

REPORT FROM: Chief Executive
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

- (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 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 5th and 12th April. The EVAs included 1384 properties in the Brierfield Ward and 367 properties in the Reedley Ward.

Overall there continues to be a significant improvement in Brierfield and Reedley compared with eleven years ago when EVAs first started and nine years ago when conditions were recorded at their worst. These EVAs were significantly down on the two most recent EVAs. There was an increase in fly-tipping and contaminated bins and rubbish in back yards requiring enforcement action remain an issue. The Sackville Street area has significantly improved although it continues to include some difficult empty properties.

Actions from the last round of EVAs include:

Brierfield and Reedley	Change	Spring 2018	Summer 2017	Winter 2017	Worst (January 2009)
Properties visited	+367	1751	1751	1751	1384
Issues identified	-114	45	67	70	159
Neighbourhood Pride Collections	-13	14	20	10	27
Graffiti	-24	0	1	0	24
S215/S79/S46 Actions taken on owners	-34	15	24	24	49
Informal warning letters sent to the occupier where the yard is unsightly	-15	14	17	21	29

Grotspots

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

	On-going
Taylor Street MUGA	Improvement work pending
Condition of 6-12 Cambridge Street	Private Sector Housing dealing
Condition of 1-13 Oxford Street	Two long term empties are having work done
Rear of Colne Road	Further maintenance complete
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	Back street has improved and fewer back yards a cause for concern
	Complete
Limefield Avenue ginnel	Alleygates installed and locked
Vandalism and nuisance around St Luke's Church	CCTV installed
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

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; 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 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