

REPORT FROM: Chief Executive
TO: Brierfield and Reedley Committee
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Report Author: Tim Horsley, Community Protection Coordinator
Tel. No: 661280
E-mail: tim.horsley@pendle.gov.uk

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 4 and 11 October. 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 up on the last EVA in the Spring but down on the one for the same period last year. There continues to be an increase in fly-tipping and contaminated bins while 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	Autumn 2018	Spring 2018	Summer 2017	Worst (January 2009)
Properties visited	+367	1751	1751	1751	1384
Issues identified	-95	58	45	67	159
Neighbourhood Pride Collections and Fly tips	-11	16	14	20	27
Graffiti	-24	0	0	1	24
S215/S79/S46 Actions taken on owners	-36	17	15	24	49
Informal warning letters sent to the occupier where the yard is unsightly	-17	12	14	17	29

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