

Report by:	Head of Policy and Projects	
To:	North Area Committee	30 September 2010
Wards:	Arbury, East Chesterton, King's Hedges, West Chesterton	

Environmental Improvements Programme

1. **DECISION TO BE MADE: -**

- **Akeman Street Planting.**
Decision: To decide whether to approve the scheme for implementation at an estimated cost of £36,000.
- **Kendal Way Planting Refurbishment**
Decision: To decide whether to approve the scheme for implementation at an estimated cost of £8,750.
- **Woodhead Drive/Milton Rd**
Decision: To decide whether to approve the scheme for implementation at an estimated cost of £4,000.
- **Mortlock Avenue**
Decision: To approve the scheme for public consultation and implementation at an estimated cost of £39,000.

2. BUDGET (See over.

NORTH AREA COMMITTEE
Environmental Improvements Programme 2009-2011

Total Budget Available to 31/3/11	£293,250
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	COMPLETE	Total Spend Previous Years £	Forecast Spend 2010/11 £	TOTAL SCHEME COST £	Approved Budget £
ADOPTED PROJECTS					
Chesterton High Street Hanging Baskets (2010)		0	4,944	4,944	4,944
Contribution to Riverside/Abbey Road conflict reduction scheme		0	101,700	101,700	101,700
Campkin Road Verges		1,458	23,726	25,184	27,569
Campkin Road Shop Forecourts		53,895	45,923	99,819	105,354
Nun's Way Parking Area Refurbishment		60,193	18,536	78,729	75,000
Mobility Crossing Alex Wood Road		0	2,500	2,500	2,500
Ramsden Square Path		0	2,100	2,100	2,500
total cost to implement adopted projects			199,429		
Uncommitted Budget			93,821		
total estimated cost of projects in development		0	93,750		
Uncommitted Budget			71		

<p>*Projects agreed by Ctte to be investigated, but no budget committed. Costs shown are estimated and will depend on detailed design and site investigation. N.B. The estimated costs shown above are merely given as a rough guide until the projects can be designed and costed.</p>

3.0 APPROVED SCHEMES: PROGRESS

3.1 Ramsden Square Path

The footpath from Campkin Road to the frontages of the properties is now complete including localised patching and removal of trip hazards in close vicinity.

3.2 Downhams Lane renovation of native hedge -

Consultation with the University and local residents is currently underway with proposals from a local residents association expected shortly. Final proposals will be presented to the Committee once this information and consultation process is complete.

4.0 EXISTING SCHEMES THAT REQUIRE DECISIONS

4.1 Akeman Street Planting.

This scheme proposes to improve existing planting areas with refurbishment of the surrounding kerbs at the Stretton Avenue junction and the two other junctions with Darwin Drive, including the tree pits in between. The estimated cost of delivering this work is £36,000. As this work is maintenance of the existing planting areas, officers do not propose to carry out public consultation on the proposals.

This work is dependent on the coming planting season and is required to be included within the programme of work planned for the City Council Streetscene Department.

Recommendation: *That Committee authorise the implementation of the scheme at an estimated cost of £36,000.*

Decision: *To approve the scheme for implementation at an estimated cost of £36,000.*

4.2 Kendal Way Planting Refurbishment

Refurbishment incorporating tree and shrub replacement with minor civils work, such as knee rail replacement. The estimated cost of this scheme is £8,750. As this work is maintenance of the existing planting areas, officers do not propose to carry out public consultation on the proposals.

This work is dependent on the coming planting season and is required to be included within the programme of work planned for the City Council Streetscene Department.

Recommendation: *That Committee authorise the implementation of the scheme at an estimated cost of £8,750.*

Decision: *To approve the scheme for implementation at an estimated cost of £8,750.*

4.3 Woodhead Drive/Milton Rd

Works to include the thinning and tidying of a 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 will follow the Tree Protocol Procedure.

Officers now propose to carry out public consultation in line with the tree protocol procedure in order to implement the scheme.

Recommendation: *That Committee authorise the implementation of the scheme at an estimated cost of £4,000.*

Decision: *To approve the scheme for implementation at an estimated cost of £4,000.*

4.4 Mortlock Avenue

The drawing attached in Appendix 1 of this report illustrates the proposed scheme options.

The proposed measures include:

- Block paving of the central area - £17,014
- Existing footpath to be repaved. - £15,610
- New street furniture. - £2,514
- Wooden panels to screen wheelie bins. - £2,225
- Contingency - £1,637

TOTAL COST - £39,000

Additional options that could be provided in lieu of some of the above measures include:

- Provision of play equipment - £5,232
- Removal of existing trees - £750
- Replanting of existing planting areas - £4,760
- Additional wooden panels to screen wheelie bins - £870

Officers propose to carry out a local public consultation to determine local opinion of the design options in order to define a preferred scheme within the budget available.

