food litter would reduce the food available to the pigeons.
- viii. Consideration may be given to trying to reduce the number of injured birds and the likely causes of injury – particularly if it is littered glass, as suggested.
- ix. Some respondents indicated that if feeding the pigeons is made an offence, then it needs to be enforced with fines.

## Measures to Reduce Pigeon Numbers in WaterlooVille Precinct Area

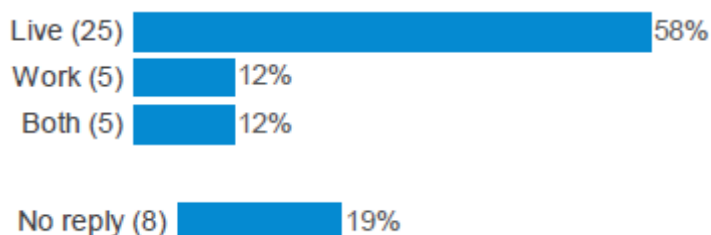
### Detailed Results of Consultation with Local Residents and Visitors

43 people completed the residents/visitors questionnaire.

#### Do you live or work in / around WaterlooVille Town Centre

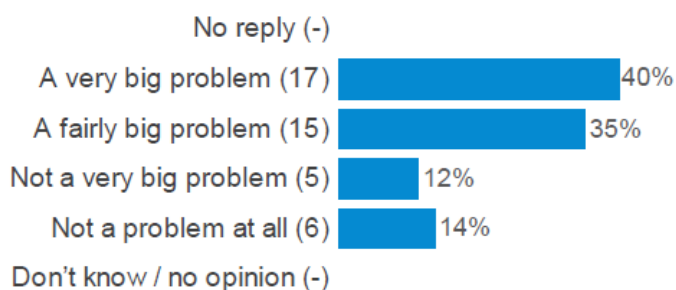


#### If yes do you?



From the responses to the questions above it may be seen that 84% of respondents (36 out of 43 people) live in WaterlooVille Town Centre. 23% (10 people) say they work in WaterlooVille Town Centre.

#### How much of a problem do you think pigeons are in the WaterlooVille Precinct area?

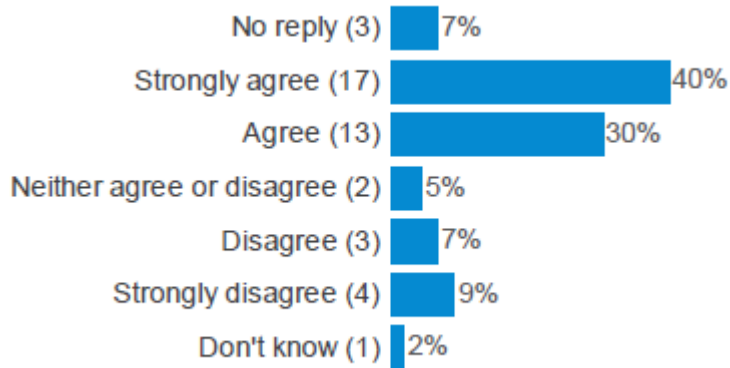


From above it may be seen that most responses (87%) are that pigeons are a problem in WaterlooVille Town Centre to at least some extent. 75% say they are a big problem.

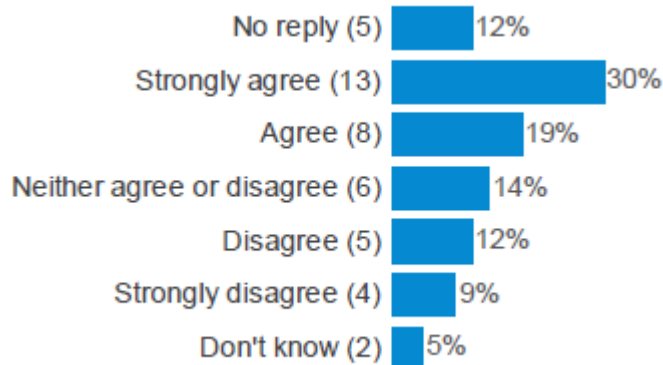
## Measures to Reduce Pigeon Numbers in Waterlooville Precinct Area

There are measures that Havant Borough Council could consider to try and reduce the numbers of pigeons within the Waterlooville Precinct. To what extent do you agree or disagree with these measures?

