

# PRIVATE ALLEYWAY MAINTENANCE

The council is not responsible for maintaining and keeping private alleyways clear of rubbish. These are private property and are usually owned by the people that own the houses they serve.

## This places an obligation on you and/or your tenants to:

- maintain its condition and keep it clear from waste accumulations
- allow reasonable access along your section for your neighbours by keeping it clear of obstructions
- make sure that it does not provide a nesting site for rats or mice.

## Nesting sites may include:

- domestic waste stored incorrectly between the weekly collections
- dumped garden waste that may provide bedding/nesting sites
- mattresses/sofas and bedding that provide suitable bedding materials for pests.

The council can provide help if you have witnessed any waste being dumped. If this is the case please contact the Customer Service Centre on tel: **01923 226400** to report it. Your case will then be passed to an Environmental Crime Officer to investigate. However, it remains the responsibility of the alleyway owners to clear the land.

As most of the alleyways in Watford are privately owned, the current legislation does not make it possible for us to take any action unless we have evidence of the person dumping the waste or evidence of vermin.

Where rats or mice are found to be living on the land a notice may be served under the 'Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949' on all the properties serving the alleyway. This Notice requires the removal of all waste that may provide harbourage for vermin. If some or all of the waste is not cleared satisfactorily, the council will arrange for the work to be done and each property will be charged an equal proportion of the costs.



For more information tel: **01923 226400** or email: [envhealth@watford.gov.uk](mailto:envhealth@watford.gov.uk)