

**Extra**

# Writing's on wall for a high street scourge

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**AL ABUSE:**



Wash and brush up: Charles South, marketing manager of Salisbury firm Innotec Supplies, demonstrates his product which cleans off spray paint

Picture: Andy Bush

**By David Humphrey**  
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**TRIALS** are taking place in Wiltshire of a pioneering product which aims to tackle the modern day scourge of graffiti.

Company bosses say it can remove ugly scribbles so common in towns and cities from a range of surfaces.

And leaders at Salisbury district council say they are impressed with what they have seen so far.

Charles South, marketing manager of Salisbury firm Innotec Supplies, said: "The product is designed to be completely environmentally friendly.

"Once it has been washed off it's biodegradable."

The graffiti remover is made in Bel-

## Company tests eco-friendly answer to graffiti problem

gium. It is sprayed on to the area, like a wall or a bus shelter, and left to work for about five minutes.

It is then cleaned with a compound which neutralises the graffiti remover and allows it to be washed away.

The firm says the product will thoroughly remove graffiti from most surfaces without causing damage and can be applied to brickwork, road signs, plastics, fabrics, metal or painted surfaces.

Mr South said: "If you have a small

area that is affected, you spray the graffiti remover on then you will be left with a clean spot."

As well as Salisbury district council, the firm is also in talks with South West Trains.

Andy Cole, from Salisbury district council's parks department, said graffiti vandals targeted subway walls, buildings, public conveniences and play equipment.

"What we are looking for is a product that is environmentally

friendly, effective and easy to deal with, and in principle this one seems very good," he said.

Graffiti is an issue across the region, with Swindon one of the worst-affected areas.

Swindon South MP Julia Drown has already identified it as a major social issue.

"One tag (the artist's signature or nickname) on a wall invites another tag and eventually it wears the area down," she said. "People don't feel safe in areas with graffiti and it has a big impact on businesses."

Convicted graffiti vandals in Swindon are now put to work clearing up some of their mess by using a high-powered washer which mixes water and bicarbonate of soda to clean off spray paint.

## Taxpayers' £9m school bill

TAXPAYERS in Swindon look set to foot the bill for £9million of extra spending for local schools.

Education chiefs are bidding to counter the town's reputation as the worst funded local authority.

Swindon's schools receive thousands of pounds less per pupil than schools in other parts of the country.

Now borough councillors are looking at a plan to raise up to £9million over four years through higher council tax bills.

lem lies with "appallingly inadequate" cash support from Westminster.

There was a 15 per cent council tax rise in September and council leader Kevin Small has warned the bill could soar by a similar amount this year.

Cllr Small (Lab, Western) said: "The extra money is based on assumptions we have made about the budget the Government will set us in December."

But officials have been quick to point out that council tax bills in Swindon remain the lowest in Wiltshire and

would make it jump by £135 to £1,027.

But opposition leader Cllr Mike Bawden (Con, Old Town & Lawns) warned: "We can't be expected to pour money into education without knowing what that money will be spent on and what it will do.

"So the Education Partnership Board should set targets and make sure those targets are met."

And Liberal Democrat leader Cllr Mike Evemy (Lib Dem, Eastcott) was sceptical.

## Mysterious case of £20,000 crash

A MAN found with a case containing £20,000 after a car crash has been released by police who thought he had stolen it.

Paramedics were called to the crash at Baydon, Marlborough, on Monday night but the vehicle was empty. A police dog handler later found the man, in his 50s, with the briefcase.

Swindon police were astonished to find the cash inside.