

ROTHER and WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCILS ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

Service Overview

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| <p style="text-align: center;">Food Safety</p> <p>Export Health Certificates</p> <p>Hygiene Standards Food Safety</p> <p>Food Related Illnesses</p> <p>Food Hygiene Rating Scheme</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Licensing</p> <p>Alcohol</p> <p>Animal Welfare</p> <p>Regulated Entertainment</p> <p>Gambling</p> <p>Taxis</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Health and Safety</p> <p>In work places and where work related activity affect the public, if we are the enforcing authority</p> <p>Accident Investigations if an employee is injured or killed at work</p> <p>Safety Advisory Groups (for public events)</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Environmental Protection</p> <p>Air Quality</p> <p>Anti Social Behaviour</p> <p>Contaminated Land</p> <p>Drainage</p> <p>Noise</p> <p>Waste-Fly-tipping</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Public Health</p> <p>Infectious Diseases</p> <p>Filthy and Verminous Premises</p> <p>Fuel Poverty</p> <p>Pest and Dog Control (lost, found and strays)</p> <p>Housing Conditions</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Community Safety (Rother)</p> <p>Hastings and Rother CSP JAG, ASBRAC</p> <p>Anti-social behaviour</p> <p>Safeguarding- domestic abuse</p> |

Examples of work carried out

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| AIR QUALITY |
| CARAVAN SITES |
| COMMUNITY SAFETY (Rother only) |
| CONTAMINATED LAND |
| ACUPUNCTURE, BODY PIERCING, ELECTROLYSIS, SEMI PERMANENT MAKE UP and TATTOOING |
| PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES |
| PEST CONTROL |
| DISEASE INVESTIGATIONS |
| HEALTHY WORKPLACES-Health and Safety at Work |
| DOG CONTROL (Rother only) |
| PUBLIC HEALTH FUNERALS (Wealden only) |
| FOOD SAFETY |
| FUEL POVERTY (Rother only) |
| HOUSING CONDITIONS |
| LICENSING |
| STRAY DOGS |
| POLLUTION CONTROL |

AIR QUALITY

One of the most urgent public health issues, in terms of mortality, is that of air quality. Earlier this year the European Commission issued a final warning to the UK for failing to deal with repeated breaches of air pollution limits for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) which is a serious health risk. The World Health Organisation (WHO) places the mortality rate from air pollution in the UK at 25.7 per 100,000, a rate beaten by Brazil and Mexico.



Smog surrounds The Shard and St Paul's Cathedral in London April 2017 Reuters

Air pollution is caused by road traffic, industry, oil and wood burning and power plants. The WHO has described this situation as “a major Environmental Health problem affecting everyone”, where national and international policy makers need to tackle this “toxic air crisis”.

The Council monitors for air quality across both Rother and Wealden districts for nitrogen dioxides, particulates and ozone. In 2016 there were no areas in Rother or Wealden where people were exposed to levels of NO₂ or particulates in excess of UK air quality objectives. However the levels of ozone are a considerable concern; for full details see the air quality reports at

<http://www.rother.gov.uk/article/193/Air-quality>

http://www.wealden.gov.uk/Wealden/Environment/Pollution/Air/PHCS_Air_Pollution.aspx

We work with Sussex Air so they can provide information and news direct to the public, <http://www.sussex-air.net/>. Sussex Air also provides the airAlert service, which provides instant information direct to subscribers' phones on air quality in their

area. The Environmental Health service will continue to monitor air pollution. Local action may be taken on this issue pending formal powers.

CARAVAN SITES

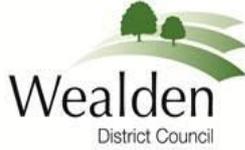
Well laid out and well managed caravan sites are a safe environment for holidaymakers and contribute to a strong local economy.



