

Gainsborough Town Council
Richmond House, Richmond Park, Morton Terrace
Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, DN21 2RJ

Telephone: 01427 811573

Website: parishes.lincolnshire.gov.uk/gainsborough



Pigeon lofts and Keeping Pigeons Policy

Document History

Adopted by Full Council – 2 March 2021

To be reviewed by the Committee before May 2022

Tom Clay

Town Clerk

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This policy is for plot holders applying for written permission to erect a pigeon loft and to keep pigeons.
- 1.2 It will also be used by councillors and staff when considering applications.
- 1.3 Written permission will only be granted for plots on the North Warren Allotment Garden Site. The total number of lofts that written permission will be given for on the North Warren Allotment Garden site is five.
- 1.4 The Town Council will only grant permission for one loft per tenant. Joint tenancies will be considered as singular when considering an application for a pigeon loft.
- 1.5 The RSPCA and the Royal Pigeon Racing Association have set out advice on the keeping of pigeons on allotments. The advice can currently be accessed at:

<https://www.nsalg.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Welfare-of-animals-on-allotments.pdf>

2. Before applying

- 2.1 The Tenant must seek guidance from the Town Council about the placement of a pigeon loft.
- 2.2 Pigeon lofts will ideally be positioned so that they are south facing and as far from residential housing as possible.
- 2.3 The maximum dimensions for a pigeon loft are:
 - Height - 8 foot (2.4 meters)
 - Length - 14 foot (4.3 meters)
 - Width - 7 foot (2.1 meters)
- 2.4 Pigeon lofts should be raised so that they are at least 8 inches (203mm) above ground level.
- 2.5 Rainwater run should be directed back onto the Tenant's plot or into storage on the Tenant's plot.
- 2.6 The Town Council will not give permission for more than 60 birds to be kept by the Tenant.

3. Applying for written permission

- 3.1 The Tenant should apply in writing to the Town Council. This can be done either via email or post.

- 3.2 The Tenant must provide proof for current membership of a recognised pigeon society or association.
- 3.3 Once the application is received the Tenant applying will be given advice from the Town Council about the process.
- 3.4 The Town Council will contact neighbouring plot holders to see if they have any concerns. These will be taken into account when the application is considered.

4. After written permission is given

- 4.1 The Tenant must:
 - Ensure that three quarters (75%) of the plot is used for growing;
 - Not allow the pigeons to cause a nuisance to other plot holders or residents;
 - Keep the pigeon loft clean and in a good state of repair;
 - Not use pigeon waste (except a small amount for compost) as plot fertiliser. Excess waste is to be disposed of safely, legally, and off site, and;
 - Keep to all the Town Council's terms, conditions and policies relating to the keeping of animals on allotments, as well as all relevant legislation.
- 4.2 The Tenant will be responsible for ensuring that adequate insurance is in place. The tenant might wish to consider if a policy provides adequate public liability and risk cover.
- 4.3 The Tenant may not carry on any trade or business from the Allotment Site.
- 4.4 Pigeon lofts may be inspected from time to time. Any concerns that are raised during an inspection will be reviewed by the Town Council.
- 4.5 Any written permission granted is not transferable. It will automatically come to an end with the Tenant's tenancy.
- 4.6 At the end of the tenancy the Tenant must remove the pigeon loft and reinstate the plot to its original condition.
- 4.7 If the plot is not returned in its original condition the Town Council may have to carry out work and recover the costs from the Tenant.