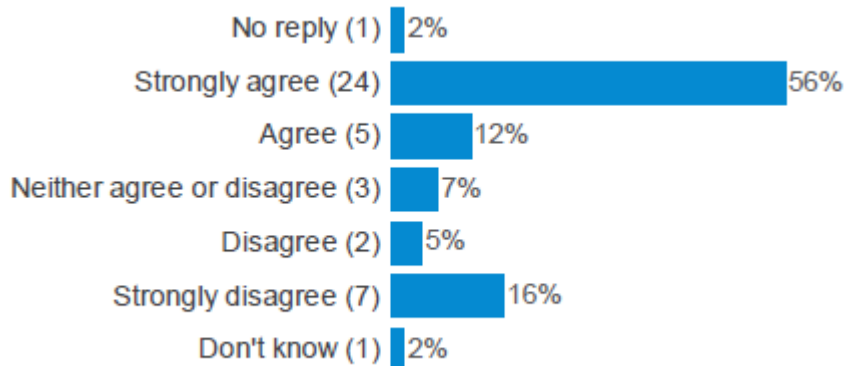
### Leaflets and posters highlighting the problems caused by feeding pigeons



### Providing advice - how to feed smaller birds without attracting pigeons



### Introducing a Public Space Protection Order making it an offence to feed pigeons in designated areas





## Measures to Reduce Pigeon Numbers in Waterloo Precinct Area

From responses to the three measures proposed in the question above, it may be seen there is public support for all three measures.

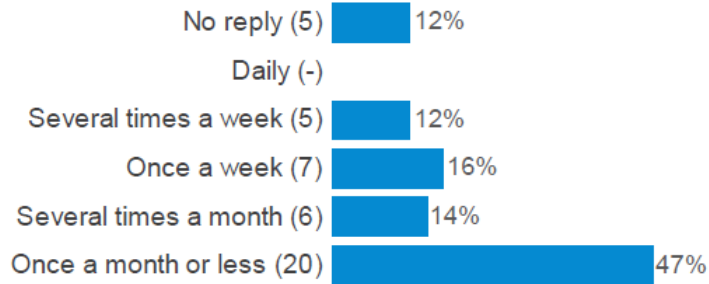
Assigning a scale of +2 'strongly agree' to -2 'strongly disagree', the weighted average is 0.9 for leaflets and posters and for a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) and 0.6 for providing advice about how to feed smaller birds without attracting pigeons. 0.9 for leaflets, posters and a PSPO is close to 'agree' whilst 0.6 for advice on feeding smaller birds is between 'agree' and 'neither agree nor disagree'. It may be that concern about creating similar problems with smaller birds underlies the lesser enthusiasm for advice on feeding smaller birds.

The PSPO question had the most polarised opinion with 56% of respondents (24 people) strongly agreeing and 16% (7 people) strongly disagreeing.

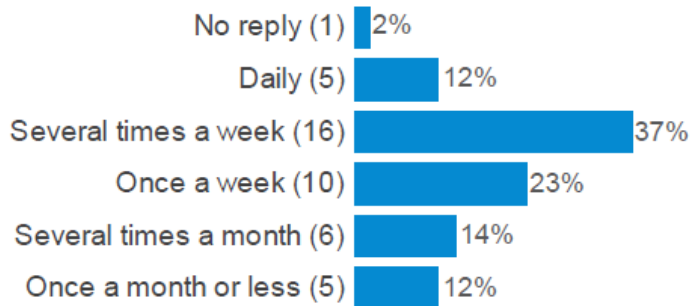
## Measures to Reduce Pigeon Numbers in Waterlooville Precinct Area

Do you use the Waterlooville Precinct for any of the following?

