HELLESDON PARISH COUNCIL

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Graffiti Policy

Policy Statement

- This policy covers graffiti on Hellesdon Parish Council property
- Hellesdon Parish Council promotes respect for the environment and will strive for a Cleaner, Greener, Sustainable and Safer Environment.
- This policy seeks to improve the street scene and reduce the fear of crime, for the benefit of all those who live in, work and visit Hellesdon.
- The target will be to remove racist and/or offensive graffiti on Parish Council property within one working day of the report being made.
- The target for removing other graffiti from Parish Council property will be to remove it within 10 working days of the reported date.
- The Council will work with Agencies and Utility Companies to reduce graffiti on street furniture and other apparatus.
- The Council will work with the Police and other organisations to reduce the occurrence of graffiti.

1. Definition of Graffiti

Graffiti can include drawings, scribbles, messages or 'tags' that are painted, written, sprayed or etched on walls and other surfaces.

2. Definition of Offensive Graffiti

- Offensive Graffiti is illegal and unauthorised and may contain some or all of the following elements:
- Offensive language
- Language of a political, radical, religiously insulting or inciting nature
- A graphically explicit image
- Any statement declaring hatred of any person or group, particularly those with a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010

3. Principles of the Policy

Hellesdon Parish Council is committed to making Hellesdon Safer, Cleaner and Greener as detailed in the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 and the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.

There are three main principles to the Policy:

a. Eradication

Reducing unacceptable levels of litter, detritus, fly posting and graffiti forms a key part of Government's 'Cleaner Safer Greener Communities' Strategy.

Hellesdon Parish Council has a responsibility to remove graffiti from its own property, just as the maintenance of privately owned items of street furniture is the responsibility of the respective owners.

b. Education

The Council will publish this policy on the Council's website and will work with other agencies to reduce graffiti in Hellesdon.

When asked to do so, the Parish Council will advise members of the public on whom to contact regarding graffiti removal from private property.

c. Enforcement

Under certain circumstances, Graffiti is classified as a criminal offence under the Criminal Damage Act 1971. The Police Service is the only enforcement agency with the legislative powers to prosecute an offence of Criminal Damage.