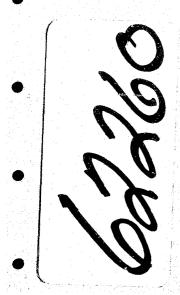
FIRST REPORT OF THE CLEVELAND COUNTY WORKING PARTY ON VANDALISM AND HOOLIGANISM



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VANDALISM AND HOOLIGANISM

NOURS

OCT 31 1979

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- Mr. F.G. Sugden, Chief Environmental Health Officer, Middlesbrough Borough Council
- Mr. W.A. Middleham, Chief Executive Officer, Langbaurgh Borough Council
- Mr. R.W. Thompson, Borough Architect, Langbaurgh Borough Council
- Mr. G. Fisher, Assistant Secretary, Langbaurgh Borough Council
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CHAPTER ONE

PROCEDURE AND GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 Terms of Reference

The Working Party on Vandalism and Hooliganism came into being as a direct result of Minutes 2187 and 2191 of the Cleveland County Council Policy and Resources Committee of the 22nd November, 1977. This followed a report by the Chief Constable on the preventative measures being taken to alleviate criminal damage, vandalism and hooliganism throughout Cleveland County.

The Working Party on Vandalism and Hooliganism was to be composed of both Police and Local Authority Officers of the four districts of Cleveland as well as Officers of the County Council.

It was given the following terms of reference:-

"To collate and examine reported incidents of vandalism, etc., with a view to providing and deploying resources in an effort to reduce the number of complaints, provide additional protection and apprehend the offenders."

1.2 Meetings

Three meetings have taken place; on the 19th January, 1978, the 12th May, 1978, and the 29th September, 1978.

The meetings were held in private throughout and it was decided that no press publicity should be attached to the meetings other than a brief initial statement by the Chairman covering the objectives of the Working Party. It was felt that the release of any further details might be counter-productive at that stage, although it was agreed that comprehensive press publicity would be arranged following the submission of this report.

1.3 The Law in Relation to the Problem

Vandalism and Hooliganism are inexact legal terms insofar as they are not recognised as criminal offences in England and Wales. That is not to say, however, that the characteristics commonly found in references to vandalism and hooliganism cannot be found within the criminal law.

Vandalism, for example, with its inanimate targets is predominantly covered by the Criminal Damage Act, 1971.

Hooliganism, on the other hand, because of its subjective characteristics, is covered by a multitude of statutes such as the Public Order Act, 1936, and the Licensing Acts, as well as the Common Law.

CHAPTER TWO

APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM

2.1 Liaison between interested parties

It became evident at the first meeting on the 19th January, 1978, that although invaluable work was being carried out by such bodies as the Northern Consortium of Housing Authorities, there was a general lack of information available to enable a detailed study of the problems of vandalism and hooliganism. Initial discussion, however, had indicated that primary targets of vandalism were unoccupied properties, often belonging to the local authority or one of the large public corporations. This was supported by conclusions already drawn from investigations carried out in other research into the subject. Consequently it was decided to improve the communication between the Police and officers of the district authorities by encouraging a more direct dialogue between Territorial Divisional Commanders and Chief Executives on a regular basis.

2.2 Collation of Statistics

Because of the inadequacy of the statistical data available, due to historical reasons, the immediate problem was one of gathering more detailed information in relation to vandalism and hooliganism within the Cleveland County area.

Forms were devised to embrace all aspects of incidents of vandalism and hooliganism which had come to the notice of the Police since the 1st January, 1978. These were to be completed monthly by Divisional Commanders on a Territorial basis. The results of this collated information were analysed at subsequent meetings and can be found at Appendix Three of this report with regard to vandalism, and Appendix Eight in relation to hooliganism.

In the interests of clarity vandalism and hooliganism have been separated but it has been found from experience that they are often intrinsically bound, with offenders having a predilection for either as the occasion demands.

^{2.} See Colin Ward 'Vandalism' 1973 (Architectural Press)

^{3.} See paragraph 4.1

See Appendices One and Two

CHAPTER THREE

VANDALISM

3.1 The Concept of Vandalism

The destruction of the Roman Empire in the 4th and 5th Centuries by the East Germanic tribe known as the Vandals, with the loss of art, literature and civilisation outlines the emotional undertones to the word. Indeed the dictionary defines 'vandalism' as:-

"The ruthless destruction or spoiling of anything beautiful or vulnerable."

Today, however, it has become a more general term, covering a multitude of criminal and anti-social activities primarily directed against property. Nevertheless the historical emotiveness remains and it is frequently found combined with adjectives such as "senseless", "wanton", "malicious", or "aimless". This inevitably conjures up, in the minds of the general public at least, all manner of images of irrational destruction.

3.2 Implication of this Concept

One of the first problems to be faced therefore, was this public concept of all vandalism being senseless and irrational, for to accept it as such would render the terms of reference somewhat sterile. This is because it pre-supposes that vandalism is both inexplicable and indeterminable. This is not necessarily the case and it has been suggested that far from being 'senseless' many acts of destruction both make sense to the actor and possess a distinguishable pattern.

It was therefore necessary not only to be able to obtain a comprehensive grasp of the problem in Cleveland in relation to the rest of England and Wales, but also to attempt to distinguish any discernible pattern emerging from locally gathered statistics.

^{5. &#}x27;The Politics of Vandalism' Professor Stanley Cohen, New Society 12.12.68.

CHAPTER FOUR

EXTENT OF THE PROBLEM

4.1 Inadequacy of Statistical Information

To put the problem into perspective within Cleveland it was found that a number of preliminary questions required answering. The first question being; to what extent are the acts of vandalism reported and subsequently recorded?

To answer this question it is necessary to briefly touch upon the law in relation to offences connected with the damage and destruction of property. This was revised in the early 1970's and on the 14th October, 1971, the Criminal Damage Act came into force consolidating all the previous legislation. It was a relatively simple and straightforward Act insofar as Parliamentary draughtmanship was concerned and its essence is found in Section 1 which simply states:-

"A person who without lawful excuse, destroys or damages any property belonging to another, either intentionally or recklessly, shall be guilty of an offence."

