

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Planning Committee

2 October 2013

AUTHOR/S: Planning and New Communities Director

ENFORCEMENT ACTION UPDATE

Purpose

1. To inform Members about planning enforcement cases, as at 16 September 2013. Summaries of recent enforcement notices are also reported, for information.

Enforcement Cases Received and Closed

2.

Period	Cases Received	Cases Closed
July	57	51
August	53	64
2 nd Qtr. 2013	147	157
1 st Qtr. 2013	108	133
2013 YTD	365	405
Q 1 (Jan – March) 2012	127	107
Q 2 (April – June) 2012	107	96
Q 3 (July – September) 2012	98	148
Q4 (October – December) 2012	125	110
2012 YTD	457	461

Enforcement Cases on hand:

3. Target 150
4. Actual 90

Notices Served

5.

Type of Notice	Period	Year to date
	August 2013	2013
Enforcement	0	5
Stop Notice	0	0

Temporary Stop Notice	0	0
Breach of Condition	0	1
S215 – Amenity Notice	0	3
Planning Contravention Notice	0	5
Injunctions	0	0
High Hedge Remedial Notice	0	0

Notices issued since the last Committee Report - None

6.

Ref. no.	Village	Address	Notice issued

7. 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.

8. Full details of enforcement cases can be found on the Councils Web-site

Updates on items outstanding from the disbanded Planning Enforcement Sub-Committee

9. Updates are as follows:

a. Stapleford: Breach of Enforcement Notice on land adjacent to Hill Trees, Babraham Road.

Work still in progress regarding legal action relating to the current breach of enforcement. Additional concern rose since the March report regarding the stationing of a mobile home on the nursery land section and the importation of brick rubble to form a track to link the upper field to the main residence.

Assessment to the Planning Contravention response and the site inspection 10th May 2013 has confirmed the breach of planning control relating to the engineering operation to the new track, and breaches relating to the planning enforcement notices. A report to the planning committee has been prepared and will be submitted on the next available committee date.

b. Q8, Foxton

Planning application in preparation - No further update available at this time

c. Moor Drove, Histon

Application for two stables now validated, Site visited and consideration of application underway. No further update available at this time.

Summary

10. The number of enforcement cases investigated during the August period showed a 50.1% increase when compared to the same month in 2012. Year to date 2012 revealed that the overall number of cases was down by approximately 1.51% which equates to 7 cases. Without exception the number of cases reported in August 2013 is the highest they have been since 2006

The numbers of cases on hand are 40% below the expected maximum number of cases per enforcement officer for the same period.

11. Two planning enforcement cases were referred to Cambridge Magistrates for summons
- The Old Stack yard, Shuddy Camps re - breach of planning condition – The owner, Patrick Haylock Pleaded guilty to a breach of s.187A TCPA 1990. He was fined £500, ordered to pay costs of £400 and a victim surcharge of £50
 - 27 Station Road Whittlesford re -breach of remedial notice concerning a high hedge – The owner John Fulcher was previously prosecuted successfully but it was set aside on application by Mr Fulcher. Mr Fulcher again failed to turn up to Court and was found guilty in his absence and ordered to pay a fine of £800, Costs totalling £440 and a victim surcharge of £80 which restored the previous prosecution decision.
12. In addition to the above work officers are also involved in the Tasking and Coordination group which deals with cases that affect more than one department within the organisation, including Environment Health, Planning, Housing, Anti-Social behaviour Officers, Vulnerable Adults and Safeguarding Children Teams.

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report: None

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