

REPORT FROM: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES MANAGER

TO: WEST CRAVEN COMMITTEE

DATE: 5 JANUARY 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.
- (3) That members agree to remove item 4(i) from the list as it has been completed.

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) Land off Hill Street/ Earl Street, Barnoldswick	PBC-owned	The site was being maintained by Parks but was transferred to Neighbourhood Services as part of the Problem Sites Review. In the interim the site had not been maintained. Also, the site was being used for fly-tipping	Proposed improvements for the site were approved and money from the West Craven Area Committee capital programme allocated for the scheme	The proposed improvement works have been completed
ii) Land at junction of Goodhall Close and Victoria Road, Earby	Unregistered	Some years ago, after a lot of investigation, no owner could be found for the site and so Earby Town Council spent money and time to clear the site and paid a contractor to mow it regularly In addition, money was obtained to install a railing along the beck side because of a 6ft drop into the water Initially the site was well kept and tidy but it ended up being used as a dog toilet and eventually the contractor refused to mow the grass and so the site has become overgrown and is now an eyesore	Following a site visit members agreed for Neighbourhood Services to provide costs for clearing the site and for removing the bow top fencing that was around the youth shelter and relocating it around the grassed area, including a gate to prevent dogs from entering the site There might be the possibility of adding a few benches and some planters in the future Earby Town Council agreed that once the site is improved they would maintain the site once more	A cost has been sought for clearing the site and pruning back the trees Costs are being sought for the fencing and will be reported back to Earby Town Council soon

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: None arising directly from the report.

Financial: No new financial implications arise from the recommendations in this 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.