

**Minutes of the Joint Streetscene & Community Safety
Sub-Group on Graffiti
13.00 pm, Tuesday 4th September 2007, Civic Hall**

PRESENT: Cllr Elizabeth Minkin (Streetscene Chair)
Cllr Sue Bentley (Community Safety Chair)
Cllr Judith Chapman
Cllr Linda Rhodes-Clayton
Richard Brown, North West Area Management
Zahid Butt, North West Area Management
Graham Hollings, City Services
Paul Lyons, City Services
Sarah Weaver, City Services
Graham Wilson, City Services

APOLOGIES: Frieda Haley, City Services

	ACTION
1.0 Introduction and apologies	
2.0 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising	
2.1 Minutes from the meeting of 12 th July 2007 were agreed as an accurate record.	
2.2 There was discussion on the following items from the July minutes:	
2.3 Regarding minute 2.3, a definite list of official graffiti sites should be sourced from Youth Services. There was also a discussion around the merits and disadvantages of graffiti walls	RB
2.4 Regarding minute 3.2, it was reported that Joe Malcolm will not be replaced by West Yorkshire Police. The sub group wishes to convey its disappointment at the decision not to replace Joe Malcolm, who was undertaking a valuable role (key message).	ZB
2.5 It was noted that a new police representative to the meeting should be sought to strength links with this key partner. Zahid Butt should recommend a contact to Richard Brown, who will issue an invitation to the next meeting.	ZB/RB
2.6 It was questioned if reports of graffiti made to the council were also shared with the police. It was noted that the police prioritise their activities based on reported crimes and it was considered best practice to make them aware of all incidents of graffiti reported to our call centre.	FH
Regarding minute 3.4 Frieda Haley had provided an update, confirming that a list of reported graffiti per ward	

- 2.7 would be issued within the forthcoming fortnight.
- 2.8 Regarding minute 3.6, it was queried if there had been any further significant arrests or convictions linked to graffiti offences, however no one in attendance was aware of any. It was indicated that this information was previously brought to meetings by Joe Malcolm, underscoring the need for a new police representative.
- 3.0 **Any other business**
- 3.1 It was reported that CCTV cameras would be trained on graffiti hotspots throughout the Inner NW area in a bid to boost convictions. However it was noted that even when an offender is caught on camera, making an identification can still be problematic.
- 3.2 **A general decline in incidents of graffiti was noted by members of the Sub Group. The quick and effective response of graffiti removal officers was credited for this downturn** (key message).
- 3.3 Cllr Bentley queried if data on graffiti offences by young people was available through the Youth Offending Service. **RB**
- 3.4 It was queried if the universities undertake any work to tackle graffiti by students. Details of a project co-ordinated by Community Action at Leeds Metropolitan (CALM) were shared with the group.
- 3.5 **There are ongoing issues concerning the removal of graffiti from phone cabinets across the city. Disappointment was expressed about the approach being adopted by Virgin Telewest, who have offered a minimal lump sum for graffiti removal, which is clearly inadequate to properly address the issue. Sarah Weaver will be writing to the Company Secretary of Virgin Telewest to convey the group's disappointment at their approach** (key message). **SW**
- 3.6 Sarah Weaver presented a draft graffiti strategy to the group and invited formal comments. **All**
- 3.7 **Sarah Weaver informed the group that she was moving on to a new role in the near future and that this would be her final Sub Group meeting. The group thanked Sarah for her contribution and looked forward to meeting her successor to ensure continuity in the area of tackling graffiti** (key message).

4.0 Date & time of next meeting

4.1 13.15 pm, Friday 7th December 2007, Civic Hall

5.0 Key messages

5.1 Minutes 2.4, 3.2,3.5 and 3.7 were agreed as key messages to be covey to the Area Committee

RB