



Ince Central Estate

Residents Group Newsletter

29th April 2005

Newsletter 21

Ongoing Investigation

By now, you will have been advised of the results of the investigation into the contamination. The overall position is that about two thirds of residents have received a letter and results sheet advising them that the land around their property is contaminated and the remaining third that the results from their properties are below levels considered to be of concern.

However, because there is no clear pattern to the contamination the Council is taking a cautious approach to ensure the safety of estate residents and has arranged for further samples to be taken from these properties.

Visits have been carried out to all residents with levels of contamination above the prescribed levels. In addition, Temple have been providing advice and information on the contamination from 2 Pryce Avenue. A small display of possible remediation options based on other sites has proved extremely helpful to residents. If you have not had the

opportunity to visit 2 Pryce Avenue, please check the box at the end of this newsletter for dates when Temple will be available.

All residents whose gardens require further investigation have now had a letter advising them of the arrangements for further sampling and the team are already on site drilling boreholes and visiting residents to arrange access to gardens.

Results from these latest tests should emerge far more quickly as the prescribed levels have now been agreed for each contaminant. Mouchel Parkman have confidently predicted that, providing they gain access to all gardens, the samples will be collected over a three week period and all results should be back from the laboratory within a two week period after the final sample has been collected.

On receipt of the results the information will then be plotted on a map to illustrate the spread of the

contaminants and show which properties are affected.

Once the final results are received and plotted so the contamination results are fully understood then a further exercise in communicating the results to affected residents will take place.

Next Steps

Once the Council has a full picture of the spread of the contamination, the next stage is to explore the available remedial options. To help with this process a feedback form on the available options is attached to this newsletter so that YOU can identify your preference. Some of you may have already completed one of these and if so, please ignore this message. If you have not completed a form we would urge you to do so in order that your viewpoint is taken into account in taking a final decision on the preferred option. The form should be returned to either 2 Pryce Avenue or to the Area Housing Office at Ince Town Hall.

Once a suitable approach has been determined, an application can then be prepared in order to seek funding from the Government for the remediation or 'clean up' process. We expect the main clean up operation to start in early 2006.

Pilot Project

To help understand more about the remedial options and likely impacts a pilot project 44 & 46 The Grove is to be undertaken. The start date for

this is the 3rd May, although some preparatory work has already taken place.

This exercise will also provide an opportunity to conduct air monitoring tests to ensure that any dust that is created during the excavation process does not represent any health risk.

Part of the aim of the project is to help local residents to gain a better understanding of the sequence of events and specific working activities during the course of remediation. To assist this understanding, WALH are planning a couple of 'open days' when work will be stopped so that residents can visit the properties and see what is going on for themselves.

Frequently asked Questions

Not surprisingly, a large number of concerns and issues have been raised following the information sent out about the contamination. Over the next few Newsletters, we plan to tell you which matters are of most concern and the response to these, assuming there is one. In general, the questions have fallen into 6 categories:

- Contamination
- 'Getting on with one's life...'
- Remediation Options
- The Remediation Process
- Legal and
- Others

Health Authority Exposure Assessment Questionnaire

Ashton, Wigan & Leigh Primary Care Trust have sent all households on the estate a questionnaire to try to help them understand the level of exposure to the soil and how this may have affected your health.

This is a complicated picture, because many people come into contact with chemicals and pollution during their normal day to day activities. Part of the aim of this questionnaire is to try to identify whether there are any residents in particular who may have high levels of exposure which warrant further investigation.

It is recognised that some concern has been expressed that

the information being gathered may somehow be used by the Council. This is not the case. The information will only be used to assess exposure levels in order to determine whether there is any potential impact upon health issues.

It would help if as many residents as possible could complete their questionnaire. Please return the questionnaire to the Health Authority in the pre-paid return envelope provided.

Staff from Temple are available at the following times:

Week commencing 2nd May 2005

Wednesday 11.00 AM to 5.00 PM

Thursday 9.00 AM to 3.00 PM

Week commencing 9th May 2005

Wednesday 11.00 AM to 5.00 PM

Thursday 9.00 AM to 3.00 PM

Temple Contact Details

If anyone has any comments regarding any information, Temple can be contacted at 2 Pryce Avenue every Wednesday (11.00-17.00) and Thursday (10.00-15.00)
Tel 01942 239598

Alternatively, if residents need to contact Temple outside this time, they can use the freephone number 0800 328 4375 or Temple Head Office 01825 790964.