Recommendation: *That Committee authorise public consultation and implementation of the scheme at an estimated cost of £39,000.*

Decision: *To approve the scheme for public consultation and implementation at an estimated cost of £39,000.*

5.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

APPENDIX 1 : Design options for the Mortlock Avenue Scheme.

APPENDIX 2 : Environmental Improvement Programme Eligibility Criteria.

6.0 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.

7.0 INSPECTION OF PAPERS

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

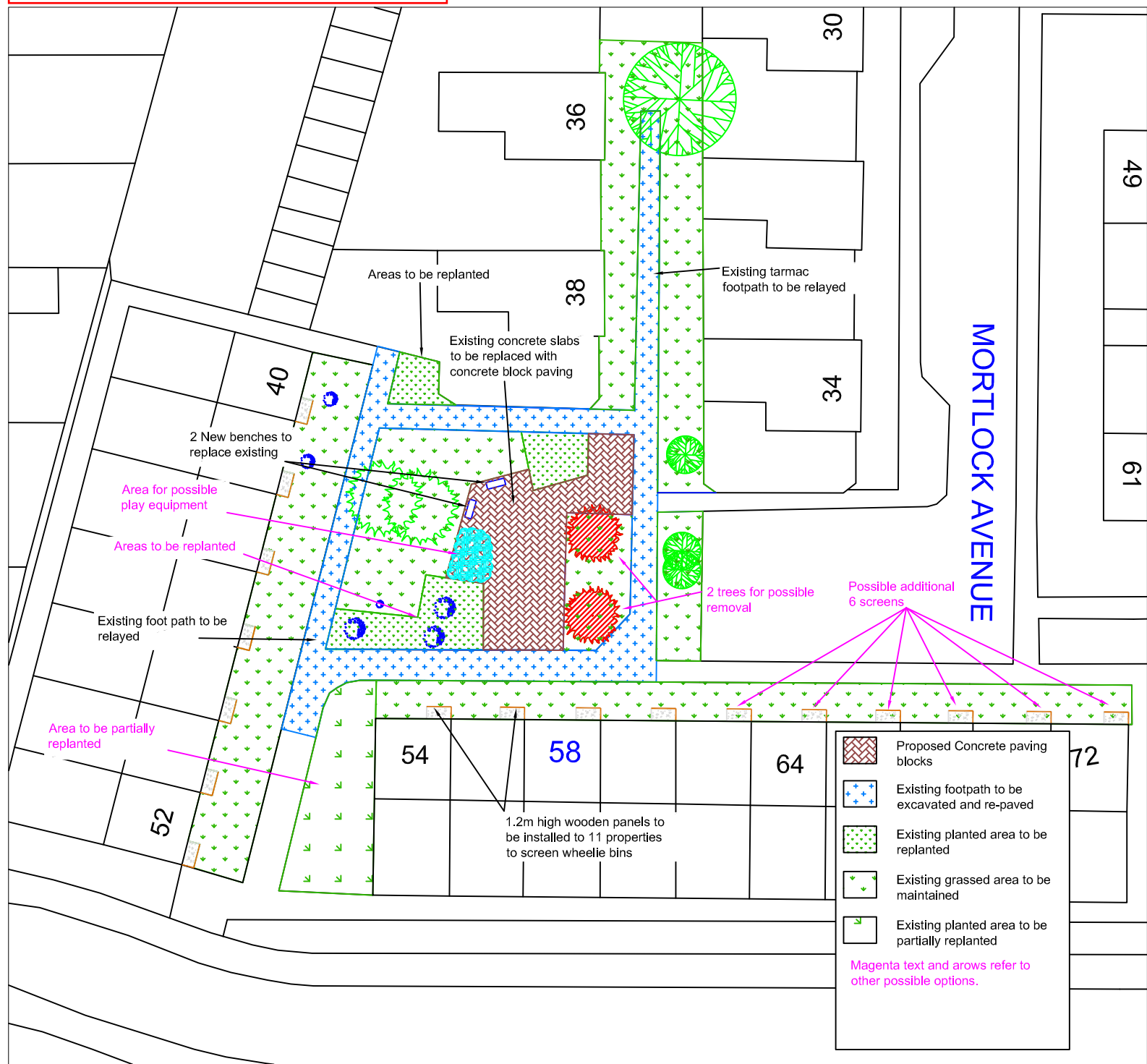
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Appendix 1 - Mortlock Avenue Proposals



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.