

The Use of Volunteers to combat Envirocrime, Nuisance and Disorderly Behaviour

Report from the Combating Envirocrime Task Group

Introduction

Residents' surveys, residents' panel questionnaires and ward surveys demonstrate residents' concern over flytipping, graffiti, vandalism and abandoned vehicles. Issues of graffiti and vandalism are general in the Borough and are amongst the top four concerns of residents in all wards.

During the course of the review, the task group became impressed with the success of a number of authorities in working with volunteers. Our key general points can be summarised as follows:

- Tackling envirocrime is a key component of Merton's corporate vision;
- Other London Boroughs have had a great deal of success in recruiting and retaining volunteers to tackle envirocrime. We wish to learn from their good practice;
- Merton has already taken steps in this area – the success of the FLAG initiative and the work of tree wardens, has demonstrated what we can achieve;
- Merton residents have already shown a willingness to volunteer – though graffiti clean-ups that have already taken place and through expressions of interest in the ward surveys in the tree warden, graffiti clean-ups and neighbourhood watch schemes;
- We would like to build on this experience and this potential in a way that is not forced by the Civic Centre but rather builds on what we already have in an 'organic' way;
- We would like a clear, easy, efficient, fast and uniform (across the Borough) approach to recruiting volunteers and enabling them to work with the Council;
- The advantages of working in partnership with volunteers to meet the challenges of envirocrime go far beyond improving the local environment: there are important community building consequences and opportunities to enhance the well-being of local people;
- We feel strongly that there is a need for cross-department working to meet the potential of volunteers and the challenge of envirocrime and would like to see all departments pull together to make it work.

Our recommendations are highlighted in the body of this report. The ones relating to working with volunteers appear on pages 9 and 10.

1 Our focus

The task group¹ set out to examine ways of tackling envirocrime, nuisance and disorderly behaviour (the terms of reference are described in appendix A).

We searched for means of adding value to the existing policies, procedures and practices. Our focus fell at first on volunteers and paid wardens but soon narrowed onto the potential contribution of volunteers. This reflected the evidence we gathered from many sources, the experiences of other London boroughs and the belief that it was in the development of volunteering that real value could be added to the work taking place every day to create a smarter Merton.

2 Why volunteering?

Volunteering is not about smartening Merton on the cheap. On the contrary, the experience of other local authorities has demonstrated that doing it well takes a great deal of investment of resources in empowering and equipping local people. The value of volunteering is immeasurable when we look at its power to build community networks, to create feelings of well being, ownership of places and a greater sense of community spirit.

Tackling cleaning, greening and making our environment safer has been recognised by our partners on the Local Strategic Partnership as a priority. This is reflected in the Council's vision, its corporate priorities and the growth in these areas in this year's coming budget (2003/04). We believe that the development of volunteering could contribute significantly to making Merton a cleaner, greener, safer place to live, work and learn.

3 Our methods

During the course of the review we heard evidence from many people, including the senior street warden at LB Sutton, Merton volunteers, our head of street management, our warden scheme manager, warden supervisor, a neighbourhood warden and a key member of the Council's graffiti team: we are very grateful for their time and for sharing their experience. We are also grateful for the assistance and evidence from a range of other people, especially from officers from Bexley, Croydon, Newham and Lewisham and various Merton Council officers from different departments.

4 Good practice from elsewhere

During the review we looked at what many local authorities were doing to harness the power of local people to make a difference to their neighbourhoods. We were particularly impressed with the achievements of London boroughs of Bexley, Newham, Croydon and Lewisham. They have developed innovative ways of working with local people - in partnership - to improve their environment. We would like to use their approaches to make a difference in Merton.

¹ Councillors John Nelson-Jones (Chair), Nick Draper (Vice-Chair), John Dehaney, Richard Harwood, Judy Saunders, Andrew Shellhorn, David Simpson and Mickey Spacey

Bexley

Bexley's litter picker project started two years ago as part of initiatives around the Keep Britain Tidy drive. A number of residents' names had come through the park ranger service saying they like to walk in the park and are happy to pick litter on the way. The Council recognized the potential of this sentiment and decided to take advantage of it.

They used the Council's Borough-wide magazine to place adverts and to 'whet the appetite of the local freebie papers'. Articles ran on the lines of 'would you like to help us keep the Borough clean and tidy?' They offered people an extended arm litter-picker, protective gloves, an endless supply of bags and a tabard.

