

16. ACHESON AVENUE SHOPS

Officer responsible Community Advocate	Author Alister Whitteker, Community Technical Adviser, DDI 354 1701
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The purpose of this report is to advise the Board of the results of further contact with shop owners, community groups and others in the Acheson Avenue area with regard to graffiti in the area.

The Board will recall a report to its meeting of 6 September 2000 advising of the outcomes of a meeting of the aforementioned groups with relation to graffiti around the shops and the general appearance of the shops.

The board supported the initiatives listed in the report and asked that a progress report be brought back to the Board at its November meeting.

Following the Board meeting in September a letter was sent to all the shop owners with a request to fill in and return an "authorisation to remove graffiti" form, and a request to contact the Service Centre to advise if they were prepared to take part in the design of a new colour scheme for the shops. The letter also included details of the on-site meeting listing the suggested remedies. Two replies, both favourable, were received. It is suggested that further discussions could be held with these two owners with a view to doing up their premises.

Contact has been made with Kulcha Trust and after some discussion paint brushes and rollers, cans of paint of various colours, overalls and graffiti removal solution was supplied to the group from the Board's "graffiti fund". It was agreed that the property owners would be contacted by the Trust and an approval obtained before the graffiti was removed. It has been noted on visits to the area that there has been little or no new tagging on the shops.

At the time of writing of this report the possibility of painting murals on suitable surfaces is being investigated in conjunction with the Council's Legal Arts Co-ordinator.

It is felt that the other initiatives/remedies ie the promotion of the shops and community notice board be held over for review when the needs survey, currently under way, is published.

- Recommendation:**
1. That discussions take place with the two shop owners with a view to painting the front and back of their shops.
 2. That the feasibility of painting a mural(s) be pursued and supported with funds from the Board's "graffiti fund".
 3. That the other initiatives/remedies be reviewed when the needs survey is published.

Chairperson's Recommendation: That the officer's recommendation be adopted.