

REPORT FROM: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES MANAGER

TO: WEST CRAVEN COMMITTEE

DATE: 10 JANUARY 2017

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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(d) as the site has been referred to Planning.

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
a) 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	It was resolved to retain this site on the Environmental Blight list to monitor maintenance	The site is on the Problem Sites list which EAG now maintain three times a year. EAG did some extra work to the site following reports that the site looked untidy
b) 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	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	Additional money was approved from West Craven Committee's Capital Programme to bring the site up to a maintainable standard. This work has been completed It was agreed that Earby Town Council would take on regular maintenance A further £2,400 to £2,600 would be required to relocate the railings, including a self-closing gate to stop dogs getting into the site
c) 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	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 makes a good hiding place	The barrier has been installed
d) Land at Bank Street (the former joiner shop), Barnoldswick	Privately owned	This site is privately owned	That consideration be given to the site's improvement	The site has been referred to Planning as it is privately owned
e) Cemetery Road Car Park, Earby	Pendle Council	The site belongs to Pendle Council and is managed by Liberata Property Services	Following a site visit it was agreed that drainage improvements were needed as well as resurfacing and removing the abandoned vehicle	Liberata Property Services has £500 towards the drainage works and West Craven Committee contributed £1,000 A capital bid has been submitted for resurfacing

Site	Owner	Issue	Area Committee Resolution	Current Position
			The container has been relocated to Bailey Street	the car park. We are waiting on the outcome of this before we progress the drainage works The abandoned car was reported to our Environmental Services department. However, the DVLA confirmed that the vehicle has a local keeper and therefore cannot be deemed abandoned. It has been reported to the local PCSO. A progress report has been requested

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: None arising directly from the report.

Financial: No new financial implications arise from this report. Any action proposed that has additional financial implications would be the subject of a further 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.