

**Report by:** Head of Policy and Projects

**To:** South Area Committee 23 July 2009

**Wards:** Trumpington, Queen Edith's, Cherry Hinton

**Environmental Improvements Programme**

**1 DECISIONS TO BE MADE**

- **Hills Road verges (Purbeck Road to Fendon Road) (Cllr Baker)**  
**Decision:** *To agree a budget of up to £5,500 and to implement the topsoiling, cultivation and seeding works.*

## 2 BUDGET

<b>SOUTH AREA COMMITTEE - ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS 2009/2010</b>		
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Budget for 2009/2010 financial year	£87,600	
Add roll-over from 2008/2009 budget	£166,300	
<b>TOTAL BUDGET FOR 2009/2010 FINANCIAL YEAR</b>		<b>£253,900</b>
<b>Minus Actual 09/10 Budget Spend to date</b>		<b>-£8,014</b>
<b>Committed Projects</b>	<b>Estimated Reserved Cost £</b>	
Cherry Hinton hanging baskets (incl. load testing)	£7,620	
Sedley Taylor/Luard Road traffic calming	£75,000	
Cherry Hinton High Street verges (site investigations)	£2,500	
Church End parking area (remaining budget)	£6,000	
Minus Committed project budgets		<b>-£91,120</b>
<b>BALANCE OF 09/10 BUDGET as at end Apr 2009</b>		<b>£154,766</b>
<b>Projects agreed by Ctte to be investigated, but no budget committed. Costs shown are estimated and will depend on detailed design and site investigation</b>	<b>Estimated Cost £</b>	
Cherry Hinton High Street verges (implementation estimate)	£40,000	
Gladstone Way barriers	£3,000	
Walkway from Bishops Court to Hauxton Rd Lighting	£25,000	
Boundary Court bollards	£3,000	
Hills Road verge reseeding	£8,000	
Fishers Lane verges/parking	£25,000	
Hulatt Road mobility crossing	£5,000	
<b>Estimated costs for projects under investigation</b>	<b>£109,000</b>	
<b>N.B.</b> The estimated costs shown above are merely given as a rough guide until the projects can be designed and costed.		

### **3 APPROVED SCHEMES – PROGRESS**

#### **3.1 Cherry High Street verges (opposite Chelwood Road)**

The possible provision of alternative parking to residents parking on grass verges has been discussed with County Highways and Housing and a concept scheme put forward. It will be necessary to apply for planning permission to install drop kerbs for car access across the verge; this has been done and we await the outcome.

#### **3.2 Gladstone Way barrier**

Investigations are being undertaken into the possibility of creating an alternative access point between The Orchards to Cherry Hinton Recreation Ground, which might alleviate the problem at Gladstone Way. However the owner of the land over which the link passes cannot be traced. The Legal and Property Departments are being consulted over the matter.

Officers will continue to discuss with Ward Councillors and residents to pursue a solution to the problem.

#### **3.4 Lighting to Walkway from Bishop`s Court to Hauxton Road**

This is a request for street lighting along a privately owned, unadopted footpath used to access Trumpington P&R and Waitrose from Bishop`s Court.

It has now been established that a revenue fund for the electrical supply and maintenance of the lighting is not available.

Officers have therefore been investigating solar powered lighting and a short report is being finalised and will be issued to all Councillors shortly. N.B. Solar lighting also requires revenue funding to maintain it.

Liaison with the owner of the land, Countryside Properties, has been ongoing to ascertain whether they can assist with this project prior to the Glebe Farm development proceeding but no way forward has been found. The lighting of the footpath should be included within the Glebe Farm proposals.

#### **3.5 Installation of bollards at Boundary Court, Rathmore Road to protect wall (Cllr Baker)**

The introduction of bollards to protect a brick wall which is being continuously damaged. Proposals to protect the wall are being discussed.

### **3.7 Fishers Lane parking area (Cllr. Newbold)**

A proposal to introduce a parking area to avoid car parking on grass verges. A survey is being undertaken and draft proposals drawn up for discussion with the Lead Project Councillor.

### **3.8 Sedley Taylor Road / Luard Road Traffic Calming (Cllr. Baker)**

The scheme is due to be implemented shortly after 22 July 2009, though the new lighting columns will be erected in advance of that date.

A newsletter has been distributed to local residents and a copy has been made available to Councillors.

### **3.8 Hulatt Road mobility crossing (Cllr. Sanders)**

The permanent solution has been agreed with County Highways and will be implemented shortly. The gradients for the crossing are 1 in 20 and 1 in 24 which are well within the minimum required for DDA regulations.

## **4 SCHEMES REQUIRING DECISIONS**

### **4.1 Hills Road verges (Purbeck Road to Fendon Road) (Cllr Baker)**

The cultivation and re-seeding of the grass verges along Hills Road. A survey has been undertaken of the verges to locate areas where additional bollards might be installed to stop vehicles undertaking on the verge. The survey has highlighted that no additional bollards are required but it revealed that some areas will require additional topsoil to be added. Topsoiling, cultivation and seeding will take place in September at a cost of up to £5,500.

**Recommendation:** *To agree a budget of up to £5,500 and to implement the cultivation and seeding works.*

**Decision:** *To agree a budget of up to £5,500 and to implement the topsoiling, cultivation and seeding works.*

## **5 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME EXHIBITION**

There is a small exhibition of photographs of recent environmental improvement projects on display at Committee.

## **6 CONSULTATIONS**

- 6.1 It is the role of this Area Committee to ensure that an appropriate level of consultation is carried out and where necessary to make decisions about what changes to make to a scheme following consultation.

## **7 IMPLICATIONS**

### **(a) Financial Implications**

The Environmental Improvements Programme is a rolling budget and is divided between the four Area Committees by percentage population.

A degree of flexibility can be implemented within the programme. It will be possible for Area Committees to 'save' some, or all, of their annual budget in order to accrue funds for larger projects.

### **(b) Equal Opportunities Implications**

Covered as one of the assessment criteria

### **(c) Environmental Implications**

The whole purpose of this programme is to bring about improvements in the environment

### **(d) Community Safety Implications**

Covered as one of the assessment criteria

## **8 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The following are the background papers that were used in the preparation of this report:

## **9 INSPECTION OF PAPERS**

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

Dinah Foley Norman, Principal Landscape Architect

**Telephone:** 01223 - 457134

**Email:** Dinah.Foley-Norman@cambridge.gov.uk

OR for Sedley Taylor/Luard Road

John Isherwood, Engineering Projects Manager

**Telephone:** 01223 - 457392

**Email:** John.Isherwood@cambridge.gov.uk

## APPENDIX 1

### **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.