

**Minutes of the Joint Streetscene & Community Safety
Sub-Group on Graffiti
13.00 pm, Tuesday 7th December 2007, Civic Hall**

PRESENT: Cllr Elizabeth Minkin (Chair)
Richard Brown, North West Area Management
Frieda Haley, City Services
Janine McHugh, City Services
Andrew Milnes, City Services
Stuart Neale, West Yorkshire Police
Barrie Payne, Headingley Resident
Paul Sanderson, City Services

APOLOGIES: Cllr Sue Bentley
Zahid Butt
Cllr Judith Chapman
Graham Hollings
Cllr James Monaghan

ACTION

- 1.0 Introduction and apologies**
- 2.0 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising**
- 2.1 The minutes of the last meeting on 4th September 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 on official graffiti walls it was reported that a wall operated near to Royal Park School, but that the sites on Woodhouse Ridge and the Kendals were not official. **There are no plans to create any more official graffiti walls/sites in the foreseeable future, which was a move supported by the police (key message).**
- 2.4 Regarding minute 2.4 Stuart Neale attended the meeting to represent West Yorkshire Police. However due to Stuart's imminent redeployment to another role within the service, he would not be able to attend future meetings, therefore a permanent police representative is still to be found. **ZB/RB**
- 2.5 The priority given to graffiti offences by the police was discussed. Whilst graffiti will not merit the same priority as crimes such as robbery and burglary it is taken seriously. It was noted that graffiti can affect local residents' perception of how safe an area is to live in. It was requested that the Community Safety Co-ordinator write to an appropriate manager within West Yorkshire Police to encourage the police to take a strong stance **ZB**

when dealing with the issue of graffiti within Inner North West Leeds.

- 2.6 It was commented that diversionary work could also be beneficial when targeted at known and potential graffiti offenders. A letter from Enforcement to Education Leeds, encouraging the development of diversionary and educational projects within schools, was circulated to the meeting
- 2.7 Regarding minute 2.6 on information gathered by the council from public reports of graffiti, **Frieda Haley circulated information on reports of graffiti within Inner North West Leeds. Frieda will send this information to councillors and the Neighbourhood Policing Team on a monthly basis (key message).** **FH**
- 2.8 Information on graffiti removal activities that occurred as part of a clean up operation in the Harolds and Thornvilles in Hyde Park was shared with the meeting.
- 2.9 A quarterly table detailing graffiti removal activities in Inner North West Leeds was circulated to the meeting
- 2.10 Regarding minute 3.3 on the potential for information sharing with the Youth Offending Service (YOS), it was reported that this would not be possible as the offence of graffiti was classed under the more general heading of criminal damage, making it impossible for precise information on incidences of graffiti to be extracted from YOS data.
- 2.11 Regarding minute 3.5 on the removal of graffiti from NTL phone boxes Janine McHugh is looking into the matter from an enforcement perspective, to explore opportunities to compel NTL to take responsibility for the removal of such graffiti. **JM**
- 2.12 Regarding minute 2.6 on the draft Graffiti Strategy, it is anticipated that the strategy will be finalised in the near future.
- 3.0 Time & date of next meeting**
- 3.1** 1.00 pm, Tuesday 18th March 2007, Civic Hall
- 4.0 Key messages**
- 4.1** Minutes 2.3, and 2.7 were agreed as key messages