

In comparison to many problems, seagull complaints might be deemed inconsequential. However, for the last 4 years there have been an increasing number of gull incidents: a friend walking through Oldfield Park, was attacked and blood drawn; an Oldfield Park community group warning about attacking gulls; two visitors' meals taken off plates in Kingsmead square (these visitors have vowed never to eat outside in Bath again); an elderly man losing bread from his trolley in Lidl car park.

These are just some incidents as well as the numerous accounts of seagulls defecating on residents and tourists.

I was attacked recently walking out of M&S with unopened sandwiches. As I was putting them in my bag I felt a heavy thud on my back; I only realised what it was as a wing hit me across my head, the bird bent over my shoulder to peck through the plastic and managed a bite out of the sandwich. I went back in store to report it but the manageress seemed resigned to accepting this as normal behaviour. Friends have boycotted many outdoor cafes as the gulls are becoming more confident and of course the chicks are learning from these increasingly violent attacks.

Many people may suffer these events, decide not to eat outside and go home to the peace and quiet of their homes and here lies the crux of the problem for me; there is no peace as the gull problem in many Oldfield Park streets has become intolerable.

For the last 4 years I have had gulls all around me at the front and back of the house so there really is no escape! I spent money on my garden when I retired but we don't eat out there as the gulls will gather! Gardening is a mind over matter fight to block out the noise which hardly makes it the relaxing retirement treat it should be. The mess on my car, my patio and furniture is disgusting and I risk having to wash laundry again if I dare to hang washing outside!!

The intense heat last summer was horrendous as we had to keep windows closed due to the unrelenting noise. As my husband and I have been diagnosed with conditions that means sleep is extremely important, this effected both our physical and mental wellbeing.

We thought the situation was going to improve due to the excellent time and effort of Gordon Dugan (Worcester gull officer employed by BANES) indeed he did manage to remove the chicks from one of the rooftops due to a disturbing undisclosed incident. The roof next door to this also escaped this year as builders were fitting a loft conversion which deterred returning gulls. However, the irony is that the dormer will provide another haven next year!! The situation in OP is exacerbated by the amount of HMOs-the landlords don't live with the gull problems and, as in the case of a particularly problematic nest, the landlord has refused to engage with me or Gordon.

Why is there not a stipulation that there have to be gull deterrents integrated into planning permission? Why do landlords again get away with taking no responsibility for the houses they rent out?

It is infuriating to know that funding has been withdrawn from trying to solve this problem. I would like to know why? When will funds be released to help a problem that is only going to get worse? You cannot surely dismiss the concerns of permanent residents of OP yet again so that it becomes both a gull ghetto!