WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM NO: 11

Report To:	**Full Council**	**Date:**	**21 July 2025**

Contact Officer: Paula Harrison

Subject: **Murals - Durability**

West Swindon Murals

1.1 West Swindon Parish Council has successfully completed five subway murals. Three have been completed with spray paint and two with masonry paint. Each mural is painted on a variable surface which may be pitted, damaged, smooth or ridged. The surface condition and porosity may affect the longevity of the mural. Additionally some murals are more prone to water logging and walls can be damp for long periods of time. These conditions will vary and will impact on the long term longevity of any artworks.

1.2 In addition to walls condition, murals can be prone to tagging. Generally, a detailed design is less vulnerable that one with blank spaces. The artists who created murals at Rivermead, The Chesters, Link Centre and Standings Close are local and have pledged to repair any tags as and when they occur. Luckily, these murals have not been tagged. At Bodiam Drive, due to the expanse of the space, the artist gave a simpler design and this has resulted in a number of tags. As this artist used masonry paint and the design is simple, the Parish Team are able to repaint the design as and when tags happen.

1.3 It is possible to paint over murals with a protective coating. Generally, if graffiti paint is applied to the coating, it can be removed by removing the coating. Coatings need to be repainted each time they are removed.
Using a product such as Hydron Nu-Guard AG Clear, the costs are estimated as follows

- Bodiam subway (27m), £1248
- Rowton Heath Way to Link (19m) £547
- Standings Close and The Chesters (17) £490 x 2
- Rivermead c. £300

1.4 The Council may wish to apply coatings to safeguard and prolong its murals. For financial considerations, the Parish Council has funding allocated to Street Art for the current financial year up to £5,000. The cost for coating all subways to date would be c £3,075.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 That Council notes the information and considers the position.