

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 Council's 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> <p>The Court date has been adjourned until 24th June at 10am, discussions are to take place with the land owner prior to the court date to progress with the clearance of the land.</p> <p>A site visit was undertaken on the 29th June, two of the areas of land have been significantly cleared, efforts are being made by the owners to clear the third piece of land prior to the court date.</p> <p>The trial date has been arranged for the 24th September 2019</p>
4.	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	<p>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.</p> <p>A site visit was undertaken on the 20th 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.</p>
5.	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	<p>Complaints have been received regarding the erection of fencing enclosing public open space and incorporating it into the private garden.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>An appeal start date has been received.</p> <p>The appeal has been decided and the notice upheld. Further details are provided on the appeals report.</p> <p>Council Officers are in discussions with the home owner to ensure compliance as the end of the compliance period has now lapsed.</p>

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								Part of the Notice has now been complied with. Enforcement Officers are undertaking a site visit to assess whether the works comply wholly with the requirements of the Notice.
6.	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	<p>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</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Planning application intended to be taken to the 15th May Committee, once a decision made, the Enforcement Officer is to pursue demolition following consent from Natural England.</p> <p>Natural England has requested an up to date bat survey prior to issuing a licence.</p> <p>Works have commenced to soft strip the building in anticipation for demolition.</p>
7.	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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <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>Works to the roof has recommenced and the existing roof has now been fully stripped.</p>
8.	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>

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								<p>A hearing date has been scheduled for the 24th September 2019.</p> <p>The hearing date has been rescheduled to the 8th October 2019</p> <p>The Appeal has been determined and the Notice upheld, further details are provided on the appeals report.</p>
9.	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> <p>Following the expiry of the compliance period, officers have visited the site and wrote to the owner allowing a further 21 days to remove the structure.</p> <p>A further site visit has been undertaken and works to fully remove the structure has still not taken place, a prosecution file is now being compiled due to non compliance with the notice.</p> <p>Following a further site visit, additional works have been undertaken to comply with the notice, however Officers have spoken to the owner advising what additional works are still needed to fully comply with the notice.</p>
10.	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	<p>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.</p> <p>A site visit was undertaken on the 4th June, where drainage works had commenced. Officers are working closely with the Operator of the quarry to ensure compliance.</p> <p>A discharge of condition application has been submitted in relation to condition 23 for the Council to assess.</p> <p>An appeal has been submitted in relation to the enforcement notice</p>
11.	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	<p>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.</p>

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								<p>A discharge of condition application has been submitted in relation to condition 24 for the Council to assess.</p> <p>An appeal has been submitted in relation to the enforcement notice.</p>
12.	81 Dunston Road, Gateshead NE11 9EH	Dunston and Teams	Untidy Land	25 th July 2019	25 th July 2019	22 nd August 2019	03 rd October 2019	Complaints have been received regarding the condition of the property which is considered to have a detrimental impact on the visual amenity of the area. A Notice has been issued pursuant to section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act requiring the hedge be cut, all boarding removed from windows and the windows and frames made good. It also required that all the guttering and down pipes be re attached to the building.
13.	27 Sundridge Drive, Wardley Gateshead NE10 8JF	Wardley and Leam Lane	Unauthorised change of use	01 st August 2019	01 st August 2019	5 th September 2019	03 rd October 2019	<p>Complaints have been received regarding the erection of fencing enclosing public open space and incorporating it into the private garden. A previous enforcement notice was served seeking the removal of the fence, however the notice was quashed following an appeal decision. The notice has been re served to include the change of use to residential garden.</p> <p>An appeal has been made against the Notice, further details are provided on the appeals report.</p>
14.	40 Whitemere Gardens, Gateshead NE10 0BE	Wardley and Leam Lane	Untidy Land	11 th September 2019	11 th September 2019	16 th October 2019	27 th November 2019	<p>Complaints have been received regarding the condition of the property which is considered to have a detrimental impact on the visual amenity of the area. A Notice has been issued pursuant to section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act requiring vehicles and building materials be removed from the land, the garden and weeds cut back, and the fence and gate reinstated.</p> <p>The notice has come in to force and the homeowner is in constant contact with the Enforcement Officer. Approximately 80 percent of the notice has been complied with, it is anticipated that the full requirements of the notice will be met by the end of the compliance period.</p> <p>The home owner has contacted the officer stating the Notice has now been fully complied with. Enforcement Officers are undertaking a site visit to assess whether the works comply wholly with the requirements of the Notice.</p> <p>Officers consider that the condition on the land has vastly improved in relation to serving the Notice. Permission is sought from Committee to remove this item from the report.</p>
15.	114 Coatsworth Road Bensham Gateshead Tyne And Wear NE8 1QQ	Saltwell	Untidy Land	16 th August 2019	16 th August 2019	17 th September 2019	4 th February 2020	<p>Complaints have been received regarding the condition of the property within the Coatsworth Road Conservation Area. A Notice has been re -issued pursuant to section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act requiring the building be demolished and necessary support provided to the adjacent buildings to ensure they are wind and watertight. Following demolition, the land needs to be levelled, graded and compacted to match the contours of the surrounding land.</p> <p>An appeal has been made to the magistrates. The hearing date has been listed for the 27th April 2020.</p>

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16.	Wardley Colliery, Gateshead Tyne and Wear NE10 8AA	Wardley and Leam Lane	Untidy Land	22 nd November 2019	22 nd November 2019	2 nd January 2020	21 st May 2020	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 all rubbish and debris removed from the site.
17.	168 Kells Lane Low Fell Gateshead NE9 5HY	Low Fell	Unauthorised Development	29 th November 2019	29 th November 2019	3 rd January 2020	28 th February 2020	Complaints had been received regarding the erection of an outdoor bar structure, the development is considered to have 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.
18.	Ivy Lane Gateshead NE9 6QD	Chowdene	Untidy Land	20 th November 2019	21 st November 2019	26 th December 2019	30 th January 2020	Complaints have been received regarding the condition of the land. The condition of the land is considered to have a detrimental impact on the visual amenity of the area. A Notice has been issued pursuant to section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act requiring all the waste be removed, that all the vegetation be cut back to ground level and the metal barrier fencing be removed from the land.