Image courtesy of UK aerial imaging

Poorly laid out caravan sites are a fire risk. Overcrowding on caravan sites can overwhelm site facilities particularly refuse disposal, sewage and toilets. To protect holiday makers and to maintain the touring and static caravan sites within Rother and Wealden Districts as holiday centres the Environmental Health department will;

1. Issue each caravan site with new licences and new standard conditions as agreed by Rother and Wealden District Councils in 2016/7.
2. Caravan sites will be visited in the summer months of 2017 to check they are compliant with the new licences.
3. Enforcement action may be taken where sites do not comply.



COMMUNITY SAFETY [Rother only]

The Council administers the Hastings and Rother Community Safety Partnership. A monthly Rother JAG is held with the ESFRS, Optivo, Police and voluntary sector, to agree actions to resolve crime and anti-social behaviour in the district, including street drinkers and rough sleepers. In addition, a monthly ASBRAC meeting discusses victim and perpetrators of anti-social behaviour -practitioners from all partners take part to agree the lead agency and joint action.

The Council has safeguarding responsibilities, particularly in relation to domestic abuse.

<https://www.rother.gov.uk/community-safety-and-emergencies/>

Officers also attend the Wealden CSP, JAG and ASBRAC

Contact: Carol Studley

CONTAMINATED LAND

Local authorities have a duty to declare land as contaminated if chemicals in the soil can impact human health. Contaminated land that may impact on controlled water, may be declared special sites, where the Environment Agency is the enforcing authority eg Rye Harbour. Most contaminated land sites are remediated when redeveloped through the planning regime.

<https://www.rother.gov.uk/environmental-health/land-that-may-be-contaminated/>

Contact: Greg Minns

ACUPUNCTURE, BODY PIERCING, ELECTROLYSIS, SEMI PERMANENT SKIN COLOURING and TATTOOING

Rother and Wealden DC registers practitioners who use needles to penetrate the skin for treatments for acupuncture, body piercing, electrolysis, semi permanent skin colouring and tattooing. These treatments are popular and when done correctly can give the individual relief from particular conditions and satisfaction with personal appearance.



Each practitioner must comply with the Council's Byelaws to make sure their operation is safe and does not transmit infectious diseases from one client to the next. In the summer of 2016 there was an outbreak of a serious skin infection called *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* in South East England which originated from defective saline solution used as part of cartilage ear piercing.



To protect consumers

- Rother and Wealden DC have strengthened their Byelaws for acupuncture, body piercing, electrolysis, semi permanent make up and tattooing.
- Environmental Health Officers will visit practitioners to ensure they comply with the revised Byelaws.
- Environmental Health Officers will issue Tattoo Hygiene Ratings to each Tattoo parlour after inspection

PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES

There are over a hundred households in Rother and Wealden that are dependant on wells, boreholes and springs for their drinking water. Such supplies may not be treated with chlorine. Private water supplies can become contaminated with *Campylobacter*, *E.coli*, *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium* and may pose a threat to health, especially for children. To make sure these risks are controlled the Environmental Health department will;



- Provide advice to consumers through the website and in person
- Sample and risk assess the large supplies
- Act on significant risks to health found during the risk assessment
- Agree to sample from small supplies when asked by householders
- Survey the district for unknown supplies
- Check the source of water in all food businesses

PEST CONTROL

The control of rats and mice is central to public health. Rats and mice can carry a variety of diseases including Salmonella and E.coli. When found in a household they must be dispatched, the house thoroughly cleaned and where necessary disinfected, and the structure repaired to prevent their re entry. Wasp colonies establish in/outside homes in the late spring or a swarm may arrive suddenly making rooms uninhabitable or barring entry. A wasp sting is painful to most people but for some it can trigger an anaphylactic shock. To control pests the Environmental Health department will;



