

THRAPSTON TOWN COUNCIL

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GRAFFITI REMOVAL POLICY

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The Council recognises any kind of Graffiti has a negative impact on the environment.

Definition of Graffiti

The illegal or unauthorised defacing of a building, wall or other structure or object by painting or otherwise marking it with words, pictures or symbols.

Definition of Offensive Graffiti

Offensive graffiti will be illegal or unauthorised and may contain some or all of the following elements:

- Offensive language.
- Language of a discriminatory nature.
- A hate statement.
- An image that is graphically explicit.
- An image that is visually offensive or textually offensive by the message that it contains.

Action for the Removal of Graffiti

On sightings or reports of offensive or obscene graffiti the Council will assess and use it's best endeavours to remove any such graffiti within 24 hours. Action to remove non offensive or obscene graffiti will be assessed and planned, with priority, into the Facilities team schedule of work.

If the graffiti is on property not owned by the Council, the Council will request the owner to remove it and will provide advice on the many different methods of removal, environmentally sustainable products suitable for the removal of graffiti and if appropriate assistance. Should the identified property owner not remove the graffiti within 28 days, the Council may seek to issue a Community Protection Notice in accordance with the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and any subsequent Regulations. A written formal warning notice must be issued first giving a reasonable timescale for removal.

Other private and public companies have a duty to remove graffiti from their own property and the Council will inform these companies of any graffiti as soon as there have been any sightings or reports. These companies include:

- British Telecom
- Electricity, Gas and Water utility providers
- Highways Agency
- Royal Mail
- Bus or transport companies
- Councils outside of the Town Council.

The Town Council reserves the right to amend and update this policy from time to time.

Adopted by Thrapston Town Council
10th September 2019

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Chairman

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Town Clerk