

5th June 2019

TITLE OF REPORT: Enforcement Action

**REPORT OF: Anneliese Hutchinson, Service Director,
Development, Transport and Public Protection**

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	Date Notice comes into Force	End of Compliance Period	Current Status
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	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.
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	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 investigations, it was established that a building had been erected without consent. 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. 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 A site visit has been arranged for the week commencing the 29 th October to look at the costs of carrying out work in default.
3.	Land at Woodhouse Lane, Swalwell (Known as South West Farm Site One) Known as South West Farm Site Two)	Swalwell 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 Without planning permission the change of use of the land from agriculture and reception, composting and transfer of green waste to a mixed	11 January 2016 11 January 2016	12 January 2016 12 January 2016	15 February 2016 15 February 2016	14 March and 4 July 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. 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. The Notices requires firstly, the cessation of the unauthorised use and secondly, the removal from the land of the scrap. Both defendants pleaded guilty at Newcastle Crown Court and 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. The site has recently been revisited and it is likely further action will be required.

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	(Known as South West Farm Site Three)	Swalwell	<p>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.</p> <p>Without planning permission the change of use of the land from agriculture to a mixed use for agriculture and the storage of vehicles, agricultural equipment and scrap metal and vehicle dismantling and repair</p>	11 January 2016	12 January 2016	15 February 2016	<p>14 March and 4 July 2016</p> <p>29th Sep 2018</p>	<p>A site visit was undertaken in October where it was evident that the land has not been cleared and additional scrap had been brought on to the site. A further prosecution file is currently with the Councils legal department.</p> <p>A court date has been issued for the 26th April 2019 at Gateshead Magistrates Court.</p> <p>The court date has been re issued for the 10th June 2019. In the interim officers are actively pursuing quotes to clear the land, to ascertain whether this is financially viable.</p>
4.	Gleeson's housing site, formally grazing land between Portobello Road Birtley	Birtley	Breach of Planning Conditions	29 TH November 2017	29 th November 2017	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. Conditions have now been submitted and discharged.</p> <p>The Council are awaiting confirmation from the Developer to confirm when they are due to recommence works on site.</p> <p>A site visit was undertaken on the 26th September to see if work had re commenced on site. Although there were no builders on site at the time of the visit, it appears that development has re commenced since the Temporary Stop Notice was served as the most recent unit constructed has now had its roof erected.</p> <p>A letter has been sent to the developer, from the Councils Legal Department asking them to consider erecting a secure hoarding to prevent continued visual impact on the amenity of the area and to protect the site from unauthorised access.</p> <p>A written response dated 22nd November 2018 has been received from Gleesons.</p> <p>The inspectorate has arranged for the appeal hearing to commence on the 3rd September 2019.</p>

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5.A	44 Ponthaugh Rowlands Gill NE39 1AD	Chopwell and Rolwands Gill	Unauthorised change of use	12 th January 2018	12 th January 2018	16 th February 2018	16 th March 2018	Complaints have been received regarding the erection of fencing enclosing public open space and incorporating it into the private garden. An enforcement notice has been issued requiring the use of the land as private garden to cease and the fence removed. The notice has not been fully complied with. Prosecution files are now being prepared.
6.	Blaydon Quarry , Lead Road, Gateshead	Crawcrook and Greenside	Breach of Planning Conditions	27 th March 2018	28 th March 2018	28 th March 2018	28 th 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 of 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. A site visit was 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.
7.	25 Sundridge Drive Felling Gateshead NE10 8JF	Wardley And Leam Lane	Unauthorised change of use	10 th August 2018	10 th August 2018	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. An appeal start date has been received
8.	27 Sundridge Drive Felling Gateshead NE10 8JF	Wardley And Leam Lane	Unauthorised change of use	10 th August 2018	10 th August 2018	14 th September 2018	12 th October 2018	Complaints have been received regarding the erection of fencing enclosing public open space. 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. An appeal start date has been received
9.	Blaydon and District Club and Institute, Garden Street	Blaydon	Untidy Land	03 rd September 2018	03 rd September 2018	5 th October 2018	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 Given the potential bat roost, Natural England will not issue a licence for the roost to be destroyed until after the hibernation period which is November to March. Planning application intended to be taken to the 15 th May Committee, once a decision made, the Enforcement Officer is to pursue demolition following consent from Natural England.
10.	Three Ts Bar, Longrigg Gateshead	Whickham North	Untidy Land	05 th September 2018	05 th September 2018	5 th October 2018	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. The owner has been in contact and will submit a scope of works with timescales to make this building safe and in part to be brought back into use, rather than demolish property.

