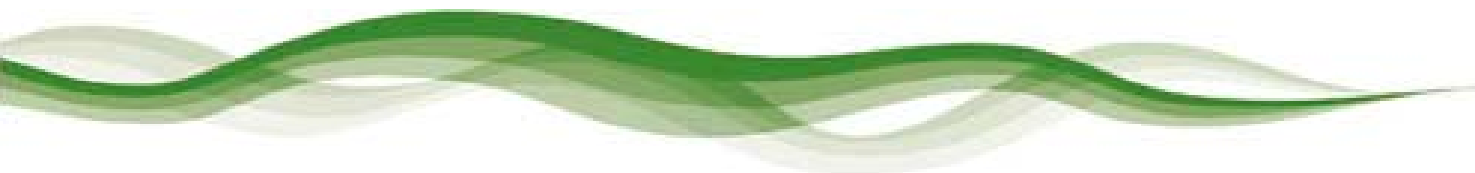


Urban Gulls Focus Group

18th December 2012

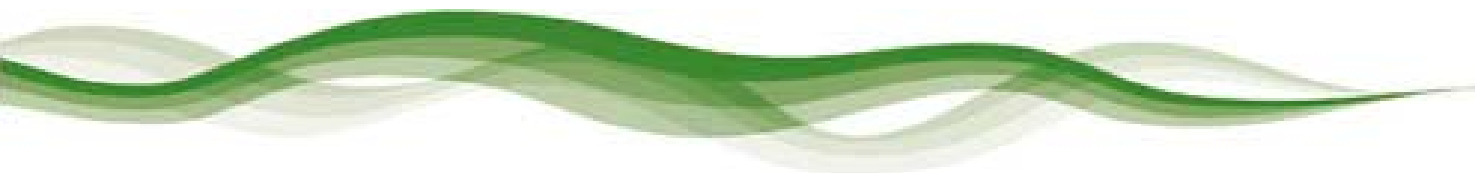
Sarah Clark: Public & Environmental Health Team Leader

Paul Carpenter: Pest Control Officer



Contents

- Urban gulls – background to the issue
- What can the council do?
- Challenges going forward
- What can you do?
- What can we do together?
- Group discussions – your views



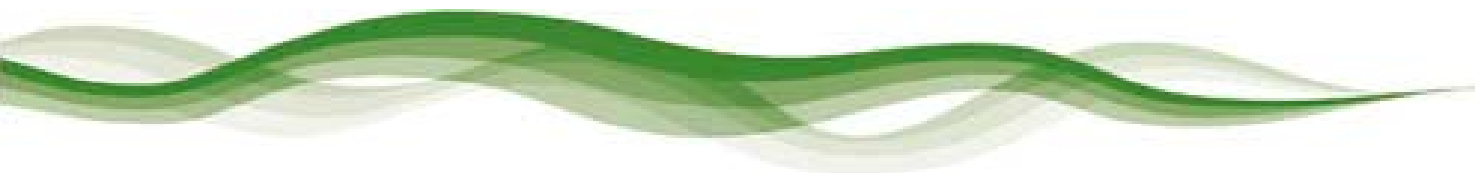
Herring Gull



Lesser Black- Backed Gull

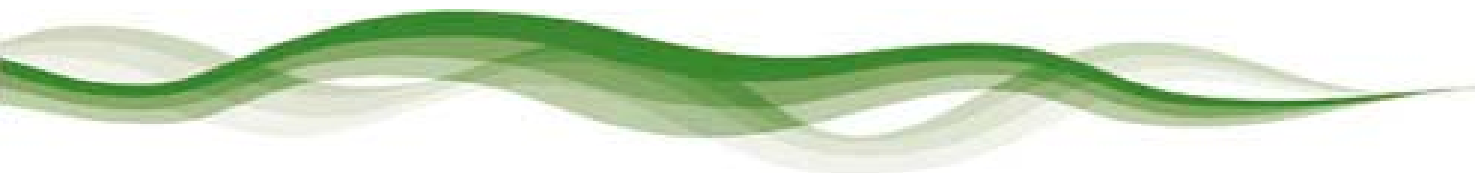


Herring Gulls show a silver-grey mantle and pink legs.
Lesser Black-backed Gulls show a slate-grey mantle
and yellow legs.



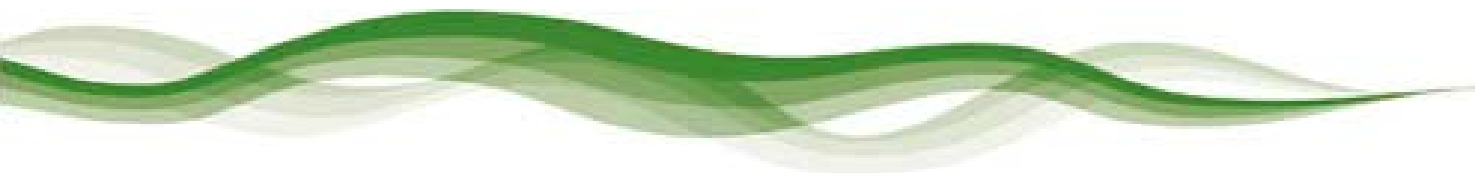
From seagulls to urban gulls...

