



## **Pest Control Policy**

### **Tynninghame Village Hall**

#### **1. Purpose**

Tynninghame Village Hall is committed to maintaining a clean, safe and hygienic environment for all users while also complying with environmental and wildlife protection law. The Hall is known to host a colony of bats in the attic space. As bats are legally protected, all pest control activity must be carried out in a way that avoids harm, disturbance or damage to bats or their roosts. This policy sets out how pest risks will be managed safely, legally and responsibly.

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#### **2. Legal Protection of Bats**

All bat species and their roosts are protected under UK law (Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017).

It is a criminal offence to:

- Kill or injure a bat
- Disturb bats in their roost
- Damage, destroy or obstruct a bat roost

These protections apply even when bats are not present.

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#### **3. Scope**

This policy applies to:

- All pest control activity inside or outside the hall
  - All contractors and volunteers
  - All areas of the building, including the attic and roof spaces
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#### **4. General Pest Prevention**

The hall will prioritise prevention rather than chemical control, including:

- Keeping food sealed and waste removed promptly
  - Regular cleaning of kitchens, store rooms and waste areas
  - Sealing gaps, vents and entry points (except bat access points)
  - Routine visual inspections for signs of pests
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#### **5. Approved Pest Control Methods**

Where pests are identified, the following approach will be used:

##### **5.1 Non-chemical methods first**

- Traps, proofing, hygiene measures and physical barriers will be used before any chemicals are considered.

## 5.2 Use of chemicals

No insecticides, rodenticides or fumigants may be used unless:

- They are confirmed to be safe for use in buildings with bats
  - Their use is approved by a bat-aware pest control professional
  - They are applied only in areas that cannot affect bats, bat roosts or bat food sources
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## 6. Use of Pest Control Contractors

Any contractor used must:

- Be informed in writing that bats are present in the building
- Confirm in writing that their proposed treatment is safe and lawful in buildings with bats
- Hold appropriate professional accreditation
- Follow all wildlife protection laws

If there is any doubt, advice must be sought from one of the following:

- NatureScot
  - Bat Conservation Trust
  - A licensed bat ecologist
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## 7. Emergency Situations

If there is a serious pest risk (e.g. rats, wasps, or infestations posing immediate health risk):

- No treatment will be carried out in attic, roof or loft spaces without specialist bat advice
  - The Hall Committee will be informed immediately
  - Emergency advice will be sought before action is taken
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## 8. Record Keeping

The Hall will keep records of:

- Pest sightings
  - All treatments carried out
  - Contractor details and assurances regarding bat safety
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## 9. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if:

- The building is altered
- Pest control methods or law changes