

<b>Report by:</b>	Head of Policy and Projects	
<b>To:</b>	North Area Committee	14 May 2009
<b>Wards:</b>	Arbury, East Chesterton, King's Hedges, West Chesterton	

<b>Environmental Improvements Programme</b>
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**1. DECISION TO BE MADE: -**

- **Thriffs Walk, Chesterton**  
**Decision to be made:** *To approve or not to pursue this scheme and part fund.*
- **Adoption of new schemes**  
**Decision:** *To adopt and prioritise new Environmental Improvement schemes.*

**2 BUDGET**

See over.

## 2.

<b>NORTH AREA COMMITTEE - ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS 2009/2010</b>		
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Budget for 2009/2010 financial year	£124,000	
Add roll-over from 2008/2009 budget	£197,867	
<b>TOTAL BUDGET FOR 2009/2010 FINANCIAL YEAR</b>		<b>£321,867</b>
<b>Minus Actual 09/10 Budget Spend</b>		<b>£0</b>
	<b>Estimated Reserved Cost</b>	
<b>Committed Projects</b>	<b>£</b>	
Haling Way, Chesterton (remaining spend)	£13,959	
Footpath between Campkin Road and Ramsden Square - fencing	£2,300	
Chesterton High Street hanging baskets	£4,800	
Riverside/Abbey Road conflict reduction and env. Improvement	£81,700	
<b>Minus Committed project budgets</b>		<b>-£102,759</b>
<b>UNCOMMITTED 09/10 BUDGET</b>		<b>£219,108</b>
<b>Projects agreed by Ctte to be investigated, but no budget committed. Costs shown are estimated and will depend on detailed design and site investigation</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>	
	<b>£</b>	
Campkin Road shop forecourts	£75,000	
Trafalgar Street/Victoria Avenue pavement bollards	£2,000	
<b>Estimated allowance for projects under investigation</b>	<b>£77,000</b>	
<b>Deferred Projects</b>		
Footpath next to St Lawrence's School knee rails	£2,500	
Nun's Way parking areas surface refurbishment	£20,000	
Campkin Road verge parking	£45,000	
Stretton Avenue/Akeman Street planter and planting refurbishment	£20,000	
<b>Estimated allowance for deferred projects</b>	<b>£87,500</b>	
<b>N.B.</b> The estimated costs shown above are merely given as a rough guide until the projects can be designed and costed.		

### **3. APPROVED SCHEMES : PROGRESS**

#### **3.1 Penny Ferry, The Haling Way (Cllr. Liddle)**

Progress is being made on this project and it is anticipated that the construction work will be completed by 15th May.

It should be noted that the permanent planting (trees and shrubs) will not be carried out until the autumn because of the type of plant stock. However we have arranged for temporary floral planting to be done for the summer.

#### **3.2 Campkin Road shop forecourts(Cllr Pitt)**

Several trial pits have been dug to ascertain the extent of the existing tree roots and the proposals for the surfacing have been refined accordingly. We are now in a position for consultation with project lead councillor and ward councillors and then public consultation on the design.

#### **3.3 Trafalgar Street/Victoria Avenue junction bollards (Cllr. Nimmo-Smith)**

Cllr. Nimmo-Smith is discussing the proposals for the replacement and installation of new bollards at the junction with County Highways.

#### **3.5 Path between Ramsden Square and Campkin Road (Cllr. Pitt)**

The close board fence along this path has now been completed.

### **4. NEW SCHEMES REQUIRING APPROVAL FOR ADOPTION AND PRIORITISATION**

#### **4.1 Thrifts Walk, Chesterton**

Please Appendix 2 for the details of this road resurfacing proposal. The project previously came to North Area Cttee on 9 October 2008.

The Resident's Association have obtained two quotations for the resurfacing of Thrifts Walk and return to North Area Committee to ask for a contribution.

The quotations are for a permeable (block) paving system which would withstand heavy traffic. It should be noted that the Resident's Association are asking for a financial contribution towards the works and would be commissioning the project themselves.

**Recommendation:** *North Area Committee are asked to consider this project in light of the eligibility criteria.*

**Decision to be made:** *To approve or not to pursue this scheme and part fund.*

## **4.2 Suggested new schemes**

In Append 3 to this report is a schedule of existing and new Environmental Improvement schemes to be adopted and prioritised by North Area Committee. The list was devised during a North Area Committee Environmental Improvement Workshop held on 23 March 2009.

Some schemes on the schedule, such as Campkin Road shop forecourts, are currently being investigated or designed by the EIP team. These schemes and their status should be borne in mind when adopting and prioritising new schemes. Committee is also asked to consider the staffing resources available to carry out the Environmental Improvement Programme when prioritising schemes.

