

Report by: Head of Policy and Projects
To: West/Central Area Committee 15th May 2008
Wards: Castle, Newnham and Market

Environmental Improvements Programme

DECISION TO BE MADE: -

Current Schemes:

Elizabeth Way Underpass: *To formally approve the budget of £7,250 for replanting works.*

Canterbury Street traffic calming: *To allow officers to proceed or not with design and consultation.*

Mud Lane Lighting: *To put scheme on hold until revenue budget found.*

Histon Recreation Ground: *To progress with investigations to replant area in consultation with Active Communities and the Arboricultural team.*

Proposed New Schemes:

Lammas Land Pavilion: *To proceed with assisting with the public consultation and following that investigations and costing.*

Round Church grounds: *To proceed with investigations and costings.*

1. BUDGET

- 2.1 The budget for West/Central Area Committee is as shown below. Please note that the Outturns for the Area Committees have not, as yet, been completed.

WEST/CENTRAL AREA COMMITTEE - ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS 2007/2008/2009		
	£	£
Budget for 2007/2008 financial year	£99,789	
Add roll-over from 2006/2007 budget	£96,274	
TOTAL BUDGET FOR 2007/2008 FINANCIAL YEAR		£196,063
Minus Actual 07/08 Budget Spend to end March 2008		-£43,204
Committed Projects	Estimated Reserved Cost £	
Parker's Piece Lighting	£2,040	
Auckland Road/Parsonage St paving and lighting	£7,300	
Lammas Land cycle parking	£2,350	
Burleigh Street Lighting	£16,000	
Contribution towards Burleigh/Fitzroy Phase 3 refurbishment	£50,000	
Pinch point removal	£3,347	
Mobility crossing	£1,500	
Minus Committed project budgets		-£82,537
BALANCE OF 07/08 BUDGET as at end MARCH 2008		£70,322
ANTICIPATED BALANCE at 1 April 2008 INCLUDING 08/09 ALLOCATION OF £89,700		£160,022
Projects agreed by Ctte to be investigated, but no budget committed. Costs shown are estimated and will depend on detailed design and site investigation	Estimated Cost £	
Canterbury Street traffic calming	£100,000	
Wall adjacent to the Student Union, Park Street	£15,000	
Manor Place cycle racks	£2,500	
Lammas Land Pavilion rebuild	£20,000	

Histon recreation ground seating	£1,000	
Mud Lane lighting	£5,000	
Mobility Crossings allowance	£2,000	
Pinch Point Removal allowance	£7,500	
Estimated costs for projects under investigation	£153,000	
N.B. The estimated costs shown above are merely given as a rough guide until the projects can be designed and costed.		

2. PROGRESS ON SCHEMES WITH BUDGET APPROVAL

2.1 Elizabeth Way Underpass

Budget of £7,250 approved via email 17th March 2008. Committee are asked to approve the budget formally.

2.2 Auckland Road / Parsonage Street

Budget of £7,300 approved 30th August 2007. Design for retaining wall and footpath renovation nearly completed. Expected to go to consultation shortly.

2.3 Lammas Land Cycle Parking

Budget of £2,350 approved 30th August 2007. Design for cycle parking is complete and expected to be implemented shortly.

3. PROGRESS ON SCHEMES BEING PROGRESSED

3.1 Canterbury Street

A Scoping Workshop took place on 2 April 2008 with invited local residents and businesses. The purpose of the Workshop was to explore the problem with residents and start to determine some possible solutions.

The Workshop has now enabled the EIP team to put together an informed brief to discuss with County Highways and to take a draft scheme to full public consultation, hopefully prior to summer vacation dates.

We will also be working with interested local groups to develop proposals for the scheme.

In the meantime a newsletter will be sent to all local residence updating them on progress.

Recommendation: To allow officers to draw up a proposal and to consult with County and then to take to AJC (if approved by County).

Decision to be made: To allow officers to proceed or not.

3.2 Mud Lane Lighting

The installation of a light beneath the arch on Mud Lane has proved not possible to progress because of property owners do not wish it.