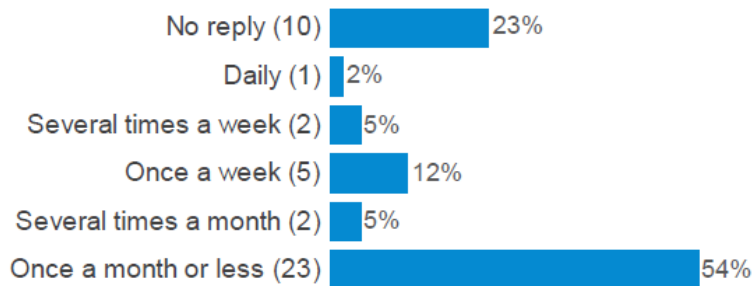
### To eat out



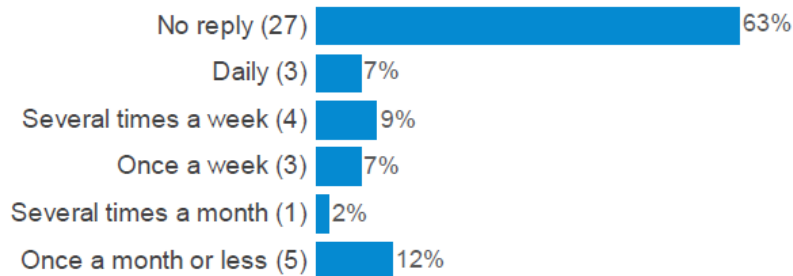
### To shop



### To visit bars/pubs



### Other



## Measures to Reduce Pigeon Numbers in Waterlooville Precinct Area

### If other please specify

Respondents gave various different reasons.

From the graphs above, it may be seen that 47% of responses (20 people) eat out once per month or less in the precinct. Almost as many, 42% (18 people) eat out there at least several times per month. 54% (23 people) visit bars/pubs in the precinct areas once per month or less, whilst about half that number (23%, 10 people) visit bars/pubs there at least several times per month.

The heaviest use of the precinct area is for shopping – 86% of responses (37 people) show shopping there at least several times per month, with 5 of those shopping daily. 5 other people (12% of responses to this question) shop there less than once per month.

16 people (37% of responses) reported using the precinct area for other reasons – these are given above. Over two-thirds of these respondents (11 people) use the precinct area at least several times per month for these purposes.

### Profile of Respondents

Respondents were not asked for personal information, consequently profiles of age, gender, etc. are not known.

### Consultation with Special Interest Groups

The Chief Inspector of Police for Havant, police officers at other levels and Liberty (human rights organisation) were consulted. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and the Pigeon Control Advisory Service (PiCAS) were also contacted.

HBC shared the consultation at a 'Partnership Action Group' meeting, made up of around 30 different partner organisations within Havant, and at the strategic 'Locality Board' again made up of some key organisations HBC work with in Hampshire. At both meetings HBC encouraged completion of the online survey.

No separate comments were received in response.

### Consultation with Councillors

Havant Borough Councillors for the ward were informed of the consultation via email communication with a link to the survey. No separate comments were received from them.

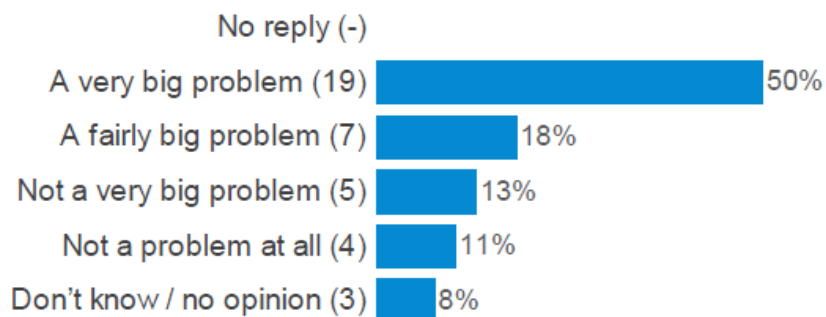
## Measures to Reduce Pigeon Numbers in WaterlooVille Precinct Area

### Detailed Results of Consultation with Local Businesses

43 businesses completed the questionnaire. Most were situated in or near the precinct area.

