



## PLANNING COMMITTEE

**Title of Report:**

**East Suffolk Enforcement Action – Case Update**

**Meeting Date**

**13 April 2021**

**Report Author and Tel No**

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Is the report Open or Exempt?

Open

## REPORT

The attached is a summary of the status of all outstanding enforcement cases for East Suffolk Council where enforcement action has either been sanctioned under delegated powers or through the Committee up until 25 March 2021. At present there are 13 such cases.

Information on all cases has been updated at the time of preparing the report such that the last bullet point in the status column shows the position at that time. Officers will provide a further verbal update should the situation have changed for any of the cases.

Members will note that where Enforcement action has been authorised the Councils Solicitor shall be instructed accordingly, but the speed of delivery of response may be affected by factors which are outside of the control of the Enforcement Service.

## RECOMMENDATION

That the report concerning Outstanding Enforcement matters up to 25 March 2021 be received.

LPA Reference	Date of Authorisation (Panel/ Delegated)	North/South	Location	Breach	Status	Date by which Compliance Expected (or Prosecution Date)
EN08/0264 & ENF/2013/0191	15/01/2010	North	Pine Lodge Caravan Park, Hazels Lane, Hinton	Erection of a building and new vehicular access; Change of use of the land to a touring caravan site (Exemption Certificate revoked) and use of land for the site of a mobile home for gypsy/traveller use. Various unauthorised utility buildings for use on caravan site.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15/10/2010 - EN served</li> <li>• 08/02/2010 - Appeal received</li> <li>• 10/11/2010 - Appeal dismissed</li> <li>• 25/06/2013 - Three Planning applications received</li> <li>• 06/11/2013 – The three applications refused at Planning Committee.</li> <li>• 13/12/2013 - Appeal Lodged</li> <li>• 21/03/2014 – EN’s served and become effective on 24/04/2014/ 04/07/2014 - Appeal Start date - Appeal to be dealt with by Hearing</li> <li>• 31/01/2015 – New planning appeal received for refusal of Application DC/13/3708</li> <li>• 03/02/2015 – Appeal Decision – Two notices quashed for the avoidance of doubt, two notices upheld. Compliance time on notice relating to mobile home has been extended from 12 months to 18 months.</li> <li>• 10/11/2015 – Informal hearing held</li> </ul>	30/04/2021

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 01/03/2016 – Planning Appeal dismissed</li><li>• 04/08/2016 – Site re-visited three of four Notices have not been complied with.</li><li>• Trial date set for 21/04/2017</li><li>• Two charges relating to the mobile home, steps and hardstanding, the owner pleaded guilty to these to charges and was fined £1000 for failing to comply with the Enforcement Notice plus £600 in costs.</li><li>• The Council has requested that the mobile home along with steps, hardstanding and access be removed by 16/06/2017.</li><li>• 19/06/2017 – Site re-visited, no compliance with the Enforcement Notice.</li><li>• 14/11/2017 – Full Injunction granted for the removal of the mobile home and steps.</li><li>• 21/11/2017 – Mobile home and steps removed from site.</li><li>• Review site regarding day block and access after decision notice released for enforcement notice served in connection with unauthorised occupancy /use of barn.</li></ul>	
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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 27/06/2018 – Compliance visit conducted to check on whether the 2010.</li><li>• 06/07/2018 – Legal advice being sought.</li><li>• 10/09/2018 – Site revisited to check for compliance with Notices.</li><li>• 11/09/2018 – Case referred back to Legal Department for further action to be considered.</li><li>• 11/10/2018 – Court hearing at the High Court in relation to the steps remain on the 2014 Enforcement Notice/ Injunction granted. Two months for compliance (11/12/2018).</li><li>• 01/11/2018 – Court Hearing at the High Court in relation to the 2010 Enforcement Notice. Injunctive remedy sought. Verbal update to be given.</li><li>• Injunction granted. Three months given for compliance with Enforcement Notices served in 2010.</li><li>• 13/12/2018 – Site visit undertaken in regards to Injunction served for 2014 Notice. No compliance. Passed back to Legal for further action.</li></ul>	
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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 04/02/2019 –Site visit undertaken to check on compliance with Injunction served on 01/11/2018</li><li>• 26/02/2019 – case passed to Legal for further action to be considered. Update to be given at Planning Committee</li><li>• High Court hearing 27/03/2019, the case was adjourned until the 03/04/2019</li><li>• 03/04/2019 - Officers attended the High Court, a warrant was issued due to non-attendance and failure to provide medical evidence explaining the non-attendance as was required in the Order of 27/03/2019.</li><li>• 11/04/2019 – Officers returned to the High Court, the case was adjourned until 7 May 2019.</li><li>• 07/05/2019 – Officers returned to the High Court. A three month suspended sentence for 12 months was given and the owner was required to comply with the Notices by 03/09/2019.</li><li>• 05/09/2019 – Site visit undertaken; file passed to Legal Department for further action.</li><li>• Court date arranged for 28/11/2019.</li></ul>	
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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 28/11/2019 - Officers returned to the High Court. A new three month suspended sentence for 12 months was given and the owner was required to comply in full with the Injunctions and the Order of the Judge by 31/01/2020</li> <li>• Site visited. Case currently with the Council's Legal Team for assessment.</li> <li>• Charging orders have been placed on the land to recover costs.</li> </ul>	
EN/09/0305	18/07/2013	South	Park Farm, Chapel Road, Bucklesham	Storage of caravans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authorisation granted to serve Enforcement Notice.</li> <li>• 13/09/2013 -Enforcement Notice served.</li> <li>• 11/03/2014 – Appeal determined – EN upheld Compliance period extended to 4 months</li> <li>• 11/07/2014 – Final compliance date</li> <li>• 05/09/2014 – Planning application for change of use received</li> <li>• 21/07/2015 – Application to be reported to Planning Committee for determination</li> <li>• 14/09/2015 – site visited, caravans still in situ, letter sent to owner requesting their removal by 30/10/2015</li> <li>• 11/02/2016 – Site visited, caravans still in situ. Legal advice sought as</li> </ul>	April 2021

