

Wednesday 15 August 2012

## **VANDALISM AT PUTNEY PARK**

The City of Ryde is working with the Police following two severe acts of vandalism in Putney Park this week.

The amenities building and nearby shelter in the upper area of Putney Park, close to the Putney Punt, was severely damaged by vandals over the weekend. Damage was done to the toilet fittings, doors and the building generally. A supporting post to the shelter was removed and then set on fire. It is estimated that the cost of repairs to the amenities block and the shelter will be approximately \$15,000.

A security officer on duty in the area was unable to prevent the destruction and Police were notified.

In a second incident, on Tuesday night (August 14), a gazebo near to the same location as the first incident, was set alight and sustained significant fire damage. It will now have to be demolished and removed. Cost of replacement would be in excess of \$10,000.

Mayor for the City of Ryde, Cllr Artin Etmekdjian said: "Council is doing everything it can to identify the perpetrators of this crime against the community.

"If the vandals are identified we will be exercising the full extent of our powers of prosecution and I urge anyone with information on these incidents to contact either the Police or Council.

"It is very distressing to come to terms with senseless damage such as this. Not only does it impose a significant financial burden on local ratepayers, it impacts our natural environment and prevents local families from using the amenities that are there for the whole community."

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