**Hawking and falconry report for the Britannia Square area – w/b 30 March 2020**

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| Monday 30 March – session began 9.00 am   * Ten pairs of gulls around Square at the outset. * Thirty to thirty-five gulls attracted in to the area due to distress calls when the hawk was flown. * The gulls attracted in left after about 30 minutes. * Around 5 pairs of gulls remained in the area, although not in their original locations throughout – they are believed to be last year’s nesters. * At the hawker’s time of departure, one pair had returned to the roof of Number 52 Britannia Square. |
| Tuesday 31 March – session began 1.00 pm   * Five pairs of gulls in the area at the start. * Around 20 gulls in the air after the falcons were put up – about half attracted in from elsewhere to harry and ‘mob’ the falcons – this figure went down to 10 after about 40 minutes. * Core of 5 pairs remained in the general area throughout, although dispersed from their rooftop perches. * As the hawker/falconer departed gulls returned to the roofs of Numbers 33, 27 and 13 Britannia Square. |
| Wednesday 1 April – session began at 3.00 pm   * Core of 5 pairs of gulls present upon arrival. * When the falcons were flown, around 30 gulls were attracted in from elsewhere in Worcester. * One pair of gulls at Numbers 28 and 29 (Britannia) were very determined to keep returning throughout the falcon flights. * As the hawker/falconer departed, there were gulls on Numbers 28 and 29 and the large terrace that includes Number 13 (Britannia); other gulls were flying over rooftops to the north of Albany Terrace and to the east around the Upper Tything. |
| Thursday 2 April – session began at 12.00 noon   * Core of 5 pairs of gulls present upon arrival. * When the first falcon was flown, 6 gulls were attracted in from elsewhere; they moved off after 30 – 40 minutes. * Three pairs of gulls stubbornly remained in the area throughout, although they moved from their perches. * As the hawker/falconer departed, there were only three pairs in the immediate area. |
| Friday 3 April – session began at 2.00 pm   * No gulls were visibly perching on the arrival of the hawker/falconer; 2 pairs were in the air. * Within 5 minutes of the first falcon being flown, in excess of 20 gulls moved into the area to harass the bird of prey; this continued for about 40 minutes. * The area was then almost wholly clear of gulls; a wild falcon was also present in the area for some of this time. * As the hawker/falconer departed, one gull was seen around Numbers 28 & 29 Britannia Square; some gulls were visible in the air above the Upper Tything. |
| Comment  It is too early to draw any conclusions other than to note that the gulls are clearly very aware of the presence of the birds of prey and that their normal activities appear to have been somewhat disrupted, at least for the duration of the visits. |

Gordon Dugan

**Technical Officer (Gull Control)**

**Worcestershire Regulatory Services on behalf of Worcester City Council**