



WEST BEDLINGTON
TOWN COUNCIL

Vandalism Policy

West Bedlington Town Council

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Next Review	Sept 2027

Scope

This policy and procedure applies to all assets of West Bedlington Town Council

Policy

West Bedlington Town Council takes its responsibility to protect and preserve our community owned assets and public spaces, including playgrounds very seriously. It is our duty to local taxpayers to create and maintain our unique recreational areas and community bought assets.

West Bedlington Town Council will continue to work closely with the local police and other departments to investigate each and every act of vandalism that occurs within the West Bedlington area.

The Town Council will seek compensation and / or the utmost penalty under the law against anyone who wilfully, purposefully or maliciously destroys, vandalises or otherwise defaces town's property.

This policy applies to acts by individuals or pets under their care where failure to follow common courtesy, endangers, hampers or otherwise prohibits others from safely enjoying our recreational / urban facilities. The policy also includes those with parental responsibilities for the behaviour of their child / children under legal age.

Reporting

West Bedlington Town Council Assets

On every occasion when the Town Council is notified of vandalism to its assets (bus shelters, litter bins and public seats etc, the reported vandalism will be immediately reported to Northumbria Police via their online incident reporting system.

Importantly, there should be some evidence or knowledge that any damage has been as a result of vandalism and not simply wear and tear of the asset. In addition to notifying Northumbria Police, we will assess the damage and determine how to fix the issue.

Our preferred method of reporting these issues is via email to clerk@westbedlingtontowncouncil.gov.uk or alternatively you can contact the Town Clerk (during office hours) on 01670 457070. Please provide as much detail as possible about the vandalism to help with the Police investigation.

Police Incident Reporting System

All accidents or incidents will be reported to the Police where there is evidence available of wrongdoing as this may have an overall impact on the safety of our town.

There are many incidents that happen every day around Bedlington that go unreported. If they were, they may add up to a possible long-term issue that needs to be addressed.

Northumbria Police have set up this online incident log to record evidence that could be used to submit a request to the relevant authority to get something done.
<https://www.northumbria.police.uk/ro/report/>

Note that this is NOT an alternative process for reporting serious incidents to the Police or where a crime is currently taking place. Please use the emergency 999 number to report those instances immediately.