

**REPORT FROM: HOUSING HEALTH AND ENGINEERING**

**TO: BARROWFORD AND WESTERN PARISHES COMMITTEE**

**DATE: 10 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 Barrowford and Western Parishes environmental blight sites.

Site	Owner	Issue	Area Committee Resolution	Current Position
i) Garage site at the junction of Nora Street and Higher Causeway	Privately owned	This site has previously been on the Environmental Blight Report in October 2015	It was reported that the site was overgrown again. Area Committee members requested that it be tidied	After the last report, members resolved that Legal Services be authorised to issue a Section 215 Notice instructing the owner of the site to cut back the trees and shrubs. Subsequently it was agreed that it would be better to deal with this situation with a Section 154 of the Highways Act. We are currently at Stage 3 of this process where we will be issuing the owner a third letter telling them that if they do not cut back the trees within seven days we will issue notice

## 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.