

1.0 Humbledon Tree bay – Environmental improvements

- 1.1 Shrewsbury Crescent; Shaftsbury Crescent; Stamford Avenue; and Scruton Avenue all have long established trees along the edge of the highway. However several local residents have reported via Gentoo that the derelict tree bays are unsightly, especially during the winter when they can become waterlogged.
- 1.2 Attempts to replant trees have been undertaken on several occasions. However this has usually proved to be unsuccessful due to further tree damage arising. Consultations with the Council's Arboricultural Officer reveals that further tree planting would in all likelihood result in further damage, so wasting resources.
- 1.3 It is instead proposed that the derelict tree bays (21 approximately), be tarmaced at a cost of approx £4,000. Following the June meeting of the Task and Finish Group, the West ARM consulted with Gentoo to seek match funding for this proposal. The September meeting of the Gentoo Local Customer Panel have agreed to provide a 50% match funding contribution of up to £2,000, should the scheme go ahead. The cost to the Council to undertake this scheme would therefore be in the region of £2,000

2.0 Environmental improvements – Street Furniture

- 2.1 It has been identified that the railing along Essen Way (Elstob Side), is in a state of disrepair. It is a main traffic route within the City, yet it is unsightly and unsafe in parts.
- 2.2 Consultation with Highways colleagues indicates that it serves a safety purpose in that accidents involving pedestrians seldom occur due to the railings acting as a barrier and limiting pedestrian access to a major road.
- 2.3 Painting is required to 215 fence panels of 1.8m width. Four sections would need replacement, eight would need to be removed and refitted and 102 bars would need to be replaced.
- 2.4 Costs to undertake this work are as follows:
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| • Repainting of guardrail (400m approx) | = £3,200 |
| • Repainting of steel bars to guardrail (102) | = £750 |
| • Costs of replacement of sections (estimated at £150 to £200 each as fabrication required) | = £800 approx |
| • Removal and replacement of panels (£70 each) | = £560 approx |
| Total estimated cost = | £5,310 |

2.5 Other railings around the area have also been identified which could benefit from painting, e.g

- Railings on Townsend Road;
- Tay Road steps leading to Tiverton Square
- Beaumaris Gardens and Warwick Drive,
- Corner of Crow Lane / Herrington Road,
- West Park.

2.6 The Probation Community Payback scheme recently undertook some fence painting as part of the 'Love Where you Live' campaign. Probation could be used for some of the smaller schemes. Whilst they could also potentially be used for the sizeable Elstob scheme, this would be dependent upon their resources and other priorities.

3.0 Eden Vale Mineral Line – Eden House Road to Chester Road.

3.1 Long Standing anti-social behaviour (ASB) issues have been reported to residents groups, Police, LMAPS etc. Several high cost options have previously been considered to address such issues environmentally.

3.2 Following discussions with Police and Engineering colleagues, it is proposed that alterations could be undertaken to 'design out' the ASB to make the area more visually attractive, yet less attractive as a gathering point

3.3 It is proposed that works be undertaken to remove those parts of the wall that currently act as seating which makes the area attractive as a gathering point. This would be undertaken by demolishing a section of the external wall against the Burnville Road back lane and reshaping the footpath. A section of the internal wall is also used for seating. A section of this could be removed with the embankment being reshaped accordingly

3.4 The works would also have the benefit of improving access for maintenance purposes. The grass presently has to be cut with a hand held machine which is labour intensive. The improved access would also allow access for a ride on machine to make grass cutting operations more efficient. It would also allow easier access for graffiti removal equipment and hedge trimming machinery.

3.5 Design options are currently in the process of being confirmed. It is intended that a request for allocation of SIP funds will be presented to the next meeting of the West Area Committee.

4. Walk and Talk Programme

- 4.1 Ward Walks already take place in the West area in each ward on a monthly basis. These are publicised on the Ward Bulletin Service. The East area currently operates a 'Walk and Talk' programme which aims to discuss and find ways of enhancing the environment within the neighbourhood, resulting in an improved quality of life for all residents.
- 4.2 Key service requests identified for the West area are: rubbish and litter lying around; derelict buildings; noise pollution; graffiti; animal fouling; road and pavement repairs, the lack of greenery in certain areas, and better use of land. The aim of the priority is to improve the appearance of neighbourhoods. It is proposed to achieve this by delivering a Walk and Talk programme, which will discuss and find ways of enhancing the environment within the neighbourhood, resulting in an improved quality of life for all residents. The programme would provide quick responses to identified problems. It would enhance and be additional to the existing Responsive Local Services offer.
- 4.3 Within the existing Walk and Talk (East Programme, Elected members from each ward:
- Nominate their ward representative.
 - Identify the proposed 'route', up to two geographical areas.
 - Agree order of the rolling programme of walks. (One per quarter)
 - Agree dates and time of 'Walk and Talk' sessions, in discussion with Police/ARMs/ Communication Team)
- 4.4 Walk and Talk Sessions include:
- Ward Cllrs
 - Streetscene Area Response Managers (ARMs)
 - Neighbourhood Police Team Representatives
 - Enforcement and Housing staff
 - Gentoo
 - VCS Area Network
 - General public
- 4.5 Other Elected members and relevant Officers are invited along to attend as required. Communication Team also promote as part of the Community Leadership Programme to members of the public. During the sessions issues raised are logged by the ARM and referred to the relevant service area to address. However, there are occasions when core budgets cannot be used. The 'Walk and Talk Improvements Budget' therefore supports identified work on these occasions.
- 4.6 Pre meetings are arranged before each session with Councillors, Officers and Partners to remind people of the purpose and aim of the session, and circulate maps. Use of SIB is not promoted widely, as the first port of call is mainstream funding.
- 4.7 During sessions ARMs and ArO note issues and concerns, taking pictures as and when relevant.

- 4.8 Post meetings are held after each session with Cllrs, ARMs and ArO. The purpose is to agree a list of actions, lead officer, way forward, timescale, budget (if required). An action list is shared with Cllrs before wider publication.
- 4.9 Eight weeks after each session the action list is updated and shared, to provide feedback to participants. The Communication Team promote success stories, under the Recognition for Action work stream of the Community Leadership Programme.
- 4.10 Residents see action in their local area due to the fact that they have participated in the Walk and Talk programme. Improvements delivered are outlined in SIB monitoring reports, community news and local press releases. Before and after pictures are also taken.
- 4.11 Councillors also benefit as they work closely with the ARMs in delivering their 'walk and talk' programme and provide feedback at Area Committee.
- 4.12 The Portfolio Holders for Attractive and Inclusive City and for Responsive Services and Customer Care were consulted on the East programme (upon which this proposal is based), and they were supportive of the principle of the Walk and Talk Programme.
- 4.13 It is proposed that each ward have a budget of £6,000 each, supporting a programme of four walks per ward. Total: £36,000.