

## Agenda item 5

### For Decision - Improving the condition of Saxonvale

Author: Peter Wheelhouse, Economic Development & Regeneration Manager & Deputy Town Clerk

#### Summary

The condition of the former industrial site at Saxonvale and especially the property owned by Notts Industries Pension Fund has continued to deteriorate. Owing to the lack of security, the site has also become a magnet for anti-social behaviour. At the meeting, Cllr Richard Ackroyd will present some photographs showing the condition of the site and provide the latest information on attempts by the Town Council and Mendip District Council to secure improvement.

This report provides some background information and an update on the situation at the time of publication. It also recommends that the Economic Development & Regeneration Manager continues to liaise closely with officers at Mendip District Council with a view to securing improvements to the condition of the Saxonvale site.

#### Background

On 8 March 2017, the Council received a report on the poor condition of the former industrial site at Saxonvale. At the meeting, Cllrs agreed the following:

“The Town Council considers the Saxonvale site to be unsafe, dangerous and unsightly. Accordingly, it requests Mendip District Council to use planning and other powers (not available to us) to force the various owners of the Saxonvale site to make their buildings and land safe, sound and tidy.”

Following that meeting, Stuart Brown, Mendip’s Chief Executive was approached to encourage him to take action. Since then, officers from the District Council have been in contact with representatives of Notts Industries Pension Fund (whose property is considered to be in the worst condition) with a view to securing a clean up the site.

#### The current situation

We have been provided with some recent photographs that illustrate the problem. They will be shown at the meeting. The police have reported that several fires have been started on the site and anti-social behaviour in the area is rife, including trespass, metal theft, graffiti, fly tipping, drug use and criminal damage. Young people see it as a favoured place to hang out despite the dangers and warnings to stay away. The police regularly patrol this part of the town but it is essential that the site is cleaned up and the buildings are made secure to minimise the risk of harm.

However, it is understood that moves are now afoot to address the problem. A verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

**Recommendation**

That the Economic Development & Regeneration Manager continues to liaise closely with officers at Mendip District Council with a view to securing improvements to the condition of the Saxonvale site