



**REPORT FROM:** Neighbourhood Services Manager

**TO:** Brierfield and Reedley Committee

**DATE:** 10 May 2016

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## For Information

### Brierfield and Reedley Environmental Visual Audits

#### PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide an update on the outcome of Environmental Visual Audits in Brierfield and Reedley.

#### ISSUE

##### Visual Audits

At its meeting in November 2014 the Committee requested a report back after each round of EVAs in Brierfield and Reedley. The last EVAs were held on 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> February. The EVAs included 367 properties in the Reedley Ward in addition to the 1384 properties in the Brierfield Ward.

Overall there continues to be a significant improvement in Brierfield compared with nine years ago when EVAs first started and seven years ago when conditions were recorded at their worst. The February EVAs saw an overall increase and reflect a continuing concern regarding rubbish being left in back streets. Although enforcement actions are up they are consistent with the results for the same time in 2015.

Actions from the last round of EVAs include:

Brierfield and Reedley	Change	Winter 2016	Autumn 2015	Winter 2015	Autumn 2014	Worst (January 2009)
Properties visited	+367	1751	1751	1751	1384	1384
Issues identified	-73	86	72	80	35	159
Neighbourhood Pride Collections	-8	19	17	12	3	27
Graffiti	-23	1	4	2	2	24

<b>S215/S79 Actions taken on owners</b>	<b>-23</b>	26	21	30	18	49
<b>Environmental Health</b>	<b>-4</b>	0	0	1	1	4
<b>Bulky cards sent where there is rubbish qualifying for the free scheme</b>	<b>-3</b>	8	15	6	7	11
<b>Informal warning letters sent to the occupier where the yard is unsightly</b>	<b>-2</b>	16	4	16	3	18

## Grotspots

The EVAs and other work in Brierfield also highlight more endemic issues such as:

	<b>On-going</b>
<b>Limefield Avenue ginnel</b>	Consultation with residents is well advanced – a report will come to the Committee with recommendations around a Public Spaces Protection Order in due course
<b>Taylor Street MUGA</b>	Agreement reached with the Volleyball Group – to be monitored
<b>Vandalism and nuisance around St Luke’s Church</b>	Working with the church council to apply for Police and Crime Commissioner funding for preventative works
<b>Vehicle nuisance around a side street garage business</b>	Agreement reached with the owner after a Community Protection Notice warning letter
<b>Condition of 6-12 Cambridge Street</b>	With Private Sector Housing
<b>Condition of 1-13 Oxford Street</b>	Two long term empties are having work done
<b>Rear of Colne Road</b>	Improvements complete – work to be done with shops to make use of bin enclosure
<b>Land next to 27 Railway Street</b>	Unregistered land requiring a maintenance free solution
<b>Condition of 71 Colne Road</b>	With Planning
<b>Crabtree Street garages</b>	Graffiti needs removing - letters have been sent to the owners
<b>Condition of land at the top of Richard Street</b>	Security has improved – ownership is with Legal
<b>Condition of land in Richard Street/Walter Street</b>	With Housing Regeneration
<b>Condition of building in Hill Street</b>	With Planning
<b>Condition of Sefton Street back street</b>	Enquiries on going
<b>Back street 18-42 Every Street</b>	Remains on PCSO tasking list for regular checks
	<b>Complete</b>
<b>Railway Street stone yard</b>	Planning has achieved a significant improvement
<b>Taylor Street back street</b>	Has been resurfaced
<b>Condition of land around unit in Arthur Street</b>	Area now clear
<b>Condition of land in St James Street</b>	Condition improved by land owner
<b>Land in front of Railway Terrace</b>	Improvements complete
<b>Condition of building in Church Street</b>	Planning intervention – work now complete and condition improved

## Community Protection

Since this area of work began under the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 the following actions have been taken in Brierfield and Reedley:

new dog escaping	Failure to Comply with Notice	04.01.16	Dog Control
Parking vehicles awaiting repair on street	Warning Letter Served	22.01.16	Garage business nuisance
dogs out of control	Resolved after Warning	21.07.15	Dog Control
nuisance behaviour associated with young men driving on to the car park	Under Investigation		Public Nuisance
rubbish in yard; throwing rubbish from windows; noise nuisance; drug related activity	Under Investigation		Property Condition
dogs out of control; dog fouling; barking dogs	Under Investigation		Dog Control
site is vulnerable to ASB	Under Investigation		Property Condition
Noise nuisance and dog control	Resolved before Warning		Dog Control
dogs out of control in Marina and locally	Resolved before Warning		Dog Control

## IMPLICATIONS

**Policy:** Environmental Visual Audits in Brierfield and Reedley are carried out as part of the Pendle Community Safety Partnership's Partnership Plan

**Financial:** There is a cost to the Council for enforcement action and there may be costs associated with arranging improvements to grotspot areas

**Legal:** Enforcement Action is taken under S215 of the Town and country Planning Act 1990; S79 of the Public Health Act 1936 and the Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

**Risk Management:** EVAs support those elements of the Risk Management Plan relating to community safety, environmental crime and environmental protection

**Health and Safety:** EVAs are supported by a Health and Safety Risk Assessment

**Sustainability:** The pattern of repeat EVAs supports the sustainability of the improvement since 2009

**Community Safety:** Pendle Community Safety Partnership has consistently included EVAs in its Partnership Plan

**Equality and Diversity:** EVAs are focused on improving the areas of most significant deprivation