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								<p>Following a site visit on the 19th November, a scope of works should be submitted by the developer no later than the 30th November. Quotes however are being sought for the demolition of the property in preparation that the information is not forthcoming.</p> <p>Scaffolding has been erected and works are commencing to bring the building back into use. The windows have been inserted in the rear part of the building and works have commenced on the roof.</p> <p>Officers are visiting the site on the 21.03.19 to confirm that the proposed roof tiles are appropriate, once this is agreed works will recommence, it is anticipated that the works to the roof will take approximately 6-8 weeks.</p> <p>Roof tiles have now been agreed, works to the roof are to recommence imminently.</p>
11.	321 And 323 Rectory Road Bensham Gateshead NE8 4RS	Saltwell	Unauthorised change of use	7 th November 2018	7 th November 2018	11 th December 2018	8 th January 2019	<p>Complaints have been received regarding the use of a dwelling as a House of Multiple Occupation (HMO). A previous planning application was refused for the change of use and the subsequent appeal dismissed; therefore, an Enforcement Notice has been issued requiring the use of the property as an HMO to cease.</p> <p>An appeal has been received but no start date has been given yet.</p>
12.	2 Wythburn Place Gateshead NE9 6YT	High Fell	Unauthorised development	12 th February 2019	12 th February 2019	19 th March 2019	19 th July 2019	<p>Complaints had been received regarding the erection of an extension to the property, the extension has a detrimental impact on the visual amenity of the area and thus an enforcement notice has been served seeking the extension be demolished and remove in its entirety.</p> <p>A planning application has been submitted and approved for the erection of a single storey side extension. The owner of the property has stated that the extension will be removed in the next four weeks and footings for the new extension installed.</p>
13.	Brockburn 32A Barlow Lane Winlaton Blaydon On Tyne	Winlaton and High Spen	Unauthorised change of use	06 th March 2019	06 th March 2019	10 th April 2019	5 th June 2019	<p>Complaints have been received regarding the unauthorised use of a dwelling to a mixed-use house and dog boarding business. Retrospective planning permission was submitted and subsequently refused as the use resulted in harm to the living conditions of the neighbouring residents. An enforcement notice has been served requiring the mixed use of the property cease.</p> <p>The dog boarding of 12 dogs has ceased and thus the dwelling is no longer being used as a mixed-use house and dog boarding business. The occupier currently boards 5 dogs which is in accordance with their licence and at present as currently operated does not constitute a material change of use, however this can be reviewed if new complaints arise. The notice has now been complied with. Permission is sought from Committee to remove this item from the report.</p>

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14.	Blaydon Quarry Lead Road, Gateshead	Crawcrook and Greenside	Breach of Planning Conditions	22 nd May 2019	24 th May 2019	28 th June 2019	28 th December 2019	Blaydon Quarry is in breach of several planning conditions. A Notice has been served in relation to condition 23 to require installation of a drainage system. The Council has designed an acceptable scheme to be installed in the interests of surface water drainage and to enable the safe and successful restoration of the site.
15.	Blaydon Quarry Lead Road, Gateshead	Crawcrook and Greenside	Breach of Planning Conditions	22 nd May 2019	24 th May 2019	28 th June 2019	28 th October 2019	Blaydon Quarry is in breach of several planning conditions. A Notice has been served in relation to condition 24 to require installation of the previously approved drainage system on the southern boundary, in the interests of surface water drainage and to enable the safe and successful restoration of the site.