# Vandalism outrage in Royton mounts as community pledges to rebuild damaged park



A community park in Royton, Oldham, has recently fallen victim to a series of vandalistic acts that have provoked outrage among local residents and officials. Linear Park has reportedly endured significant damage in the past fortnight, as two entry gates were destroyed and an entire picnic bench was dismantled and discarded into the nearby Salmon Fields.

Despite the quick repair of the gates, the local council and community groups are urging anyone with information regarding the incidents to come forward and report this vandalism to the authorities. Councillor Chris Goodwin, Oldham council’s cabinet member for the "Don’t Trash Oldham" initiative, described the situation as "disgraceful," emphasising that a community space has been “ripped up” at a time when it should be available for enjoyment, particularly over the upcoming bank holiday.

Councillor Goodwin further stated, “Anyone with any information should report it to the police so those responsible can be held accountable for their idiotic actions.”

In response to the destruction, Councillor Maggie Hurley from the Royton Independents has pledged to fund the replacement of the damaged picnic bench with a more durable steel version from her ward budget. This initiative aims to "keep the community space vibrant and welcoming," as the local community rallies to address the situation.

The vandalism has sparked a wave of anger and sadness among residents, who expressed their disbelief on social media platforms. Many have described the acts as “sickening” and “very saddening.” Some locals have pointed to a broader trend of increasing anti-social behaviour in the area, citing anecdotal evidence of illegal quad biking, fly-tipping, and reports of youths riding e-bikes while wearing balaclavas.

The vandalism at Linear Park is not an isolated incident. The area has seen a variety of similar destructive occurrences in recent months, including repeated attacks on a pandemic memorial in Shaw and the removal of a Nazi swastika that had been engraved into the lawn at Dogford Park, also in Royton.

The community and its leaders continue to advocate for vigilance and cooperation among residents to combat such acts of vandalism, seeking to preserve the integrity of public spaces in Oldham.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.oldham.gov.uk/DontTrashOldham> - This link provides information about the 'Don't Trash Oldham' initiative, which aims to improve neighborhood cleanliness and tackle issues like fly-tipping and littering in the community.
2. <https://www.theoldhamtimes.co.uk/news/19979830.residents-team-mission-transform-royton-linear-park-oldham/> - This article discusses the efforts of the Friends of Royton Linear Park to enhance the park's environment, including activities like planting trees and creating sensory spaces, highlighting community involvement in park improvements.
3. <https://www.theoldhamtimes.co.uk/news/23538926.oldham-eco-park-vandalised-beehives-destroyed/> - This report details the vandalism at Northern Roots, an eco-park in Oldham, where beehives were destroyed, underscoring the broader issue of environmental vandalism in the area.
4. <https://www.shawandroytoncorrespondent.co.uk/council-to-invest-extra-1-27m-and-clean-every-district-as-part-of-new-dont-trash-oldham-campaign/> - This article covers Oldham Council's investment of an additional £1.27 million to clean every district as part of the 'Don't Trash Oldham' campaign, aiming to address cleanliness and environmental issues across the borough.
5. <https://www.theoldhamtimes.co.uk/news/24153026.fly-tipping-oldham-cost-council-600-000/> - This piece highlights the financial impact of fly-tipping in Oldham, with the council spending over £600,000 on cleanup and enforcement, reflecting the significant challenges posed by environmental crimes.
6. <https://www.theoldhamtimes.co.uk/news/23888777.oldham-woman-caught-spraying-graffiti-royton-home/> - This article reports on an incident in Royton where a woman was caught spraying graffiti on a home, illustrating the ongoing issue of vandalism in the area.
7. <https://news.google.?oc=5&hl=en-US&gl=US&ceid=US:en> - Please view link - unable to able to access data