As a consequence of this Act most non-indictable offences of malicious damage became indictable offences of criminal damage. Following Home Office guidance, however, it was decided that offences relating to the damage and destruction of property valued at £20 or less need not be recorded as crimes known to the Police. This immediately created difficulties in attempting to put the problem into perspective. However, it was hoped to overcome this by including information on the monthly return regarding all offences of criminal damage and vandalism, and not merely those of sufficient value to be recorded as crimes under S.1(1) of the Criminal Damage Act, 1971.

A second problem associated with present recording methods arose in relation to property which was damaged in the course of theft or burglary. Was this to be considered as vandalism?

Invariably these incidents would find themselves in the statistics in relation to burglary rather than those of criminal damage. After some discussion concerning the principles involved and the practical problems of extricating the relevant statistical data it was decided not to take them into account.

Thirdly, there was the question of the degree to which vandalism was actually reported. Or in other words, what is the percentage of incidents which never come to the notice of the Police at all? This problem was not strictly within the terms of reference and there was neither the time nor the resources to research it. Nevertheless it is a problem which must be borne in mind if any objective assessment of the extent of the problem is to be made. Fortunately, this problem has not gone unnoticed in the past and in 1972 the Home Office Research Unit conducted just such a study in an area of Manchester. There it was found that of 940 incidents of apparently deliberate damage over a period of six months, only one-fifteenth appeared to have been reported to the Police, of which less than half were property valued at over £20. Thus, only 3% of all incidents in that area of Manchester eventually found their way in Criminal Statistics.

4.2 Cleveland in relation to England and Wales

Despite this dark area of unreported criminal damage so graphically illustrated by the Manchester study it was inevitable that reliance must be placed to a very large extent upon statistics to answer the second question. That is, to what extent does vandalism occur in Cleveland as compared with other areas of England and Wales?

In doing so it was fully recognised that criminal statistics are a simple measuring system where there is no weighting for seriousness.

For comparison purposes the years 1972 and 1976 were compared.

6.

A. Sturman 'Crime as Opportunity' (Home Office Research Studies Number 34 HMSO)

The number of offences of criminal damage known to the public in England and Wales in the year ending 31.12.72 was 41,855, whilst in the year ending 31.12.76 it was 93,042. This represents a rise of 122.2% in four years.

During the same period the figure for the present Cleveland County area rose from 679 to 1,503. This represents an increase of 121.3%.

Independent Research⁸ has shown that for the period of the 1st April, 1974, until 31st December, 1975, Cleveland had a ratio of 61 offences of criminal damage recorded for every 1,000 offences of burglary and theft. This was the highest ratio for any of the Police areas of England and Wales.

Similar research for the year ending $31.12.76^9$ indicates that with a ratio of 59 offences of criminal damage recorded, Cleveland is still one of the most vandal prone areas in England and Wales.

4.3 The Cost

An accurate assessment of the cost of vandalism can only be achieved if all acts of vandalism are reported and subsequently recorded. It must be realised however, that only a small proportion of the acts committed ever find their way into criminal statistics. Consequently the following amounts must be considered accordingly.

The total cost of oftences of criminal damage reported to the Police in 1977 amounted to £353,928.92.

On a divisional basis this amounted to:-

Stockton Division £55,480.64
Middlesbrough Division £66,925.13

^{7.} Criminal Statistics, England and Wales (HMSO) Cmnd. 6909 p.360

^{8.} Twenty third Annual Report, Christian Economic Social Research Foundation

^{9.} Criminal Statistics England and Wales 1976, Cmnd. 6909

Langbaurgh Division £184,170.24
Hartlepool Division £47,352.91

It is anticipated that these figures will be exceeded in 1978.

Unfortunately it was impossible to readily obtain the value of damage sustained to local authority property attributable to acts of vandalism during 1977. It is likely, however, that much of the damage would not have been reported to the Police and therefore not included in the above figures.

4.4 Survey Results - General

4.4.1 Collation of the monthly returns for the period up to the 31st April, 1978 took place prior to the second meeting of the 12th May, 1978. From the statistics available it appeared that private property and motor vehicles were the primary targets of vandals, closely followed by schools and council estates. Surprisingly, the expected favourites such as public conveniences and telephone kiosks did not figure prominently. Whether this was due to damage to such facilities becoming acceptable to the authorities concerned and therefore not reported, or whether there had actually been a reduction in damage caused was not clear. Certainly there is some evidence to suggest that damage to such facilities is simply not being reported and is becoming accepted by the public authorities concerned as normal state of affairs, although it is too early to be specific in this respect.

In order to obtain more information concerning the particular problem areas of private property and motor vehicles, it was necessary for more detailed classifications to be made for subsequent analysis. Two new monthly returns were devised and circulated to Territorial Divisional Commanders. 11

At our third meeting on the 29th September, 1978, a far more detailed analysis of the results of the survey was made.

^{10.} Evening Gazette 16.1.78 'More than 4,000 public telephones damaged by vandals in Middlesbrough in 1977.'

^{11.} See Appendices Four and Five

From the overall figure available 12 the greatest incidence of vandalism appeared to be in the Langbaurgh area where 1016 incidents were reported. The smallest incidence, over 50% less, occurred in Hartlepool where there were only 502 incidents reported. One possible explanation for this would appear to be the geography of the respective areas and the concentration of Police presence. The former being a diverse area with fewer Police Officers per square mile than the geographically compact area of Hartlepool.

The proposition that a concentrated Police presence not only acts as a deterrent, but also substantially improves the detection rate of those offences which are committed, appeared to be illustrated by the detection rate in Stockton Divisional area. In Stockton, for example, 'Vandal Patrols', consisting of one Sergeant and four Constables working overtime on their days off, appears to have contributed significantly to the improved detection rate of such offences. The patrols not only provided the manpower to maintain a concentrated effort in areas where damage is prevalent, but also enabled a large number of Officers within the division to become more familiar with the problem areas and more aware of the overall situation.