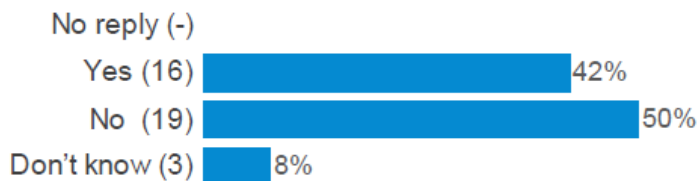
Most respondents (81%) feel that pigeons are a problem in WaterlooVille Town Centre to at least some extent. 68% think they are a big problem:

#### How much of a problem do you think pigeons are in the WaterlooVille Precinct area?



42% of responses said pigeons were affecting their business:

#### Are pigeons having any effect on your business



#### If you answered yes, please could you provide more detail below

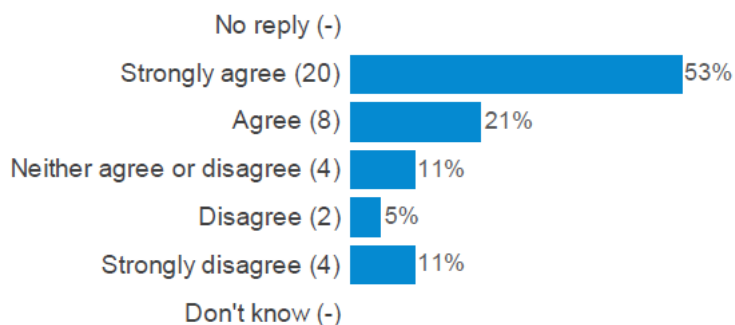
Two main themes emerged for how businesses are being affected:

- Droppings and mess
- Entering buildings

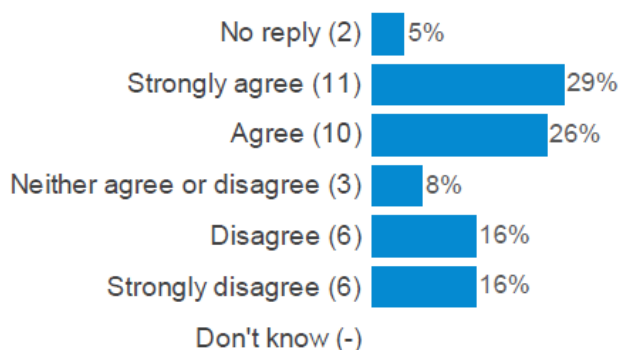
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There are measures that Havant Borough Council could consider to try and reduce the numbers of pigeons within the Waterlooville Precinct. To what extent do you agree or disagree with these measures?

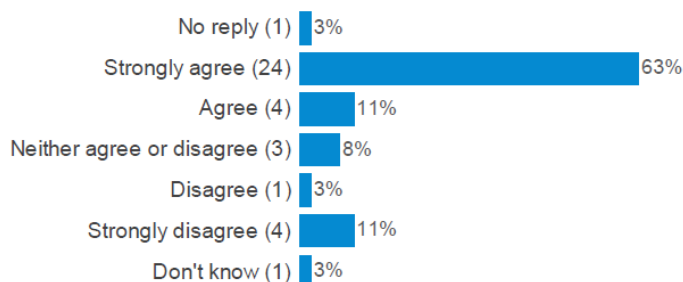
### Leaflets and posters highlighting the problems caused by feeding pigeons



