
Report by:	Head of Streets and Open Spaces	
To:	North Area Committee	22 March 2012
Wards:	Arbury, East Chesterton, King's Hedges, West Chesterton	

Environmental Improvements Programme

1. DECISION TO BE MADE: -

- ***New Suggested Schemes for the 2012/13 Programme***

Recommendation: To approve the list of schemes in section 4.0 of this report for further investigation into their feasibility and estimated cost.

2. BUDGET (See Appendix A)

3.0 APPROVED SCHEMES: PROGRESS

3.1 Downhams Lane renovation of native hedge -

A written legal agreement with the University is being developed in order for this work to be carried out. It is planned to take place at the same time as the Downhams Lane cycleway scheme, a separate scheme to upgrade the adjacent cycle route.

3.2 Kendal Way Verge Parking Prohibition

The consultation for this scheme is currently under way. The scheme proposes to ban verge and footway parking throughout Kendal Way through the introduction of a verge parking prohibition zone, enforced by the County Council through their Civil Enforcement Officers.

3.3 Mortlock Avenue

Construction of this scheme is now complete.

3.4 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, once a further informal local residents' consultation is complete.

3.5 Franks Lane Landscaping

A design for this scheme will be consulted on with local residents shortly. The scheme will then be implemented in the autumn at the start of the planting season.

3.6 Rackham Close Improvements

This scheme is currently out to consultation with local residents. Subject to the outcome of the consultation, work is planned to start during the summer.

3.8 Milton Road Verge Parking Prohibition

This project is currently under review by the County Council and forms part of their ring road and radial routes review.

3.9 Buchan St, Hazelwood and Perse Way Landscaping

This scheme to refurbish planting in City Homes areas is currently being implemented.

4.0 NEW SUGGESTED SCHEMES FOR 2012/13

The table below lists the new schemes that have been submitted by Ward Councillors and residents for consideration as part of the 2012/13 Environmental Improvement Programme.

No	Proposed Scheme	Ward	Promoter(s)	Estimated Cost	Considerations
1.	Meadows/Arbury Road/St. Albans Road/Mere Way	Arbury	Cllr Todd-Jones	TBC	Funding from County Minor Works Budget applied for. Minimum 10% required from EIP Budget.
2.	'Super Safe' paths Kings Hedges area	Kings Hedges	Ward Councillors	TBC	Funding from County Minor Works Budget applied for. Minimum 10% required from EIP Budget.
3.	Replacement bench, junction of Union Lane and Scotland Road & Planting work	East Chesterton	Cllrs Kerr & Znajek	£2,000	Potential joint delivered scheme with Transition Cambridge. Maintenance implications of the planting areas to be determined.
4.	Extra bin and Lighting for Scotland Road play area	East Chesterton	Cllrs Kerr & Znajek	TBC	Further investigation required in the proposals and options available.
5.	Improvements to the corner of the Water Lane/High Street junction	East Chesterton	Cllrs Kerr & Znajek	£6,000	Further investigation required to determine most appropriate measures.
6.	Verge protection for Church Street/High Street junction and food planting on the green area	East Chesterton	Cllrs Kerr & Znajek	£5,000	Further investigation required. County Council maintenance issue.
7.	Tree planting and benches on the East Chesterton Halingway.	East Chesterton	Cllrs Kerr & Znajek	TBC	Liaison with Cam Conservators required, including potential legal agreement required.

No	Proposed Scheme	Ward	Promoter(s)	Estimated Cost	Considerations
8.	Verge Remediation and Protection measures on Cam Causeway	East Chesterton	Cllrs Kerr & Znajek	TBC	Further investigation required. County Council maintenance issue.
9.	Improvements to access point into open space from Cam Causeway	East Chesterton	Cllrs Kerr & Znajek	TBC	Further investigation required.
10.	Chesterton High St Hanging Baskets	East Chesterton	Cllr Bird	TBC	
11.	Additional tree planting on Green End Road	East Chesterton	Cllr Bird	TBC	Depending on the number of trees, this scheme could potentially attract sizeable commuted sums for maintenance payable to the County Council.
12.	Bench at bus stop at junction with Franks Lane and Green End Rd	East Chesterton	Cllr Bird	£1000	Limited space available at this location, further investigation required.
13.	Additional seating on Bramblefields Nature Reserve	East Chesterton	Cllr Bird	TBC	Number of benches and locations to be determined.
14.	Litter bins outside Grumpys on Scotland Rd	East Chesterton	Cllr Bird	£1000	Number and locations to be agreed.
15.	Herbert Street Improvements	West Chesterton	Cllr Boyce	TBC	Further investigation and site meeting planned with Councillors and County Council.

5.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

APPENDIX A : EIP Budget Table for North Area Committee.

APPENDIX B : 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 B

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.

APPENDIX A

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
Rackham Close		0	23,000	23,000	23,000
Water St/Water Lane Bollards	✓	0	5,000	5,000	5,000
Gilbert Close bed refurbishment		0	1,444	1,444	1,444
Hazelwood planting refurbishment		0	2,902	2,902	2,902
Perse Way Landscaping		0	2,447	2,447	2,447
Joint Minor Highway Schemes		0	7,000	7,000	7,000
Kendal Way Verge Parking		0	3,000	3,000	3,000
Milton Road Verge Parking		0	4,500	4,500	4,500
Buchan St Area Planting		0	11,964	11,964	11,964
Franks Lane Landscaping		0	10,000	10,000	10,000
total cost to implement adopted projects			216,457		
Uncommitted Budget				10,443	
SCHEMES UNDER DEVELOPMENT*		Total Spend to Date £	Total Estimated Cost £		
total estimated cost of projects in development		0	0		
Uncommitted Budget				10,443	

*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.

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