

REPORT TO:

Planning Committee September 2022

LEAD OFFICER:

Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development

Enforcement Report

Executive Summary

1. On 1st September 2022 there were 142 open cases in South Cambridgeshire, compared with 138 cases the previous month.
2. Details of all enforcement investigations are sent electronically to members on a weekly basis identifying opened and closed cases in their respective areas along with case reference numbers, location, case officer and nature of problem reported.
3. Statistical data including August 2022 is contained in Appendices 1 and 2 to this report.

Updates to Service Delivery

There is a current vacancy in the Principal Enforcement Officer Lead officer role, which has been out for external advertisement in the past weeks. Enforcement Team management is currently being undertaken by Toby Williams.

Following a recent recruitment process, I am pleased to announced that Tony Wallis has been successful in the recruitment for a Senior Planning Enforcement Officer on a permanent basis.

The Planning Enforcement Team is part of the Development Management service of the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service and I have attached below an organisational chart of the team for your information.

Toby Williams
Interim Development Manager (East Team) and Planning Compliance

Vacancy
Principal Planning Compliance Lead Officer

John Shuttlewood
Principal Planning Compliance Officer (2 days a week)

Alistair Funge
Senior Planning Compliance Officer

Nick Smith
Senior Planning Compliance Officer

Tony Wallis
Senior Planning Compliance Officer

Cambridge City only

Neil Langley (3 days a week)
Senior Planning Compliance Officer

Vacancy
Planning Compliance Officer

The Enforcement Team have gone some interim changes since the departure of Will Holloway, Principal Lead Enforcement Officer. Processes have changed whereby the Officers within the Team allocate from the enforcement inboxes and set up cases within their own geographical area.

The past three months has seen dips in total numbers of new complaints received and registered, and cases closed during the months. This has also been replicated within the City.

This month has seen the introduction of new ways of alleged breaches of planning control being reported online, alongside the introduction of a real time updated enforcement register being made available. New online web content explaining the enforcement process has also been launched which enable residents to determine if their enquiry is likely to be determine a breach of planning control.

Updates on significant cases

Should Members wish for specific updates to be added to the Enforcement Report then please request these from the Principal Planning Enforcement Officer and they will be added to the next available Planning Committee.

Updates are as follows:

Smithy Fen, Cottenham, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, CB24 8PT

An experienced enforcement officer has been allocated to the Smithy Fen site investigation and will be taking aboard the detail of the recent Ivy Legal review.

The Planning Compliance Team has undertaken a site visit and begun engaging with the on site community on issues to do with the lawful use of the site. The site visit has indicated very low levels of occupancy across the site with several empty and vacant lawful pitches. The compliance team are therefore working with Council colleagues to explore and agree the Councils approach to the site and ensuring its appropriate occupation and management.

Background Papers

Planning Enforcement Register.

Statistical Analysis of Uniform Planning Enforcement Software Program.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Enforcement Cases Received and Closed.

Appendix 2: Notices Served.

Report Author:

John Shuttlewood – Principal Planning Enforcement Officer Date: 5/9/22