

**Report** Environmental Projects Manager

**by:**

**To:** South Area Committee

3 March 2011

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

**Environmental Improvement Programme Report**

**1.0 DECISION TO BE MADE: -**

- ***Cherry Hinton High St Hanging Baskets***

*To determine whether to fund the provision of 28 hanging baskets on 14 lamp columns along Cherry Hinton High St at a cost of £8000.*

**2.0 Budget (See over)**

**SOUTH AREA COMMITTEE**

*Environmental Improvements Programme 2010-2011*

**Total Budget Available to 31/3/11** **£255,586**

ADOPTED PROJECTS	COMPLETE	Total Spend Previous Years £	Forecast Spend 2010/11 £	TOTAL SCHEME COST £	Approved Budget £
Cherry Hinton High Street hanging baskets (2010)	✓	0	7,850	7,850	7,850
Cherry Hinton High Steet Verges	✓	577	39,423	40,000	40,000
Fisher's Lane Verge Parking	✓	8	24,742	24,750	24,750
Wulfstan Way Local Centre		0	101,000	101,000	101,000
Clarendon Rd/Shafsbury Rd			12,000	12,000	22,000
total cost to implement adopted projects			<b>185,015</b>		
<b>Uncommitted Budget</b>			<b>70,571</b>		
SCHEMES UNDER DEVELOPMENT*		Total Spend to Date £	Total Estimated Cost £		
Rectory Terrace - Cherry Hinton High St Shop Forecourt <b>[SCHEME ON HOLD]</b>		0	60,000		
total estimated cost of projects in development		0	60,000		
<b>Uncommitted Budget</b>			<b>10,571</b>		

\*Projects agreed by Cttee 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.

## **3.0 PROGRESS ON EXISTING SCHEMES**

### **3.1 Fishers Lane Verge Parking**

The scheme to provide a lay-by for parking on Fishers Lane and improvements to the crossing of Shepherd's Close is now complete.

### **3.2 Wulfstan Way**

This scheme has experienced significant delays with procurement of construction services. A new Contractor had to be procured towards the end of last year and a contract value has only recently been submitted for this scheme. This value has exceeded the budget available and we are currently working closely with the Contractor to bring the scheme back within budget. Initial discussions have proved positive and we are looking to begin construction of the scheme as approved in early April.

### **3.3 Clarendon Road/Shaftsbury Rd**

A second speed survey was completed for these streets during peak periods at the request of the Committee and residents. This produced a lower average speed of 24mph, which accords with the maximum allowable average speed under the County Council policy for the introduction of a 20mph speed limit.

The 20mph traffic regulation orders are currently being prepared and will follow the statutory process for their introduction. Any objections during the formal advertisement phase will be presented to the Area Joint Committee for determination. This process is managed by the County Council and will be included within their TRO advertisement programme. This order is expected to be introduced during the Summer, subject to the determination of any objections.

The speed reactive signs proposed for Clarendon Road however, do not accord with County Council policy, which only permits signs to be installed where the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed is greater than 20% above the stated speed limit. All costs must also be borne by the third party, including initial manufacture and installation costs, energy costs, routine maintenance, accident/vandalism repairs etc, covered by a commuted sum. The provision of such signs cannot therefore proceed, as was suggested by Officers in the EIP report to South Area Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2010. The removal of these signs from the scope of this scheme will therefore reduce the budget required from £22,000 to £12,000.

## 4.0 SCHEMES REQUIRING DECISIONS

### 4.1 Cherry Hinton High St Hanging Baskets

Since 2009, South Area Committee has funded the hanging baskets attached to the lighting columns along Cherry Hinton High Street each year.

There are 14 lighting columns with 28 hanging baskets in total, two on each column.

The £8000 cost includes for the supply and maintenance of the baskets.

***Recommendation:*** That the Committee agree to fund the provision of hanging baskets along Cherry Hinton High St at a cost of £8000.

***Decision:*** To determine whether to fund the provision of 28 hanging baskets on 14 lamp columns along Cherry Hinton High St at a cost of £8000.

## 5.0 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

## 6.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

### APPENDIX A - EIP Eligibility Criteria

#### INSPECTION OF PAPERS

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

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## **APPENDIX A**

### **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.