

Item 8 - Question Time

To the Chair of the Environment, Development & Infrastructure Committee

“Given the rise in vandalism of Council owned play equipment in the Thurso and Northwest Caithness Ward, what measures are open to the Council in protecting its assets from mindless vandalism and ensuring that ratepayers are not liable for the cost of replacing and repairing play equipment?”

Response to Mr S Mackie

Amenities Services are aware of some acts of vandalism on its playpark equipment. As these are open spaces, we are limited as to what can be done to protect them out with normal working hours. However to mitigate this, when we purchase equipment, resistance to vandalism is a factor considered in the selection. This is a criminal act, where it is encountered, it will be reported to Police Scotland, and if there appears to be an area more prone to this activity, we will advise the police of this and request extra patrols to that area.

We would ask anyone with information of vandalism to contact Police Scotland via 101, or to anonymously contact CrimeStoppers on 0800 555 111, or through the charity website on <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/pre-form>