



Report to Council

Department: Development Services
Division: Building and By-law Enforcement
Date: February 5, 2024
Prepared by: Mike Diemer (By-law/Property Standards Officer)
Report Number: Building and By-law Enforcement-2024-01
Subject: Bi-Annual By-law Enforcement Report
Number of Pages: 4

Recommendation(s)

That Building and By-law Enforcement-2024-01 entitled “**Bi-Annual By-law Enforcement Report**” prepared by Mike Diemer dated February 5th, 2024 be received.

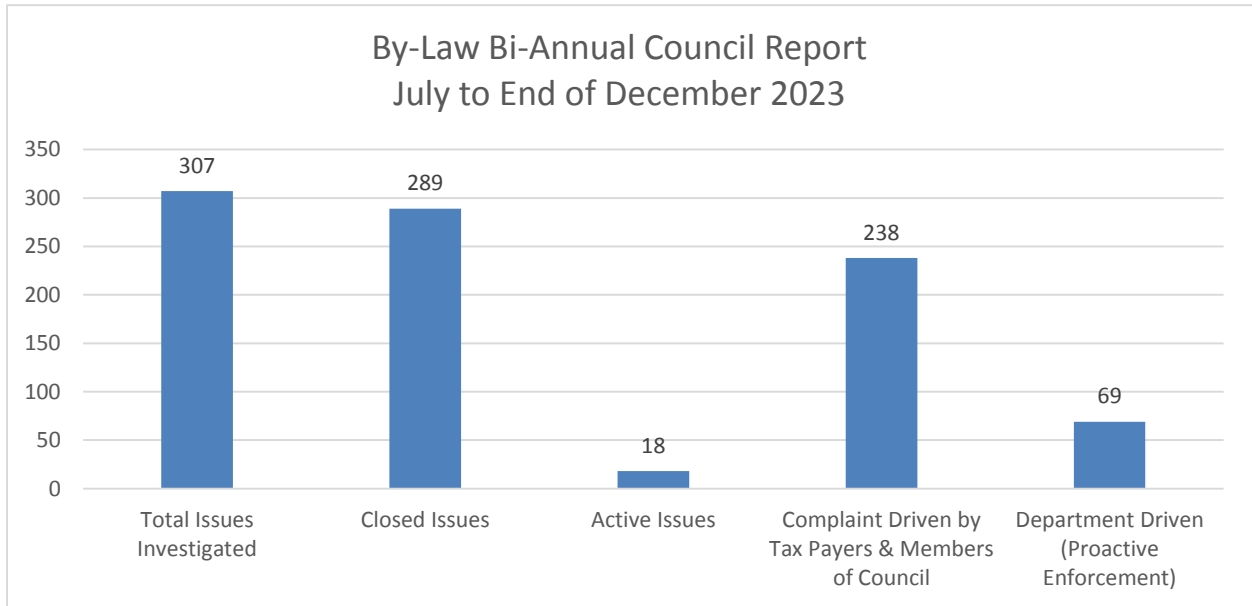
Purpose

To provide Council with a report illustrating the enforcement conducted among various by-laws from July to the end of December 2023.

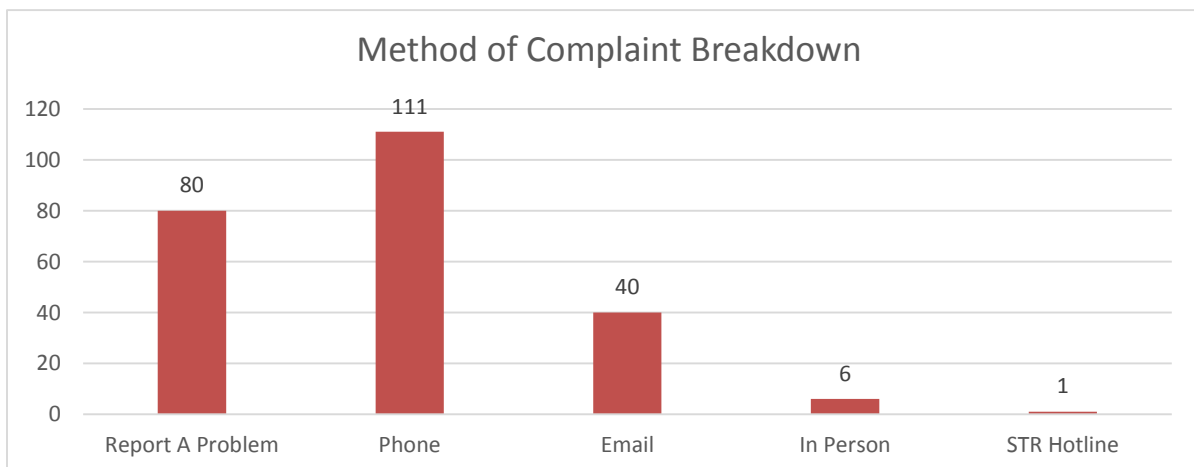
Background and Discussion

The purpose of this report is to illustrate the enforcement conducted among various municipal by-laws between July to the end of December 2023. The By-law team remains uniform in its enforcement process from the beginning stage of voluntary compliance to issuing notices of violation and in cases of continued non-compliance, serving owners with Municipal Work Orders and/or Provincial Offences Act (POA) charges.