Whilst the greatest number of offences occurred in Langbaurgh, the value of property destroyed appeared to be significantly higher in Middlesbrough. It was found however, that this figure had been artificially distorted by the inclusion of damage to the value of £75,000 caused to a warehouse in Fidler Street, Middlesbrough. In this case a group of children, the eldest being 8 years of age, had broken into the premises and set fire to them.

4.4.2 Private Property

The total of 1378 incidents involving private property placed this category well ahead of the rest of the properties attacked. The more comprehensive statistical data available since

^{12.} See Appendix Three

^{13.} See Appendix Three

the 1st May, 1978, ¹⁴ indicated that of these, shop premises were the most subject to attack, with less attention being given by vandals to office premises, licensed premises and dwelling houses. Although the additional data did not contain any time element it was generally understood by the Working Party that the damage to shop premises often involved the breaking of plate glass windows between 10.30 p.m. and 2.30 a.m. in association with the closure of licensed premises. It is possible that if plate glass windows could be replaced by armoured glass or polycarbonate sheets then a significant reduction in this type of offence might result. It is appreciated that armoured glass might prove an expensive proposition and that there have been problems with polycarbonate in relation to a fire hazard, but advice from architects suggest that in the latter case this has been largely overcome.

4.4.3 Council Estates

Council housing estates also figure prominently in relation to the types of property attacked and yet many of these estates are heavily populated and away from the more impersonal town centres. It is not unnatural to assume that the persons responsible for such vandalism were either the residents themselves or persons passing through who believed that the residents appeared sufficiently unconcerned about their environment as to feel safe in the commission of the act. Is it therefore the aesthetic value of an area, or rather the lack of it which is a significant factor in the commission of the act? There have been a number of theories involving the impact of architecture on crime and vandalism and one such theory states that on many council housing estates residents are not encouraged to protect areas around their homes by making them too public. Residents do not regard these areas as their own territory and it is therefore easy for strangers to pass through unrecognised. 15 Consequently crime and vandalism can only be encouraged in such areas, where no one knows who should be there, and who should not.

^{14.} See Appendix Six

^{15.} See Oscar Newman 'Defensible Space' 1973 (Architectural Press)

The hypothesis has been put to the test by the Home Office Research Unit 16 in 50 inner London public housing estates of different design. Results showed that damage tended to be in the public areas, especially the more secluded. Underground car parks; subways; blocks of flats 17 or maisonettes being particularly vulnerable targets.

4.4.4 Schools

Staying with the design of buildings, it is possible that much of the vandalism which occurs in schools during school hours can be attributed to design, and many teachers appear to support this theory. Statistics in relation to incidents of vandalism reported in the Cleveland area are too imprecise to support this and most of the incidents appear to occur outside school hours. For example, on the 30th October, 1977, the Grange School, Stockton, was locked up for the night. Between 11.10 p.m. and 10.15 a.m. the following morning, the headmasters office was broken into and little of value found. The subsequent destruction, however, included ink, animal food and plant pots being poured over carpets, floors and desks, and slogans scrawled on walls in ink. The damage was estimated at £1,000.

4.4.5 Motor Vehicles

Motor vehicles are especially vulnerable when unattended on either the roadway or in a car park, and consequently they figured prominently in the types of property attacked. Incidents ranging from general damage to more deliberate aerosol damage to vehicle paintwork were reported in all areas of Cleveland. Most of the incidents appeared to take place in the late evening or early morning and were most frequent in the areas adjacent to night clubs and other places of late night entertainment.

^{16.} See Sheena Wilson 'Crime as Opportunity' Home Office Research Studies

^{17.} See Philip Norman 'Vandalism, Brandon Three' Sunday Times 29.10.78.

^{18.} See Victoria Brittain 'Vandalism' Times Educational Supplement 8.9.74.

^{19.} See Appendix Seven

One of the most recent incidents occurred at 3.40 a.m. on Friday, 6th October, 1978, in Howard Street, Middlesbrough, when a front passenger door of a bus belonging to United Automobile Services was forced, the vehicle started, it was then driven into other buses and properties causing damage estimated to be in the region of £9,000.

It appears that it is not only vehicles parked on the public highway which are at risk. Between 2.00 a.m. and 8.00 a.m. on the 22nd July, 1978, the garages of the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve, Easington Lane, Hartlepool, were broken into. A Land Rover and a three ton lorry were driven around the compound causing damage to the value of £1,195. A sixteen year old youth subsequently appeared before Hartlepool Juvenile Court charged with this offence, where he was placed on probation for a period of 2 years and ordered to pay £402 compensation.

4.4.6 Parks and Open Spaces

Parks, Cemeteries and open spaces were also found to be natural targets for vandals with shrubs and plants being frequent victims. The problem is such in Albert Park, Middlesbrough, that two Police Officers are in almost permanent daily duty patrolling the park in plain clothes. In the same park the installation of an alarm resulted in the arrest of a man who broke into a park hut.

It is not possible to protect all parks and cemeteries, however, and on the night of the 18th October, 1978, a person or persons unknown entered Eston Cemetery and damaged nineteenth century gravestones to the value of £1,103.

CHAPTER FIVE

THE OFFENDERS

5.1 Who are they?

Research has shown that vandalism declines in frequence with age and that boys are predominant in its commission. Whilst it is not disputed that boys are more likely to indulge in acts of vandalism than girls, the proposition that vandalism declines in frequency with age does not necessarily mean that its seriousness, in financial terms at least, declines. For the older the offender the greater would be his experience and imagination. It was therefore found necessary to collate the age groups of all known offenders from the outset. A preliminary evaluation has now been made of the results of the statistics gathered over the first eight months of exercise.

Council estates and schools appeared to be the targets of the under 17's with schools being particularly attractive to pupils under 14 after normal school hours.

The 17-21 age group on the other hand were predominant in the areas of damage to telephone kiosks and bus shelters, places where they are often found to congregate.