LPA Reference	Date of Authorisation (Panel/ Delegated)	North/South	Location	Breach	Status	Date by which Compliance Expected (or Prosecution Date)
					<p>to further action.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 09/08/2016 – Site re-visited, some caravans re-moved but 20 still in situ. Advice to be sought.</li> <li>• Further enforcement action to be put on hold and site to be monitored</li> <li>• Review in January 2019</li> <li>• 29/01/2019 – Legal advice sought; letter sent to site owner.</li> <li>• 18/02/2019 – contact received from site owner.</li> <li>• 04/04/2019 – Further enforcement action to be placed on hold and monitored.</li> <li>• Review in April 2021.</li> </ul>	
ENF/2014/0104	16/08/2016	South	Top Street, Martlesham	Storage of vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 23/11/2016 – Authorisation granted to serve an Enforcement Notice</li> <li>• 22/03/2017 – Enforcement Notice served. Notice takes effect on 26/04/2017. Compliance period is 4 months.</li> <li>• 17/07/2017 – Enforcement Notice withdrawn and to be re-served</li> </ul>	24/05/2021

LPA Reference	Date of Authorisation (Panel/ Delegated)	North/South	Location	Breach	Status	Date by which Compliance Expected (or Prosecution Date)
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11/10/2017 – Notice re-served, effective on 13/11/2017 – 3 months for compliance</li> <li>• 23/02/2018 – Site visited. No compliance with Enforcement Notice. Case to be referred to Legal Department for further action.</li> <li>• Notice withdrawn</li> <li>• 09/07/2018 – Notice reserved, compliance date 3 months from 06/08/2018 (expires 06/11/2018)</li> <li>• 01/10/2018 – PINS has refused to accept Appeal as received after the time limit.</li> <li>• Time for compliance is by 06/12/2018</li> <li>• Site visit to be completed after the 06/12/2018 to check for compliance with the Notice</li> <li>• 07/12/2018 – Site visit completed, no compliance, case passed to Legal for further action.</li> <li>• 17/01/2019 – Committee updated that Enforcement Notice has been withdrawn and will be re-served</li> </ul>	



LPA Reference	Date of Authorisation (Panel/ Delegated)	North/South	Location	Breach	Status	Date by which Compliance Expected (or Prosecution Date)
					<p>following advice from Counsel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 21/02/2019 – Authorisation granted by Committee to serve an Enforcement Notice. Counsel has advised that the Council give 30 days for the site to be cleared before the Notice is served.</li> <li>• 01/04/2019 – Enforcement Notice served.</li> <li>• 28/05/2019 – Enforcement Appeal has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.</li> <li>• Start date has now been received, Statements are due by 12/12/2019.</li> <li>• Awaiting Planning Inspectorate Decision</li> <li>• Appeal Dismissed with variations. Compliance by 20 January 2021</li> <li>• Site visit due at end of January 2021.</li> <li>• 24/02/2021 – Visit conducted, some compliance, extension agreed until 24/05/2021</li> </ul>	

