

**REPORT FROM: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES MANAGER**

**TO: COLNE AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE**

**DATE: 7 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.
- (3) That members note the new site at item 4(i)

### **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 Varley Street, adjacent to NR Engineering	Unregistered	The strip of land is maintained by some residents but not by others and can look messy	The site was put forward by Cllr Jonathan Nixon	NR Engineering got back to us to confirm that the land is not included in their deeds. Residents have been approached and some, but not all, would like to retain their garden and so it was felt that the site would be better with planting and regular maintenance rather than a bitmac surface. A cost has been obtained to include more plants and shrubs along the whole strip but this would require regular maintenance. There may be a budget for the planting but the regular maintenance would have to be kept to a minimum of three visits per year. Meeting to be arranged to agree on the best way forward within the budgets available

## 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.