



REPORT FROM: Neighbourhood Services Manager

TO: Barrowford and Western Parishes Committee

DATE: 12 May 2016

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Offensive Signs on Pendle Way at Higherford

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update on the options for dealing with offensive signs on and near the Pendle Way at Higherford.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That action leading to the removal of offensive signs on or near the Pendle Way in Higherford is escalated and that authority is given to serve a Community Protection Notice.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) To enable officers to be able to negotiate or force the removal of offensive signs on or near the Pendle Way in Higherford.

ISSUE

Over the past few months a number of signs have been displayed by an occupier of a cottage adjacent to the Pendle Way in Higherford which are visible by users of the Pendle Way and connecting public footpaths. Examples of these signs are attached in Appendix 1.

Officers have approached the occupier and asked him why the signs are there. The one is a protest against the new development in Barrowford and the other a protest against the Council generally and the way footpath users access the footpath of the Pendle Way crossing in front of the occupier's house. Complaints have also been received from members of the public regarding the occupier's aggressive attitude and demeanour towards footpath users.

Officers have explained to him that for those who do not realise it is a protest the signs are offensive; in particular given how close they are to the public footpath. Officers have asked the

occupier to remove the signs. He has refused to do this and claims he has the support of neighbours and footpath users.

Officers will continue to try to negotiate with the occupier however the Committee may also want to consider the use of a Community Protection Notice, preceded by a statutory written warning, to require their removal. This would ultimately give the Council the ability to enter the land and remove the signs.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: None

Financial: There may be legal costs associated with an appeal to the magistrates' court on serving a Community Protection Notice

Legal: Community Protection Notices were introduced in the Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

Risk Management: None

Health and Safety: Officers will take into account health and safety when visiting and removing the signs

Sustainability: None

Community Safety: The signs may be considered to be offensive to the general public

Equality and Diversity: The signs may be considered to be offensive to the general public