There are now 122 volunteer litter pickers on the list - though they are not all active all the time. The Council writes to anyone making an enquiry welcoming them to the task group. They then get delivered 24 bags and the rest of the equipment and are asked to contact the Council should they need anything more (or they can get supplies from their local park). Rubbish collected can be left in their bins with no questions asked.

The Women's Institute has been involved with around 30 members active in Bexley village. They run a purge every now and then and leave all the rubbish in a designated area and the Council comes and collects it. The litter pickers cover parks as well as public highways. Anyone wishing to take part can collect a litter picker, protective gloves and a bag from the Council so that when they go for a walk or walk their dogs they can help with the clean up and improve the environment.

The Council asks each volunteer where they intend to pick litter from and a Council officer colours a map so he can see how much of the Borough is covered by litter picker volunteers. They emphasise though that the work of volunteers is NOT an alternative to the work of the Council's contractor - it is adding value to the existing service.

The volunteers also act as eyes and ears when they're out picking litter and are written to by the same Council officer about every 6 months to check there are no problems.

The litter pickers have not transformed into an army of graffiti removers: it is the neighbourhood watch groups that get involved in graffiti removal. The Council supplies for free a graffiti removal kit (worth £80) to any organised group that wish to do clean ups.

Newham

Newham invited local people to vote for the worst eyesore in the Borough by phone, post or through the Council website. Those eyesores were for instance neglected buildings (private or Council owned), sites or patches of land, derelict buildings or run-down commercial premises. Some eyesores were tackled straight away, others required work in partnership with the private sector and took much longer. A short list of the worst eyesores was drawn up and a group of cross-department officers went on a tour of the troublespots. Twelve eyesores were tackled in the first year and local people were encouraged by the action of the Council and felt assured that it was working hard. A flytipped piece of wasteland was turned into a pocket park, a run down mess of a disused office block was turned into quality flats and a rundown Council building turned into key worker homes.

Our task group was impressed with the work of Newham, which had acted in a cross-departmental way and in partnership with local people and the private sector. The Council also

faced up to its own contribution to neglect and importantly, acted where it did not have responsibility. LB Newham describes this aspect of the Eyesores Project on its website:

‘The Council also needed to adopt a flexible, proactive approach to tackle sites, many of which it did not own, and therefore had little control over. This needed a fundamental cultural change where the Council accepted responsibility for all aspects of the Borough’s environment and the refusal to tolerate the continuation of eyesores in the Borough’ (www.newham.gov.uk/content/Environment/eyesores.jsp).

Together with local people they tackled the worst examples of visual, environmental blight in the Borough. We think that Merton has the ability to do the same.

Croydon

Croydon started off with an objective to encourage local residents to become actively involved in improving and maintaining their local environment. To take this objective forward, LB Croydon has recruited over 150 Street Champions who regularly report envirocrime issues to the Council. The profile of the scheme is high – even a local MP is signed up as a Street Champion. The main role of these street champions is to work with street scene officers to monitor and report on the condition of the street scene. They also have the opportunity to become actively involved in clean ups of their local area.

Croydon have brought their environmental improvement projects under one banner, ‘Smarter Croydon’. This has enabled the Council to see the extent of its efforts and to demonstrate to local people – including would-be volunteers – that they are working hard to clean up the Borough.

Recommendation 1: That we follow the Smarter Croydon example and pull together our efforts under one umbrella project with a banner such as ‘Smarter Merton’

Croydon has set aside a pot of £250,000 for local people to bid into for improvements to their street or local area. Individuals are encouraged to team up with their neighbours to assist in the improvements and to choose (and then bid to a maximum of £500) from a menu of costed items such as:

- ‘No flytipping’ or other notices - £75
- New street litter bins - £125
- Litter pick/ rubbish clearance - £20 per hour
- New tree and tree pit - £30 tree, £200 pit
- Anti graffiti trellis - £25 per 2metres
- Plant bulbs on grass verge - £5-10 per sq metre

Eighty projects were completed in an 18-month period and residents who took part gained a greater sense of ownership when they assisted in the improvement of their neighbourhood. So successful was the scheme that the pot of money soon ran out. We would like Merton to examine the possibilities of making available a pot of money for street improvements and to encourage individuals as well as residents’ groups to access the funds.

