

FULL COUNCIL

Date: Monday, 6 December 2021

Title: Vandalism Report

Contact Officer: Maintenance & Environmental Services Officer - Angus Whitburn

Background

The summer months saw relatively light acts of vandalism. Play areas and the skate park all had graffiti sprayed over them but was quickly removed and was minor or expected, for example, the skate park.

Current Situation

Although there has not been an increase in acts of vandalism there has been an increase in the act's severity. Rather than light damage such as small graffiti marks the level of damage and scale of graffiti is significant now. All acts of vandalism have all been reported online to the Thames Valley Police.

On the 13th of October, the Maintenance & Environmental Services Officer reported a large amount of black sprayed graffiti over the butter cross it encompassed 4 pillars and most of the seating. It was easily removed by the maintenance team probably due to quick action removing it before the paint had fully cured. The graffiti wasn't marked in an artistic fashion but was merely just vandalism of property.

2 notice boards have been entirely smashed. The one next to the leys play area was reported by contractors on the 14th of November. The second Windrush Cemetery, reported on the 19th of November again by contractors. Both will be replaced with impact-resistant acrylic.

Multiple stencilled pumpkins in the run-up to Halloween have been marked over Town Council street furniture. Due to their visual appearance, it is understood that these have been created by a street artist and the view from residents is generally favourable. They are visually appealing for some but are ultimately graffiti and difficult to remove from our street furniture.

Environmental impact

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 – with this in mind Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

Financial implications

Described here or as stated in the report above.

- Cost to replace two notice boards with impact-resistant acrylic.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and consider the following:

1. Task officers with contacting the street artist and encourage him to apply his work in set areas with the Council's permission.