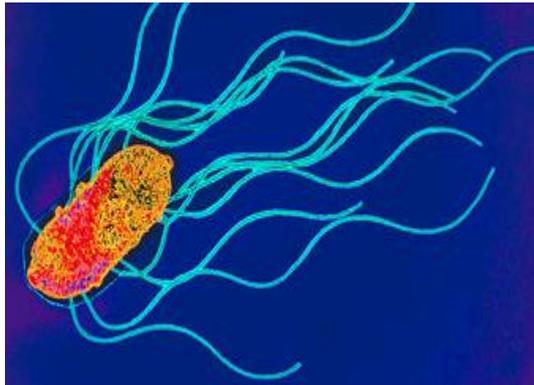
- Provide a pest control service to the residents of Rother & Wealden
- Treat households for rats, wasps and mice as soon as possible
- Investigate the sources of rat infestations
- Take enforcement action against landowners who have allowed rats to shelter and find food on their land



<https://www.rother.gov.uk/environmental-health/pest-control/>

DISEASE INVESTIGATIONS

Public Health England report cases of infectious disease such as Salmonella and Campylobacter, which occur in the community to the Environmental Health department. These infections can be passed from person to person and through poor food preparation, so it is important that we advise on how they can be stopped.



- We contact every reported case with advice on personal hygiene and food preparation.
- Where the case is a food handler we will interview them and if necessary take legal action to prevent them from going to work

- When reports of TB in a dairy herd are received we check immediately that the milk is not being used for human consumption or cheese making without pasteurisation.



- We trace people who have come into contact with those already diagnosed with infectious disease and give them prompt health advice

The Environmental Health department has a Duty Manager system so a Manager is always available to requests for assistance with disease investigations by Public Health England.

Covid

During 200/21 the control of Covid-19 in food, licensed and workplaces has dominated our work. Officers have participated in weekly operational cell meetings with the Director of Public Health and Enforcement meetings with the police and trading standards. We have carried out track and trace visits.

HEALTHY WORKPLACES

Rother and Wealden DC actively support the drive for Healthy Workplaces The Office of National Statistics reports that 131 million days are lost to work each year because of sickness. It is to the benefit of workers and employers alike that steps are taken in the workplace to improve absenteeism and prevent ill health.

We administer and Chair Safety Advisory Groups, (SAGs) where event organisers are advised about their event management plans by Officers from the Council and emergency services
eg Bonfire Societies

Health and Safety legislation is enforced by the HSE or the Council.

The HSE is responsible for hospitals, nursing homes, schools, mines and quarries, agriculture and heavy industry

<https://www.rother.gov.uk/environmental-health/healthy-workplaces/>



CONTROL OF DOGS [Rother only]

Dog fouling on pavements, on the seafront and in parks is a health risk especially to children. Dog faeces may contain the eggs of the parasite Toxoplasma, which can cause Toxoplasmosis in humans. To make sure this risk is controlled Environmental Health will;

- Survey the seafront, parks and cemeteries to make sure the correct signage is in place and that dog waste bins are in use.
- Undertake regular surveillance of known dog fouling “hot spots”.
- Run the Tidy Britain campaign “We’re watching You” every Autumn

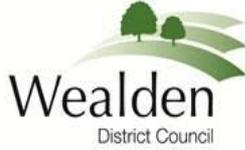
PUBLIC HEALTH FUNERALS [Wealden only]

The Council is responsible for organising funerals of people who die in the district, where sadly there are no relatives or friends able to make the arrangements.

A Council Officer arranges a funeral, taking into account the known wishes of the deceased. If there is an estate then the costs of the funeral can be recovered.

Over twelve funerals were undertaken last year.





FOOD SAFETY

There are 1000 food premises within the Rother District and 1500 food premises in Wealden which either manufacture, process, wholesale or retail food.

All food businesses are routinely and regularly inspected. The frequency of inspections is based on a national determined risk assessment of the premises at the time of the inspection. The interval may vary between 6 months for a 'high risk' premises to every three years for 'low risk' premises.

In addition to routine work, visits are undertaken as a result of complaints by members of the public either concerning unsatisfactory premises or food bought in Rother or Wealden. We receive numerous requests for advice from people who wish to start up a new business, alter existing premises or start up new processing methods are dealt with.

The Food hygiene Rating System (FHRS) provides information to the public about food business hygiene scores. These are published on a web-site and mobile phone application and certificates are provided to each premises for voluntary display.

