



Cambridge City Council

To: East Area Committee 12 September 2013
Report by: Simon Payne
Director of Environment
Wards affected: Petersfield, Romsey, Coleridge, Abbey

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

1.0 Executive summary

- The Committee has an annual budget of £56,200 available to allocate to schemes from its annual Environment Improvement Programme (EIP) budget.
- This report requests that the Committee determine which of the proposed EIP schemes are allocated funding as part of the 2013/14 Environmental Improvement Programme, from those listed in Appendix A of this report
- It also requests that the Committee determine whether to allocate the additional funding required for two existing approved schemes and reallocate the budget currently assigned to two others.

2.0 Recommendations

The East Area Committee is recommended:

- 2.1 To reallocate the £8,000 currently allocated to the Silverwood Close/Whitehill Estate Verge Parking Prohibition scheme.
- 2.2 To reallocate the £7,500 currently allocated to the Brooks Rd/Perne Road Verge Parking Prohibition.
- 2.3 To allocate an additional £5,000 to the existing approved Catharine St traffic calming project.
- 2.4 To allocate an additional £5,000 to the existing approved scheme to plant street trees on Greville Rd and Chalmers Rd.
- 2.5 To allocate funding of £1400 to the highway schemes in appendix A that have secured Local Highway Improvement (LHI) funding from the County Council.

- 2.6 To allocate the remaining funding to the proposed new projects in Appendix A of this report.
- 2.7 To approve those allocated projects for implementation, subject to positive consultation and final approval by local Ward Councillors.
- 2.8 To note the progress of existing schemes listed in Appendix C of this report.

3.0 REASSIGNMENT OF EXISTING ALLOCATIONS

Silverwood Close/Whitehill Estate Verge Parking Prohibition

- 3.1 A consultation has been carried out on Silverwood Close, to determine the level of support for a verge parking prohibition.
- 3.2 It was clear from the response that there wasn't support for such a prohibition and that verge issues were not a real problem, however it did highlight a consensus of opinion that there was an issue with on-street parking capacity and demand for a residents parking scheme.
- 3.3 This issue has been passed to the County Council, which operates residents parking schemes across the city.
- 3.4 Due to the general lack of support from residents to consultations on verge parking prohibitions, it was decided not to take anything forward for the Whitehill Estate.
- 3.5 Alternative measures have been proposed, which involve verge reinforcement, included as a new project specifically for the Whitehill Estate in Appendix A of this report.
- 3.6 Based on the above, it is recommended that the Committee reallocate the £8,000 funding currently assigned to this project.

Brooks Rd/Perne Rd Verge Parking Prohibition

- 3.7 This project proposed to implement a verge parking prohibition along Brooks Road and Perne Road at a cost of £7,500.
- 3.8 As mentioned above, such prohibitions have yet to be successfully implemented in other areas of the city, having received significant negative response at the consultation stage.
- 3.9 Alternative measures to mitigate the issues caused by verge parking are now being considered, including the potential for reinforcing the verges.
- 3.10 A new project to reinforce the verges on Perne Rd is included in Appendix A of this report.
- 3.11 As such it is suggested that this £7,500 budget should be reallocated to the new projects in Appendix A.

4.0 EXISTING SCHEMES REQUIRING ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Catharine Street Traffic Calming Project

- 4.1 This scheme, which secured funding from the County Council's Local Highway Improvement [LHI] budget, originally planned to provide two speed cushions on the approach to its junction with Cromwell Road, at a cost of £9,000 [£5,000 EIP, £4,000 LHI].
- 4.2 During the development of the scheme, it became clear that there was a desire to provide a raised table close to the junction with Cromwell Road, to provide further calming measures and a flush crossing point for pedestrians crossing the road at this point.
- 4.3 In fact this need is probably greater than that for the cushions on the approach. However, in order to provide the raised table, traffic calming measures are required on the approach to it, due to its lack of forward visibility.
- 4.4 The total budget now required to deliver this scheme, following the receipt of quotations from Contractors, is £21,000.

- 4.5 The County Council has agreed to increase its allocation from £4,000 to £11,000, leaving a funding shortfall of £5,000.
- 4.6 It is therefore recommended that this Committee allocate an additional £5,000 to deliver this scheme, incorporating the use of County Council funding.
- 4.7 If this additional funding is not allocated, then the two cushions on the approach will be provided within the original £9,000 approved budget.

