

## FULL COUNCIL - 13 DECEMBER 2021

### GRAFFITI

Various racist messages appears in several locations around the town during the weekend of the 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> October.

The Town Hall team reported these to the Police and relevant authorities.

We were advised the following:

*The DCC graffiti policy with regard to structures is as follows: "In general we have a policy to remove unauthorised graffiti from the highway in accordance with Section 132 of the Highways Act. Our policy is to remove offensive graffiti from bridges and highway structures as soon as possible within 28 days, other reports are prioritised based on available resources".*

This would apply to the Marjorie Kelly Way underpass. Devon County Council did remove the graffiti well within 28 days.

National Highways (the new name for Highways England) state:

*Our policy is to remove any offensive graffiti within 24 hours and non-offensive graffiti are reported to be removed as part of future schemes.*

This would apply to the A38 underpass. National Highways and South Hams District Council did step in and tackle as they had suitable equipment in the area. This was done on the 5<sup>th</sup> November.

All offensive graffiti in the public realm was removed within about a week. The incident has highlighted who is responsible for which structure and so a quicker response should be possible next time as we can report directly to the correct authority.

Jonathan Parsons  
Town Clerk