<https://www.rother.gov.uk/environmental-health/food-hygiene/>

FUEL POVERTY [Rother only]

We are members of the East Sussex Energy Partnership and are working to reduce fuel poverty by referring residents to the Winter Home Check Service, which can access grants to install energy efficiency measures, including new boilers for eligible households.

<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/socialcare/support-to-stay-at-home/help-to-keep-warm-and-well/>

We also promote community energy supplier switching every winter:

<http://www.rother.gov.uk/article/12449/Energy-switching-scheme-heralds-cheaper-fuel-bills>

HOUSING CONDITIONS

We inspect rented property to check housing conditions including disrepair, dampness, electricity and gas safety, fire safety, minimum energy efficiency standards etc. We can serve legal notices on landlords to require repairs or improvements are carried out.

We licence houses in multiple occupation.

We act to get empty properties back into use-Empty Properties Action Plan.

Rother: <http://www.rother.gov.uk/privatesectorhousing>



LICENSING

Licensing can be divided into:

- Alcohol, regulated entertainment and late night refreshment (Licensing Act 2003)
- Animal welfare, i.e. boarding and breeding establishments, pet shops and riding stables
- Gambling Act 2005: betting shops, bingo, lotteries, family and adult entertainment centres, gaming machines etc.
- Miscellaneous licences, i.e., street collections, street trading, scrap metal, game dealers, skin piercing, tattooists, ear pierces, acupuncture, hypnotism etc.

The conditions attached to the various licences fall into the following areas:

- Protecting Public Safety
- Protecting Public Health
- Protecting children
- Preventing Crime and Disorder
- Animal Welfare

<https://www.rother.gov.uk/licences-and-permits/>

Contact: Mark Randolph

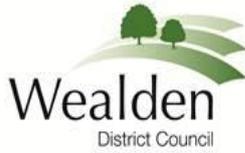
TAXIs-Hackney Carriages and Private Hire

All taxi (hackney carriage) and private hire vehicles, drivers and operators are licensed by the Council to ensure consistency and the safety & comfort of passengers. The majority of licences are issued annually. The trade is governed by various Acts of Parliament, in addition to local conditions set by the Council.

New drivers are required to consent to a Criminal Records check (enhanced DBS), DVLA check, DSA test, local knowledge test, English proficiency test and satisfy medical requirements.

Driver licences are issued for 1 to 3 years.

All complaints from the public are investigated. A penalty points system operates whereby a driver with more than 12 points in one year is referred to the Licensing Sub Committee or Taxi Licensing Panel. The Head of Environmental Health has the power to suspend a licence if the safety of the public is at risk, pending a decision by the Panel whether to revoke the licence.



LOST, FOUND & STRAY DOGS

Our contractor, Animal Wardens Ltd receives reports of lost and found dogs and seeks to reunite owner and pet. If this does not happen then the dog is kept in kennels for 7 days, after that the dog is normally rehomed.

Contact: Animal Wardens-01424 490034 (24 hour service)

<https://www.rother.gov.uk/environmental-health/dog-control/>

POLLUTION CONTROL

The inspection and control of local air polluting industries.

This team will also investigate complaints of:

- bonfires (including demolition sites, dark smoke from businesses) & odours
- noise complaints (including domestic, commercial, car and house alarms)
- drainage complaints (drains, cesspools and septic tanks)
- waste accumulations (including fly-tipping & harbourage for vermin)
- filthy or verminous premises

Rother investigates 800 complaints and Wealden investigates 1200 complaints a year.

We encourage neighbours to use our free mediation service:

<http://www.mediationeastsussex.co.uk/>

There is a statutory duty to annually review air quality, to determine if an air quality management area has to be declared. Air pollution (nitrogen dioxide, particulates and ozone) and background radiation are monitored.

Comments are made on the environmental impact of various types of planning applications when requested by the planning officer (e.g. restaurants, take-always, industrial, stables & contaminated land).

<https://www.rother.gov.uk/environmental-health/neighbourhood-problems/>

Contact: Cathy Beaumont

