

Report Head of Policy and Projects
by:

To: West/Central Area Committee

25 October 2007

Wards: Castle, Newnham and Market

Environmental Improvements Programme

DECISION TO BE MADE: -

- **Pinch points:** *To proceed with investigations and costing, and to carry out the works*.*
- **Proposed schemes:** *To determine the order of priority for the suggested new Environmental Improvement Projects. This may be broken down into two lists, one to be progressed this financial year and the second list to be progressed next financial year.*
- **Public Art Scheme (referred from the Public Art Steering Group):** *To proceed with the feasibility study and costing for the Snowy Farr Memorial*

1 BUDGET

The funding remaining to this committee in this financial year is **£90,000**, following deducted monies previously allocated.

2 RECENTLY PROPOSED SCHEMES

2.1 Members have asked for an update of the following environmental schemes.

Kings Parade Lighting

- 2.2 There is temporary lighting here. The County is testing a new prototype and will be erecting one trial column for consultation in the near future. This is to see if it works well both aesthetically and technically.

Lammas Land Pavilion

- 2.3 A full survey has been carried out by a consultant engineer to understand the condition of the pavilion and why it has deteriorated. Active communities and Urban Design are working together to produce a consultation leaflet which will suggest either replacing the shelter or replacing it with another type of structure, e.g. a small performance stage, replacing it in a different place, or removing it altogether. Signage has been put up in front of the pavilion to explain why it is boarded up.

3 PINCH POINTS

- 3.1 Each pinch point has been re-assessed following Area Committee meeting in August and are represented in Appendix 1 with recommendations. Also see the revised “*Strategy for Removal of Pinch Points on Paths to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 (DDA)*” in Appendix 2 recently sent to all City Councillors.

The committee is requested to consider the pinch points from August 30th 2007 Area Committee.

Recommendation: *It is officer recommendation that we proceed with altering/removing the pinch points listed in Appendix 1.*

4 NEWLY PROPOSED SCHEMES

Recommendation: *It is officer recommendation that we determine the order of priority for the suggested new Environmental Improvement Projects. This may be broken down into two lists, one to be progressed this financial year and the second list to be progressed next financial year.*

- 5 **PUBLIC ART SCHEME** (referred from the Public Art Steering Group)

- 5.1 At a meeting of the Council on 14 April 2007, the following resolution was passed:

“This Council supports a proposal for a memorial to the late Snowy Farr who was well known to many City residents, the memorial to take the form of a statue or artwork in the Petty Cury area which should be modest, child-friendly and accessible to sight-impaired people. It should commemorate Snowy for his fundraising charity work in bringing his entertaining bike-cum-cart of tame animals to the City Centre.

The Council asks the Leader to invite interested councillors and members of the public to form a public committee to carry forward a project to commemorate Snowy Farr on the basis that it is partially funded by voluntary public subscription.”

- 5.2 To date, Councillors and Officers have undertaken preliminary studies for the project including approaching the Public Art Steering Group (PASG) to use the Public Art Initiative Fund (PAIF) for potential match funding for the project. The preliminary studies confirmed that the appropriate budget should be between £60,000 and £70,000. In principle, the PASG agreed to fund the project for approximately £30,000 with the outstanding balance being paid for by voluntary public subscriptions.
- 5.3 The Public Art Initiative Fund is not public money. It is a fund, which is comprised of commuted Section 106 monies. However, the Fund cannot be accessed until a project has been developed to the point of commissioning the art work. Before this project can be taken forward to ask for voluntary public subscriptions, it requires further development in terms of types of art, appropriate artists and location and requires consultation with those with expertise in public art. The Public Art Initiative Fund cannot be used for this important part of the project.
- 5.4 The development work will cost a maximum of £2000.

Recommendation: It is officer recommendation that we proceed with the feasibility study and costing for the Snowy Farr memorial.

* In order to save time between Area Committee Meetings, it is suggested that if the consultation on pinch point removal proves that residents' groups are in favour, that the removal should proceed as soon as possible. If consultation proves that the groups are not in favour, the pinch points will return to Area Committees for decision. Area Chairs and Ward Councillors will be informed via email of the consultation results in order to finalise authorisation for budget expenditure. The full results of the consultations will be provided to the next Area Committee meeting.

APPENDIX 1 :

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REMOVAL OF PINCH POINTS

1: Orchard Street



Remove left and right side bollards. They will be deployed elsewhere in the City Centre where there is a shortage. Leave centre bollard and remove pram arms. Monitor for problems.

2 : Christ's Pieces/Short Street



Straighten the first post on the left hand side, and remove the third post from the left hand side as it sits directly in front of tactile block paving.

