



REPORT FROM: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES MANAGER

TO: COLNE AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE

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ENVIRONMENTAL VISUAL AUDITS IN COLNE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide an update on the outcome of Environmental Visual Audits in Waterside, Horsfield and Vivary Bridge.

RECOMMENDATION

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

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

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

ISSUE

The first Environmental Visual Audit was held in Waterside in December 2005. They are still carried out six monthly in Brierfield and Reedley; five wards in Nelson as well as Waterside; Horsfield and Vivary Bridge in Colne.

The most recent Horsfield and Vivary Bridge EVA was in March and Waterside in June. A total of 1595 properties were visited. Overall there continues to be a significant improvement in Colne compared with when the EVAs first started and with 2008-2010 when conditions were recorded at their worst.

Overall there is less rubbish being left in back streets and less offensive graffiti. However, the number of enforcement actions is increasing due to the need to use S46 actions to persuade residents to keep wheelie bins in yards. Bulky cards are used to inform residents with bulky waste in their yards of the Council's free scheme; higher numbers can be seen as a positive opportunity to encourage use of the scheme.

Actions from the latest round of EVAs include:

Waterside CEVAs				
	Change	Summer 2017	Winter 2017	Worst (2008)
Properties visited		1143	1143	1143
Issues identified	-187	59	64	246
Neighbourhood Pride Collections	-12	7	15	19
Graffiti	-35	0	1	35
S.215; S79 and S46 enforcement actions taken	-44	29	16	73
Bulky cards sent where there is rubbish qualifying for the free scheme	-35	8	11	43
Informal warning letters sent to the occupier where the yard is unsightly	-28	3	13	31
Horsfield CEVAs				
	Change	Spring 2017	Autumn 2016	Worst (2009)
Properties visited		775	775	775
Issues identified	-136	31	24	167
Neighbourhood Pride Collections	-33	3	2	36
Graffiti	-17	0	0	17
S.215; S79 and S46 enforcement actions taken	-29	9	4	38
Bulky cards sent where there is rubbish qualifying for the free scheme	-4	12	7	16
Informal warning letters sent to the occupier where the yard is unsightly	-30	6	7	36
Vivary Bridge CEVAs (started 2010)				
	Change	Spring 2017	Autumn 2016	Worst (2010)
Properties visited		375	375	375
Issues identified	-13	16	19	29
Neighbourhood Pride Collections	-4	0	6	4
Graffiti	-1	1	0	2
S.215; S79 and S46 enforcement actions taken	-3	2	5	5
Bulky cards sent where there is rubbish qualifying for the free scheme	+4	8	3	4
Informal warning letters sent to the occupier where the yard is unsightly	-5	3	2	8

If Members find this report useful, future versions will include an update on grotspots in the three Wards.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: Environmental Visual Audits in Colne 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; S46 Of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 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 2008

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