### Providing advice about how to feed smaller birds without attracting pigeons



### Introducing a Public Spaces Protection Order making it an offence to feed pigeons in designated areas



From responses to the three measures proposed in Q5 above, it may be seen there is business support for all three measures. Assigning a scale of +2 'strongly agree' to -2 'strongly disagree', the weighted average is 1 for leaflets and posters, 1.2 for a PSPO and 0.4 for providing advice about how to feed smaller birds without attracting pigeons. 1 for

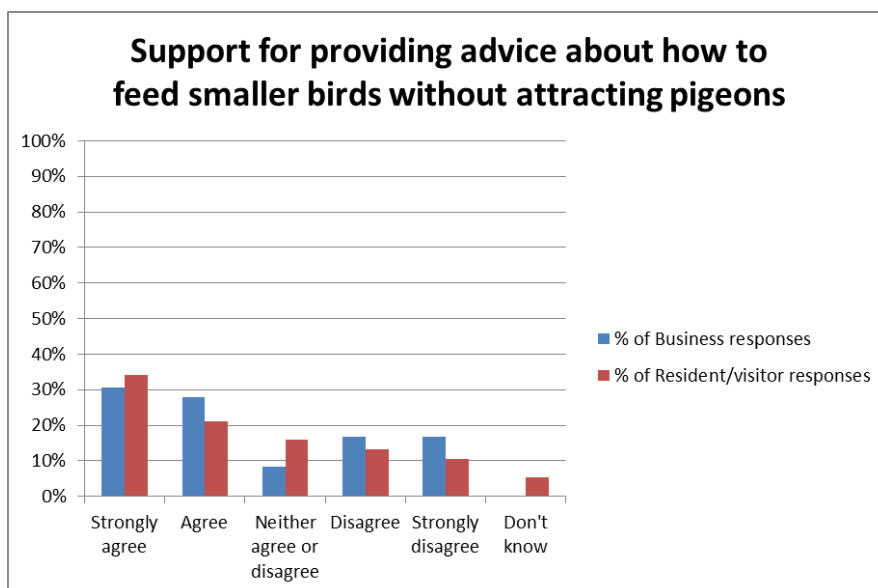
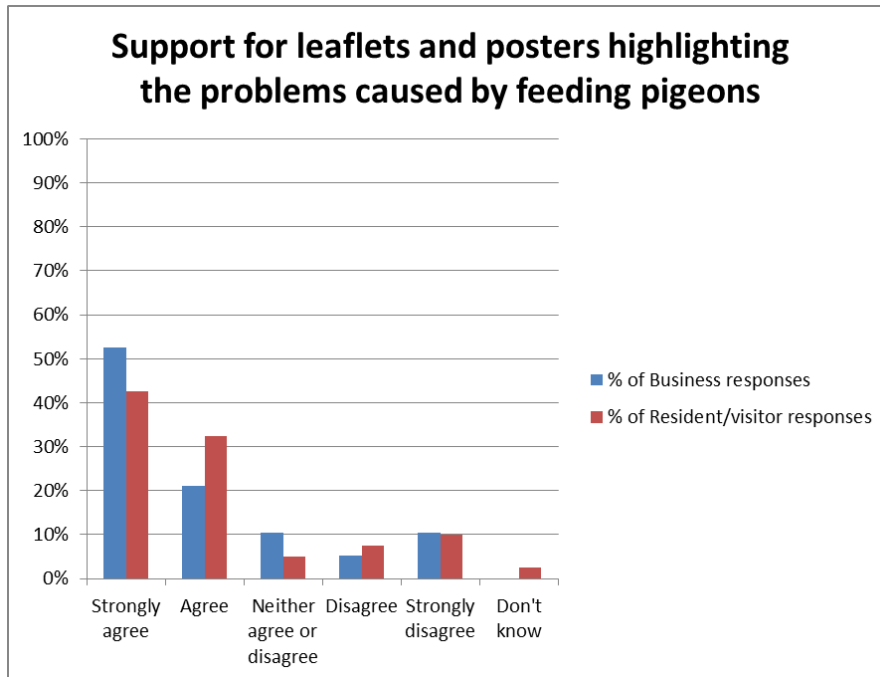
## Measures to Reduce Pigeon Numbers in Waterlooville Precinct Area

leaflets and posters is 'agree' and 1.2 for a PSPO is between 'agree' and 'strongly agree'. 0.4 for advice on feeding smaller birds is between 'agree' and 'neither agree not disagree'.

