

REPORT FROM: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES MANAGER

TO: WEST CRAVEN COMMITTEE

DATE: 5 JULY 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) 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 completed with money from West Craven Committee's Capital Programme. It was resolved to retain this site on the Environmental Blight list to monitor maintenance	The site is included on the Neighbourhood Services' Problem Sites list and so will be maintained three times a year with an annual inspection by the Environmental Action Group from April 2016
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 eye-sore	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	£120 was approved from the Capital Programme to clear the site of vegetation. Need to establish that Earby Town Council is happy to regularly maintain the site before going ahead with the improvements A further £2,400 to £2,600 is needed to relocate the railings, including a self-closing gate to stop dogs getting into the site
iii) Untarmacked part of Greenberfield Lane Car Park, Barnoldswick	Pendle Council	The land belongs to Pendle Council. Parks maintains the site twice a year but there is no budget attached to the site	Site put forward on 5/1/2016 – consideration be given to the site's improvement	Following a site visit it was agreed that the main issue for this site is antisocial behaviour. It was felt that this could be alleviated by the installation of a barrier to prevent cars getting into the overflow car park which is obscured and so makes a good hiding place. Costs have been sought for a barrier and there are two possible locations. Options are being considered by councillors. Funding for the barrier would need to be sought with half the cost coming from Parks' budget.

Site	Owner	Issue	Area Committee Resolution	Current Position
iv) Land at Bank Street (the former joiner shop), Barnoldswick	Privately owned	This site is privately owned	Site put forward on 5/1/2016 – consideration be given to the site's improvement.	The site is privately owned. Neighbourhood Services would not be able to do a scheme on this site without the landowner's permission. The site has been referred to Planning.
v) Cemetery Road car park, Earby	Pendle Council	The site belongs to Pendle Council and is managed by Liberata Property Services.	Site put forward on 5/1/2016 – consideration be given to the site's improvement	Following a site visit it was agreed that drainage improvements were needed as well as resurfacing, removing the abandoned vehicle and relocating the container. It was felt that small amounts of money could be found to clear the paths and drains this year. Approximately £2,500 is needed for this. It was agreed that the best option for the car park would be to overlay the stone with bitmac costing in the region of £6,000. This could perhaps be done with next year's Area Committee Capital Programme with a request for a contribution from the croquet club which regularly uses the car park. The container has been moved to an alternative location which was agreed on site

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.