With age and experience seeking greater scope, private property, motor cars and the defacement of property came high on the list of priorities for the offenders over 21 years of age.

5.2 What are their motives?

Although the question was not strictly within the terms of reference it was necessary to consider what might be the motivating factor behind the various acts in order to consider the question of vandalism more fully.

- 20. See M.B. Clinard and Wade 'Towards the delineation of vandalism as a sub-type of Juvenile Delinquency' (Journal of Criminal Law, Criminology and Police Science Vol. 48, 1958)
- 21. See Appendix Two
- 22. See Ab endix Thre-

From projects already carried out in Liverpool and Blackburn it has been suggested that a change occurs in the reasons for vandalism according to the age of the offender and that there appears to be four district categories.

The first type is what has been termed 'play vandalism'²⁴ where it has been argued that it is part of a childs play activity to take things apart and that it is fair game to youngsters to break milk bottles, throw stones and scribble on walls. This sort of damage is found predominantly in children up until the age of 12. In Blackburn it was found to account for up to one third of all reported vandalism, but quite clearly from the ages of known offenders in instances of reported damage in Cleveland this is not the case.

The second type of vandalism is 'prestige' vandalism when it is agreed that between the adolescent years of 13 and 16 boys particularly become more concerned with their own image which they wish to project to their fellows and play becomes a secondary consideration. The aerosol graffiti with the christian name of the perpetrator being the commonest example.

The third type is the 'persistent' vandal and it is he that is most likely to progress to other forms of crime. Their actions are still motivated by prestige and status despite the fact that for their contemporaries it is becoming less important.

The fourth type is the 'instrumental' vandal who commits the act less for enjoyment or prestige than as a means to some other end. Included here would be damage committed in the furtherance of theft. To some extent we did not consider, for reasons already stated, ²⁵ that we could adquately examine this type of vandal.

From the statistics available it is impossible to state if the same stereotypes are responsible for the vandalism within Cleveland. Further research might be of value in confirming or disproving this.

^{23.} Tony Marshall 'Vandalism! The Seeds of Destruction." New Society 17.6.76.

^{24.} Stanley Cohen 'Property Destruction: motives and meanings' (Vandalism. Colin Wood 1973)

^{25.} See Paragraph 4.1

CHAPTER SIX

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES AND AREAS OF FURTHER RESEARCH

6.1 General

Before considering remedies if must be pointed out that it was not considered part of the terms of reference to examine in any form the political, social or economic causes propounded by either sociologists or politicians. For it is in this area that the views of those interested in the subject are at their most diverse. So much so that a leading sociologist, Professor Stanley Cohen, has attributed the possible cause to too much social control, ²⁶ whilst Mr. Merlyn Rees, the Home Secretary has amongst other things, pointed to the lack of parental control as an instrumental factor in the increase of vandalism. ²⁷

6.2 Education

Bearing in mind the ultimate objective concerning the provision of resources and their deployment, it was considered that the targets, the age groups of the offenders, and their possible motives provided the information most likely to be of use. Accepting that the root causes could not be identified, let alone eliminated, any preventive measures must take the form of education, prevention, detection and deterrence in combination, dependent upon the group to be influenced.

It is to the younger age groups that most of the efforts at education must be directed and means must be sought to bring home to them the full facts in relation to vandalism. Endeavours must be made to remove the 'aura' of 'toughness' associated with vandalism. There must be a closer liaison between the Education Authorities, the Police and parents to bring the reality of the problem home to the young, and exercises must be devised to this end.

^{26.} Stanley Cohen 'Politics of the Vandals' New Society 12.12.68

^{27. &#}x27;Conference on anti-vandal measures' 1977

As a long term measure, the continual and progressive education of the young, must be the cornerstone of any concerted action to alleviate the problem.

It is not sufficient however, to undertake such a programme of education without being prepared to acknowledge the existence of the desire for excitement in the young, with the consequential natural destructive amusements. As Mr. William Whitelaw, the Opposition Spokesman in Home Affairs recently indicated, what is 'play' for a vandal is at least inconvenience, and at worse, danger, for the ordinary citizen 28 and this must be controlled.

The further development of recreational facilities is therefore essential if the boredom, so often expressed by the young, is to be curbed. Their energies have to be diverted towards something useful and creative, encouraging them to develop a sense of responsibility.

Cleveland is particularly fortunate in the fact that a large number of indoor leisure facilities have recently been built by various district authorities. These go some way to providing the kind of environment in which youngsters can channel their energies and enthusiasm. Care must be taken, however, not to place such amenities out of the financial reach of the younger age groups. Similarly, it is not sufficient to complacently think that these facilities are adequate. Further improvements can and must be made in this direction.

Within the schools all over Cleveland there are many fine sporting and recreational facilities, a large number of which lie idle thoughout the evenings and at weekends, when the premises are in fact at their most vulnerable. Consideration must be given as to whether these facilities should be open for leisure activities, albeit that it is likely that the balance between the maintenance and replacement costs and the benefits might be a fine one. It is, acknowledged that difficulties may be encountered in relation to damage to the grass and the hours of work of caretakers.

Nevertheless, the target is less likely to be vandalised if it is occupied than if it was not. Experience has shown that adults from all walks of life are prepared to give up their time to plan, arrange and supervise various organisations involved with the young, both in the social and recreational spheres. It is vital that encouragement be given to them. If such encouragement is not forthcoming then any attempts at education would not appear as either bona fide or realistic.

6.3 Deterrence as an effective answer

It is not sufficient, however, to sit back and assume, as so many appear to have done in the past, that all the younger age group requires, is to be gently spoken to and supplied with their every need. This has been shown not to work and indeed does not appear to be acceptable to the youngsters themselves. In a recent study carried out amongst school children in Surrey, whilst there was a call for more, and less expensive, recreational facilities a large majority of the youngsters recognise the need for a more effective deterrent. They called for a return of corporal punishment and firmer discipline both in school and from their parents. This appears to be a view which is diametrically opposed to much of the current 'adult' thinking on the subject. Whether or not a similar attitude prevails in Cleveland is a matter of conjecture at the present time, and is perhaps, something worthy of further exploration.

