

REPORT FROM: HOUSING HEALTH AND ENGINEERING

TO: NELSON COMMITTEE

DATE: 7th OCTOBER 2019

Report Author: Tricia Wilson
Tel. No: 661051
E-mail: tricia.wilson@pendle.gov.uk

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 Housing, Health and Engineering 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 Julie Whittaker 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 for progress made on Nelson environmental blight sites.

Site	Owner	Issue	Area Committee Resolution	Current Position
a) Athol Street Garage Site	The site is owned by nine different plot holders	Once the site is purchased the Council intends to fence off and improve the land and encourage it to be used as a community garden with input from the neighbouring school	Liberata Property Services is negotiating with plot owners to acquire or lease the land	<p>Legal issues with individual plot holders have delayed the process. Localities and Policy Unit instructed Property Services to complete the final plots including covering the costs of registering untitled land</p> <p>There are also issues with the plot which has the garage on it as the garage now appears to be abandoned</p> <p>We wanted to start making improvements to the site over the summer. However, the outstanding sites have to remain untouched until legal issues are resolved and so this is still hindering progress</p> <p>There is no money attached to Environmental Blight and so once the plots are purchased we would have to put in a new bid to the Area Committee or find funds from elsewhere for any improvement works to be done</p>

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: None arising directly from the report.

Financial: No new financial implications arise from the recommendations in this report. There is no budget allocation specifically for environmental blight sites and therefore any financial implication needs to be met from existing resources.

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.