# Anonymous Minion art brightens Burnley motorway stanchions amid local council debates



An anonymous artist has recently caught the attention of the local community by transforming motorway stanchions into cheerful Minions from the beloved "Despicable Me" films. Located under a bridge near Rosegrove in Burnley, Lancashire, these whimsical creations, painted bright yellow and adorned with characteristic features of the cartoon characters, have sparked joy and intrigue among passers-by. The initiative, seemingly spontaneous, has received commendations from locals, with one observer, Nicola Leverton, stating on Facebook that “whoever did this deserves recognition,” highlighting the positivity generated by the artwork.

The enthusiasm surrounding this project reflects a broader appreciation for street art as a means of enlivening urban spaces. One local expressed the sentiment common among many enthusiasts, asserting that such uplifting creativity is "better than seeing concrete.” The artist reportedly devoted five hours to crafting these pieces, and their efforts have ignited interest in how art can enhance communal areas, prompting discussions about the potential for similar projects in the future.

This phenomenon is not unique to Burnley; similar instances of Minion-inspired street art have emerged elsewhere in the UK. In Luton, for example, a group called #Uninvitedarts painted bollards to resemble Minions, attracting widespread public admiration. However, these works initially met resistance when local authorities whitewashed them, arguing that unauthorized art should not be tolerated. The backlash from the community was significant, with many advocating for the creative expression that these installations provided.

Following the uproar, the #Uninvitedarts group reinstated their work overnight, defiantly reclaiming the space for creative expression. This incident underscores a growing tension between local governments and community artists, as many residents see the merit in art that brightens their surroundings and promotes local character. The council eventually expressed a willingness to collaborate with artists, suggesting a potential path forward that could benefit both parties.

These instances highlight the transformative potential of public art. As communities grapple with issues of urban identity and aesthetic dullness, initiatives like these remind residents of the joy and vibrancy creativity can bring to everyday life. The anonymous artist in Burnley, along with those involved in Luton, not only provide visual delight but also spark critical dialogues about the role of art in public spaces. This interplay between artistic expression and community engagement raises important questions about how municipalities can better support local creativity while balancing their commitment to public order.

As these stories unfold, they serve as a testament to the power of creativity in urban environments, inviting reflection on how such initiatives could be encouraged and legitimised within the framework of community development. The ongoing discourse around public art stands to enrich local cultures and enhance the sense of belonging among residents, offering a pathway to a more colourful and connected urban experience.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn4gjygg91vo), [[2]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn4gjygg91vo)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn4gjygg91vo), [[2]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn4gjygg91vo)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-41203759), [[4]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-41240014)
* Paragraph 4 – [[3]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-41203759), [[4]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-41240014)
* Paragraph 5 – [[4]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-41240014)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn4gjygg91vo> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn4gjygg91vo> - An unknown artist painted motorway stanchions under a bridge near Rosegrove, Burnley, to resemble Minions from the 'Despicable Me' films. The artwork received widespread praise from locals, with one observer describing it as a 'fantastic idea' and 'better than seeing concrete.' The artist, who remains unidentified, reportedly spent five hours creating the pieces, bringing joy to passers-by and sparking discussions about the positive impact of such art on the community.
3. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-41203759> - In Luton, bollards were painted to look like Minions from the 'Despicable Me' films by the group #Uninvitedarts. The artwork was initially whitewashed by the council, leading to public outcry. The group criticized the council for not empowering local artists and for removing the artwork, which had been praised by residents for brightening the area and making it more noticeable.
4. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-41240014> - After the council whitewashed the Minion bollards in Luton, the artwork reappeared overnight. The group #Uninvitedarts took responsibility, expressing frustration over the lack of support for local artists. The council urged people not to engage in illegal graffiti and suggested working together to display Luton's vibrant art scene appropriately.
5. <https://displate.com/displate/5965812> - A digital artwork titled 'Stuart' features the mischievous Minion from the 'Despicable Me' films. The piece showcases Stuart's playful character, complete with his single-eyed goggle and cheerful denim attire. The vibrant yellow and orange hues in the background add to the lively depiction, making it a popular choice for fans of the franchise.
6. <https://displate.com/displate/5858839> - The 'Spider Stuart' artwork presents the Minion Stuart in a Halloween-themed setting. Dressed in a pumpkin costume, Stuart holds a candy bucket against an orange backdrop reminiscent of autumn. Delicate spider webs and crawling companions adorn his attire, adding a spooky touch to the piece, making it a festive addition for fans celebrating the season.
7. <https://displate.com/displate/5399380> - The 'Stuart Minion' digital artwork captures the endearing charm of Stuart from the 'Despicable Me' saga. The piece features Stuart's single-eyed gaze, mischievous smile, and classic denim overalls. The vivid yellow hues of his skin are contrasted against an azure backdrop, highlighting his playful demeanor and making it a vibrant addition to any collection.