

19th September 2018

TITLE OF REPORT: Enforcement Action

**REPORT OF: Paul Dowling, Strategic Director, Communities and
Environment**

Purpose of the Report

1. To advise the Committee of the progress of enforcement action previously authorised by the Committee.

Background

2. The properties, which are the subject of enforcement action and their current status, are set out in Appendix 2.

Recommendations

3. It is recommended that the Committee note the report.

1. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

2. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

3. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

4. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

5. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

6. SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

7. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

The Human Rights Act states a person is entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of his possessions. However this does not impair the right of the state to enforce such laws, as it deems necessary to control the use of property and land in accordance with the general interest.

8. WARD IMPLICATIONS

Birtley, Bridges, Blaydon, Pelaw & Heworth, Chowdene, Crawcrook & Greenside, Ryton, Crookhill and Stella, Chopwell and Rowlands Gill, Wardley & Leam Lane, Windy Nook And Whitehills, Winlaton and High Spen, Whickham North, Whickham South and Sunnyside, Lobley Hill and Bensham. Lamesley, Dunston Hill and Whickham East and Low Fell.

9. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Nil.

APPENDIX 2

Item Number	Site	Ward	Alleged Breach of Planning Control	Date Approval given for Enforcement Action	Date Served	Plan App Rec'd Y/N	Appeal Rec'd Y/N	Date Notice comes into Force	End of Compliance Period	Current Status	Compliance Y/N
1.	Land adjacent Ricklees Farm, Spen Lane, High Spen, Gateshead	Winlaton and High Spen	Change of use from agricultural to mixed use for keeping of horses, breaking, dismantling of vehicles, storage and burning of waste and the storage of caravans and vehicle bodies.	25 March 2013	25 March 2013	N	N	29 April 2013	29 June 2013	Complaints have been received over a considerable period regarding the inappropriate use of an area of green belt adjacent to B6315. During investigation it was established that the land was being used for a range of inappropriate uses. Despite attempts to negotiate with the land owner to reach a satisfactory conclusion no sustained improvement was secured. Therefore an enforcement notice has been issued requiring the removal of the inappropriate material from the site together with the cessation of the unauthorised use. No appeal has been received and the notice has taken effect. A visit to obtain quotes is being arranged in order to look at the costs of carrying out work in default.	
2.	Land adjacent Ricklees Farm, Spen Lane, High Spen, Gateshead	Winlaton and High Spen	Erection of a breeze block building	25 March 2013	25 March 2013	N	N	29 April 2013	29 June 2013	Complaints have been received over a considerable period regarding the inappropriate use of an area of green belt adjacent to B6315. During the course of	

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										<p>investigations it was established that a building had been erected without consent.</p> <p>The building is considered to be unacceptable and therefore the council have issued an enforcement notice requiring the removal of the unauthorised building. No appeal has been received and the notice has taken effect.</p> <p>The new owner of the site has been contacted and works are well underway to tidy the site with the demolition of the breeze block structure taking place in the near future</p>	
3.	Land at Litchfield Lane, Winlaton Gateshead	Winlaton and High Spen	Unsightly Land	25 September 2013	25 September 2013	N	N	31 October 2013	31 December 2013	<p>Complaints have been received regarding the condition of the land which has planning permission for a residential development that has not yet commenced. Despite attempts to resolve the matter amicably a notice has now been issued requiring a scheme of remedial works within a specified timescale. The majority of the</p>	

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			Unsightly Land	21 st September 2015 3 January 2017	21 st September 2015 4 January 2017	N	N	21 st October 2015 8 February 2017	16 th December 2015 8 April 2017, 8 May 2017 and 8 June 2017	<p>steps required by notice were complied with following the issue of Summons'.</p> <p>A planning application is expected to be submitted soon. However, a further Section 215 notice has been served requiring a hoarding to be erected around the site. Planning permission has now been granted for the site and discussions regarding the compliance with the notice are ongoing. A further notice has now been issued requiring the site to be tidied and a hoarding erected. Work to erect the hoarding is now complete.</p> <p>Following wind damage to the hoarding this has been repaired.</p> <p>A site visit was undertaken on the 20th June, and the land has been tidied.</p> <p>At the time of the visit contractors were on site, undertaking site investigations in preparation to submit details to discharge the</p>	

