
Report by:	Andrew Preston, Environmental Projects Manager	
To:	North Area Committee	14 July 2011
Wards:	Arbury, East Chesterton, King's Hedges, West Chesterton	

Environmental Improvements Programme

1. DECISION TO BE MADE: -

- ADOPTION OF NEW SCHEMES FOR THE 2011/12 PROGRAMME.**

***Recommendation:** To decide which of the suggested schemes to approve for implementation subject to positive consultation as part of the 2011/12 EIP Programme.*

2. BUDGET (See over)

NORTH AREA COMMITTEE

Environmental Improvements Programme 2011-2012

Budget for 2011/2012 financial year 59200

Add funding rephased from previous financial years 167700

Total Budget Available to 31/3/12 £226,900

ADOPTED PROJECTS	COMPLETE	Total Spend Previous Years £	Forecast Spend 2011/12 £	TOTAL SCHEME COST £	Approved Budget £
Chesterton High St Hanging Baskets 2011		0	5,000	5,000	5,000
Contribution to Riverside/Abbey Road conflict reduction scheme		0	101,700	101,700	101,700
Kendal Way Planting	✓	6,265	500	6,765	8,750
Woodhead Drive/Milton Rd		0	4,000	4,000	4,000
Mortlock Avenue		0	28,000	28,000	39,000
Downhams Lane		0	6,000	6,000	6,000
total cost to implement adopted projects			145,200		
Uncommitted Budget			81,700		
SCHEMES UNDER DEVELOPMENT*		Total Spend to Date £	Total Estimated Cost £		
total estimated cost of projects in development		0	0		
Uncommitted Budget			81,700		

*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 APPROVED SCHEMES: PROGRESS

3.1 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. A written legal agreement with the University is also being developed in order for this work to be carried out. Work is expected to take place once the planting season resumes in October.

3.2 Akeman Street Planting.

This scheme, which improved existing planting areas and refurbished the surrounding kerbs at the Stretton Avenue junction and the two other junctions with Darwin Drive, including the tree pits in between is now complete.

3.3 Kendal Way Planting Refurbishment

This refurbishment work is now complete.

3.4 Mortlock Avenue

Construction of this scheme is due to commence in the next few weeks, with completion expected by the end of August.

3.5 Woodhead Drive/Milton Rd

The tree works application process for this scheme is now complete which involves the thinning and tidying of a Yew hedge to allow surveillance views through to the rear of the hedge and the sowing of wildflower plugs to introduce some diversity into the grass sward. No objections to this application have been received and this work will be carried out in October at the start of the planting season.

3.6 Alex Wood Road Mobility Crossing

The installation of this crossing is complete.

4.0 NEW SCHEME SUGGESTIONS FOR THE 2011/12 PROGRAMME

4.1 Brimley Road Traffic Calming – promoted by Cllr Todd-Jones

Concerns have been expressed over the level of speeding traffic in Brimley Road, especially at school start and finish times. Residents assume this traffic to be avoiding the speed table installed on Alex Wood Road. There are various options to mitigate this issue, from the installation of speed cushions to the full closure of Brimley Road.

An area wide consultation is proposed, to first establish the level of concern and secondly determine which option local residents favour. Speed surveys will also be carried out to provide tangible evidence of the level of the speeding issue. The budget for this scheme has been set to allow for the potential cost of installing speed cushions.

Estimated Cost - £30,000

4.2 Kendal Way Verge Parking Prohibition

Introduction of a prohibition of verge and footway parking on Kendal Way and minor repairs to damaged verges.

This is subject to approval by the County Council, with particular regard to Parking Policy.

Estimated Cost - £5000

4.3 Milton Road Verge Parking Prohibition

Introduction of a prohibition of verge and footway parking on Milton Road, including repairs to damaged verges.

This is subject to approval by the County Council, with particular regard to Parking Policy.

Estimated Cost - £8,000

4.4 Franks Lane Landscaping

Landscaping measures for Franks Lane incorporating tree and shrub planting.

Estimated Cost - £10,000

4.5 Highworth Avenue Planter Refurbishment – promoted by Cllr Tunnacliffe

Refurbishment and replanting of four raised planters forming the road closure between Highworth Avenue and Leys Road.

Estimated Cost - £5,000

4.6 Rackham Close – promoted by Cllr Todd-Jones

This project developed in conjunction with the local residents association provides significant improvements to Rackham Close. The plan in appendix 1 of this report illustrates the measures proposed. The scheme includes the following:

- Landscaping at the entrance to Rackham Close on Histon Road.
- Footway widening and resurfacing to improve pedestrian access.
- Improvements to the existing street lighting (E.Safety Fund).
- Removal of high brick wall that encourages anti-social behaviour.
- Landscaping of area owned by City Council.
- Removal and replacement of one tree causing significant damage to footway.
- Removal of garage block and replacement with landscaping. (Housing funded)
- Resurfacing of entrance to rear of commercial premises. (City Owned)

The costs associated with the removal of the garages and associated parking would be funded by the City Council's Housing department at an estimated cost of £12,000. The replacement street lighting would be funded by the City Council's Environmental Safety Fund at an estimated cost of £4000.

Further measures associated with this area, such as improvements to the boundary fence with the adjacent school are proposed, but to be funded by Safer City and tenant applied grants.

