



28 January 2022

## GRAFFITI TASK GROUP – 3 FEBRUARY 2022

An inaugural meeting of the Graffiti Task Group will be held at 5.30pm on Thursday 3 February 2022 via Microsoft Teams.

Mannie Ketley  
Executive Director

### A G E N D A

#### PART 1 – PUBLIC BUSINESS

1. Appointment of Chair.

To appoint a Chair of the Task Group for the 2021/22 municipal year.

2. Apologies.

To receive apologies for absence from the meeting.

3. Declarations of Interest.

To receive declarations of:

(a) non-pecuniary interests as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors;

(b) pecuniary interests as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors; and

(c) notice under Section 106 Local Government Finance Act 1992 – non-payment of Community Charge or Council Tax.

***Note: Members are reminded that they should declare the existence and nature of their interests at the commencement of the meeting (or as soon as the interest becomes apparent). If that interest is a pecuniary interest the Member must withdraw from the room unless one of the exceptions applies.***

***Membership of Warwickshire County Council or any Parish Council is classed as a non-pecuniary interest under the Code of Conduct. A Member does not need to declare this interest unless the Member chooses to speak on a matter relating to their membership. If the Member does not wish to speak on the matter, the Member may still vote on the matter without making a declaration.***

4. Purpose of the Task Group (briefing paper and one-page strategy attached).
5. Scene Setting for the Review of Graffiti and Possible Funding Streams as per Motion.
6. Next Steps.

**Membership of the Task Group:**

Councillors Douglas, Ellis, Rabin and Ms Watson-Merret.

*If you have any general queries with regard to this agenda please contact Veronika Beckova, Democratic Services Officer (01788 533591 or e-mail [veronika.beckova@rugby.gov.uk](mailto:veronika.beckova@rugby.gov.uk)). Any specific queries concerning reports should be directed to the listed contact officer.*

## **GRAFFITI TASK GROUP**

**3 FEBRUARY 2022**

### **PURPOSE OF THE TASK GROUP**

#### **1. WHAT IS GRAFFITI?**

“Graffiti is a type of art genre that means writing or drawings made on a wall or other surface, usually without permission and within public view.”

In England and Wales, graffiti is considered an act of criminal damage under the Criminal Damage Act 1971 and offenders can be punished with a prison sentence of up to ten years or fined if the damage costs more than £5,000. Offenders can also be punished under the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003, giving Councils the authority to issue on the spot fines of £50 to anyone caught doing graffiti on public property.

Unwanted graffiti on walls or buildings can look unsightly and lower the value of properties and neighbourhoods. The difficulty with removing graffiti rests in how easy it is to damage the surface of a building or wall trying to remove it. Due to this, it is considered best to use professional services to remove graffiti where reported.

It is estimated that graffiti costs the UK over £1 billion per year to clean up.

#### **2. REPORTED GRAFFITI IN RUGBY**

Graffiti can be reported to the Council through the ‘Report a Problem’ online form on the borough council website and direct to the Community Wardens on 0800 096 8800.

Community Wardens who discover graffiti whilst on patrol will report incidents to WSU to add to monthly job sheets for removal.

The Safer Neighbourhood Team also report graffiti to the borough council and liaise with Community Wardens and WSU, gathering locations and potential gang tagging.

Please see attached report for graffiti reports, image examples for the financial year 2021/22.



GRAFFITI TASK  
GROUP DATA 21-22.x



Graffiti 2021 and  
2022.xlsx

### 3. GRAFFITI CLEANING – WSU

WSU have the responsibility for the removal of graffiti for the borough council and have provided the below projections for 'actual costs' of removing. This includes all considered costs for a one-hour job sheet:

Itemised Expense	Cost
2x Staff + Vehicle and Jetter	£84.70 per hour
Materials used i.e. paint, chemicals and detergent's	£15

### 4. COMMERCIAL CLEANING – INTERNET SEARCH

There are various options that can be used to clean graffiti depending on the location and surface. Commercial costs have been obtained from external sources:

Graffiti Removal Method	Estimated Cost	Time Required
Chemical Cleaning	£15 - £20 per square metre	1 hour per square metre
Steam Cleaning	£15 - £20 per square metre	1 to 2 hours per square metre
Sandblasting	£20 - £25 per square metre	1 to 2 hours per square metre
Anti-graffiti Coating	£15 - £20 per square metre	1 hour per square metre

### 5. LEGAL GRAFFITI

There are examples of 155 legal graffiti spots in the United Kingdom that can be located at: [www.legal-walls.net](http://www.legal-walls.net)

### 6. GRAFFITI SOLUTIONS

There are a number of solutions posed for preventing graffiti, including:

- 1) Building lighting
- 2) Anti-graffiti laminate coatings
- 3) Landscaping – thorny bushes etc
- 4) Multi-coloured designs
- 5) Security cameras
- 6) Awareness campaigns
- 7) Local watch groups for reporting and engaging local community

### APPENDICES ATTACHED

Appendix 1 – One-Page Strategy (approved by Scrutiny Committee on 22 November 2021)

## ONE-PAGE STRATEGY

### **What is the broad topic area?**

To investigate solutions and explore funding opportunities aimed at reducing incidents of graffiti.

### **What is the specific topic area?**

To review the direct and indirect costs of graffiti and the impact on Council resources. Consider ways of reducing the level of unwelcome graffiti by looking at the data and information available and exploring possible solutions. The review will help identify the Council's role for graffiti removal and what preventative measures could be utilised, what part volunteer services, the community and external organisations can play in the reporting or removal of graffiti. What enforcement action or volunteer, art-led or community solutions exist?

### **What should be considered?**

Financial aspects including cost of graffiti removal to the Council.

The impact on Council resources?

To assess the environmental and social impacts.

To identify arts-led funding or solutions.

Benchmark the current service provision. What enforcement activity takes place?

What preventative steps and proactive measures can be taken.

Clarification of the legal powers that exist.

What intelligence of the problem exists, including any data on the type and scale of graffiti?

How graffiti is reported and what the Council's role in removal is.

Definition of graffiti – art vs vandalism.

Examples of best practice, to compare the Council's policies with other similar local authorities, police or community schemes.

The distinction between public and private land and the ability to signpost residents and businesses to agencies for support.

### **Who shall we consult?**

To engage the wider public as a whole.

### **How long should it take?**

The suggested timeline is four meetings:

- 1) Background and agree a programme of steps
- 2) Evidence gathering
- 3) Identify potential funding sources and solutions
- 4) Next steps, action planning and review recommendations.

### **What will be the outcome?**

Recommendations that will result in the reduction of the level of unwelcome graffiti and the associated costs of removal.

Improvement to the local street scene and make affected areas more attractive.

Service improvements for the reporting and removal of graffiti.

Successfully engage and involve young people previously involved in graffiti tagging reducing anti-social behaviour.

Contribute to developing local identity and generating community pride.