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										relevant planning conditions. The hoarding remains in good condition and the discharge of condition application is currently pending. Permission is sought from committee to remove this from the report.	
4.	Land at Woodhouse Lane, Swalwell (Known as South West Farm Site One)	Swalwell	Without planning permission the change of use of the land from agriculture to a mixed use for agriculture, storage of vehicles, agricultural equipment and scrap metal and vehicle dismantling and repair	11 January 2016	12 January 2016	N	N	15 February 2016	14 March and 4 July 2016	Notices were issued in September 2015 in respect of an unauthorised scrap being stored. Due to the scale of the breach of planning control an additional Notice was required in relation to the potential Environmental Impact of the Development.	
	(Known as South West Farm Site Two)	Swalwell	Without planning permission the change of use of the land from agriculture and reception, composting and transfer of green waste to a mixed use for agriculture and the storage of vehicles, agricultural equipment and parts, repair and restoration of vehicles and machinery and the reception, composting and transfer of green waste.	11 January 2016	12 January 2016	N	N	15 February 2016	14 March and 4 July 2016	As such the original Notices (which were all being appealed) were withdrawn and further Notices have now been issued including those in respect of the requirement to carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment and provide an Environmental Statement with an subsequent appeals.	
	(Known as South West Farm Site Three)	Swalwell	Without planning permission the change of use of the land from agriculture to a mixed use for agriculture and	11 January 2016	12 January 2016	N	N	15 February 2016	14 March and 4 July 2016	The Notices requires firstly, the cessation of the unauthorised	

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			the storage of vehicles, agricultural equipment and scrap metal and vehicle dismantling and repair						29 th Sep 2018	<p>use and secondly, the removal from the land of the scrap.</p> <p>The site is to be visited following the expiration of the compliance period the visit is to be carried out imminently in conjunction with the Environment Agency.</p> <p>The associated legal action at Newcastle Crown Court has been completed a further hearing at Gateshead Magistrates Court has been listed for the 3rd November 2017.</p> <p>The hearing at Gateshead Magistrates was adjourned. A revised date has been listed for the 6th December 2017.</p> <p>The hearing at Gateshead Magistrates was adjourned. A revised court date has been listed for the 31st January 2018.</p> <p>The defendant pleaded not guilty at court on the 31st January. The case has been listed for the 29th March 2018.</p> <p>Both defendants pleaded guilty and</p>	

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										both received a fine of £750. Each defendant was ordered to pay costs of £422.50 and a victim surcharge of £75. The site has to be cleared in 6 months.	
5.	Tynedale House, Main Street, Crawcrook	Crawcrook and Greenside	Unsightly Building	13 th January 2017	14 th February 2017	Y	N	20 th March 2017	15 th May 2017	<p>Complaints have been received regarding the appearance of the front elevation of the property which is a former butchers shop.</p> <p>Whilst the site is noted to be under renovation the works have not substantially progress and the matter has become protracted.</p> <p>A Notice has been issued to ensure the façade is brought up to an acceptable standard within a specified period.</p> <p>The majority of the requirements of the notice have been complied with.</p> <p>The unit is actively being marketed</p> <p>Permission is sought to remove this item from the report.</p>	

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6.	Site of Former Collinson Brothers Garage, Derwent Street, Chopwell	Rowlands Gill and Chopwell	Unsightly Land	31 August 2017	1 September 2017	N	N	4 October 2017	29 November 2017	<p>The land is derelict and complaints have been received regarding its condition on what is a prominent site.</p> <p>A notice has been issued to require improvements, particularly relating to the boundary treatment.</p> <p>However, the site owners appear to have gone into liquidation which may cause problems is securing compliance with the notice</p> <p>Site visit is to be undertaken following expiry of the compliance period.</p> <p>Barbed wire has been removed from the boundary treatment.</p> <p>A referral is being made to the Councils land development group to see if a long term strategy can be put in place for this site (lead officer Mandy Reed)</p> <p>As this site is being reviewed by another department, permission is sought to remove this item from the report</p>	

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7.	23 Hopedene Felling Gateshead NE10 8JA	Wardley And Leam Lane	Unightly Land	19 th October 2017	19 th October 2017	N	N	23 rd November 2017	4 th January 2018	<p>Complaints have been received regarding the condition of the garden.</p> <p>The property has been overgrown for a long period and is unsightly.</p> <p>A notice has been served requiring the garden be cut back, strimmed and all waste removed.</p> <p>No further work has been undertaken since the last site visit on the 13th December. Files are being prepared for prosecution if works are not undertaken by the end of January.</p> <p>The defendant attended court on the 13th June and was found guilty and ordered to pay a £300 fine and £100 costs.</p> <p>Estimates have been received to do works in default. Officer are currently assessing the quotes against the proposed timescales to</p>	

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										complete the works.	
8.	Gleeson's housing site, formally grazing land between Portobello Road Birtley	Birtley	Breach of Planning Conditions	29 TH November 2017	29 th November 2017	Y	N	29 th November 2017	26 th December 2017	<p>Despite communication with the developer, pre-commencement conditions have not been discharged and engineering operations and building operations have commenced on site.</p> <p>The Temporary Stop Notice has been issued to allow for full details of the conditions to be submitted and assessed.</p> <p>Correspondence has been sent to the developer asking them to confirm that they will not be recommencing work on site until the issues regarding the conditions have been resolved. A response was received on 09.01.18 and further legal action is being considered.</p> <p>A meeting has taken place between the developer and development management. A new application is to be submitted to discharge the conditions in the immediate future. The developer has</p>	