Assuming, for the time being, that the attitude of the children of Cleveland was not similar to their counterparts in Surrey there may still be a place for an effective deterrent.

Deterrence, can be found in two basic forms. Firstly, there is the aggressive deterrence of being caught and punished.

^{29. &#}x27;Vandalism - The Teenage Viewpoint' Woking. District Crime Prevention Panel 1978

^{30. &#}x27;Vandalism' - A note by the central policy review staff, HMSO 1978

Secondly, there is the defensive deterrence, involved in the protection of property, combined with the organisation and planning of the areas in which we live, so as to reduce the likelihood of vandalism by eliminating the areas in which it is likely to be prevalent.

6.4 Aggressive deterrence

The prospect of being caught is, singularly the most effective form of deterrence, and to this end fuller examination must be made of the ways in which Police resources are to be deployed. It is accepted that with the present shortage of manpower this may prove difficult, but the situation is improving in this respect. Certainly there is evidence to suggest that special squads of plain clothes officers in the town centres, and the use of vandal patrols in relation to schools appears to have been effective.

Associated with detection, and perhaps equally as important, is the question of punishment of the offenders. Statistical data in relation to the type of punishments administered for offences of criminal damage in Cleveland is not readily available but it is nevertheless important to our understanding of the subject and one area which we propose to explore.

The general feeling in relation to punishments was that a compensation scheme as an alternative to court action, such as recently undertaken in Hartlepool in connection with minor damage to the shopping centre, has a great deal of merit to it. As an exercise it proved most pertinent, hitting the parents in their pockets and bringing a financial aspect to parental responsibility.

Similarly, it was felt that Magistrates ought to be encouraged to use their powers of restitution and compensation, not only as a form of punishment, but also to give some comfort to the victim who is all too often forgotten in considering the question.

Insofar as the persistent vandal is concerned, there is some merit to the suggestion of an examination of the concept of Junior

Detention Centres, week-end work camps and short-term detention. 31 There is, in the short term, a need to consider whether our Attendance Centre structure in Cleveland is capable of including in their programme some form of deterrence to vandalism.

6.5 Defensive deterrence

The secondary aspect of deterrence is more defensive and its implementation and effectiveness can only be judged in the long-term. The concept of defensible space, already mentioned in relation to planning and housing estates in particular, is being reflected in new developments in two major aspects.

Firstly, the large sprawling housing estates in the fifties and early sixties have, for a variety of reasons, given way to smaller developments where there is some form of community spirit.

Secondly, the re-juvenation of inner areas by means of using General Improvement Area Schemes has helped fill the vulnerable void between the town centres and the suburbs.

Both of these concepts have played an important part in containing vandalism and must be continued.

One of the most important contributory factors in relation to both of the aforementioned concepts is of course simply the 'presence' of an individual and this is something which must be examined more fully. To what extent can Park Keepers and private security firms be employed, and how can the community be encouraged to help itself? What role should the Police Crime Prevention Department and the other local authority bodies play in this respect?

Planners also have a vital role to play in enabling property to be easily protected and yet retain its aesthetic values. Recent developments, such as seen in the Cleveland Centre at Middlesbrough and the Castle Centre at Stockton, have meant that large areas of vulnerable property have been denied to the potential vandal by

simply locking them away when not in use. Similarly, the requirement for adequate car parking both in terms of capacity and illumination would, we feel, go some way to deterring those who are prone to committing damage to motor vehicles parked near public houses and night clubs.

In concluding our present thoughts in relation to this secondary form of deterrence, we feel that a point made in a recent report by the Central Policy Review Staff³² is particularly relevant insofar as Cleveland is concerned. It recommends the clearing up of vacated areas as soon as they become derelict, the maintenance of facilities and the perseverance in the repair of damage, both to property and trees. Obviously the cost is the important factor in the pursuit of such a policy, and we welcome the recommendation that under the Governments' Inner Area Programme, £1,500,000 a year is to be spent in the next three years improving inner Middlesbrough. This should be of great benefit. Other areas must follow this example and consider attempting to obtain government assistance upon similar lines.

CHAPTER SEVEN HOOLIGANISM

7.1 General Concept

The dictionary defines a hooligan as:-

'One of a gang of young street roughs.'

Yet, today, the term 'hooligan' is used to describe anyone who does not conform to what another believes to be a correct pattern of behaviour. As a concept it is even more difficult to equate in legal terms than vandalism, for unlike vandalism and the related criminal damage offence, there is no single criminal manifestation of hooliganism. Instead we find that there are a large number of offences, of various degrees of seriousness, within both statute and common law, whose perpetrators are commonly called 'hooligans'. Indeed some actions which are extraneous to the criminal law, such as nuisance, etc., often result in the offenders being described as hooligans. Is there, therefore, the need for the creation of a new offence to more clearly define a hooligan either at national or local level.

7.2 Implications of this concept

The problem faced in connection with this extremely subjective concept of the term 'hooliganism' was somewhat similar to vandalism; that of delimitation.

Again it was necessary not only to obtain a comprehensive grasp of the problem in Cleveland in relation to the rest of England and Wales, but also to attempt to distinguish any discernible patterns.

CHAPTER EIGHT

EXTENT OF THE PROBLEM

8.1 Inadequacy of Statistical Information

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As with vandalism we found that there were problems in relation to both the degree and methods by which hooliganism was reported and subsequently recorded. These have already been described and do not require re-iteration.

The unique problem was, however, categorisation for analytical purposes, for although all reports of behaviour likely to fall within this category which were reported at Police Stations were recorded, many simply stated that 'there is a disturbance at' or 'there is trouble at' with little amplification on the part of the person reporting. Subsequently, investigations of this type of report, unless the offender was present, failed to categorise the incident further. The only concrete fact remaining being the area in which the incident occurred.

