

**REPORT FROM: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES MANAGER**

**TO: NELSON COMMITTEE**

**DATE: 30 MARCH 2016**

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## **ENVIRONMENTAL BLIGHT**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To report any new environmental blight sites and provide updates on existing sites.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (1) That members note the report.
- (2) That members report any new environmental blight sites to the Neighbourhood Services Manager for inclusion in future reports including a contact name and contact details with a brief description of the site and problem.

### **REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

To deal with environmental blight in the area.

### **ISSUE**

1. The definition of environmental blight is:
  - Untidy/derelict piece of Council land requiring tidying up.
  - Untidy/derelict piece of unregistered land requiring tidying up.
  - Untidy/derelict piece of Council-owned or unregistered land which needs a scheme to regenerate the site (eg a former garage colony converted to a landscaped parking area).

Private pieces of land requiring tidying are best not dealt with under environmental blight as they may require enforcement. These should be reported to Planning and Building Control to be included on the Problem Buildings list for Section 215 enforcement if the problem is persistent.

2. Any new sites should be reported to Tricia Wilson or Peter Atkinson including a contact name and contact details, exact location and a brief description of the site and the problem.

3. Plans and photographs of the sites will only be included for new sites unless clarification is needed.
4. Please see table below.

Site	Owner	Issue	Area Committee Resolution	Current Position
i) Athol Street Garage Site	The site is owned by eight different plot holders	There is only one garage on the site which will remain	The Executive authorised Liberata Property Services to negotiate with plot owners to acquire or lease the land	<p>Four of the eight available plots have been purchased: one is under instruction and two are to be progressed. The one with the garage was to remain under private ownership. However, the owner has shown an interest to sell and the plot is now to be valued</p> <p>Once the whole site is purchased the intention is to fence off the area and use the land as a community garden/ food-growing area. Work is progressing with Walverden School to involve the school children in a garden/food growing-project in the future</p>

## IMPLICATIONS

**Policy:** None arising directly from the report.

**Financial:** No new financial implications arise from this report. Any action proposed that has additional financial implications would be the subject of a further report. There is no specific allocation for environmental blight sites.

**Legal:** None arising directly from the report.

**Risk Management:** None arising directly from the report.

**Health and Safety:** These issues will be considered when the schemes are progressed.

**Sustainability:** This will be considered for each individual scheme. Long-term maintenance may be an issue.

**Community Safety:** This will be considered for each individual scheme.

**Equality and Diversity:** This will be considered for each individual scheme.

## APPENDICES

None.

## LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.