

REPORT FROM: HOUSING, HEALTH AND ENGINEERING

TO: WEST CRAVEN COMMITTEE

DATE: 1 MARCH 2022

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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 (tricia.wilson@pendle.gov.uk) or Julie Whittaker (julie.whittaker@pendle.gov.uk) 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 West Craven environmental blight sites.

Site	Owner	Issue	Area Committee Resolution	Current Position
a) Dam Head Road Garage Site	Pendle Council	At the October 2019 meeting, members reported that there was regular fly-tipping at this site	Members asked that the site be tidied and then monitored	Environmental Services continues to monitor the site with regular inspections and clearance when necessary
b) West Close Road Lorry Park	Pendle Council	At the January 2020 meeting, members asked if this site could be added to the Environmental Blight list for monitoring purposes	<p>Members reported that fly-tipping had increased on this site since the introduction of reduced opening times by the neighbouring County's Household Waste Recycling Centre</p> <p>At the November 2021 meeting, it was noted that signs had been erected to try and deter people from fly-tipping but due to it being close to the Household Waste Recycling Centre there had been further incidents. The Environmental Services Manager reported that they were working with LCC looking at the possibility of installing cameras as a means of deterring fly-tipping</p>	<p>Environmental Services continues to monitor the site with regular inspections and clearance when necessary</p> <p>In addition, at the November 2021 meeting three options for resurfacing the lorry park were considered. Members opted for full resurfacing at a cost of £26,000 but proposed that the cost be shared between Pendle Council and Lancashire County Council with most of Pendle's contribution coming from the central budget and a smaller amount from WCAC Capital Programme. Therefore, the Policy and Resources Committee was recommended to contribute £12,000 towards the scheme from the central pot and LCC be asked to match fund this amount with £2,000 coming from the committee</p> <p>The Policy and Resources Committee was asked to contribute towards the full resurfacing of West Close Lorry Park in December. This was refused initially but was called-in for the January meeting. At the January meeting, the item was deferred because there had not been a response from LCC</p> <p>Since then, LCC has agreed to contribute the full £12,000 and so the item will go back to the Policy and Resources Committee for re-consideration on 17 March 2022.</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.