It was decided to approach the problem in two ways. Firstly, in order to compare Cleveland with the rest of England and Wales it was necessary to choose classified criminal offences falling into the public concept of 'hooliganism' which would be common to all areas.

A list of these was therefore chosen for comparative purposes from those differes classified in the annual publication by the Home Office of Statistics relating to Crime and Criminal Proceedings. 34

Secondly, in order to identify local problems and the areas in which they were taking place, we relied upon the information contained in the monthly return to Divisional Police Commanders prepared for this purpose. Whilst many of the facts contained therein might never end up as statistics, they would at least identify the areas in which there was public concern.

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^{33.} See paragraph 4.1

^{34.} See Appendix Nine.

^{35.} See Appendix Two

In order to define the extent of hooliganism in Cleveland in relation to other areas of England and Wales, the years 1976 and 1977 were chosen for comparison purposes.

Unlike criminal damage, the offences concerned were non-indictable and therefore merely recorded un bloc and not sub-divided into Police areas. It was only possible, therefore, to state in general terms, the rise in Cleveland as compared with that for the whole of England and Wales.

A comprehensive breakdown of the chosen offences was subsequently completed ³⁶ from which a number of factors emerged.

The figures in England and Wales in relation to drink related offences and offences of disorderly behaviour against local regulations, showed on overall decrease in the numbers of offenders in the juvenile category. A similar encouraging trend was found amongst the same age group in offences against the Public Order Act, 1936, although this was not the case in relation to offences of assault on the Police and nuisance under the Highways Act.

The figures available for Cleveland³⁸ indicated that there had been a decrease in offences in all the categories listed in relation to juveniles with the exception of assault on the Police which has undergone a 150% increase in the male 14-17 age range.

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In the overall figures for England and Wales, there was no indication of a similar trend in the adult range, and these continued to increase by an average of 2.7%. In Cleveland the trend is significantly greater with a 35% increase in offences connected with hooliganism.

^{36.} See Appendix Ten

^{37.} Under 17 years of age

^{38.} Source - Criminal Record Office

The most disturbing feature of this comparison was the increase in offences of assault on Police both in Cleveland and elsewhere throughout all age groups. In Cleveland assaults by male adults have increased by 87% and female adults by 75%.

8.3 The Cost

As with vandalism the cost of hooliganism is difficult to measure because the extent of it is unknown. Unlike vandalism, however, even if it were known there is no simple financial yardstick by which it could be measured. Indeed the cost of hooliganism ought not to be examined in financial terms. The cost of hooliganism is the breaching of peace and order which results in a lessening of respect for the law in general and a fear of the consequences amongst members of the public. Hooliganism must therefore be actively discouraged, not only by those responsible for the maintenance of the law, but by all members of the community, many of whom appear to have abrogated their responsibility in this respect. A recent incident is the Castle Centre in Stockton on a busy Saturday afternoon, and will serve to illustrate this.

Two youths, who were no more than sixteen, were fighting and an adjacent shop window was in danger of being broken by a flying boot. A man then walked through the crowd that had gathered to watch, pulled the youths apart and sent them off in opposite directions with a few choice words of warning. The important point, however, is what he said to the hundred or so persons present. He asked them what they were all doing watching the fight, and if they were 'in their right minds'. It is this conditioned acceptance of violence that must be overcome and it must be made clear to the public that they have a role to play, and that they will be supported when doing so.

8.4 Survey Results - General

At the third meeting of the 29th September, 1978 , a detailed analysis was made of the results of the survey. 39

It was found that incidents in Council and Private housing estates were predominant, as we had expected, because of the increased likelihood of such incidents being reported. If people are, or are about to be, affected, then they are likely to be more prone to act, even if it is only to ring the Police and complain.

The greatest incidence of hooliganism again appeared to be in the Langbaurgh area whilst, as with vandalism, Hartlepool again had the smallest incidence. The reason for this is possibly the same as that given previously. Certainly these figures add support to the argument that a more concentrated Police presence in specific areas might provide a short term solution to the problem.

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8.4.1 Council Estates

Most incidents in council estates were committed by the under 14 age groups with stone-throwing, air weapons and general danger and annoyance to passers-by being most prevalent. The age group itself suggests that those responsible must live on or nearby the estates on which the incidents occurred.

8.4.2 Private Estates

Footballing and skateboarding in the street formed the bulk of reported incidents in private estates, along with general reports of disturbances. As with council estates the under 14 age group predominated although there was a significant increase in the number of complaints involving adults at parties, with its associated problems of noise, etc.

8.4.3 Shopping Areas

Shopping areas, particularly the enclosed heated type such as those found in Stockton and Middlesbrough, appeared attractive to groups of youths, especially on Saturday afternoons. It was found that the resultant complaints from shoppers and shopkeepers concerned their general rowdiness and misbehaviour accompanied by

mass running through the shops and precincts. In those areas which are not enclosed the majority of the complaints were associated with groups of youths congregating in doorways as well as skateboarding on the payement and the breaking of milk bottles.

8.4.4 Parks and Open Spaces

Of all the parks in Cleveland, Albert Park, Middlesbrough, appeared to have the greatest number of incidents, ranging from causing annoyance on the boating lake to misuse of the childrens play area by older youths. Stockton, however, although receiving few reports in number contained the most incidents of annoyance in cemeteries. Reports were received of youths running amongst the gravestones and riding motor cycles around the paths.

To keep the matter in perspective, however, it was found that by far the largest proportion of reported incidents involved trespassing for the purposes of playing football.

8.4.5 Seaside/Beaches

Hooliganism in such circumstances was obviously a seasonal problem. Shouting and abusive language, annoyance to motorists and general nuisance formed the nucleus of the reports, accompanied by a few incidents of fighting. There were no reports of inter-gang rivalry or serious outbreaks of hooliganism in any of the County's seaside resorts.

8.4.6 Public Entertainments

It was surprising that there were so few reports of hooliganism from places of public entertainment. The majority of incidents in Langbaurgh, which was by far the most predominant area, involved youths creating disturbances in seaside amusement arcades.

