

Council cracks down on homes in shoddy state

Owners ordered to tidy property

by TIM RIDGWAY



INCONSIDERATE homeowners are facing a crackdown from town planners for spoiling their neighbourhoods.

Officers from Brighton and Hove City Council are conducting a string of investigations following complaints from members of the public.

Dozens of notices are expected to be issued in the coming months ordering homeowners to improve their dilapidated and rundown properties.

A new enforcement policy is expected to be introduced in November.

The news comes as the council ordered the owners of 92 Sackville Road, Hove to, improve the condition of the property.

The order, issued to Mr and Mrs Stevens, is one of four Section 215 amenity notices served since February. The notices are handed out when a site is deemed to be having a detrimental impact on the surrounding area.

Sixteen enforcement notices, which are issued when developers flout planning law, and three breach of condition notices, which means the building is detrimental to public safety, have been issued in the same period.

Disrepair

Planners see legal action, which is seen as a last resort, as a necessary tool to preserve the city's 34 conservation areas.

Under the notice, the owners of 92 Sackville Road must repair windows, repaint the property and its timberwork and repair its front wall.

Councillor Lynda Hyde, chairman of the council's planning committee, said: "I understand from officers that formal enforcement action has been considered in relation to this long term empty property for some considerable time.

"Officers from both the empty property and planning enforcement teams have tried many times to talk to the owners to persuade them to carry out works voluntarily and to bring the property back into use.

"This property has fallen into a considerable state of disrepair and is visually detrimental to the amenities of the area so I am pleased this action is being taken.

"Experience has also shown that this type of action frequently results in the owners finally dealing with the wasted resource that their empty property represents.

"This is particularly important in an area like Brighton and Hove where there is high housing need and limited housing supply."

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NEEDING ATTENTION: The property in Sackville Road, Hove

Tree drive

ILLEGAL planting a row of Brighton Council have a number of complaints in Gr Brighton, being vanda Others ha illegally par The cou to replant trees. Ward cou man sug

Fashion the st

A BRIGHTON be converted catwalk nex A fashion s more than 2 city will dis their wares on Sunday. The 52ft cat under a ma models will stuff betwee 4pm. The theme v to wear this winter. The free eve organised by Brighton.

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