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										<p>confirmed that works will not recommence on site until the details have been agreed.</p> <p>The developer is currently in discussions with the Council prior to submitting the discharge of conditions application.</p> <p>The discharge of condition application was submitted on the 23.03.18.</p> <p>The conditions were discharged on the 15th June. The Council are awaiting confirmation from the Developer to confirm when they are due to recommence works on site.</p>	
9.	44 Ponthaugh Rowlands Gill NE39 1AD	Chopwell and Rolwands Gill	Unauthorised change of use	12 th January 2018	12 th January 2018	N	N	16 th February 2018	16 th March 2018	<p>Complaints have been received regarding the erection of fencing enclosing public open space and incorporating it into the private garden. Numerous letters and emails were written to the owners requesting the removal of the fence, but the fence remains in situ. The loss of open space is unacceptable and the fence is harmful to the amenity of the area.</p> <p>Therefore an</p>	

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										<p>enforcement notice has been issued requiring the use of the land as private garden to cease and the fence removed.</p> <p>As of the 14.03.18, the fence was still in situ, correspondence has been sent to the land owner advising of the date of compliance. A site visit was undertaken on 03.04.18 the Notice has not been complied with. A P.A.C.E Interview invite has been sent to land owner Significant works have been undertaken to remove the fence. Only the posts are now in situ these should be removed as of the 14th May 2018</p> <p>As the posts are still in situ a prosecution file is being prepared.</p>	
10.	Blaydon Quarry , Lead Road, Gateshead	Crawcrook and Greenside	Breach of Planning Conditions	27th March 2018	28th March 2018	N	N	28th March 2018	28 th April 2018	<p>Despite communication with the occupiers and owners of the site, conditions relating to planning permission DC/12/01266/MIWA S have not been discharged.</p> <p>Notice served in relation to breach of condition 12 to require submission</p>	

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										<p>of a noise monitoring scheme for all restoration activities. This condition has not been discharged</p> <p>A Consultant has been employed by the owner and occupiers of the site to address the issues contained within each of the Notices. The Consultant is currently working with the Council to secure compliance.</p> <p>Details for each breach of condition notice were submitted on 15.05.18, Officers are currently reviewing the information submitted.</p>	
11.	Blaydon Quarry , Lead Road, Gateshead	Crawcrook and Greenside	Breach of Planning Conditions	27th March 2018	28th March 2018	N	N	28th March 2018	28th April 2018	Notice served in relation to breach of condition 13 to require submission of a vibration monitoring scheme for all restoration activities. This condition has not been discharged	
12.	Blaydon Quarry , Lead Road, Gateshead	Crawcrook and Greenside	Breach of Planning Conditions	27th March 2018	28th March 2018	N	N	28th March 2018	28th April 2018	Notice served in relation to Breach of condition 14 to require Submission of a scheme for the management and minimisation of dust from restoration activities. This condition has not been discharged	

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13.	Blaydon Quarry , Lead Road, Gateshead	Crawcrook and Greenside	Breach of Planning Conditions	27th March 2018	28th March 2018	N	N	28th March 2018	28th April 2018	Notice served in relation to breach of condition 18 to require the Submission of a report to the Council recording the operations carried out on the land during the previous 12 months. This condition has not been discharged	
14.	Blaydon Quarry , Lead Road, Gateshead	Crawcrook and Greenside	Breach of Planning Conditions	27th March 2018	28th March 2018	N	N	28th March 2018	28th April 2018	Notice served in relation to breach condition 23 to require Submission of details of a drainage system to deal with surface water drainage, and implementation of agreed scheme. This condition has not been discharged	
15.	Blaydon Quarry , Lead Road, Gateshead	Crawcrook and Greenside	Breach of Planning Conditions	27th March 2018	28th March 2018	N	N	28th March 2018	28th April 2018	Notice served in relation to breach condition 24 to require submission of a timetable and a maintenance scheme to the Council for the installation and maintenance of the drainage system. This condition has not been discharged	
16.	Blaydon Quarry , Lead Road, Gateshead	Crawcrook and Greenside	Breach of Planning Conditions	27th March 2018	28th March 2018	N	N	28th March 2018	28th April 2018	Notice served in relation to breach of condition 25 to require the Submission of an up to date survey of Cell 2 in relation to clearance heights beneath the electricity power lines. This condition has not been discharged	