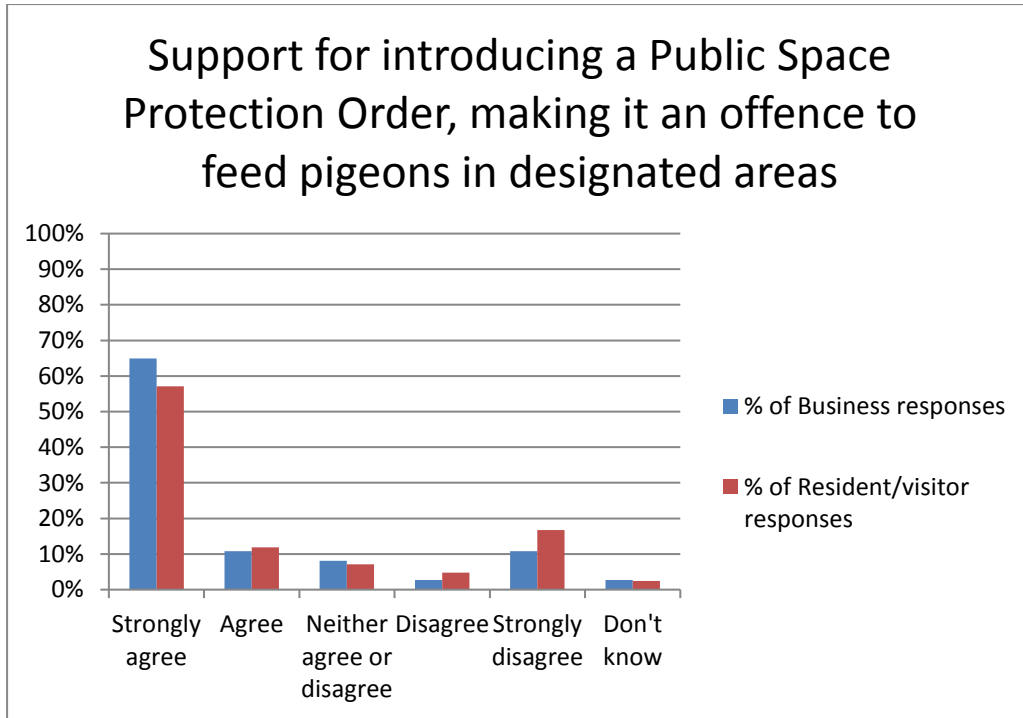
The advice on feeding smaller birds question had the most polarised opinion with 29% of business responses strongly agreeing and 16% strongly disagreeing.