3 : Pike's Walk/King's Street



Retain as existing and monitor for problems.

4 : Milton's Walk



Retain as existing and monitor for problems

5 : Belmont Place



Remove bollard on the pavement. Site all three equidistant in the road, two on the opposing yellow double lines and one in the middle.

6 : Christchurch street



Remove post & arms, and consider erecting warning sign.

(Cross pedestrian and cycle traffic – significant visibility issues)

7 : Parsonage Street/Midsummer Common



Retain as existing and monitor for problems

8a : North Terrace



Reconfigure bollards with larger gate to achieve 1.0m (this distance is the width of all other entrances with cattle grids leading onto the common).

8b : North Terrace



Reconfigure bollards with larger gate to achieve 1.0m (this distance is the width of all other entrances with cattle grids leading onto the common). Monitor for any problems.

8c : Brunswick Walk



Remove bollards and replace with a pedestrian gate. Put in a tarmac path link.

8d : Brunswick Walk



Retain as existing and monitor for problems

9 : Jesus Green, Victoria Avenue, Fort St. George crossing access



No visibility issues

Remove all arms. Retain bollards in current positions and monitor for any problems.

10 : Jesus Green, Victoria Avenue, Jesus Ditch crossing access



No visibility access

Retain as existing and monitor.

11 : Jesus Green, Lower Park Street, Snob Stream access



No visibility issues

Remove the post and re-use elsewhere. The railings are taller than the post. From a visual point of view, it would not be appropriate to relocate posts either side of the entrance. Reuse post in Park Parade.

12 : Jesus Green, Lower Park Street diagonal path access



Remove the post and re-use elsewhere. The railings are taller than the post. From a visual point of view, it would not be appropriate to relocate posts either side of the entrance. Reuse post in Park Parade.

13 : Jesus Green, Park Parade, Portugal Street access



No visibility issues

Move the centre post and arms. Remove side arms on the railings and replace with a bollard either side to allow 1.3m through the centre. Paint the bollards.

APPENDIX 2

STRATEGY FOR REMOVAL OF PINCH POINTS ON PATHS TO COMPLY WITH THE DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ACT 2005 (DDA)

Currently there are a significant number of alleyways and paths around the city which are impassable for some groups of people such as those using wheelchairs and mobility scooters or those with wide pushchairs. In order to open up these convenient routes and to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 (DDA), the City Council will be progressing the removal of pinch points throughout the city.

The removal of pinch points will allow easier access for small motorcycles and remove the speed reduction element with regard to cyclists. Consequently there has been some concern expressed that this may increase conflict between users to the detriment of vulnerable pedestrians, especially on paths with blind corners. We have therefore tried to formulate a strategy to deal with the possibility of inconsiderate users.

Every pinch point will be assessed individually in order to avoid conflict of access between users on blind corners.

Where visibility is adequate, pinch points will be removed entirely. Where visibility is poor, there may be an opportunity to alter or replace chicanes. All pinch points, whether to be removed or altered will be measured, photographed and presented to the relevant Area Committee for approval to remove/alter. If visibility is poor and the chicanes can be reconfigured, a proposal will be put forward. All proposals for removal of pinch points will be presented as a group of projects.

N.B. To allow access for mobility scooters, the ideal is a gap of 1.8m lengthways in between chicanes and a width of 1.5m to allow the necessary manoeuvrability for larger wheelchairs and mobility scooters. However, the majority of paths in Cambridge are only 1.8m wide or sometimes less. This restricted width means that if the 1.5m gap is allowed, then any sort of chicane will only be 300mm (1 ft.) wide making it ineffectual.

Each case will vary and there may be an opportunity to vary the configuration, e.g. narrow the gap for wheelchairs to 1.0m wide. If the configuration cannot be altered, the chicane will be removed entirely. Certainly where safety is of special concern with local members, a site visit can be arranged to assess options.

All schemes will be monitored for any reported problems that occur once the pinch points have been removed or altered.


The removal of access restrictions/pinch points throughout the city will be an ongoing activity..

4. WEST CENTRAL AREA – NEWLY PROPOSED SCHEMES

The schemes deferred from the October 2006 Workshop are now brought forward, together with newly proposed schemes for consideration and re-prioritisation. Members are asked to prioritise projects to be addressed immediately and those to be reviewed in March 2008.

