

## Note to Residents: Increase in Rat Sightings

A number of residents have highlighted a significant increase in the sightings of rats, particularly in the area surrounding the townhouses.

According to the PCC website, the PCC does not operate a pest control service. Furthermore, according to the PCC's Environmental Health Team, the responsibility for eradicating a possible rat infestation within the marina is down to us, the residents. The management team, therefore, has sought advice from a professional pest control company.

The increase in rat sightings was raised briefly at the AGM in August last year. At that time, questions were raised about the establishment of the two large compost boxes located either side of the waterway near the bridge. However, the consultant from the pest control company advised that it is most unlikely that these two boxes are the cause of any infestation. Firstly, the boxes only store cuttings and debris from the pollarding of the bank willows and removal of brambles or the like along the banks edge – unlikely food for the rats. Secondly, the contents of the boxes are turned over regularly to inhibit the likelihood of providing harbourage for the rats.

The consultant's advice as to the probable cause of any infestation is the availability of food as a consequence of residents feeding the ducks, swans, foxes or other wild life.

The management team does not want to deter the residents from feeding the above, but asks residents to ensure that food is not left lying on the banks, hedges or other hard surfaces within the marina. Furthermore, in order to determine the extent of the problem, residents are asked to note on the community WhatsApp forum the time and location of any rat sightings.

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