



Media Release

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DNA TRAPS BUS SHELTER VANDAL

A seventeen-year old youth was last week found guilty of causing nearly £600 worth of damage to a bus shelter on Ripon Road, Harrogate in the middle of the night in September this year. The court ordered payment of compensation to the council covering the full cost of the repairs at a rate of £6 per week.

Magistrates learned that the offender was witnessed by two people who were passing by and, although this youth denied responsibility, DNA taken from blood found on the damaged bus shelter proved his guilt.

Councillor Julian Sturdy, Cabinet Member for Public Works, today welcomed the judgment. He said: "We will not tolerate vandalism and we will take whatever action we can to bring those responsible to justice. And let this be a lesson to all vandals.

"Our highway amenity officers have been invited to attend a meeting with the youth offending team when this young person will have to be present. At that time, we will be explaining the implications of such vandalism and suspect that this may lead to a reparation order of some sort."

The use of DNA to help catch criminals is a growing trend throughout the country and Harrogate Borough Council is grateful to North Yorkshire Police for their support in bringing this case to court and also to the two community-minded individuals who witnessed the incident. ENDS

FURTHER INFORMATION: Councillor Julian Sturdy is available for comment on 07836 692010.