

Date:

Our ref:

Your ref:

Clerks of Parish & Town Councils in the Epping Forest District

Dear

### **Graffiti Clearance in Epping Forest District**

As you well know, graffiti is an illegal anti-social activity that creates a negative impression of an area and contributes to people's fear of crime. It can be any writing or picture scribbled or drawn on a wall etc without the owner's consent.

Graffiti is an issue not only in Epping Forest, but also nationally and internationally. There is no legal requirement for a Local Authority to remove graffiti however, the District Council endeavours to remove graffiti on its own land, buildings and highway signage.

Epping Forest District Council introduced a graffiti policy in 2000 with the aim of removal of all graffiti reported by residents, staff and members. Unfortunately this policy has created demand within the District, which is limitless, as a consequence it has proved very difficult to match demand with available funding. Although transfer of funds has enabled these various funding crisis's to be dealt with, the Council no longer feels that this ad hoc approach can continue.

Thus, I am consulting Parish and Town Councils on a change of approach. The Council is in the process of reviewing the policy to restrict removal work to property owned by the council. A draft copy of the document is attached. Could you please let the council have your views on this.

I am arranging to place an item on Local Councils Liaison Committee meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2007 but would appreciate hearing from you before that meeting with your comments. If you require any further information regarding the draft policy please contact Caroline Wiggins Crime Reduction Co-ordinator on 01992 564122 [cwiggins@eppingforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:cwiggins@eppingforestdc.gov.uk).