Estimated Cost - £23,000

4.7 Victoria Park/Victoria Road Verge Parking Prohibition

Introduction of a prohibition of verge and footway parking on Kendal Way and minor repairs to damaged verges.

This is subject to approval by the County Council, with particular regard to Parking Policy.

Estimated Cost - £5000

4.8 Victoria Road Lay-by removal

Removal of a possibly redundant lay-by on Victoria Road opposite Primrose Street. The lay-by currently has no waiting restrictions and is used as a drop off and pick up point for the adjacent block of flats. Its removal would leave vehicles waiting in the carriageway on Victoria Road. This suggestion will therefore need to be discussed with the Highway Authority.

Estimated Cost - £15,000

4.8 Water Street/Water Lane Closure Refurbishment

The currently closure currently comprises of an unsightly row of bollards. The proposal is to design a road closure that incorporates through cycle and pedestrian access with landscaping and public realm improvements.

Estimated Cost - £25,000

TOTAL COST OF SUGGESTED SCHEMES - £126,000

TOTAL AVAILABLE BUDGET - £84,700

Recommendation: *Committee to decide which of the suggested schemes to approve for implementation subject to positive consultation as part of the 2011/12 EIP Programme.*

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,

Andrew Preston

Environmental Projects Manager

Telephone: 01223 457271

Email: andrew.preston@cambridge.gov.uk

APPENDIX ONE

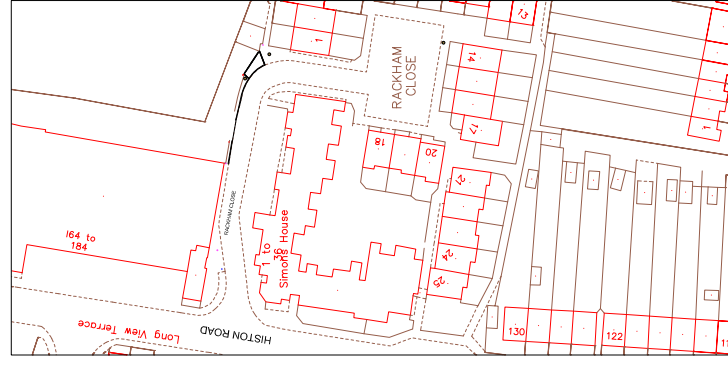
Rackham Close Proposed Layout Plan

Environmental Improvement Works to the Close

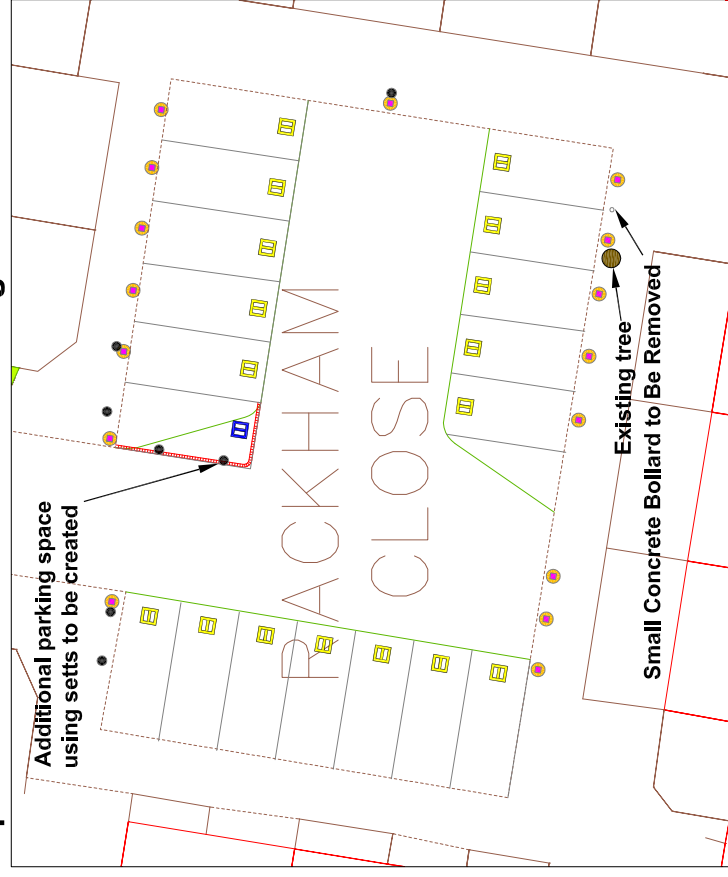


Location Plan

Not To Scale



Improvement Works to the Parking Area



ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

Simon Payne
Director of Environment
CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL
PO BOX 700, Cambridge, CB1 0JH
Tel: 01223 - 457200 or 457201

Revision	Date	By	Details

Scale
1:200@A3

BY
GPC

Date
June 11

Project: Rackham Close, Environmental Improvements

Drawing: Proposed Improvement Works to the Close and Residents Parking Area

Job Ref / DWG.No
-
Revision

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DO NOT SCALE
Figured dimensions must be taken in preference to scaled dimensions. Contractors, sub-contractors and suppliers must verify all dimensions on site before commencing any work or making any shop drawings. Discrepancies to be brought to the contract administrator's / landscape architect's attention.

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.