
Report by:	Head of Policy and Projects
To:	North Area Committee 10 June 2010
Wards:	Arbury, East Chesterton, King's Hedges, West Chesterton

Environmental Improvements Programme

1. *DECISION TO BE MADE: -*

- **Adoption of New Schemes for detailed development & consultation**

Decision to be made: To approve the adoption of new schemes for detailed development.

- **Akeman Street Planting.**

Recommendation: *That Committee authorise the implementation of the scheme, subject to a positive consultation, at a cost of £17,750.*

Decision: *To approve the scheme for implementation subject to consultation at a cost of £17,750.*

2 BUDGET

See over.

3.0 APPROVED SCHEMES : PROGRESS

3.1 Nun's Way Parking Area Refurbishment

Construction is complete with planting of the landscaped areas programmed to take place in the autumn.

3.2 Campkin Road Shop Forecourts

Construction is substantially complete with the exception of street furniture that is due to be delivered shortly following delays in its fabrication by the manufacturers. Planting of the landscaped areas will again take place in the autumn.

3.3 Campkin Road Verge Laybys

This scheme is currently under construction and due to be complete by the middle of June.

3.4 Alex Wood Mobility Crossing

This has now been approved by the highway authority and will be installed shortly.

4.0 EXISTING SCHEMES THAT REQUIRE DECISIONS

4.1 Akeman Street Planting.

Replacement of the planting and refurbishment of the kerbsetts surrounding the planted areas at the Stretton Avenue junction is estimated to cost £17,750.

Optional further work to the two other junctions with Darwin Drive, along with the tree pits in between, is estimated at £20,000.

Recommendation: That Committee authorise the implementation of the scheme, subject to a positive consultation, at a cost of £17,750.

Decision: To approve the scheme for implementation subject to consultation at a cost of £17,750.

5.0 NEW SCHEMES FOR DETAILED DEVELOPMENT

5.1 Ramsden Square Path

Resurfacing of the footpath from Campkin Road to the frontages of the properties, including localised patching and removal of trip hazards in close vicinity. The estimated cost to complete this work is £2,500.

5.2 Kendal Way Planting Refurbishment

Refurbishment incorporating tree and shrub replacement with minor civils work such as knee rail replacement. Estimated cost £8,750.

5.3 Fen Road to Haling Way Link

Removal of pram arms from this short link between Fen Road and The Haling Way. A chicane of pedestrian barriers will be required as a replacement. The estimated cost of this work is £1000.

5.4 Mortlock Avenue

Works to include;

Removal of brick garden dividing wall.

Remove six pine trees and improve general arrangement to be more inclusive of surrounding properties and include a small area of 2/3 pieces of play equipment. Resurface and replant the area including new recycling bin stores.

Estimated costs of draft scheme £75,000.

5.5 Woodhead Drive/Milton Rd

Works to include the thinning and tidying of Yew hedge to allow surveillance views through to the rear of the hedge and sowing of wildflower plugs to introduce some diversity into the grass sward. The land is City Council owned and therefore the scheme would need to go through the Tree Protocol. The current estimated costs to complete are £4000.

5.6 Downhams Lane renovation of native hedge -

It is suggested to renovate 25% of the total hedge length of 200m adjacent to the public open space as a trial. The approach would be to carry out significant management of the first 25% of hedge by removing all Elder, laying Hawthorn and supplementary planting to create a double line of hedging at a cost of £6,000 for the 50m length. Since there is a significant amount of Elder, removing it would open up the hedge dramatically, as such we would suggest a gradual management approach for the remaining length of hedge over an 8 year period. The management would remove small areas of Elder and replanting with Hawthorn. The existing Hawthorn would be laid as soon as the new plants were to a height of 1.5m. A consultation with the University and local residents would need to be carried out.

6.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

APPENDIX 1 : North Area Committee Adopted/Deferred EI Projects and Newly suggested EI Projects

APPENDIX 2 : Environmental Improvement Programme Eligibility Criteria.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

- a) **Equal Opportunities Implications:** These are taken into account on individual schemes.
- b) **Environmental Implications:** All of the projects seek to bring about an improvement in the local environment.
- c) **Community Safety:** This has been included as one of the assessment criteria agreed by Committee and is considered on each project.

8.0 INSPECTION OF PAPERS

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

Andrew Preston

Environmental Projects Manager

Telephone: 01223 457271

Email: andrew.preston@cambridge.gov.uk

APPENDIX 1

NORTH AREA COMMITTEE DEFERRED and NEWLY SUGGESTED EIP PROJECTS

No.	Projects Title	Project Detail	Project promoter/ Lead Cllr.	Ward	Category ¹	Estimated Value ²	Comments
Projects deferred by committee on 14 May 2009							
1	Arbury Road trees	Removal of Leylandii trees and replacement with Hawthorn hedge to match existing	Cllr Ward	Kings Hedges	Category 1	£10,000	
2	Apthorpe Way/Campkin Rd	Protect amenity area from parking	Cllr. Pitt	Kings Hedges	Category 2	£5,000	
3	Cameron Road	Bollards to protect play area			Category 3	£3,000	
Newly suggested/unadopted projects							
4	Milton Road improvements	Introduction of minor junction improvements such as bollards to stop parking.	Cllr. Boyce	West Chesterton	Category 2	£8,000	
5	Arbury Road/Meadows Community Centre	Possible fencing and planting scheme to enhance County/City Cycling scheme.	Cllr Ward	Kings Hedges & Arbury	Category 2	£5,500	
6	Buchan Street	Amendments to footpath layout to shop and Community Centre	Cycling and Walking Officers	Kings Hedges			S.106 money has been used to improve the footpath and is available for further works if required.

1 Category definition : **Category 1** Projects to the value of between £10-£75K - Major Projects one major project per area to be investigated or implemented at any one time by the EIP team.

Category 2 Projects to the value of between £3-£10K - Medium Projects. one medium projects per area being investigated or implemented at any one time by the EIP team.

Category 3 Projects to the value up to £3K - Minor Projects. two minor projects per area being investigated or implemented at any one time by the EIP team.

2 Note that the Cost Estimate is a guide cost given at concept stage of a project. Following project investigation and design, this estimate may change significantly. When considering projects, please note the current budget sheet within the EIP committee reports.

APPENDIX 2

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.