
From Vandalism to Vibrancy

A briefing from Sheffield BID
January 2025

Over 130 jobs logged since 1 Nov 24

A small sample of the vandalism ...





Many “hot spots” require urgent attention











Significant damage is being done – even with specialist cleaning, it's not always possible to remove completely from brickwork



A worrying trend is the use of a (as yet) unidentified substance which is burning into glass leaving an 'etched' effect



Since 2015 Sheffield BID has provided a discretionary and free graffiti removal service direct to premises liable for the BID levy.

Since November 2024, we've been addressing the broader issue. This is a year-long campaign which has proven overwhelming and resource intensive.

But ...







NO CASH
STORED ON
THESE PREMISES
SAERS

FIRE EXIT
KEEP CLEAR

FIRE EXIT
KEEP CLEAR

... we are making good progress.

60% of the vandalism identified on commercial premises has been cleaned up including **3** major hot spots area, with much more to do (not to mention the “retagging” issues, currently at 11%)

Other partners in the mix: Amey – highway infrastructure; Council member of staff – public realm; LAC – working with Restorative Justice; South Yorkshire Police – four prosecutions in the last 12 months



We're keeping tabs on the taggers

- By documenting, analysing and storing all evidence.
- By reporting vandalism through the DISC system.
- **Catch me once, catch me 200 times** – accumulating photos of specific monikers and tracking the cost of the damage done by individuals.



The cost of covering up is endless!

Other interventions

- Exploring the use of ultra-precise, eco-friendly, ingenious graffiti removal system using **laser technology**.
- “Artists in residence” are creating **street art** projects to replace some of the vandalism.
- Community street artists are developing a **mentoring** scheme for emerging street artists.

Framework for delivery

We have:

- A “**hot spot**” watch in place to monitor areas prone to graffiti.
- **Collaboration** with building managers, and facilities management teams at both Universities.

We do:

- Conduct **frequent checks** of prime retagging sites to ensure quick removal and deterrence.
- Engage with all stakeholders to raise awareness about the **impact** of graffiti vandalism.
- Look for solutions that **prevent** graffiti vandalism.

We will:

- Continue our cleaning efforts to address and mitigate this major issue blighting the BID area.
- Collaborate with **community artists** to embrace street art, fostering creativity and establishing it as a vibrant and positive element of city centre culture.

We hope:

- Everyone will support us in the campaign against graffiti vandalism.
- To foster a cleaner, more welcoming environment for residents, businesses, and visitors in Sheffield city centre!



Project enquiries to: diane.jarvis@sheffieldbid.com

Reports of graffiti and calls for service to:
operations@sheffieldbid.com



Join us for ... the BID Spring Clean

- Our annual community clean up is back: this is our response to Keep Britain Tidy's Great British Spring Clean (21 March – 6 April) #LitterHeroes
- Join our volunteers in Sheffield City Centre on **Friday, 30 March** for the **BID Spring Clean**.
- Email enquiries@sheffieldbid.com to get involved – graffiti removal, painting, litter picking and more!