Officers therefore suggest that schemes are categorised and only one Major, two Medium and two Minor schemes are dealt with at any one time. The categories would be as follows:

- 1. Category 1 Projects to the value of between £10-£75K - Major Projects.** It was envisaged that there would be one major project per area being investigated or implemented at any one time by the EIP team.
- 2. Category 2 Projects to the value of between £3-£10K - Medium Projects.** This would be majority of projects. It was envisaged that there would be two medium projects per area being investigated or implemented at any one time by the EIP team.
- 3. Category 3 Projects to the value up to £3K - Minor Projects.** Since there are not many projects with a value of £3K and under, it was envisaged that there would be up to two minor projects per area being investigated or implemented at any one time by the EIP team.

4. **Category 4** are projects within the holding list waiting to come forward. As soon as a Category 1, 2 or 3 has been completed, Committee will be notified in order that they can choose which scheme should be brought forward.

We believe this approach would be more manageable and more efficient since the EIP team could focus 100% on the 'live' projects.

**Recommendation:** *North Area Cttee are asked to consider the schedule of existing and new Environmental Improvement schemes and adopt and prioritise schemes.*

**Decision:** *To adopt and prioritise new Environmental Improvement schemes together with existing schemes.*

## 6.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

## 7.0 IMPLICATIONS

- a) **Staffing Implications:** Staff resources will result in only a limited amount of progress on Environmental Improvement projects in the near future.
- b) **Equal Opportunities Implications:** These are taken into account on individual schemes.
- c) **Environmental Implications:** All of the projects seek to bring about an improvement in the local environment.
- d) **Community Safety:** This has been included as one of the assessment criteria agreed by Committee and is considered on each project.

## 8.0 INSPECTION OF PAPERS

<p>To inspect or query the background paperwork or report, please contact, Dinah Foley-Norman, Principal Landscape Architect <b>Telephone:</b> 01223 – 457134 and 01223 – 457392 respectively <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:Dinah.Foley-Norman@cambridge.gov.uk">Dinah.Foley-Norman@cambridge.gov.uk</a></p>
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## **APPENDIX 1**

### **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 2**

### **PROPOSAL FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE NORTH AREA COMMITTEE (Received 19 March 2009)**

Funding for a project to find a permanent solution for the surface of Thrift's Walk, Old Chesterton

#### Introduction

This paper is a follow up to the outline proposal put before the North Area Committee at its meeting on 9 October 2008. For those readers not familiar with the background to this project, it would be helpful to have that paper for information. Further copies may be obtained from the writer.

Following the discussion at the Committee, and on the advice of City Council officials, we have conducted a further investigation into the proposed solution to the site. We have also consulted with expert contractors, and obtained two quotes based on the findings.

It is agreed that the work done some 10 years ago, funded entirely by the residents, has stood up well, particularly the paved areas, and, as the remaining sections of the Walk were consolidated to the same specification at that time, it seems reasonable to assume that similar paving of the whole of the length of the Walk would provide a long term solution. It is also felt that the style of blocking fits well in the character of the area, and maintains a pleasing aspect.

Since the last scheme, though, there have been improvements made to the manufacture of the blocks, and some changes to the way they are laid, which are designed to aid drainage. Conscious of the need for everyone to consider these important environmental factors and the risk of flooding, residents have considered a scheme rather more costly than originally thought. The drainage system installed by residents 10 years ago, seems adequate, and has proved itself under extreme conditions, but thinking long term, this added security seems sensible, and the mark of a responsible community.

Residents and landlords have been kept in touch with these developments, and at a special meeting on March 11 it was agreed that the proposal set out below should go before the next meeting of the Committee for consideration.

#### The proposal

For the area of the Walk not yet block paved (total area 350m<sup>2</sup>):

excavate and lay 'Piora' 20mm stone, and lay Marshall 'Piora' Tegular blocks (or similar) on 'Piora' shingle.

This is the top specification and is suitable for heavy traffic.

Two quotes for this work have been obtained from well-known local contractors, which are virtually identical and come in at £33,000.00 plus VAT.

Taking into account the considerable investment by residents over recent years not only to maintain the Walk and carry out emergency repairs, but also to make significant improvements, it is thought reasonable to approach the North Area Committee for funding. Residents have suggested that we request support in the order of 75% of the overall costs, thus, including VAT, this would mean a funds of about £29,000 from the Committee being supported by a contribution of about £9,000 from residents.

In supporting this proposal, the North Area Committee would be assisting the efforts of the residents not only to provide a safe, permanent and easily maintained roadway, but also to add greatly to the improvement of the environment for the benefit of the local community, and in line with the other, much valued work carried out in and around Chesterton High Street. All residents are committed to maintaining a well-presented and cared-for area, thus, hopefully, helping to instil a greater respect for the environment by all citizens in area.

