



# Vigo Parish Council

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## **UPDATED STATEMENT FROM VIGO PARISH COUNCIL REGARDING RATS – 24<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2023**

Vigo Village is set in a rural part of north Kent and was created to be a 'village in the woods'. We have the benefit of living in close proximity to wildlife and the vast majority of our residents enjoy seeing the range of birds and animals that live in and around our community. Living close to nature does also mean that some of our less popular furry friends (including rats) also live close by.

The Parish Council has been working closely with colleagues in Gravesham Borough Council's Environmental Health Team to understand whether there are greater numbers of rats than would be usual in a rural location. We have also engaged a pest control specialist to assess whether there are any further steps that may be appropriate to take in the event that there are higher than usual numbers.

We have cleared areas of the village where some residents expressed concern that the undergrowth may have provided more favourable habitats for rats (particularly soft banks around the village). The cleared areas showed no signs of rats nesting. Unfortunately clearing this vegetation also removes valuable habitat for other wild life.

The primary advice from GBC is that rats are attracted by readily available sources of food. Unfortunately, this is not just waste food and rubbish – but also food put out for other wildlife such as birds, badgers and particularly foxes.

We have published this information on the Parish Council's Facebook Page and Website as well as a link to the Vigo Village Life Webpages.

Residents are encouraged to contact GBC Environmental Health Team for further guidance through: <https://www.gravesham.gov.uk/environmental-health/pest-control-advice>