(www.croydon.gov.uk/smartercroydon/webpages/SmartStreets.htm)

Lewisham

Lewisham has an army of around 700 Street Leaders who not only report problems but also get involved in clean ups. They are united by the determination to fight the envirocriminals and to do

something about their local environment and are actively encouraged through a regular newsletter and regular conferences.

The Street Leaders help with river clean ups, graffiti removal, litter picks or work with private landowners to rid a site of flytipping, rubbish and graffiti. They are informed through a regular newsletter on what their Council is doing to tackle envirocrime – the high level meetings it has with MPs or Railtrack (now the Strategic Rail Authority), the naming and shaming of private companies that flytip and the clamp downs on dirty dog owners. Through the newsletter, Street Leaders are shown how their role is a vital part of the jigsaw. They are also told of the things other Leaders are doing, forthcoming events and how the Council is making the most of the approaches to tackle envirocrime – education, enforcement and clean ups.

Street Leaders are also encouraged through regular conferences, which come with free breakfast and key speakers that reflect the seriousness with which the street leader scheme is regarded. Speakers have included the directly elected Mayor and key Council officers – an enforcement officer and the pest control and animal welfare manager.

Street Leaders are encouraged to set up a Neighbourhood Environmental Action Team (NEAT). NEATs aim to encourage local people to take ownership of the environment to benefit the whole community and engender a sense of civic pride. They tackle issues such as graffiti, flytipping and recycling or even energy saving initiatives. The NEAT might work on looking at how to raise revenue to carry out environmental projects, planting shrubs and flowers, developing new and innovative ideas for improving the quality of the local environment or gaining publicity for their work.

Lewisham residents have also formed six graffiti buster teams who remove graffiti regularly because they see it as the best way to deter its reappearance. To encourage the setting up of these teams, the Council encourages residents to host a graffiti buster party. A Council representative goes to the party to talk about graffiti, how to remove it and what the Council is doing to eradicate it. This is then followed by a practical exercise in removing graffiti and training. The initial clear up of the area is carried out by a graffiti removal contractor and then after being supplied with equipment and protective clothing, residents can organize their own clear ups. Appendix C gives some more detail on the work of Lewisham in this area (www.lewisham-streetleaders.org.uk).

The task group has been impressed with the extent to which Lewisham has recruited such an army of volunteers and their work in maintaining their numbers. Clearly there has been a great deal of thought and effort into making the scheme a success – and we can see though the newsletters just how much effort LB Lewisham is taking to fulfil their vision to make the Borough the best place to live, work and learn.

Bexley, Newham, Croydon and Lewisham have benefited hugely from their schemes that have enabled local people to make a visible difference to their local environment. But the difference is not just visible – it is also in a sense spiritual – a sense of community and a sense of well being is a key consequence of their work.

Merton is doing a great deal already to make our own corporate vision a reality. We would like to pull the strands together, show local people how much we are doing and enable them to build on existing work.

5 Why we think it will work in Merton

Merton Council has already shown its commitment in this area not just in words (such as its vision) but also in its actions (the many schemes already in progress – see below). This year's budget process reflected the desire on the part of the Council to respond to the wishes expressed in the ward surveys for a cleaner and smarter local environment. Merton residents have already shown a willingness to both report problems and get involved in clean ups (see details in Appendix B). Many have also indicated a willingness to move beyond occasional ad hoc clear-ups and engage in on-going clean-up activity.

6 We have already made a start

We cannot know the entire extent of volunteer work because some residents might just be cleaning the pavement outside their home and we would have no reason to know this. Residents act as volunteers through Area Forums, Merton Environment and Safety Forum, residents' associations, friends of parks and tenant participation initiatives within the Housing department.

As in other local authorities, there can be seen to be a divide between residents simply reporting problems - acting as 'eyes and ears' – and residents getting actively involved in cleaning up an area. The following local initiatives were of particular interest to the task group:

The FLAG Project The emphasis of work on envirocrime is to work in partnership with other agencies – especially the police. The FLAG project started in November 2001 with a £180,000 grant from the Home Office and the first year review of the project has just been completed. Although the Merton scheme is judged a success, there is no chance of further Home Office funding because the government does not feel that the scheme has been effective enough in the rest of the country. The FLAG project includes a project whereby the youth offending team works with young people at risk to paint over graffiti and occasional litter picks. Merton has benefited from over 200 hours of youth offenders time in clean ups.

The **Council's graffiti team** organises regular graffiti clean ups when incidence is reported to them. Last year there were 30 clean up days. The team has actively encouraged local people to join in the clean up – many have been willing to do so, though some events see very few people taking part.

