

REPORT FROM: Neighbourhood Services Manager

TO: Brierfield and Reedley Committee

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Brierfield and Reedley Environmental Visual Audits

PURPOSE OF REPORT

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the report is noted and the Environmental Visual Audits continue on a six monthly basis.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To enable a proactive approach to managing environmental issues in the residential areas of central Brierfield.

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 16th and 23rd March. 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 ten years ago when EVAs first started and eight years ago when conditions were recorded at their worst. These EVAs were slightly up on the summer period and comparable with last winter. There is less rubbish being left in back streets and less offensive graffiti. However, the number of enforcement actions continues to be a concern.

Actions from the last round of EVAs include:

Brierfield and Reedley	Change	Winter 2017	Summer 2016	Winter 2015	Worst (January 2009)
Properties visited	+367	1751	1751	1751	1384
Issues identified	-89	70	68	86	159
Neighbourhood Pride Collections	-17	10	19	19	27
Graffiti	-24	0	3	1	24
S215/S79 Actions taken on owners	-25	24	13	26	49
Environmental Health	-4	0	0	0	4
Bulky cards sent where there is rubbish qualifying for the free scheme	0	11	11	8	11
Informal warning letters sent to the occupier where the yard is unsightly	-8	10	6	16	18

Grotspots

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

	On-going
Limefield Avenue ginnel	Alleygates approved by Committee – to be included in Boroughwide alleygate PSPO now with Legal; gates likely to be fitted May or June
Taylor Street MUGA	Resident and user consultation done in March and referred to the Town Council
Vandalism and nuisance around St Luke's Church	Working with the church council to apply for Police and Crime Commissioner funding for preventative works
Condition of 6-12 Cambridge Street	With Private Sector Housing
Condition of 1-13 Oxford Street	Two long term empties are having work done
Rear of Colne Road	Improvements complete – work to be done with shops to make use of bin enclosure and with BAIC to use the planting area
Land next to 27 Railway Street	Unregistered land requiring a maintenance free solution
Condition of 71 Colne Road	Work in progress
Condition of land at the top of Richard Street	Security has improved – ownership is with Legal
Condition of land in Richard Street/Walter Street	With Housing Regeneration
Condition of building in Hill Street	With Planning
Back street 18-42 Every Street	Will receive regular checks
	Complete
Condition of Sefton Street back street	Clearance scheme complete
Vehicle nuisance around a side street garage business	Business has now moved
Parking in Timber Street	No parking sign put up on side of vets
Railway Street stone yard	Planning has achieved a significant improvement
Taylor Street back street	Has been resurfaced
Condition of land around unit in Arthur Street	Area now clear
Condition of land in St James Street	Condition improved by land owner
Land in front of Railway Terrace	Improvements complete

Condition of building in Church Street	Planning intervention – work now complete and condition improved
Crabtree Street garages	Graffiti removed

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:

Street Level Issue	Current Action	Date of Action
new dog escaping - enforcement of FPN pending	Resolved after Notice	04.01.16
Parking vehicle awaiting repair on street	Resolved after Warning	22.01.16
condition of garden; dog nuisance	Resolved after Warning	24.02.17
dogs out of control	Resolved after Warning	21.07.15
site is vulnerable to ASB	Under Investigation	
hoarding in two now unoccupied houses	Under Investigation	
squatting without consent in the property	Under Investigation	
parking cars awaiting repair in street	Under Investigation	
condition of rear extension to building	Under Investigation	
condition of building and back yard	Under Investigation	
condition of building and back yard	Under Investigation	
condition of building and back yard	Under Investigation	
condition of building and back yard	Under Investigation	
condition of building and back yard	Under Investigation	
rubbish on roof	Under Investigation	
unattached caravan parked on the front street	Resolved before Warning	
offensive graffiti on back wall	Resolved before Warning	
offensive graffiti on back wall	Resolved before Warning	

nuisance behaviour associated with young men driving on to the car park	Resolved before Warning	
fly tipping and litter in car park	Resolved before Warning	
car in disrepair parked on the back street	Resolved before Warning	
rubbish in yard; throwing rubbish from windows; noise nuisance; drug related activity	Resolved before Warning	
dogs out of control; dog fouling; barking dogs	Resolved before Warning	
over grown garden and neighbour dispute	Resolved before Warning	
noise, caravan on back street, caravan in car park	Resolved before Warning	
dogs out of control in Marina and locally	Resolved before Warning	

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