8.4.7 Youth Clubs

Reactions were similar in relation to youth clubs. It appears that the vast majority of such establishments are well organised and conducted and tribute must be paid to their organisers. The majority of incidents which were reported involved either gatecrashers attempting to gain entry or excessive noise when turning out.

8.4.8 Licensed Premises/Refreshment Houses

Fighting inside or outside of licensed premises and attempts by those under age to gain entry, formed the large majority of the reported incidents. Many reports were prefixed by 'drunken' as would be expected in such situations.

8.4.9 Football Matches

With two Football League Clubs in the County area the incidence of football associated hooliganism was found to be surprisingly low. The 93 reported incidents up until 31.3.78 resulted in 25 arrests, 3 persons reported for summons, and 55 persons being ejected from the grounds.

8.4.10 Motor Cyclists

There was a fairly even distribution of complaints concerning motor cyclists thoughout the County area, although Hartlepool appeared to receive surprisingly few. Reports were grouped into four main categories; excessive speed; excessive noise; riding on the footpath; riding upon land other than the highway. In the latter case the venue was often the local school playing fields.

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8.4.11 Aged Persons

With the exception of Langbaurgh, there did not appear to be a high incidence of hooliganism directed towards aged persons. We found no evidence to suggest any large scale terrorisation of the elderly, so frequently expounded by the press. Most incidents that were reported were of annoyance caused by knocking on doors/windows and the playing of ball games in the vicinity of aged persons homes.

CHAPTER NINE

THE OFFENDERS

9.1 Ages of Offenders

The majority of reports of hooliganism involved the younger age groups, and it was found that the incidence of hooliganism appeared to decrease with age.

The statistics were too imprecise to show any mathematical correlation between age and the reduction of the incidence of hooliganism, however, broad conclusions in relation to the affected areas could be drawn from them.

The under fourteens appeared responsible for the majority of reports on council and private estates, in parks, youth clubs and in the vicinity of aged persons homes.

The 14-17 year olds, on the other hand, were mainly responsible for incidents away from residential areas, in shopping areas, places of public entertainment and at football matches.

The 17-21 age groups, although well represented at incidents at licensed premises and football matches, only dominated in relation to motor cycles orientated hooliganism.

The over 21's were predominant in relation to incidents at licensed premises and where this age group appeared elsewhere many of the offences were drink related.

CHAPTER TEN

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES AND AREAS OF FURTHER RESEARCH

10.1 General

The measures necessary to combat hooliganism are similar in principle to the guidelines already stated in connection with vandalism. 41 Whilst education must play an important role, hooliganism by its very nature, unlike vandalism, demands that a greater emphasis be placed upon the more aggressive forms of deterrence associated with increased supervision and more flexible policing methods. Future research must be along these lines.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

CONCLUSION

11.1 General

The object of this report has been to put the problem of vandalism into perspective within Cleveland, for it is Cleveland with which we are primarily concerned. If action is to be taken, it ought to be taken locally, with as many statutory, elected and voluntary bodies as possible being encouraged to participate.

Already there has been an improvement in the liaison between senior local government executives and Territorial Divisional Police Commanders, because of the three meetings that have been held. This has in turn led to the closer liaison between the local authorities and the Police at district level. Similarly, statistical information in relation to both vandalism and hooliganism has been improved, but there is scope for still further improvement.

Most important of all, however, has been the Working Party's identification of areas where further discussion can take place, with a view to the production of a final report containing firm proposals regarding positive action to be taken.

11.2 Summary of Recommendations

The recommendations of the Working Party are that:-

- 1. It should continue to act as the co-ordinating body as it is a ready forum for the exchange of information, ideas and action being taken in individual localities.
- 2. Other bodies such as Magistrates, Local Education Officers, Probation Officers and Social Workers should be informed of the existence of the Working Party and invited to contribute to it.

District Councils should examine the possibility of public participation in the form of seminars, in which public utilities, firms, local community groups and other interested parties would be encouraged to express their views. 0

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- 4. Improvements should be made in the involvement of schools and Parent/Teacher groups with the problems of vandalism and hooliganism. The views of the pupils sought and ways found to improve their awareness of the problems.
- 5. The effects of campaigns and publicity should be examined and evaluated. It is important that the public are kept informed about what is being done and their active help sought and encouraged.
- 6. An examination should be made of the provision of further recreational facilities for the young.
- 7. The use of local authority anti-graffiti squads should be considered.
- 8. Consideration should be given to employment of park keepers, watchmen, etc.
- 9. There may be a necessity to examine and strengthen by-laws under which action can be taken against vandals and hooligans.
- 10. Methods should be devised for up to date information to be made available to architects and planning committees in order that behavioural problems can be taken into account in the design of re-development areas, housing estates and shopping areas.
- 11. Policing methods should be examined to ensure that they reflect current behavioural patterns and ensure a concentrated Police effort when and where required. Consideration should be given to strengthening police authority by encouraging and developing Community Policing Schemes.

- 12. The use of Attendance Centres as a deterrent to vandalism and hooliganism should be explored.
- 13. The whole question of punishments should be reviewed, indicating the views of juveniles as well as adults.