The St Heliers **Street Leaders Scheme** was designed in response to a Best Value review of Opportunities for Older People. Friends in St Helier agreed to work with the Council on this pilot scheme of 90 or so members who act as eyes and ears, reporting such things as abandoned cars, graffiti, flytipping, potholes, street lights that are not working and cracked paving. They had use of an exclusive freephone line to report problems. Members of the group felt that they had helped the street scene and that they are helping their community in a positive way. Running from March to June 2002, it was regarded as a success and there are plans to extend it across the Borough.

Merton **Tree Warden Scheme** has been running for over ten years. There has never been any funding except for the very first year - no training budget and only the Arboricultural Manager and limited administrative support . The tree wardens have a fine record of reporting tree problems, undertaking base surveys, taking part in and sometimes leading on planting projects (e.g. Millennium Wood and recently Jubilee Wood) and such things as browsing Planning

Applications for their effect on trees. There is a committee and a volunteer co-ordinator and current membership is around forty, though many of the members are 'sleepers'.

The neighbourhood wardens, town centre wardens and park rangers

The task group has been impressed by the work of the wardens in reporting environmental issues and providing a reassuring presence, which has such an important psychological impact on well being. The scope for volunteers to discourage and combat disorderly behaviour is limited but the patrolling activities of uniformed wardens and rangers can make a big difference. This is reinforced by their involvement as professional witnesses, assistants in dealing with truants and difficult families and reporters of drug dealing and criminal behaviour. The task group was also impressed with the positive work of the park rangers in their liaison with and guidance to sports and park users.

Merton currently has 8 neighbourhood wardens and a supervisor. Together they patrol six target areas - Sadlers Close, Steersmead, Abbey Orchard and College Fields (Lavender Fields ward), Armfield Crescent and Laburnum (Figges Marsh ward), Pollards Hill Estate (Pollards Hill ward), and Phipps Bridge Estate (Cricket Green ward). Part of the St Helier estate comes under LB Sutton and their neighbourhood wardens and part comes under LB Merton. The task group was keen to work with LB Sutton, which has demonstrated much experience and expertise in wardening, to provide a joint Borough wardening scheme on the estate.

Recommendation 2: That a joint warden scheme with Sutton on the St Helier Estate be arranged in partnership with LB Sutton.

Over half the workload of the wardens is spent on environmental issues, with about a quarter on antisocial behaviour issues and the remainder on crime issues and community support. Some also get involved in 'softer' issues including organising youth events such as football matches, arranging summer events for young people and visiting the elderly at their homes.

Town centre wardens

There are also two town centre wardens based in Mitcham and Wimbledon town centres. The wardens patrol their town centre reporting envirocrimes such as graffiti and abandoned cars and generally provide a reassuring presence, which deters crime and antisocial behaviour.

Park rangers

Merton's park ranger service is made up of 11 full-time wardens and about 13 part-time wardens, who work a minimum of 14 hours per week and cover weekends. Savings of £119,000 however have been sought from the park ranger service during the current budget process and we are concerned about the potential effects of this budget cut on the service. This ranger service was established in 2002 to assist members of the public in their enjoyment of parks and open spaces covered and also to inspect playgrounds and facilities. Local park users such as sports clubs and Parks Friends know their particular Park Rangers, as do some local schools.

7 How we can build on our experience

From the experiences of other local authorities, the task group felt that there was a need for a corporate-strategic approach to volunteers. Important in this was a uniform approach to people who offer to work with the Council to improve their local environment through ward surveys. We felt there was a need to ensure that a set process be put in place (with infrastructure to support

it) that includes who will follow up offers of assistance from volunteers, how costs will be met and how quickly we will mobilise offers of assistance. It was felt that with some more preparation, ward surveys could boost clean ups and help LBM to maximise the offers of volunteers.

As part of this strategic approach the task group felt there was a need for central co-ordination, with the same process, leaflets, named officer, advice and support given to people wherever they are in the Borough who want to work with the Council to smarten their local environment. We felt that there was a need for a cross-department team to tackle envirocrime, or combine it as part of any departmental restructuring. We would like such a team to meet regularly and to report performance information every six months to the environment and regeneration scrutiny panel. We would like the various parts of the Council that work on envirocrime to feed into this work and that an umbrella project be arranged under the banner, 'Smarter Merton' with central publicity and appropriate resourcing.