By-law Enforcement has conducted investigations on Residential, Agricultural and Commercial properties throughout the Municipality as depicted in the chart below. A total of 307 potential violations were investigated during this 6-month period. Of the 307 potential violations, 238 were based on complaints received from members of the public and/or Council members. The remaining 69 issues were investigated proactively. Of the 307 issues, 289 have been resolved and 18 remain actively investigated.

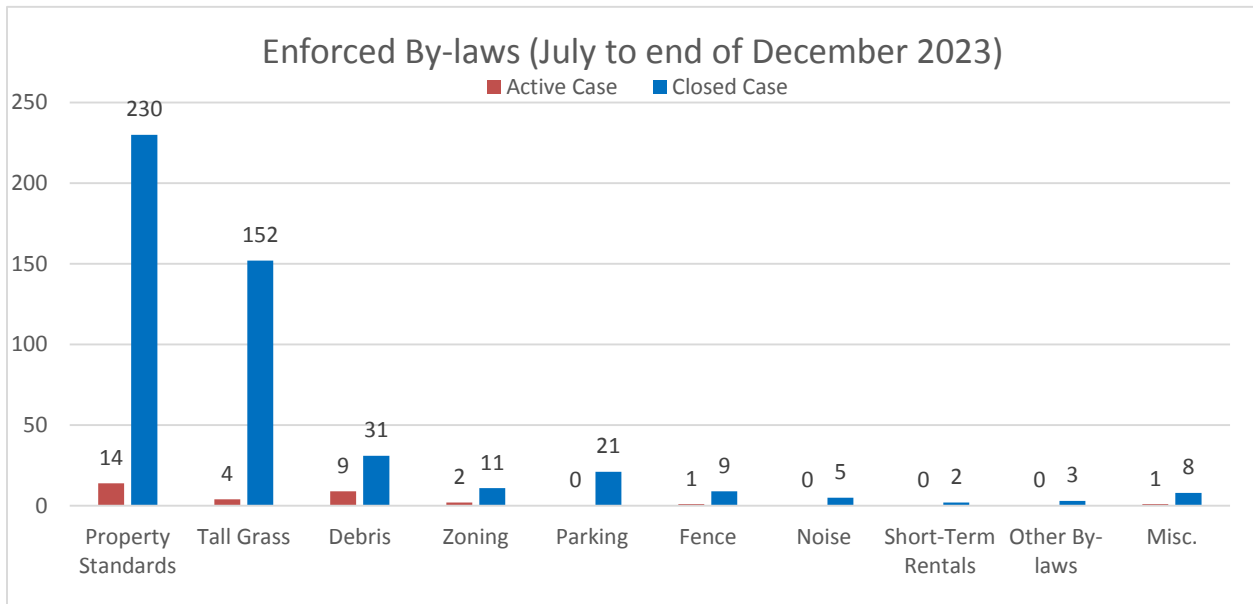


The following chart shows a detailed breakdown of how the 307 complaints have been received. During this 6 month period, 80 complaints have been received throughout “Report a Problem” platform, 111 were received by phone, 40 were received by email, 6 were submitted in-person, and one (1) via the STR Hotline.



Specific Enforcement

The last chart below illustrates the specific enforcement of various municipal by-laws. The red bars depict active cases and the blue bars depict cases which were resolved satisfactory to By-law Enforcement standards. The By-laws shown in the chart below represent the most reported violations, but do not comprise all 21 enforceable by-laws.



Of the 307 investigated cases, 244 fall under Property Standards By-law 936. Property Standards issues have a wide range; however, the main offences consist of tall grass/weeds and exterior property debris. As shown in the chart above, tall grass complaints are received in a high quantity and due to Town policy, Work Orders do not need to be issued since By-law Enforcement is able to remedy the violation without delay. Debris violations can take more time to resolve due to Work Order timeframes, and Appeals and Property Standards Committee extensions which postpone direct action from By-law Enforcement.

As always, **the public is encouraged to use the Town's "Report a Problem"** on-line forms to submit complaints for investigation and documentation, which can be found at

<https://www.essex.ca/en/live/essex-works-online-report-a-problem.aspx>

Financial Impact

Not Applicable

Consultations

Kevin Carter, Chief Building Official / Manager of By-law Enforcement

Link to Strategic Priorities

- Embrace asset management best practices to build, maintain, and continuously improve our municipally owned infrastructure.
- Leverage our Town's competitive advantages to promote jobs and economic investment.**
- Take care of our natural environment and strengthen the sense of belonging to everyone **who makes Essex "home"**.
- Deliver friendly customer service in an efficient, effective, and transparent manner while providing an exceptional working environment for our employees.
- Build corporate-level and community-level climate resilience through community engagement and partnership and corporate objectives.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Bi-Annual By-law Enforcement Report (July to end of December 2023) - Building and By-law Enforcement-2024-01.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Jan 26, 2024

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Kevin Carter, Manager, Building Services/Chief Building Official - Jan 26, 2024 - 2:56 PM



Lori Chadwick, Director, Development Services - Jan 26, 2024 - 2:57 PM



Doug Sweet, Chief Administrative Officer - Jan 26, 2024 - 2:59 PM