

**REPORT FROM: HEAD OF ECONOMIC GROWTH**

**TO: WEST CRAVEN COMMITTEE**

**DATE: 5TH SEPTEMBER 2023**

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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 note the new site at item 4(c) and agree on action to be taken.

### **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](mailto:tricia.wilson@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	Operational Services continue to monitor the site with regular inspections and clearance when necessary.  Members agreed at the June 2023 meeting to undertake a formal inspection of Dam Head Road garage site with a view to removing it from this list if no problems are found.
b) West Close Road Lorry Park	Pendle Council	Site added to Environmental Blight list for monitoring purposes in January 2020	Site to be monitored due to fly tipping	Operational Services continue to monitor the site with regular inspections and clearance when necessary.  Resurfacing of West Close Road lorry park is completed.  LCC to be approached to establish if they would be willing to erect a fence at the edge of the surfaced area of the site to help with the fly tipping issue.
c) Clayton Street, Barnoldswick	Pendle Council	New site added September 2023 – see location plan and photos at Appendices 1 and 2	To look into the possibility of repairing or replacing the fence at the back of the parking area at Clayton Street, Barnoldswick.	The land to the rear of the fence on Clayton Street was Pendle Council-owned and used to be on the Problem Sites List for Parks Department to inspect and monitor.  In May 2018 Pendle Borough Council's freehold interest was transferred to Barnoldswick Town Council (BTC) for the grassed area but the car park and fence remain in PBC ownership although the whole site, including the car parking area and fence, was removed from Park's Problem Sites List.  Engineering Department took on responsibility for hard surfaces as Problem Sites but all of the hard surfaces in Barnoldswick were also transferred to BTC in 2018 and so there are currently no hard surfaces on the Engineering Department's Problem Sites List for inspections.  This site was problematic because it has both grass surface and hard surface but the whole site was with Parks Department. When the site was transferred to BTC the car park and fence were no longer on either of the Problem Sites Lists and therefore there is no regular monitoring taking place.  It may be possible to use some of the Engineering Section's Problem

				<p>Sites budget towards the cost of repairing or replacing the fence, depending on cost. If cost is too high, it might require a contribution from BTC or a bid to West Craven Area Committee Budget.</p> <p>If in agreement, Engineers to obtain quotes for the works.</p>
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## 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.

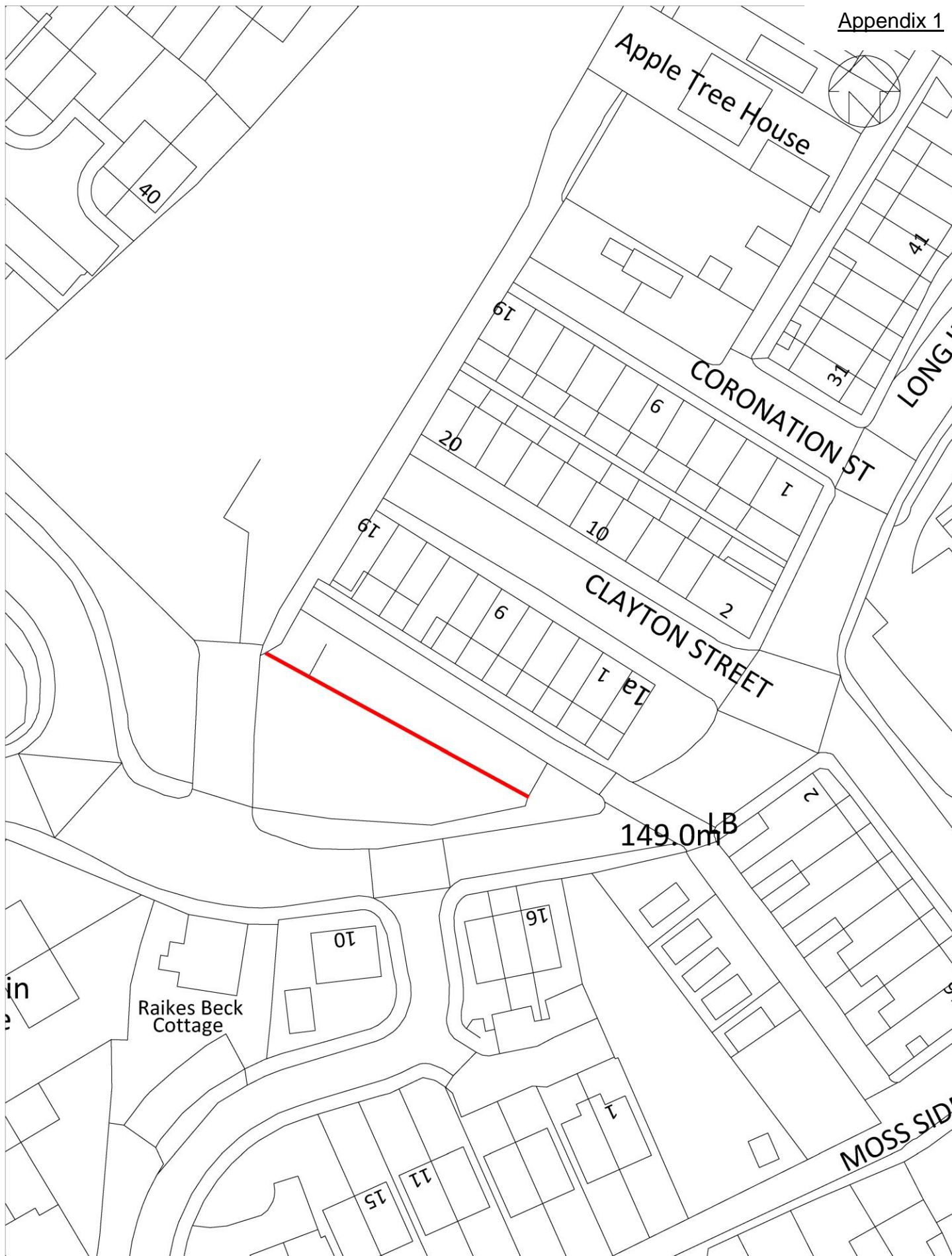
## APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Clayton Street fence location plan.

Appendix 2 - Clayton St fence photographs.

## LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.





### Clayton Street Fence – Photographs