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17.	Blaydon Quarry , Lead Road, Gateshead	Crawcrook and Greenside	Breach of Planning Conditions	27th March 2018	28th March 2018	N	N	28th March 2018	28th April 2018	Notice served in relation to breach condition 26 to require the submission of details for the illuminate activities on site. This condition has not been discharged	
18.	Blaydon Quarry , Lead Road, Gateshead	Crawcrook and Greenside	Breach of Planning Conditions	27th March 2018	28th March 2018	N	N	28th March 2018	28th April 2018	Notice served in relation to Breach of condition 27 to require the submission of details as requested in condition 27 of permission DC/12/01266/MIWA S. This condition has not been discharged	
19.	Blaydon Quarry , Lead Road, Gateshead	Crawcrook and Greenside	Breach of Planning Conditions	27th March 2018	28th March 2018	N	N	28th March 2018	28th April 2018	Notice served in relation to breach of condition 28. To require submission of details for alternative provision for Sand Martin nesting and other bat and bird boxes and a timetable for implementation. This condition has not been discharged	
20.	Blaydon Quarry , Lead Road, Gateshead	Crawcrook and Greenside	Breach of Planning Conditions	27th March 2018	28th March 2018	N	N	28th March 2018	28th April 2018	Notice served in relation to breach of condition 31. To require the submission of details for reflective road marking scheme adjacent to the site access on Lead Road. This condition has not been discharged	

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21.	Blaydon Quarry , Lead Road, Gateshead	Crawcrook and Greenside	Breach of Planning Conditions	27th March 2018	28th March 2018	N	N	28th March 2018	28th April 2018	Notice served in relation to breach of condition 32 to require the Submission of a timetable for the early restoration of the north east corner of the site. This condition has not been discharged	
22.	Blaydon Quarry , Lead Road, Gateshead	Crawcrook and Greenside	Breach of Planning Conditions	27th March 2018	28th March 2018	N	N	28th March 2018	28th April 2018	Complaints have been received that the site has been open outside the approved hours, following further investigation this has been confirmed, therefore a notice has been served in relation to breach of condition 51 to ensure no HGV'S enter or leave the site before 06.30 or after 18.00 hours on Monday to Friday nor after 13.00 hours on Saturdays and no times on Sunday and Bank and Public holidays. Confirmation has been received from the Consultant that the site working hours are now in accordance with the requirements of condition 51. Further complaints have been received that HGV's are entering the site prior to 06:30, this is currently being investigated. A site visit was	

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										undertaken on the 20 th June in conjunction with the Environment Agency, to monitor the hours of operation. At the time of the visit no tipping was taking place, however activity on site will continue to be monitored.	
23.	16 Ashtree Close Rowlands Gill Tyne And Wear NE39 1RA	Chopwell And Rowlands Gill	Unauthorised change of use	30 th April 2018	1 st May 2018	N	N	4 th June 2018	2 nd July 2018	Complaints have been received regarding the erection of fencing enclosing public open space and incorporating it into the private garden. The loss of open space is unacceptable, therefore an enforcement notice has been issued requiring the use of the land as private garden to cease and the fence removed.	
24.	25 Sundridge Drive Felling Gateshead NE10 8JF	Wardley And Leam Lane	Unauthorised change of use	10 th August 2018	10 th August 2018	N	N	14 th September 2018	12 th October 2018	Complaints have been received regarding the erection of fencing enclosing public open space and incorporating it into the private garden. The loss of open space is unacceptable; therefore an enforcement notice has been issued requiring the use of the land as private garden to cease and the fence removed.	

A meeting has

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										taken place with the owners to discuss the notice and how to go forward, in terms of compliance or appeal.	
25.	27 Sundridge Drive Felling Gateshead NE10 8JF	Wardley And Leam Lane	Unauthorised change of use	10th August 2018	10 th August 2018	N	N	14 th September 2018	12 th October 2018	Complaints have been received regarding the erection of fencing enclosing public open space and incorporating it into the private garden. The loss of open space is unacceptable; therefore an enforcement notice has been issued requiring the use of the land as private garden to cease and the fence removed. A meeting has taken place with the owners to discuss the notice and how to go forward, in terms of compliance or appeal.	
26.	Blaydon and District Club and Institute, Garden Street	Blaydon	Untidy Land	03 rd September 2018	03 rd September 2018	N	N	5 th October 2018	30th November 2018	Complaints have been received regarding the condition of the building and land. A Notice has been issued pursuant to section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act requiring the building to be demolished	

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27.	Three Ts Bar, Longrigg Gateshead	Whickham North	Untidy Land	05th September 2018	05 th September 2018	N	N	5 th October	30 th November 2018	Complaints have been received regarding the condition of the building and land. A Notice has been issued pursuant to section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act requiring the building to be demolished and a hoarding erected.	