Environmental Improvement Project	Condition	Priority according to Eligibility criteria	Further Comments / Notes	Cost Range	Suggested Priority – Progress now or in 2008
CycleRacks at Malcolm Place /Manor Street /King Street	<p>There is a lack of cycle parking in this area and no cycle signage.</p> <p><u>Suggestions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate a location for more cycle parking and a small sign. 	<p>Fits Eligibility Criteria</p>	<p>Consult with the cycling officers</p>	<p>£1500</p>	<p>Now</p>



Environmental Improvement Project	Condition	Priority according to Eligibility criteria	Further Comments / Notes	Cost Range	Suggested Priority – Progress now or in 2008
<p data-bbox="96 355 253 483">Fitzroy/ Burleigh Street</p> 	<p data-bbox="387 395 985 691">The cracked, uneven surfacing and badly deteriorated street furniture has been partially upgraded. It is intended that the remaining areas are the subject of a Planning Obligation bid. The bid is described as follows:</p> <p data-bbox="387 743 985 1121">Redesign and enhancement of both streets around the already completed area at the entrance to the Grafton Centre. The scheme would include resurfacing, tree planting and street furniture and increased facilities to allow street trading. The bid will be for £500,000.</p> <p data-bbox="387 1174 607 1209"><u>Suggestions:</u></p> <ul data-bbox="439 1222 985 1345" style="list-style-type: none"> • That Committee consider a contribution to the S.106 funding. 	Fit eligibility		Consider a contribution of £50,000	<p data-bbox="1798 395 2000 475">Review in March 2008</p> <p data-bbox="1798 523 2022 818">The Planning Obligation bid will be submitted to Environment Ctte in March or July 2008</p>

Environmental Improvement Project	Condition	Priority according to Eligibility criteria	Further Comments / Notes	Cost Range	Suggested Priority – Progress now or in 2008
Wall/recycling bin behind Student Union, Park Street	<p>The wall behind the student union on Park street is broken in places</p> <p><u>Suggestions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify land ownership • Re-render the wall • Investigate room for enclosure • Suggest the recycling bins are stored so as not to obstruct pedestrians. 	Fits Eligibility Criteria	Consult with the University Estates dept. and County Highways	£5,000-£10,000	Now



Environmental Improvement Project	Condition	Priority according to Eligibility criteria	Further Comments / Notes	Cost Range	Suggested Priority – Progress now or in 2008
Canterbury Street traffic calming	<p>The street is used as a rat-run for speeding cars from Huntingdon Road to Histon Road and vice versa.</p> <p><u>Suggestions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate traffic calming along Canterbury Street, Benson Street, Priory Street and Halifax Street. • Carry out public consultation to ascertain support. 	Fits Eligibility criteria	Consult Highways	£30,000-£80,000	Review in March 2008



Environmental Improvement Project	Condition	Priority according to Eligibility criteria	Further Comments / Notes	Cost Range	Suggested Priority – Progress now or in 2008
Seating in the City centre	<p>The Market area of Cambridge lacks comfortable seating with armrests.</p> <p><u>Suggestions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out a survey to check what seating is where and if new could replace old and seating added. 	Fits Eligibility criteria	Consult City centre management	£2000 - £5000	Now



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA - as agreed by Executive Councillor (Environment) on 18 March 2003 with amendments agreed 22 March 2005

The essential criteria for consideration of funding of Environmental Improvement works are:

- Schemes should have a direct, lasting and noticeable improvement to the appearance of a street or area.
- Schemes should be publicly visible and accessible.
- Schemes must have the owners consent if on private land – unless there are exceptional circumstances by which Area Committee may wish to act unilaterally and with full knowledge and responsibility for the implication of such action.
- Schemes must account for future maintenance costs.

Desirable criteria – potential schemes should be able to demonstrate some level of:

- Active involvement of local people.
- Benefit for a large number of people.
- 'Partnership' funding.
- Potential for inclusion of employment training opportunities.
- Ease and simplicity of implementation.
- Potential for meeting key policy objectives (e.g. improving community safety or contributing to equal opportunities).

Categories of scheme ineligible for funding:

- Where a readily available alternative source of funding is available.
- Revenue projects.
- Schemes that have already received Council funding (unless it can be clearly demonstrated that this would not be 'top up' funding).
- Works that the City or County Council are under an immediate obligation to carry out (e.g. repair of dangerous footways)
- Play areas (as there are other more appropriate sources of funding including S106 monies)

The following categories of work were agreed as being eligible for funding by the Area Committees:

- Works in areas of predominately council owned housing
- Works to construct lay-bys where a comprehensive scheme can be carried out which not only relieves parking problems but achieves environmental improvements.

GROUND PAPERS

None.

INSPECTION OF PAPERS

To inspect or query the background paperwork or report, please contact,

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