Greville Rd/Chalmers Rd Tree Planting Scheme

- 4.8 This scheme proposed to plant 7 street trees on Greville Rd and 5 on Chalmers Rd with a budget of £5,000, which received a positive consultation response.
- 4.9 However, the trees are located within the public highway and as such Cambridgeshire County Council, as the highway authority, are required to approve their installation and take on the liability for maintaining them.
- 4.10 A commuted sum for maintenance of these trees has now been agreed at £504 per tree, in line with that requested for highway trees adopted on new development sites. This provides a total commuted sum of £6048.
- 4.11 Therefore, in order for this scheme to be deliverable, a total revised budget of £10,000 is now required. It is therefore recommended that the Committee allocate the additional £5,000 necessary to enable implementation.

Mill Rd/Cavendish Road Improvement

- 4.12 This project proposes to improve the small informal open space at the junction of Mill Rd and Cavendish Road, which is owned by the City Council.
- 4.13 The proposal also incorporated the provision of a leased disabled parking space to the adjacent shoe shop business, which has a high demand for parking for disabled visitors.

- 4.14 This lease was to be provided free of charge, however the cost of paving and installing a dropped kerb access was to be paid for by the business owner at a cost of £4000.
- 4.15 We have been informed that the business owner is no longer in a position to implement this aspect of the project.
- 4.16 It is therefore suggested that a generic disabled bay be provided for use by any disabled visitor to the area displaying a blue badge, which would be enforced by the civil enforcement officers. This will require a traffic regulation order to make it enforceable and agreement by the City Council as the private landowner.
- 4.17 In order to deliver this scheme, additional funding is required over and above the £15,000 EIP budget currently allocated by East Area Committee.
- 4.18 It is suggested that this project be supplemented with an additional £8,000 of informal open space developer contributions, available to East Area Committee through devolved decision making, to contribute to the soft and hard landscape proposals away from the disabled parking bay.
- 4.19 This decision is included in the separate Committee report on developer contributions and includes a proposal to add a public art scheme at this location.
- 4.20 This additional budget allocation from developer contributions would enable the project to be implemented this financial year.

5.0 SUGGESTED SCHEMES FOR THE 2013/14 PROGRAMME

- 5.1 Initial feasibility work has been carried out on all of the schemes that have been suggested for the 2013/14 Environmental Improvement Programme (EIP).
- 5.2 The table in Appendix A lists all of the schemes that could be feasibly delivered as part of this year's EIP Programme, should they be allocated funding by the East Area Committee.

- 5.3 Any scheme that involves the public highway was submitted to the Cambridgeshire County Council, to apply for funding from its £50,000 Local Highway Infrastructure Budget.
- 5.4 A panel of four city County Councillors met to prioritise these suggestions for the city as a whole and made recommendations to the portfolio holder, County Councillor Mac McGuire.
- 5.5 Schemes numbers 17, 19 and 20 have secured funding from the County Council Local Highway Improvements (LHI) budget for 2013/14 totalling £12,600. This funding is subject to a minimum 10% third party contribution, in this case the Environmental Improvement Programme.
- 5.6 It is recommended that the Committee allocate this contribution, totalling £1,400, to enable those projects to be delivered.
- 5.7 If the funding is not allocated, then the County Council funding will be withdrawn and reallocated to other LHI projects further down the prioritised list of schemes.
- 5.8 The remaining new projects are listed in Appendix A and further details on each scheme can be found in Appendix B.
- 5.9 Some of the schemes for this year's programme have not been included in Appendix A. This is a result of the scheme not being deliverable or the work is being implemented by others. Table 1.0 below provides a summary of these schemes.

Suggested Scheme	Response
Mawson Road – Parking Issues	Road markings within this location are to standard. Enforcement action by County Council requested.
Vinery Road – Improvements to Pedestrian Crossing	Road markings within this location are to standard. Enforcement action by County Council requested.
Petersfield – Salt Bins	Not eligible for Environmental Improvement Programme funding.
Thorpe Way – Landscaping Improvements	The proposed works to the hedgerow has been passed to the Asset Management Team to consider as a potential maintenance measure.
Beche Road/ River Lane Junction – White Lining	Road markings to be painted in order to define the right of way at the junction by the County Council responsible for maintenance of the highway.

1.0. Schemes in development, to be delivered by others, or not feasible.

6.0 Background papers

None

7.0 Appendices

APPENDIX A

Summary of Feasible EIP Schemes for 2013/14.

APPENDIX B

Details of Proposed Schemes

APPENDIX C

Progress of Existing Schemes

APPENDIX D

EIP Eligibility Criteria

8.0 Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

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