LPA Reference	Date of Authorisation (Panel/ Delegated)	North/South	Location	Breach	Status	Date by which Compliance Expected (or Prosecution Date)
ENF/2016/0292	11/08/2016	South	Houseboat Friendship, New Quay Lane, Melton	Change of use of land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11/08/2016 – Authorisation granted to serve Enforcement Notice with an 8 year compliance period.</li> <li>• Enforcement Notice to be drafted</li> <li>• Enforcement Notice served on 20/10/2016, Notice effective on 24/11/ 2016 – 8 year compliance period (expires 24/11/2024).</li> </ul>	24/11/2024
ENF/2017/0170	21/07/2017	North	Land Adj to Oak Spring, The Street, Darsham	Installation on land of residential mobile home, erection of a structure, stationing of containers and portacabins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 16/11/2017 – Authorisation given to serve EN.</li> <li>• 22/02/2018 – EN issued. Notice comes into effect on 30/03/2018 and has a 4 month compliance period</li> <li>• Appeal submitted. Awaiting Start date</li> <li>• Appeal started, final comments due by 08/02/2019.</li> <li>• Waiting for decision from Planning Inspectorate.</li> <li>• 17/10/2019 – Appeal Decision issued by PINS. Enforcement Notice relating to the Use of the land quashed and to be re-issued</li> </ul>	31/05/2021

LPA Reference	Date of Authorisation (Panel/ Delegated)	North/South	Location	Breach	Status	Date by which Compliance Expected (or Prosecution Date)
					<p>as soon as possible, Notice relating to the operational development was upheld with an amendment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 13/11/2019 – EN served in relation to the residential use of the site. Compliance by 13/04/2020</li> <li>• Site visited. Case conference to be held</li> <li>• Appeal received in relation to the EN for the residential use</li> <li>• Appeal started. Statement submitted for 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020</li> <li>• Awaiting Planning Inspectorate Decision</li> <li>• Appeal dismissed with some amendments. Compliance by 11/12/2020</li> <li>• Site visit to be undertaken after 11/12/20</li> <li>• Site visited, no compliance with Enforcement Notices, case passed to Legal Department for further action.</li> <li>• <b>Further visit to be done on 25/03/2021.</b></li> </ul>	

LPA Reference	Date of Authorisation (Panel/ Delegated)	North/South	Location	Breach	Status	Date by which Compliance Expected (or Prosecution Date)
ENF/2015/0279 /DEV	05/09/2018	North	Land at Dam Lane Kessingland	Erection of outbuildings and wooden jetties, fencing and gates over 1 metre adjacent to highway and engineering operations amounting to the formation of a lake and soil bunds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial complaint logged by parish on 22/09/2015</li> <li>• Case was reopened following further information on the 08/12/2016/</li> <li>• Retrospective app received 01/03/2017.</li> <li>• Following delays in information requested, on 20/06/2018, Cate Buck, Senior Planning and Enforcement Officer, took over the case, she communicated and met with the owner on several occasions.</li> <li>• Notice sever by recorded delivery 05/09/2018.</li> <li>• Appeal has been submitted. Awaiting Start date.</li> <li>• Start letter received from the Planning Inspectorate. Statement due by 30/07/19.</li> <li>• Awaiting Planning Inspectorate Decision</li> </ul>	30/04/2021

LPA Reference	Date of Authorisation (Panel/ Delegated)	North/South	Location	Breach	Status	Date by which Compliance Expected (or Prosecution Date)
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appeal dismissed. Compliance with both Notices by 05/08/2020</li> <li>• Further legal advice being sought in relation to the buildings and fencing. Extension of time given until 30/04/21 for removal of the lake and reverting the land back to agricultural use due to Licence being required for removal of protected species.</li> <li>• Court hearing in relation to structures and fencing/gates 03/03/2021</li> <li>• <b>Case adjourned until 05/07/2021 for trial. Further visit due after 30/04/21 to check for compliance with steps relating to lake removal.</b></li> </ul>	
ENF/2018/0057	15/11/2018	North	The Stone House, Low Road, Bramfield	Change of use of land for the stationing of chiller/refrigeration units and the installation of bunds and hardstanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enforcement Notices served on 10/12/2018</li> <li>• Notice effective on 24/01/2019</li> <li>• 3 months given for compliance</li> </ul>	31/03/2021

LPA Reference	Date of Authorisation (Panel/ Delegated)	North/South	Location	Breach	Status	Date by which Compliance Expected (or Prosecution Date)
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appeal submitted awaiting Start Date.</li> <li>• Start letter received from the Planning Inspectorate. Statement due by 30/07/19.</li> <li>• Awaiting Planning Inspectorate Decision</li> <li>• Appeal dismissed and amended. Compliance with both Notices by 13/08/2020</li> <li>• Site visit conducted. Some works have been completed but due to Covid-19 pandemic work to remove refrigeration units has been delayed. Extension of time given until 02/10/2020.</li> <li>• Further extension of time given until 30/11/20.</li> <li>• 03/12/2020 – Site visited. MCU Notice has been complied with and Operational Development Notice partially complied with. Final steps are not required for completed until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.</li> </ul>	

