



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

**TO:** BARROWFORD AND WESTERN PARISHES COMMITTEE

**DATE:** 4<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2023

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## ENVIRONMENTAL BLIGHT

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

To report any new Environmental Blight sites and provide updates on existing sites.

### RECOMMENDATION

That Members note the report.

### REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

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
a) Triangle of land at Higherford Methodist Chapel, Gisburn Road	Privately owned	It was reported that there had been a several complaints regarding the lack of maintenance of this prominent piece of land. The land was bought for development but has twice been refused and has since been left unmaintained and overgrown.	Seeing as the site is privately owned there is little we can do apart from write a letter asking for the land to be maintained.	<p>Planning Department sent a letter in November asking the landowners if they might tidy the land.</p> <p>The landowners have confirmed that they have removed the pallets that were being used as a fence and they will replace these with wire fencing to match the fencing on the rest of the site to prevent fly tipping. Although the land is overgrown, that is the natural agricultural state of the land.</p> <p>See appendices 1 and 2 for location plan and photographs.</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**

Appendix 1: Higherford Methodist Chapel Triangle - Location Plan.

Appendix 2: Higherford Methodist Chapel triangle – Photographs.

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS:** None.