### Comparison of Business/Resident Response to Proposed Measures

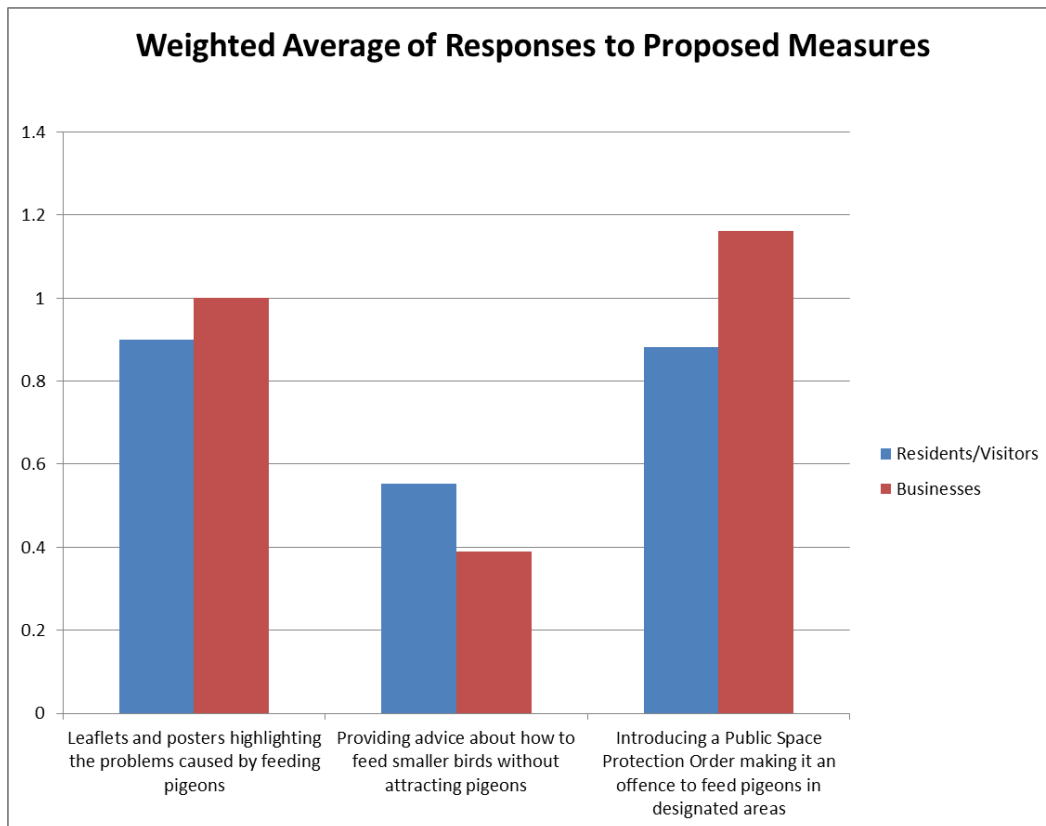
The graphs of support for the different measures show some polarisation of opinion, particularly for poster/leaflets and a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO):



**Measures to Reduce Pigeon Numbers in Waterlooville Precinct Area**



From the graph below of weighted average of responses



it may be seen that:

## **Measures to Reduce Pigeon Numbers in Waterlooville Precinct Area**

- Resident/visitor support is strongest for leaflets and posters highlighting the problems caused by feeding pigeons and for a PSPO making it an offence to feed pigeons in designated areas.
- Business support is strongest for a PSPO and even so overall is still slightly stronger even than resident/visitor support for leaflets and posters as above.
- Support is not as strong from either businesses or residents/visitors for providing advice on feeding smaller birds without attracting pigeons. This may be because of concern that problems would be reproduced with the smaller birds.



## Measures to Reduce Pigeon Numbers in Waterlooville Precinct Area

### Appendix A1: Resident/Visitor Questionnaire

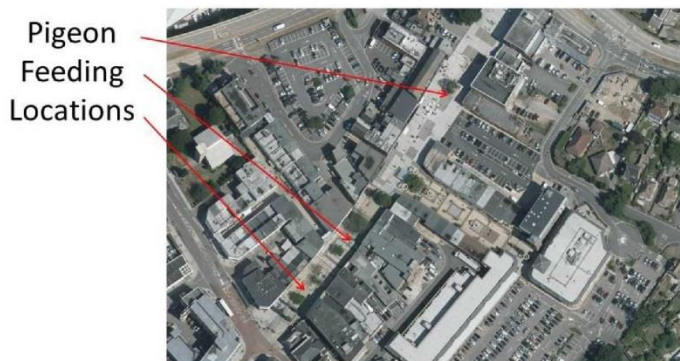


Havant Borough Council is considering introducing measures to try and reduce the number of pigeons in the Waterlooville Precinct area depicted below:

This is because:

- Pigeons are roosting on balconies facing onto the pedestrian precinct, this prevents residents from using their balcony's or opening their windows
- Pigeons are roosting above café premises and defecating on tables and chairs of customers
- Pigeon waste, feathers and faeces are being blown and walked into shops in the precinct.