LPA Reference	Date of Authorisation (Panel/ Delegated)	North/South	Location	Breach	Status	Date by which Compliance Expected (or Prosecution Date)
ENF/2018/0543 /DEV	24/05/2019	North	Land at North Denes Caravan Park The Ravine Lowestoft	Without planning permission operational development involving the laying of caravan bases, the construction of a roadway, the installation of a pumping station with settlement tank and the laying out of pipe works in the course of which waste material have been excavated from the site and deposited on the surface.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporary Stop Notice Served 02/05/2019 and ceases 30/05/2019</li> <li>• Enforcement Notice served 24/05/2019, comes into effect on 28/06/2019</li> <li>• Stop Notice Served 25/05/2019 comes into effect 28/05/2019.</li> <li>• Appeal has been submitted. Awaiting Start date.</li> <li>• Appeal to be dealt with as a Hearing. Deadline for Statements 03/08/2020</li> <li>• Awaiting date of hearing from Planning Inspectorate.</li> <li>• Hearing date set for 02/02/2021.</li> <li>• Hearing adjourned until 09/03/2021</li> <li>• <b>Hearing adjourned again until 21/04/2021 as was not completed on 09/03/2021.</b></li> </ul>	30/05/2021

LPA Reference	Date of Authorisation (Panel/ Delegated)	North/South	Location	Breach	Status	Date by which Compliance Expected (or Prosecution Date)
ENF/2019/0391 /SEC215	26/11/2019	North	46 Wissett Way Lowestoft	Untidy Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notice served 26/11/2019</li> <li>• Compliance visit to be conducted when possible.</li> <li>• Site visit conducted 12/06/2020, notice not fully complied with. Internal discussions taking place regarding next step.</li> <li>• Enquires being made to take direct action.</li> <li>• Contractors arranged to undertake the required work.</li> <li>• Owner arranged for workers to undertake required work in place of Council Contractors.</li> <li>• Site visit due to check compliance.</li> <li>• Notice not complied with in full. Internal discussions being held to decide the next step.</li> <li>• Contractors being contacted to complete work.</li> <li>• Contractors undertook garden clearance on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Will return at later date to complete outstanding</li> </ul>	28/04/2021



LPA Reference	Date of Authorisation (Panel/ Delegated)	North/South	Location	Breach	Status	Date by which Compliance Expected (or Prosecution Date)
					<p>work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work has been completed on property to fulfil the notice.</li> <li>• Costs are being collated to bill the owner for the work.</li> </ul>	
ENF/2018/0090 /DEV	10/12/2019	South	Dairy Farm Cottage, Sutton Hoo	Erection of a summer house	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enforcement Notice served 10/12/2019</li> <li>• Awaiting site visit to check on compliance</li> <li>• Site visit undertaken, summer house still in situ. Further action to be considered.</li> <li>• Property has now changed hands. Contact with new owner to be established.</li> <li>• Officers are now in contact with the new owners and are discussing a way forward.</li> <li>• Six weeks given for summerhouse, decking and steps to be removed.</li> <li>• New planning application has been submitted. Case on hold until determined.</li> <li>• <b>Planning permission has been granted for retention of the</b></li> </ul>	10/06/2021

LPA Reference	Date of Authorisation (Panel/ Delegated)	North/South	Location	Breach	Status	Date by which Compliance Expected (or Prosecution Date)
					<b>decking element. Removal of summerhouse and steps have been conditioned.</b>	
ENF/2015/0214 /MULTI	17/01/2020	South	98 Tangham Cottages, Tangham	Change of use of land and building for business, residential and holiday let purposes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 17/01/2020 – Enforcement Notice served.</li> <li>• Appeal received. Statements due by 27/04/2020</li> <li>• Awaiting Planning Inspectorate Decision</li> <li>• Appeal dismissed with amendments. Compliance date 26.12.2020. Judicial review submitted.</li> <li>• Judicial review dismissed. Compliance date 23/03/2021</li> <li>• <b>Site visit to be undertaken on 25/03/2021 to check for compliance.</b></li> </ul>	30/04/2021
ENF/2019/0035 /DEV	30/06/2020	South	The White Cottage, 3-4 Queens Head Lane, Woodbridge	Installation of a wheelchair lift	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30/06/2020 – Enforcement Notice served. Appeal submitted awaiting start date.</li> <li>• Appeal started. Final comments by 09/11/20</li> <li>• Awaiting Planning Inspector Decision.</li> </ul>	25/03/2021

LPA Reference	Date of Authorisation (Panel/ Delegated)	North/South	Location	Breach	Status	Date by which Compliance Expected (or Prosecution Date)
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appeal dismissed. Compliance due by 25/03/2021</li> </ul>	
ENF/2020/0049 /DEV	12/01/2021	South	17 Saxonfields, Snape	Installation of a replacement roof on conservatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enforcement Notice served. Comes into effect on 15/02/2021</li> </ul>	15/06/2021