The task group agreed that, as a basic minimum, volunteers should be encouraged to act as 'eyes and ears' – Merton residents already act in this capacity on abandoned cars, graffiti and other envirocrimes. Some residents have already shown they are prepared to go further than just monitoring – for example taking part in the graffiti clean ups organised by the Council's graffiti team and giving witness statements on graffiti. We also have volunteers in limited areas (Colliers Wood) doing litter picks. A key concern of the task group was having the infrastructure and funds to support the volunteers – for example, having the ability to cover the disposal costs of rubbish clearance.

8 Organic growth

The task group believes that community volunteering works best when neighbours encourage their neighbours to join in. While centrally co-ordinating the empowerment of volunteers, we could ruin the potential for growth if the Council tries to control things at grass roots. Publicity for success, information and guidance for volunteers must be centrally organised but the encouragement to volunteer must be organized locally. We need to empower the community to develop the potential of volunteer-partnership working in a more bottom-up way.

Our clean-ups must be sustainable and must pick out the volunteers already established and then bridge the gaps. One way might be to encourage chairs of residents' associations to talk to other potential residents' groups, rather than the Council doing so. We would like to see the publicity for clean-ups examined by the graffiti clean up team and the press office to look at ways that it can be stepped up to increase resident turn out. When clean ups are arranged we would like to see leaflet-drops made to the streets and would also like to know through a leaflet delivered through their doors about the successes of the clean up within two weeks of it taking place.

9 Potential for growth of volunteer activity

Through local ward surveys, Merton has collected the details of over 1000 residents who have expressed a wish to volunteer for a variety of community or Council-led initiatives on envirocrime. The ward surveys have also produced over 100 specific concerns in each ward, which have been investigated and acted upon. A number of recommendations on the ward surveys were made, which we would like to see in place when they are next carried out.

We would like to see promises of volunteers turned into commitments through ward surveys. We are disappointed that Council requests for volunteer tree wardens through the survey

produced no new volunteers. We regret that although many residents expressed interest in the graffiti 'hit squads', no contact has been made so far.

The use of volunteers should not be confined to ad hoc clear-ups: some volunteers will be keen to participate in on-going graffiti clear-up activity. They should be supplied with basic graffiti clear-up training and equipment and be allocated by agreement with one or more streets to keep free from graffiti on an on-going basis.

Recommendation 3: the Council must act quickly once a resident has volunteered. In the case of ward surveys, contact should be made within a couple of weeks. Clean ups in wards should be organised within a month of closing date for receipt of ward surveys.

Recommendation 4: Care must be taken with how local people are contacted. In general we believe personal contact will be most effective.

Recommendation 5: That ward surveys be carried out, with appropriate additional staffing and resources as necessary, at least every two years.

Recommendation 6: That arrangements be made by LBM to encourage and support volunteers who are prepared to clean up graffiti on an ongoing basis.

We appreciate the severe budgetary restraints we are operating under as well as the fact that what works well in one authority does not necessarily work as well in another. For these reasons, we have tried not to be prescriptive and have limited our recommendations in number. We have preferred instead to ask officers to report back to us on what can be achieved in Merton in the short term and how we can maximize our achievements in this area in the longer term. We recommend the following steps be taken:

Recommendation 7: Create a small cross-departmental team of senior officers to take forward this report led by an officer at head of service level, not linked to a service providing department.

Recommendation 8: The cross-departmental team to find out from Council officers, wardens and the graffiti team who are already encouraging and working with volunteers what further support they might need to enhance their work.

Recommendation 9: The team to map out existing pockets of volunteers and examine ways to build **organically** on what we already have using the experience of other London boroughs.

Recommendation 10: The team to talk with Bexley, Croydon, Newham and Lewisham (and other authorities demonstrating good practice in this area) to develop a scheme similar to that of Lewisham where a flourishing culture has emerged of local people sharing responsibility for their local environment and working with the Council on an on-going basis to improve it.

Recommendation 11: To produce a regular newsletter that shows what the Council, in partnership with residents and others, has been doing to improve the local environment.

Recommendation 12: To encourage people who report problems to agree to be sent the newsletter.

Recommendation 13: To develop a list of newsletter recipients and encourage them to go beyond reporting to on-going clean up activity.

Recommendation 14: To build the confidence of the community, the Authority should immediately step up the publicity on what the Council is doing (especially in partnership with local people) to tackle envirocrime – local press should be on the newsletter circulation list.

