

## REMEMBER

- Pigeons are wild birds capable of finding their own food.
- Feeding pigeons attracts them to areas that are not natural to them.
- Feeding causes excessive breeding, which results in overcrowding.
- Waste food left for pigeons also attracts other vermin.
- Pigeons can control their own numbers effectively.
- Pigeon droppings and food put down for them are a hazard to pedestrians.
- Pigeons carry a range of diseases.
- Pigeon droppings are acidic and can cause damage to buildings.
- Large numbers of pigeons can drive smaller birds away.

There will always be pigeons in our Town Centres but if feeding is reduced, their numbers will decline resulting in smaller healthier flocks with less need for drastic control measures.

## Please!

Do Not Feed the Pigeons

Environmental Health Service  
STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ebley Mill

Stroud

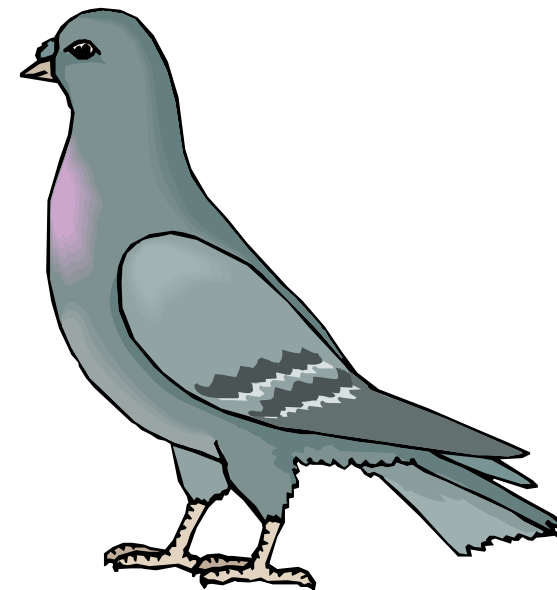
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# Please!



# Do Not Feed The Pigeons

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Flocks of pigeons are an increasing feature of many town centres in the Stroud District.

Pigeons adapt well to the conditions they find in the town centre, as they are able to roost, nest and breed in situations other birds find unacceptable.

Many people like to feed them and in our increasingly 'café' society some throw scraps of food for them.

However, pigeons are wildlife, they are not domesticated and they are not dependent on us to feed them. Your act of kindness may result in them becoming a nuisance.

A pair of adult pigeons can breed up to six times a year and will lay two eggs each time. If food is readily available the birds will continue to breed at this rate and numbers will rise dramatically.

Pigeons control their own numbers very effectively and a reduction in the food supply does not mean that the birds will die of starvation; it just means that they will breed less often.

## Problems Caused by Feeding

### For Pigeons

- Pigeons in town centres are exposed to risk of injury.
- All year breeding causes overcrowding, the birds become stressed allowing disease and parasites to spread quickly within the flock.
- Waste food lacks the essential vitamins the birds require, causing ill health.

### For People

- Pigeon droppings and leftover food can cause people to slip and injure themselves, particularly in wet weather.
- Pigeons carry a range of diseases, some of which may be transmitted to humans if droppings contaminate foodstuffs.
- Pigeons carry mites, which can cause skin disease.
- Dust from their feathers and droppings can cause respiratory infections.
- Rats and mice can also be attracted to the area putting human health at risk.

### For Buildings

- Pigeon droppings are not only unsightly but are acidic and can cause damage to buildings.
- Nesting material, droppings and feathers can block gutters and air vents.

### For the District

- Large numbers of birds and the problems they cause will deter visitors, which will lead to a decline in the area.
- All Council Tax payers contribute to the expensive task of cleaning up droppings and food.

It is vital that the problem is tackled at source and the source of the problem is the people feeding pigeons rather than the pigeons themselves. However, it is the pigeons that suffer, not the pigeon feeders.

There will always be pigeons in our town centres and if we make the conscious decision not to feed them, over time there will inevitably be less pigeons.

This can only be a good thing for the town and the pigeons because if there is a small flock it is more likely to be healthy, cause much less of a nuisance and there is less chance that numbers will need to be controlled by more direct methods.

Stroud District Council is seeking the co-operation of the public so that a natural sustainable reduction in pigeon numbers can be achieved.

So please work with us

***PLEASE DO NOT FEED THE PIGEONS.***

