

Goose Management Scrutiny Review

Task Group – 26th January 2016



Meeting 1 agenda

- Geese population
- Current actions
- Actions considered but not pursued
- Costs
- Lessons learnt
- Health risks

Overview

- Has been an issue for over 15 years
- Problem areas
 - War Memorial Gardens (damage to plants)
 - Esplanade and Kings Staith (droppings)
 - Eye of York (droppings)
 - Tower Gardens (droppings / moult site)
 - Rowntree Park (droppings / water quality)
 - Monkbridge Gardens (feeding / droppings)

War Memorial Gardens - damage



The geese population in York

- No definitive data
- Approx 250 counted on 29th September 2015 between Rowntree Park and War Memorial Gardens
- 500 plus birds in the city
- Rough 50 / 50 split between the two main species
- The geese are comfortable within the urban environment

City Walls - Station Road



Current actions

- Essentially the same actions for the last 15 years. Approach has been
 - Egg treatment
 - Clean up
 - Inform the public not to feed them – signage
- Photo of mark II sign

Actions Considered 1

- Relocation - approval
- Cull – approval, licence, where, seasonal
- Cleaning grass areas – effectiveness, cost (staff time & disposal)
- Scaring – noise, visual (decoys, dogs, birds, lasers)
- Repellents – chemicals (approvals / safety)
- Planting – grass type, boundaries

Actions considered 2 - Fencing

effectiveness, visual impact & design, where, costs

- Photo to add



Costs

- Egg treatment £800- £900 pa - 120 - 180 eggs
- Ad hoc signage
- Cleaning – Rowntree Park, Kings Staith, Esplanade
- Floral displays
- Staff time – complaints

Lessons learnt

- City wide issue with local impact
- Continuing to do what we do now will not resolve the problem one way or another
- Operational
- Political

Health risks

- Perception amongst some members of the public there are health risks. 2010 FERA study *“disease transfer to people may be over played”* p5.
- *“In terms of statistics I can confirm zero cases of suspected or confirmed illness associated with Canada geese in the North Yorkshire area that have been reported to the Health Protection Unit”*. Health Protection Agency contact 2013

Rowntree Park – plan to aid any discussion