#### Waterlooville Precinct – PO7 7DT



The Council recognises that many people enjoy feeding birds. However, sometimes pigeons can cause problems, particularly when they occur in large numbers. Before introducing any measures, a period of public consultation is being conducted to ensure the views of those affected are taken into account.

The public consultation will run from Monday 25th September to Tuesday 31st October. Please return completed copies to us using the freepost envelope.

If you need help with this questionnaire please contact Customer Services on 023 9244 6019.

## Measures to Reduce Pigeon Numbers in Waterlooville Precinct Area

Q1 Do you live or work in / around Waterlooville Town Centre

- Yes  
 No

Q2 If yes do you?

- Live  
 Work  
 Both

Q3 Do you use the Waterlooville Precinct for any of the following?

	Daily	Several times a week	Once a week	Several times a month	Once a month or less
To eat out	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To shop	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To visit bars/pubs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If other please specify

Q4 How much of a problem do you think pigeons are in the Waterlooville Precinct area?

- A very big problem  
 A fairly big problem  
 Not a very big problem  
 Not a problem at all  
 Don't know / no opinion

Q5 If you answered that pigeons were a problem, please could you identify one area in the precinct where you think this is a particular issue. Please be as specific as possible.

Q6 There are measures that Havant Borough Council could consider to try and reduce the numbers of pigeons within the Waterlooville Precinct. To what extent do you agree or disagree with these measures?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Leaflets and posters highlighting the problems caused by feeding pigeons	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing advice about how to feed smaller birds without attracting pigeons	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Introducing a Public Space Protection Order making it an offence to feed pigeons in designated areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## Measures to Reduce Pigeon Numbers in Waterlooville Precinct Area

### Appendix A2: Business Questionnaire

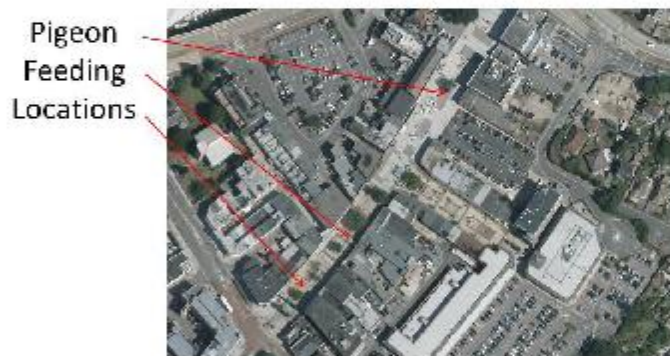


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## Measures to Reduce Pigeon Numbers in Waterlooville Precinct Area

Q1 How much of a problem do you think pigeons are in the Waterlooville Precinct area?

- A very big problem  
 A fairly big problem  
 Not a very big problem  
 Not a problem at all  
 Don't know / no opinion

Q2 If you answered that pigeons were a problem, please could you identify one area in the precinct where you think this is a particular issue. Please be as specific as possible.

Q3 Are pigeons having any effect on your business?

- Yes  
 No  
 Don't know

Q4 If you answered yes, please could you provide more detail below.

Q5 There are measures that Havant Borough Council could consider to try and reduce the numbers of pigeons within the Waterlooville Precinct. To what extent do you agree or disagree with these measures?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Leaflets and posters highlighting the problems caused by feeding pigeons	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing advice about how to feed smaller birds without attracting pigeons	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Introducing a Public Space Protection Order, making it an offence to feed pigeons in designated areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q6 Any other comments or suggestions you may have

Q7 Please supply the full postcode for your business

Thank you for completing this questionnaire