

**REPORT FROM: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES MANAGER**

**TO: COLNE AND DISTRICT AREA COMMITTEE**

**DATE: 3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2018**

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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.

### **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 Skipton Road Roundabout	Part-LCC and part-unregistered	In March 2016 Horsfield ward councillors contacted Neighbourhood Services to establish what could be done about the land at Skipton Road roundabout as it looked untidy and yet was an important gateway into Colne	The site was cut back and tidied and it was agreed that Environmental Services would maintain the site under the County Highways Maintenance scheme	<p>However, there is an unregistered section of the land which is too steep for regular maintenance and so it remains untidy</p> <p>Last year a proposal was put forward to sow wildflower seeds on the unregistered steep section of land as it would only require one cut per annum and spot weed kill to keep tidy. However, It was established that there are problems with doing this on unregistered land</p> <p>Following a full report to the Committee it was decided that we serve a Section 215 Notice. However, following a meeting with Planning it was established that even if we serve notice this would just be for the owner or, if an owner does not come forward, for us to tidy the land. It would not allow us to plant wildflowers</p> <p>Neighbourhood Services contacted LCC Estates to see if they had any records that show that the land does actually belong to them. LCC responded by saying that having checked with their Deeds Room they are not able to clarify who owns the unregistered land. The land shown in LCC ownership was acquired for junction improvements ie to create the roundabout. At the time the District Councils were agents to LCC Highways for core areas (Settlement Areas) so LCC officers felt the acquisitions would have been undertaken by PBC and they felt that any history recording this information would actually be held by PBC</p>

## 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.