- It's not so nice by the sea!
- Clean Air Act
- 'Artificial cliffs' architecture



What has the council been doing?

- £3500 discretionary budget reviewed annually
- Initial egg replacement trial disliked by public
- Egg oiling programme based on complaints received and informal survey
- 40 hours hire of truck-mounted platforms
- Redeployment of staff from normal duties – approx 133 officer hours excluding survey, customer liaison etc.





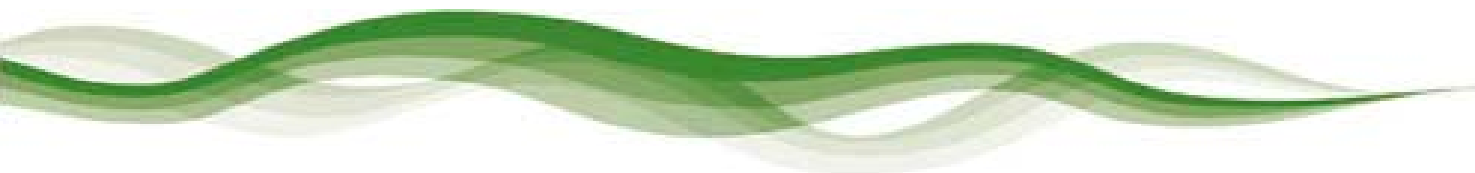






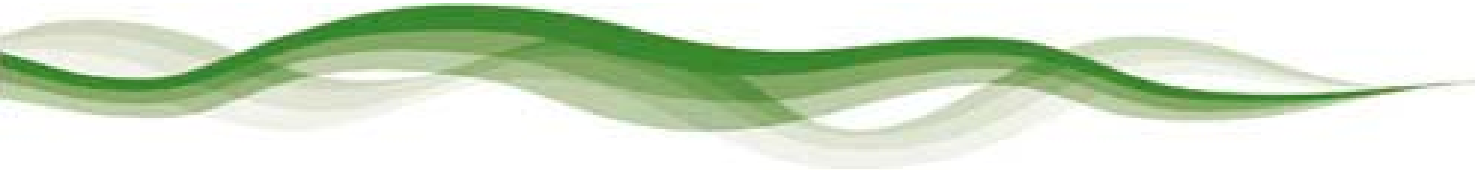
How else can the council help?

- Advice to residents and businesses
- Education
- Planning condition and local plan policies
- Member of Severn Estuary Gull Group
- Research
- Gull proofing leaflet being drafted



Challenges

- Legality:
 - A 'nuisance'?
 - Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
- Coverage:
 - Patchy because of access, permissions, £
 - Time dependent – limited period to treat eggs
- Cost:
 - The council cannot deal with this on its own

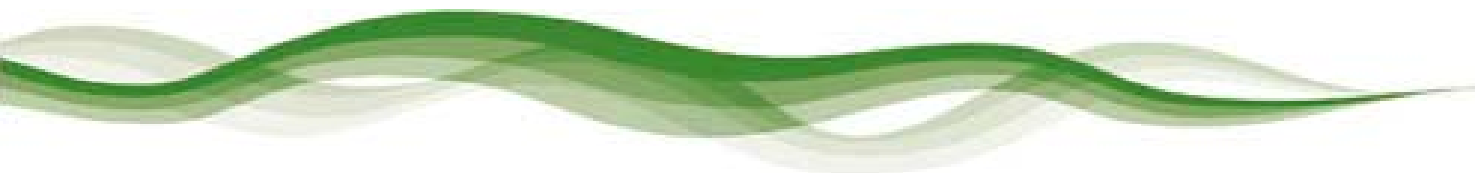


What can individuals do?

- Use deterrents to gull proof your building (outside of the nesting season)
 - Fitting of long spikes to nesting locations such as chimney stacks.
 - Fitting of short spikes, contained in a special plastic base, to nesting locations such as dormer roofs
 - Fitting of wires or nets to prevent Gulls landing
 - Other deterrents such as fire gel and red paint
- Costs – around £400 to clear a 8 feet wide balcony of gull faeces and install netting (using a contractor)
- Replace or remove the eggs yourself (dummy eggs cost @ £1.50 each)



Examples of deterrents



What can we do together?

- Collective action – residents and business associations, focus group, lobbying
- Economies of scale – cost per flat £120 instead of £400-500 if whole building proofed
- Building on strengths – what can we all contribute? *Time, money, skills, equipment*



Now over to you...

Group work



In your groups..

- A) if the council keeps a gull control budget next year, how do you think it should be spent to achieve the most?
- B) if the council has NO budget going forward, how should gull control be tackled in Cheltenham?
- C) what might your group be able to contribute to gull control?