For and on behalf of the Residents of Thrift's Walk.

P.K.C. White  
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**Thriffs Walk item from Environmental Improvement Programme Report of 9 October 2008 together with Resident's Association original proposal (for information)**

- 5.1 *Residents of Thriffs Walk, Chesterton, are putting this request before North Area Committee. A background paper supplied by Thriffs Walk residents is in Appendix 1 herewith.*
- 5.2 *Thriffs Walk is a small private residential road off Chesterton High Street serving a small number of houses. The residents improved the entrance to the road some years ago and the road surface has been patched up, but the overall condition of the road is poor.*
- 5.3 *North Area Committee has previously considered this proposal in 1998.*
- 5.4 *Responsibility for maintenance of an unadopted road rests with the residents of that road.*
- 5.5 *For a road to become adopted by the highway authority the residents must first fund the making-up of the road to the adoptable standards.*
- 5.6 *There are a large number of private, unadopted roads in Cambridge. For the City Council to provide funding towards the making-up to adoptable standards, or to otherwise financially engage in the substantial improvement of a road which is the responsibility of residents of that road, would set a precedent which is likely to be difficult, if not impossible to sustain.*
- 5.7 *The costs for this project are at present difficult to predict but are likely to be substantive. Further investigations would need to be made into the below surface condition of road before an accurate estimate could be given and this would in itself incur costs for the Council.*
- 5.8 *North Area Committee are also directed to consider the eligibility criteria for environmental improvements (see Appendix 2) and ask that this scheme be measured against them.*

**Recommendation:** *North Area Committee are asked to consider this project in light of the eligibility criteria and the sustainability of the scheme.*

**Decision to be made:** *To approve or not to pursue this scheme.*

## **Proposal for consideration by the North Area Committee (9 October 2008)**

Funding for a project to find a permanent solution for the surface of Thrift's Walk, Old Chesterton

### Background

Thrift's Walk is probably the last remaining example of a small, unmade-up side-road (cul de sac), of which there were several in the Old Chesterton of 50 or more years ago, but which have gradually been re-developed and lost. Indeed, the Local History Society includes it on their visitor route, especially because it still retains a working gas street lamp! Little has changed, although a few new houses were built on spare land 20 years ago.

The road has never been adopted, and residents have been responsible for its upkeep for as long as anyone can remember. But of course, as the name implies, the Walk was never intended for motor vehicles, and the road surface has suffered over recent years as traffic has increased.

10 years ago, the surface was in a really dreadful, and dangerous state, so with the help of one or two City Councillors and practical support from the Planning Department at Guildhall, a 'Residents Association' was formed to decide how to tackle the problem. A number of proposals were considered, but it soon became clear that there would be no financial help from the City Council, and the best solutions were therefore immediately out of the frame, due to the cost. Something had to be done, however, as residents' and other road users' lives were at risk, so it was decided to carry out works at residents' own expense. Through a contribution of £1000 from each household, a local contractor was engaged to excavate and re-surface, install a basic drainage system, and block pave the entrance and a turning area, at a cost of about £15,000.

That work has proved highly effective, but the main stretch of the Walk which was not paved, has already begun to deteriorate, and last winter saw a dramatic breaking up in several places. There were at least two accidents that were during the dark nights, and it therefore became necessary to re-visit the situation. Several residents, many of whom are elderly and retired, have expressed the view that their own cars and cycles have little impact on the surface, but larger vehicles, such as the refuse collection lorries and post vans do the serious damage. Some were reluctant to dig deep in their pockets again, especially faced with rising Council taxes.

The City Planning Department were again approached for help, but they could only confirm that the road would not be adopted and no financial help was available.

On recommendation from our Guildhall contacts, Websters Contractors were approached for advice and an estimate for appropriate repairs. The residents agreed to go ahead and engage Websters to scrape out and fill the holes at an overall cost of

£1000. This work was completed in the spring, but we are advised, however, that this remedial work will not last, and that a more permanent solution must be found.

### The proposal

The recent consultation revealed that most residents favoured some form of permanent surface (only one household said that they “liked the potholes”). This is a shift from opinion 10 years ago, when many wished to try to retain the character of the Walk as a gravel track, and wished to avoid, for instance, a tarmac finish.

Probably the most sensible way forward would be to re-visit the proposal prepared by Andy Thompson at the Planning Department in 1998 (copies of which are still held on file). This put forward a scheme, which gave the Walk a truly permanent, durable surface, and at the same time contributed to the character and village style of the area. This involved the use of either new or reclaimed granite setts. This scheme could still provide the solution, and with careful design, would also now incorporate the new drainage system now in place. In fact, it is now quite likely that, as a result of the works done to provide a good, stable foundation, the scheme may well prove much easier and cheaper to carry out than in the original estimates.

