



# BROWN TAIL MOTHS TREATMENT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 19/17

13 MARCH 2017

The purpose of this Report is to ask Members to consider a proposal for an annual contract to control the outbreaks of the Brown Tail Moths in the Esplanade areas.

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**No.    DETAIL**

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**1)    BACKGROUND**

- a) Areas of infestation by the Brown Tail Moth caterpillars were brought to the Town Council's attention in spring last year when several residents and tourists complained of a range of nettle-like rashes in the Esplanade area.
  - b) After investigation the Town Council paid 5 Star Pest Control a total of £415 to clear the areas in which they had been found.
  - c) This year their presence has been detected in a number of other areas close to the beach.
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**2)    BROWN TAIL MOTHS.**

- a) The Caterpillars of the Brown Tail Moth are up to 30mm long, blackish with a white band along the sides; the body is covered with brownish hairs.
  - b) The hairs readily break off and can cause an intense irritation and rash on the skin and, particularly for Asthma sufferers, breathing difficulties.
  - c) This moth, found mostly in Southern England and Wales can be a public health problem, as well as having a severe impact on the growth of trees and shrubs.
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**3)    TREATMENT**

- a) Following discussion by the Public Buildings Working Group Hillbands have been invited to provide a quotation both for dealing with the already identified areas and a comprehensive one-year contract.
  - b) A copy of the quotation is attached and given the stage of the Moth's development cycle, Hillbands have been asked to proceed with their Stage 1 actions.
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**4)    RECOMMENDATION**

The Public Buildings Working Group recommends that the Town Council enter into the one year contract for the treatment of Brown Tail Moth infestation.

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21 FEB 2017

# HILLBANS PEST CONTROL LTD

Commercial and Domestic Pest Control,  
Rodents, Insect Infestation, Bird Proofing and Clearances  
UNIT 7, LAKE INDUSTRIAL WAY, NEWPORT ROAD,  
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Ventnor Town Council  
Salisbury Gardens  
Dudley Road  
Ventnor  
Isle of Wight  
PO38 1EJ

17<sup>th</sup> February 2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

## Survey Result & Quote

Following our recent survey of the area of public land on Ventnor esplanade, we have the pleasure of enclosing our observations and recommendations.

### **Observations:**

- Brown tail moth cocoons found in vegetation along cliff paths
- Brown tail moth cocoons found behind Cheetah Marine
- Brown tail moth cocoons visible along vegetation on cliff face

### **Effects of Brown Tailed Moths:**

- Brown tail moth caterpillars can cause skin irritation, rashes, headaches and breathing difficulties to humans due to the poisonous hairs that break off as barbs when in contact with skin
- Brown tail moth larval feeding can cause a reduction of growth and occasional mortality of values trees and shrubs

### **Recommendations:**

- **Stage 1:** One off inspection of lower parts of cliff face removal and treatment of all accessible nests along cliff paths and treatment of any adult brown tail moths found to allow gardeners access
- **Stage 2:** Inspection of cliff paths and public-accessible areas, removal and treatment of all accessible nests and treatment of any adult brown tail moths found, apart from months when flowers are in bloom to reduce the possibility of affecting non-target species on a 7 visit per annum contract to include follow ups if required

### **Estimate:**

- To carry out all recommendations list above for stage 1, £500 + VAT
- To carry out all recommendations listed above for stage 2, £700 + VAT

### **Notes:**

- This estimate assumes that water and electricity is freely available on site for our technicians to use as required.
- This estimate will be held firm for acceptance for the next 30 days, after which time it will be subject to our final confirmation.
- This estimate does not include VAT; this will be shown as an additional item on our final invoice.

If you would like to proceed with this offer or if you would like to discuss the offer further – please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Miss K Tims  
Office Manager

On behalf of  
Mr & Mrs Knowles  
Hillbans Pest Control Ltd

Registered Office: 16c Sandown Road Sandown Isle of Wight. Registered in London - No. 4473468  
Members of BPCA & PROMPT