Recommendation 15: Ward surveys should be used as a tool to recruit volunteers and once they are returned, contact must be made with volunteers within a couple of weeks. Clean ups in wards should be organised within a month of closing date for receipt of ward surveys.

Recommendation 16: The team to develop a flow diagram to show process through which someone volunteering would go (a named person, direct line, or fast track from Mertonlink). This process must be fast, easy for the resident and efficient.

Recommendation 17: That the team reports regularly to the E&R scrutiny panel on progress on taking forward this report, the first team report to be by the end of October.

Conclusion

Merton has already made progress in involving volunteers and has been held up as an example of good practice on a number of occasions. Recent examples are:

- ✓ Wimbledon police have been invited to the police training base, Brams Hill, to tell high-flyers recruits of our work with them in tackling envirocrime
- ✓ A presentation of the FLAG project to other local authorities at a New Local Government Network organised conference on Liveability at the Institute of Directors, SW1
- ✓ The Arboricultural Manager's team received an award from the Tree Council in recognition of our ten years as a group. This was collected by the Arboricultural Manager at a reception at the House of Commons on behalf of tree wardens
- ✓ The Neighbourhood Warden Scheme was visited by Minister and won a national award

There is a real opportunity not only to make a difference to the quality of the local environment but also to tie together the things the Authority is doing and tell people about them. Merton has the political will, the expertise and willing residents to make a difference. Volunteering is about improving the local environment but also about enhancing well being, building community networks and generating a sense of community spirit. Bexley and Lewisham have attracted volunteers on a large scale, Merton should aim to do likewise.

Terms of reference

The task group set out with the following terms of reference which are responded to in this report:

1. What are the most significant issues facing Merton regarding envirocrime, nuisance and disorderly behaviour?
2. What areas are particularly subject to envirocrime, nuisance and vandalism?
3. What volunteers and paid wardens are currently available and what geographical or specialist areas do they cover?
4. What attempts are currently being made by other authorities to engage and encourage the use of volunteers and paid wardens to combat envirocrime, nuisance and disorderly behaviour?
5. What initiatives or policies if any, is Merton currently working on or involved in to encourage and engage the use of volunteers and paid wardens in these areas?
6. What training, support and facilities are made available to the volunteers and paid wardens including uniforms, badges, equipment and hotlines?
7. What are the roles that they can perform, including monitoring, reporting, providing a visible presence, patrolling, identifying acting as professional witnesses and cleaning up?
8. What powers if any should be given to the volunteers and paid wardens and what should their relationship be with the police?
9. To identify gaps or weaknesses in current provision and consider what improvements could be made
10. To identify relevant funding opportunities
11. To consider whether it would be appropriate to co-opt members from outside organisations onto the panel for the purposes of the policy review in line with the guidelines drawn up
12. To make periodic recommendations to the scrutiny commission on the panel's progress and findings

The main projects or organisations already volunteering to smarten Merton

The FLAG Project (see report)

The **Council's graffiti team** (see report)

The **Street Leaders Scheme** (see report)

Tenants and volunteering Many tenants already report matters of concern, particularly through local tenant associations. In addition, local resident associations have been supportive of initiatives such as graffiti walls². The housing department is currently developing a tenant participation strategy to help people form groups.

Battle Area Residents' Association undertakes regular graffiti clean ups, often at very short notice. Getting rid of the graffiti immediately and repainting the area defaced reduces the level of incidence. The involvement of young offenders in the clean up and the use of local school children to paint murals in key areas has reduced the overall incidence of graffiti.

Parks Friends Around 6 parks have active Friends group. Some are active in raising money to add features to parks and there is a general belief within the service that it is key for local residents to regain ownership.

Merton Park Ward Residents' Association A few residents have used private companies to do special work such as painting walls with graffiti resistant coating.

South Wimbledon PA run regular 6-monthly graffiti removals days in Haydons Park area.

Wimbledon Park Heritage Group and Wimbledon House Residents' Association.

The Wimbledon Park Heritage Group has mounted a successful anti-graffiti campaign. In conjunction with the Council's Community and Cultural Services Division, supplies of paint, brushes and graffiti removal solvents were made available to the group so that they could restore the park buildings, seats, power stations, etc. Other Residents' Associations have taken up this challenge and have cleared graffiti from their areas.

² Walls or spaces where there is controlled graffiti art.

Extract from LB Lewisham Street Leaders' Newsletter