As a consequence the proposal changed to installing a column light along the lane. However, consultation with Land Registry has revealed that the landowner of the lane is unknown making installation of a light a risk.

In addition, consultation with the County lighting team has determined that although they have no objection to the City installing an additional column, they would not allow connection to the existing light columns because of funding issues to power the additional light.

Mud Lane Lighting Scheme is an old scheme on which officers have found it difficult to make progress on. As the County have now given us clear instruction that they are not willing to find the revenue funding to power a light, officers would recommend that the scheme is put on hold until a stream of revenue funding is found within the City budget.

Recommendation: that the scheme is put on hold until a stream of revenue funding is found within the City budget.

Decision to be made: To put scheme on hold until revenue budget found.

3.3 Histon Recreation Ground Seat and Replanting Mound

A new seat has been installed next to the balancing log play equipment by Active Communities. A request to replant the mound adjacent to the Murketts garage has been put forward.

Whilst on site it was noted that the ground was waterlogged. A second site visit with the City's drainage engineer noted that the flow in the ditch was static and the outfall pipe was not able to drain properly. We have informed Parks and Rec. regarding this and have asked for it to be looked into during their maintenance inspections.

Recommendation: that officers investigate the possibility of replanting the mound with Active Communities.

Decision to be made: To progress with investigations in consultation with Active Communities and the Arboricultural team.

3.4 Manor Street / King Street Cycle Parking

The installation of ground mounted cycle racks has proved not possible because of tree roots. It was therefore determined to wall mount either racks or a rail, but to do this it would be necessary to consult and gain the permission of the building owner. Officers are continuing investigation and are awaiting a response from Bidwells who are acting as agents for Jesus College.

3.5 Round Church Street

Recycling Area behind the Student Union and wall is unsightly and wall is in need of repair.

Officers have contacted the University to discuss but have had little response to date. Officers will continue to progress.

4. NEW SCHEMES FOR CONSIDERATION

4.1 Lammas Land pavilion

The small central pavilion on Lammas Land is in a very poor state and, as it has been assessed as uneconomic to repair, will be demolished later in May. The pavilion is known to be much appreciated by a number of residents and visitors to the park. It is proposed that consultation will be carried out to consider a replacement scheme in a nearby location

The Council will carry out public consultation on the options for replacement during early summer.

There is currently no funding available within the Active Communities budget or the S.106 Planning Obligation budget for replacement purposes. Active Communities will fund the demolition of the existing pavilion. It is envisaged that a replacement option may cost in the region of £20,000 (estimate only dependent on design). West Central Area Committee may wish to consider options for contributing to this cost.

Recommendation: To allow officers to carry out public consultation and following that, consider options for design, feasibility and funding for a replacement feature.

Decision to be made: To proceed with assisting with the public consultation and following that investigations and costing.

4.2 Round Church grounds

The Council has been approached by Christian Heritage, whose visitor centre is the Round Church, for funding to carry out minor repairs and renovations to the external area around the church.

The works would involve:

- The repair of the low retaining dry stone wall which runs parallel to the front boundary wall,
- Repairs to cobbles around the church building,
- The cost of purchase and installation of a light fitting along the passage to the Student Union Building, and
- The cost of planting adjacent to the wall on Round Church Street.

Recommendation: To allow the EIP team to investigate, in consultation with Conservation Officers, the costs for carrying out the works. Costs can be presented to the July West/Central Area Committee for approval or otherwise. It is recommended that the costs be granted to Christian Heritage to carry out the works themselves.

Decision to be made: To proceed with investigations and costings.

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- a) **Staffing Implications:** Staff resources will result in only a limited amount of progress on Environmental Improvement projects in the near future.
- b) **Equal Opportunities Implications:** These are taken into account on individual schemes.
- c) **Environmental Implications:** All of the projects seek to bring about an improvement in the local environment.
- d) **Community Safety:** This has been included as one of the assessment criteria agreed by Committee and is considered on each project.

7. INSPECTION OF PAPERS

<p>To inspect or query the background paperwork or report, please contact, Charlotte Jackson, Landscape Architect Telephone: 01223 - 457136 Email: charlotte.jackson@cambridge.gov.uk</p>