Several of the residents surveyed also indicated their willingness to contribute still further towards the cost of the project, though in some cases only fairly modest amounts could be forthcoming.

In supporting this proposal, the North Area Committee would be assisting the efforts of the residents not only to provide a safe, permanent and easily maintained roadway, but also to add greatly to the improvement of the environment for the benefit of the local community, and in line with the other, much valued work carried out in and around Chesterton High Street. All residents are committed to maintaining a well-presented and cared-for area, thus, hopefully, helping to instil a greater respect for the environment by all citizens in area.

For and on behalf of the Residents of Thrift’s Walk.

P.K.C. White

**APPENDIX 2 : 2009/2010 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME:  
ADOPTED PROJECTS BEING INVESTIGATED / DESIGNED with PRIORITIES - NORTH AREA**

No	Project Priority or status	Projects Title	Project Detail	Project promoter/ Lead Cllr.	Ward	Category <sup>1</sup>	Cost Estimate <sup>2</sup>	Does it fit the EIP criteria?	Comments
<b>Category 1 Projects</b>									
1	1	Campkin Road shop forecourts	Refurbishment of shop forecourts	Cllr. Pitt	Kings Hedges	Category 1	£75,000	Yes	Design work is well forward and it is recommended that this project remain a priority.
2	2	Nun's Way	Trees and other planting to parking areas	Cllr McGovern	Kings Hedges	Category 1	£20,000	Yes	Carry out consultation with typical planting area for comment
3	3	Stretten Avenue/ Akeman Street	Refurbishment of planters and planting	Cllr. Levy/Todd-Jones	Arbury	Category 1	£20,000	No	
4	4	Campkin Road verges	Creation of parking areas to replace parking on grass verges	Cllr Upstone	Kings Hedges	Category 1	£45,000	Yes	
5		Thrift's Walk	Request for part funding of resident led project only -Resurfacing of private road	Residents/ Cllr. Blair	East Chesterton	Category 1		No	To be brought to May Cttee for part funding request.
6	New Project	Mortlock Avenue	Seating/hard paved area revamp	Cllr Blair	East Chesterton	To be confirmed			Consult with residents on refurbishment/change. e.g. toddler play area
<b>Category 2 Projects</b>									
7	1	Trafalgar Street/Victoria Avenue	Renewal of existing pavement bollards and additional bollards	Cllr. Nimmo-Smith	West Chesterton	Category 2/3	£2000	Yes	Cllr Nimmo-Smith to talk to County to ensure work done in single phase
8	1	St Albans Recreation Ground lighting	Introduction of lighting across recreation ground	Cllr. Todd-Jones	Arbury	To be confirmed			No revenue budget identified. Trial solar powered lights. Consider request to fund from climate change fund.
9	Defer	Arbury Road trees	Removal of Leylandii trees and replacement with Hawthorn hedge to match existing	Cllr Ward	Kings Hedges	Category 2	£10,000	Yes	Defer at current time
<b>Category 3 Projects</b>									
10	1	St Lawrence's School footpath	Renewal of railing along footpath	Cllr McGovern	Kings Hedges	Category 3	£2,500	Yes	Work completed.
11	Defer	Edgecombe flats	Supplementary landscape planting for nature conservation and new seats	Cllr. Pitt	Kings Hedges	Category 3	£5,000	Yes	Housing North have funding to improve the landscaped area as well as the building. This project could therefore be omitted from the list.
12	Defer	Hawkins Road/ Downham's Lane	Renewal of railing along footpath	Cllr Pitt	Kings Hedges	Category 3	£2,500	No	Defer until building works complete
13	New Project	Primary Court, Chesterton	Treatment of soft landscaped area to stop parking and overrunning.	Cllr. Blair	East Chesterton	Category 3	£3,000	Yes	Carry out consultation on introduction of low rail
14	New Project	Apthorpe Way/Campkin Rd	Protect amenity area from parking	Cllr. Pitt	Kings Hedges	To be confirmed			To be assessed prior to next NA Cttee mtg

<sup>1</sup> **Category definition :** **Category 1 Projects** to the value of between £10-£75K - **Major Projects** one major project per area to be investigated or implemented at any one time by the EIP team.

**Category 2 Projects** to the value of between £3-£10K - **Medium Projects**. one medium projects per area being investigated or implemented at any one time by the EIP team.

**Category 3 Projects** to the value up to £3K - **Minor Projects**. two minor projects per area being investigated or implemented at any one time by the EIP team.

**Category 4** are projects within the holding list waiting to come forward.

<sup>2</sup> Note that the **Cost Estimate** is a guide cost given at concept stage of a project. Following project investigation and design, this estimate may change significantly. When considering projects, please note the current budget sheet within the EIP committee reports.