

**REPORT FROM: HOUSING HEALTH AND ENGINEERING SERVICES
MANAGER**

TO: COLNE AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE

DATE: 10th OCTOBER 2019

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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 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 Colne environmental blight sites.

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>Environmental Services pointed out that the unregistered section of the land was too steep for regular maintenance. So in 2017 a proposal was put forward to sow wildflower seeds on this unregistered, steep section of land as this would only require one cut per annum and spot weed kill to keep tidy despite the site being steep</p> <p>However, we were advised by Legal Section that we should only tidy an unregistered site rather than make improvements or changes</p> <p>Pendle Council felt that the land must be the responsibility of LCC and following enquiries it was established that the land probably was the responsibility of the LCC as it would have been acquired to create the roundabout</p> <p>Pendle Council Engineers met with LCC and it was agreed that the embankment supports the highway and we could carry out improvement works if we still wished to do so</p> <p>The site will be added onto the Environmental Services list as part of the regular County Highways Maintenance regime which was originally agreed for the whole site in 2017 before the above issues were highlighted as a problem</p> <p>However, additional funding needs to be sought to clear the unregistered steep bit of land of brambles and overgrown weeds which have taken over and if we wanted to pursue the idea of sowing wildflower plants to enhance the steep slope so that the site is maintainable before it is added to the regular County Highways Maintenance list</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.