

REPORT FROM: Neighbourhood Services Manager

TO: Nelson Committee

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Environmental Visual Audits in Nelson

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide an update on the outcome of Environmental Visual Audits in Bradley, Clover Hill, Southfield, Walverden and Whitefield

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the report is noted and the Environmental Visual Audits continue on a six monthly basis

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) To enable a proactive approach to managing environmental issues in the residential areas of Nelson

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 and three wards in Colne.

The most recent EVAs in the Nelson wards were between April and August 2017. A total of 6295 properties were visited. Overall there continues to be a significant improvement in Nelson compared with when the EVAs first started and with 2008 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 and to deal with contaminated recycling bins. 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:

Bradley	Change	Summer 2017	Winter 2017	Worst (2008)
Properties visited		1320	1320	1320
Issues identified	-229	68	70	297
Neighbourhood Pride Collections	-46	17	10	63
Graffiti	-30	0	0	30
S.215; S79 and S46 enforcement actions	-29	33	24	62
Bulky cards sent where there is rubbish qualifying for the free scheme	-35	7	11	42
Informal warning letters sent to the occupier where the yard is unsightly	-35	0	4	35

Clover Hill	Change	Spring 2017	Winter 2016	Worst (2008)
Properties visited		1322	1322	1322
Issues identified	-178	71	108	249
Neighbourhood Pride Collections	-8	10	34	18
Graffiti	-15	0	0	15
S215/S79 Actions taken on owners	-45	33	20	78
Bulky cards sent where there is rubbish qualifying for the free scheme	-26	18	28	44
Informal warning letters sent to the occupier where the yard is unsightly	-17	4	18	21

Southfield	Change	Spring 2017	Winter 2017	Worst (2008)
Properties visited		1340	1340	1290
Issues identified	-145	123	103	268
Neighbourhood Pride Collections	-3	47	37	50
Graffiti	-23	1	0	24
S.215 Actions taken on owners	-18	53	31	71
Bulky cards sent where there is rubbish qualifying for the free scheme	-38	18	17	56
Informal warning letters sent to the occupier where the yard is unsightly	-54	3	10	57

Walverden	Change	Summer 2017	Winter 2017	Worst (2008)
Properties visited		938	938	938
Issues identified	-101	44	57	145
Neighbourhood Pride Collections	-19	4	9	23
Graffiti	-6	1	0	7
S215/S79 Actions taken on owners	-23	21	18	44
Bulky cards sent where there is rubbish qualifying for the free scheme	-25	5	15	30
Informal warning letters sent to the occupier where the yard is unsightly	-7	9	7	16

Whitefield	Change	Spring 2017	Autumn 2016	Worst (2008)
Properties visited		1375	1375	1375
Issues identified	-118	74	76	192
Neighbourhood Pride Collections	-22	20	32	42
Graffiti	-19	0	1	19
S215/S79 Actions taken on owners	-16	19	9	35
Bulky cards sent where there is rubbish qualifying for the free scheme	+2	20	17	18
Informal warning letters sent to the occupier where the yard is unsightly	-17	3	7	20

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

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: Environmental Visual Audits in Nelson 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