

Name _____ Date _____



Read the following newspaper Article. Discuss your thoughts as a group then individually complete the relevant tasks.

***‘They’re a Flappin nuisance’* Say Market traders on growing gull problem in Great Yarmouth.**

Following a season of lovely warm weather, Seagull numbers are higher than usual, as are gull attacks on people visiting - Great Yarmouth’s market place.

More birds mean more competition for food, making gulls more aggressive.

The Great Yarmouth Borough Council has now begun a trial hawk walk in hope of scaring the gulls away.

Tom Smith, who has been running Tommie’s Tea Stand for 10 years, said he used to compensate people who had their food stolen but it became too costly.



“Every roll I put outcomes with a seagull warning now. We see about five or six muggings a day, and I call it a mugging because that is exactly what they are”.

“They’re getting more and more cocky and much more aggressive. They keep coming back even after being shooed”.

“They didn’t used to come under the roofed area of the market but now they do. We have water pistols out the back to scare them off”.

“Last Thursday a woman got a big cut on her face that could even scar, and yesterday one went for a baby”.

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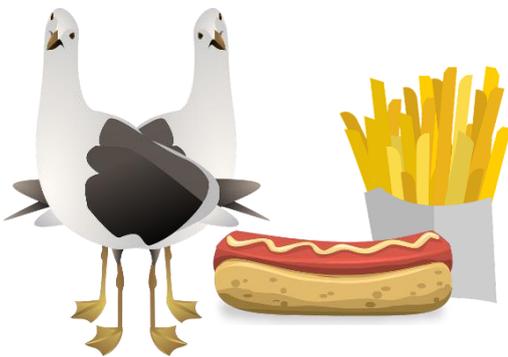
“I am an animal lover but there are way too many of them. If it was a dog attacking people like this something would be done, so I don’t see why birds should be any different.”

Jo Purdy has run’s a Chip Stall on the Market Place for 15 years. He said, “People ignore the new signs that state ‘Feed the Bin, Not the Birds’. I tried to encourage someone not to feed them the other day and she spat at me.”



Jo continued to say that it was not their job to challenge people. “It is only a matter of time before a child gets badly hurt from one of these huge dangerous birds or run into the road from trying escape from them.

He said, “I saw a woman the other week throwing chips for them and then she got angry when they attacked her children.



“They work in pairs, with one swooping and distracting and the other one knocking the food out of their hands”.

“It is really bad, the birds are landing on people’s heads, they particularly love hotdogs and cheese”.

“I put a plastic owl on my roof and it worked to begin with, but now they have gotten used to it”.

The council has spent £10,000 on 3000 thicker refuse sacks that the gulls find it harder to break through. Residents used Facebook to voice their opinions on the matter, which divides the town.



Some suggested that the money used on sacks could be better used on ‘culling’ the birds and one person called them “the flying rats”.

Others defended them saying they have just as much right to live in Great Yarmouth as us!



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Task 1 Answer the following question based on the text.

Why have the Seagulls in Great Yarmouth become more aggressive?

What has Great Yarmouth Borough Council decided to 'walk' around the Market place?

How long has Tom Smith been running his café and what it is called?

What does he call the attacks and how many is he seeing in a single day?

What has Tom been using to fight back against the Gulls when they come under the Market roof?

Name two other instances witnessed by Tom (last Thursday).

Tom compared the gull attacks to another type of attack, explain?

Where does Jo Purdy work on the market place and how long has he been there?

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Describe one customer's response, when they were asked not to feed the Seagulls by Jo Purdy?

What did one Stall use to try to scare the gulls away and did it work?

How does Jo see the future of this problem, what's she concerned about?

What strategy do the gulls use to steal peoples food?

What is there favourite foods?

How much has the Council spent on the current problem and on what?

Write below two opinions given by local residents on Facebook?



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Task 3 Create your own poster.

Create a poster or flyer that could be distributed or displayed in the Market place to warn the public of the dangers and remind them to not feed the Seagulls.

Make it as eye-catching as possible and play with words to try and get the message across more effectively. Some examples are shown below,