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NO. 10 MOTOR VEHICLES

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	Cri	minal			Minor			Age C	Group's					Any Further Details
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Chief Superintendent

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NO. 9 PRIVATE PROPERTY

	C	rimina	1		Mir	ior		Age	Groups		:		4	Any Further Details
	Reported	Detected	Value	Reported	Detected	Value	14 & under	14 - 17	17 - 21	Over 21	Town Centre	Council Estates	Private Estates	
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PRIVATE PROPERTY - 1.5.78-31.8.78

CRIMINAL CLASSIFICATION

MINOR CLASSIFICATION

Туре	Reported	Detected	Value	Reported	Detected	<u>Value</u>
Dwelling Houses	31	12	£ 5,222	121	42	£ 898
Shop Premises	132	29	£ (13,682	 57	5	£ 462
Offices	34	7	£ 77,672	16		£ 165
Building Sites	18	1	£ 4,059	4	-	£ 50
Gardens, allotments	7		£ 575	15	1	£ 129
Licensed premises	32	13	£ 1,946	16	2	£ 169
Personal articles	7	3	£ 352	5		£ 40
	261 ——	65 —	£103,508	234	50 —	£1,913

DAMAGE TO MOTOR VEHICLES

		CRIMINAL			MINOR	1		,	
Location	Reported	Detected	<u>Value</u>	Reported	Detected	<u>Value</u>	Town Centre	Council Estate	Private Estate
Moving Vehicles	4	2	£1,175	2		£ 20	2	4	-
Unattended and Parked in Roadway	53	12	£3,423	35	•	£376	33	39	16
Unattended and Parked in Car Park	44	8	£4,131	14		£149	37	18	. 3
Unattended and Parked on Waste Land	15	2	£1,405	3	-	£ 20	5	5	8
Temporary Car Park	1		£ 70	3	-	£ 15	2	2	•

AGE GROUPS OF KNOWN OFFENDERS

	<u>Under</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>14-17</u>	<u>17-21</u>	<u>Over 21</u>
Moving Vehicles				•	2,
Unattended and Parked in Roadway			•	5	8
Unattended and Parked in Car Park	1		2	4	1
Unattended and Parked on Waste Land					1
Temporary Car Park					.

HOOLIGANISM - BREAKDOWN FOR PERIOD 1.1.78. to 31.8.78.

		INCIDENTS							TOTAL AGE GROUPS											**************************************												
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3.	Shopping Areas	23	56	176	65	11	_	20	8	-	-	4	-	320	39	4	6	8	40	1	2	10	43	17	-	-	28	24	3	3	48	4
4.	Parks/ Open Spaces	9	88	123	33	-	3	8	-	-	-	8	2	253	11	9	-	23	49	8	-	12	42	17	-	3	22	4	_	-	24	-
5.	Seaside/ Beaches	-	-	60	12	-	-	14	-	_	-	1	-	72	14	1	_	_	8	-	-	-	12	4	-	-	12	6	-	-	22	-
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8.	Licenced/Reg. Houses	12	39	134	49	-	6	26	16		-	4	8	234	48	12	-	3	3	1	-	2	11	-	-	- 4;	42	17	-	1	65	23
9.	Football Matches		63	_	30	_	11	-	14	-	-	-	3	93	25	3	-	7	_	_	-	30	-	4	-	20	-	11	-	5	_	2
10.	Motor Cyclists	30	39	46	1	-	-	2	-	-	1	_	_	116	2	1	-	_	1	-	-	2	2	-	_	7	32	1	-	-	8,	-
11.	Aged Persons	7	б	51	2	-		2	_	-	-	3	-	66	2	3	-	3	31	1	-	3	16	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	2	-
	TOTAL	420	834	1735	346	23	29	110	39	5	4	29	22	3335	201	60	7	117	604	58	19	85	419	99	1	29	218	82	14	4	358	31

Home Office Classification	Offence
104	Assault on a Police Constable under the Police Act
123	Nuisance other than by motor vehicle under Highways Act
140	Simple drunkenness
141	Drunkenness with Aggrevation
143	Other offences against liquor laws
162	Disorderly behaviour against local legislation
195/18	Offences against the Public Order Act 1936

CRIMINAL STATISTICS FOR ENGLAND AND WALES - RELATED TO HOOLIGANISM

NOME OFFICE CLASSIFICATION	OFFENCE	YEAR	OFFENDER AGED 10	- 14	OFITNIIR A	AGED 14 - 17	OFFEN	DER AGED O	VER 17	
104	Assault on a Police Constable under the Police Act	1976)1 F	(-)	м 550 (4)	F 124 (1)	10,861	(186)	F 1,302	(12)
	under the roller Act	1977 % change	17 (-) - (+ 70%100%	-	601 (10) +9% +150 ÷	153 (1) +23% -	+6;5	(348) +87;	1,396 +7;6	(21) +7%
125	Nuisance other than by motor vehicle under Highways Act	1976 1977		(-)	302 (16) 298 (10)	2 (-) 8 (-)	1,442	(19) (25)	33 33	(-)
		% change	+35% -100% -100%	_	-1% -57%	+300% -	+6%	+31%	+15,6	
140	Simple Drunkenness	1976 1977	12 (-) 4 8 (-) 1	(-)	319 (6) 299 (3)	59 (2) 51 (1)	47,190	(103) (364)	4,086 3,806	(10) (23)
		% change	-33%15%	-	-(1,0 -5(1)·	-13% -50%	-150	+253%	-6,5	+130%
141	Drunkenness with Aggravation	1976 1977	8 (-) 3 8 (-) 2	(-) (-)	· 793 (22) 850 (22)	109 (3) 90 (4)	49,648 50,890	(1260) (1290)	4,094 4153	(58) (171)
		% change	33;ó	•	+7,6 -	-17% +3%	+2%	+2%	+1;0	+194,5
143	Other offences against liquor laws	1976 1977		(-) (2)	1660 (51) 1032 (40)	768 (5) 664 (2)	4,400	(66) (159)	1025 972	(6) (24)
		% change	-48%65%		-37% -21%	-13% -60%	-7.6	+140°,0	-5'8	+500(5)
162	Disorderly behaviour against local regulations	1976 1977	1	(-)	729 (90) 716 (6)	64 (-) 54 (-)	9,290 9,320	(183) (152)	649 711	(1) (1)
		% change	-38% - +50%		-1% -93%	-15% -	+0.3%	-16%	+9;+	_
195/18	Offences against the Public Order Act 1936	1976 1977	159 (2) 144 (-)	: : .	2502 2486	(33) (28)		9049 10091	(115) (139)	
		% change	-28% -100%		-0.6,6	-15%		+11%	+20%	

Figures in brackets represent Cleveland County statistics

END