

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

REPORT TO NORTH AND
WEST PLANNING AND
HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE
12th FEBRUARY 2013

QUARTERLEY OVERVIEW OF ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This is the quarterly report to advise members of the work being undertaken by the Planning Enforcement Team. The period covered runs from 1st October to 31st December.

2. ACTIVITY DURING THE QUARTER

- A total of 207 enforcement complaints were received. Of these 50% concerned unauthorised development and 35% failure to comply with conditions or approved plans. The percentage of cases involving houses in multiple occupation, adverts and Section 215 (untidy land/buildings) are similar to the previous quarter at between 6% and 9%.
- Notices served in the period: -

Notice type	Quarter 3 Oct – Dec 2011	Quarter 4 Jan – Mar 2012	Quarter 1 Apr – Jun 2012	Quarter 2 Jul – Sep 2012	Quarter 3 Oct - Dec 2012
Breach of conditions	10	1	2		2
Discontinuance (adverts)		1		2	1
Enforcement	10	2	8	6	8
Stop				1	1
Temporary Stop	1				1
Section 215 (untidy land)	3	2	4	8	6
Section 225 (signs)	6	12	1		2
Total	30	18	15	17	21
Prosecutions	1	6	5	1	3

- The number of cases resolved within the target of 6 months was 55% of all the cases closed in the period, an improvement on the 46% of the last quarter. The figure is still low compared to the 68% achieved in quarter 4 of 2012. As with the previous quarter the low percentage is in fact due to the team making a concerted effort to close older cases in recent months, evidenced by the fact that 272 cases were closed in this quarter compared with 160 in quarter 1. A total of 558 cases remain on hand.
- Cases of note include land at Cookswood Road where damaged vehicles were being stored in the midst of a housing area. The service of an enforcement notice and a stop notice have resulted in most of the vehicles being removed and a forthcoming prosecution will hopefully conclude the matter. S215 action at Haywood Lane, Stocksbridge has achieved the demolition of a derelict works and the clearance of the land.
- Also, the demolition of the Ritz Cinema on Southey Green Road is proceeding due to action taken within the Stuck Sites Programme using S215 powers. It is hoped that a scheme for the residential development of the site will now be brought forward.

3 CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The current purge of older cases has meant that a lot have been closed in the period giving the impression that the teams performance is well short of the Service Plan Target of resolving at least 70% of cases within 6 months. This is expected to be a temporary distortion of the statistics that will improve now that the older cases have been closed.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 It is recommended that Members note the report.