

Q1

Are foxes (which cause all sorts of antisocial mess, noise and smells) considered pests/vermin? If so, what is the Council doing about controlling them? If not, what can be done to reduce the impact of their presence in the area?

A

Foxes are vermin, but there is limited control – they can't be released elsewhere, and it is illegal to cause them harm. Local pest controllers can provide advice if the problem is serious.

Q2

If an animal such as a stray cat or a fox is found dead in a street or back garden, what is the procedure for disposing of the body?

A

If the body is on a public highway, the Street Cleaning team will dispose of it. If it is in a garden, it is the householder's responsibility. A dead rat, cat or fox can be double-bagged and placed in your general waste bin.

Q3

If pigeons gain access to, and nest in, the lofts of domestic houses, what is the procedure for having them removed? Is the procedure different for council and private properties?

A

If the property is council-owned, the Pest Control team will remove them and check and repair any holes in the building to prevent future incidents. If the property is privately owned, Pest Control can provide a quote to deal with the problem.

Q4

If a person purchases an ex-council property, and has serious issues with infestations of insects or vermin in their loft, who should they contact, and how, if the problem continues after being investigated, can it be resolved?

A

If the building is ex-council, it is now the responsibility of the new owner. If it is still council-owned, the council will deal with it. Any repairs will be the responsibility of the Housing dept.

Q5

If a property's dilapidated, filthy, or cluttered state leads to vermin or infestations affecting neighbouring properties, can council action be taken, and if so what are the procedures?

A

Action can be taken by the Environmental Enforcement Team.

Q6

Rats have been seen running from some areas where large amounts of rubbish have piled up, sometimes in areas that appear sealed off from general access or where land ownership is unclear. Who is responsible for dealing with this, and what can be done?

A

If the land is council-owned, the local authority will be responsible for dealing with this. If it is private, it is the responsibility of the owner/landlord. They can be forced to contact the Pest Control dept to resolve the issue (at their own cost), The Environmental Enforcement team will also be involved.