

Minutes of the meeting of the **Hullbridge Sub-Committee** held on **4 March 2003** when there were present: -

Cllr Mrs Brown
Cllr C R Morgan

Cllr P K Savill

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs R A Amner and M G B Starke

REPRESENTING HULLBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr Mrs L Campbell-Daley
Cllr Mrs K Morgan
Cllr Mrs W Stevenson

DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICERS

R Crofts	Corporate Director (Finance and External Services)
D Timson	Property Maintenance & Highways Manager
M Martin	Committee Administrator

COUNTY COUNCIL OFFICERS

K Bristow	District Manager, Transportation & Operational Services
L Harvey	District Engineer, Transportation & Operational Services

1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Mrs R Brown was appointed Chairman of the Sub-Committee.

2 TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members noted the terms of reference agreed by the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee as follows: -

To oversee the final stages of the Town Centre enhancement scheme.

Members agreed that this could be broken down into three distinct parts: -

- (1) To oversee the successful completion of Phase 1 of the scheme.
- (2) To oversee the commencement of Phase 2 and ensure that it is completed to a high standard.
- (3) To establish actual costs for the whole scheme.

3 SITE VISIT

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services), to which had been appended a comprehensive note of the site visit which had taken place on 13 February 2003 between representatives of the County, District and Parish Councils together with the contractor.

Members noted that the County Council had explained that the lighting columns were at a minimum height in order to ensure that sufficient light was cast on the highway in order to comply with street lighting requirements.

The following points were raised at the site visit, together with the updated information now provided. Members agreed that once actual costs had been received for outstanding items, the Sub-Committee should prioritise what can be achieved for the remainder of Phase 1.

(Note: The County Council indicated that assuming that the contractor would be on site to do several outstanding items together, the individual costs would reduce slightly.)

- RDC crest to be placed on 8 lamp columns and 4 litter bins – accurate cost of crests required before making final decision
- One additional bollard to be installed adjacent to the Gardens Association. Members noted that whilst frontagers could opt for lockable bollards, most had agreed not to have them.
- 2 cycle racks would be provided (one available now, a further one to be ordered) outside the Co-op Stores.
- Wall outside Co-op – Officer has spoken with the Co-op and offered them various options ranging from £2,000-£3,000. Part of the existing wall could be replaced with bollards. The difference between levels requires that a barrier be provided for safety. The response from Head Office at Chelmsford was still awaited. Detailed cost and design to be supplied for next meeting.
- Members noted that the Co-op Stores had paid for the cycle racks and bin, but were still waiting for them.
- Trip hazard to be levelled outside Beauty Rooms, contractors due to carry out remedial works at no extra cost.
- Worn surface at Beauty Rooms had been referred to Contractor; County to report back.
- Worn surface at Sue Ryder Shop had been referred to Contractor, County to report back
- Wall at Ferry Fisheries would not be re-pointed, as cost too high.
- Bollards outside Ferry Fisheries had appeared equidistant in the drawing but had been placed so that cars could still get on the pavement. It was agreed at

- the site visit that a further bollard would prevent this and that any amendment to this would be referred back to the Sub-Committee.
- Worn surface outside Hot Gossip to be repaired by contractor.
 - Forecourt outside Hot Gossip needs to be sturdy enough to cope with the likely increase of traffic, which may result from the proposed building of a block of flats to the rear of the property.
 - Worn surface outside One Stop Shop to be repaired by contractor.
 - 4 bollards to be installed outside One Stop Shop at a cost of £300 each.
 - The Sub-Committee noted that BT had already removed the telephone box at 141 Ferry Road, Hullbridge and the site had been left in an unsafe condition. This would be reported to tonight's meeting of the Community Services Committee, who would be discussing the consultation document from BT on the removal of telephone boxes across the District. Although it was noted that there may have been an agreement between the forecourt owner and BT, the Chairman planned to request that this Council write to them expressing disappointment at the way in which this site had been left. It was agreed that it would be better to refrain initially from placing a litter bin on that site until it was known what BT planned to do in terms of making good the site.
 - Kerbing installation – Members expressed concern that this Council had originally agreed to studs instead of kerbing along this stretch outside One Stop Shop. It was noted that the District Council had measured two ends but there was still a discrepancy because of some kerbing along the gully, and therefore this would be re-measured.

4 LITTER BINS AND TREES

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) which provided Members with further information in respect of the provision of litter bins and trees.

Litter Bins

The Corporate Director advised that the Swintex bin in maroon plastic with a cover would cost approximately £121 plus the cost of the crest. Fixing costs would be around £60 per bin. 4 bins were required as follows (final choice of positioning to rest with the forecourt owner): -

- 1 outside Co-op with cycle racks
- 1 outside Gold Lion
- 1 to be reinstated outside Ferry Fisheries
- 1 outside One Stop, possibly with a railing around to comply with Health and Safety regulations (this would not take place until the issue around the removal of the telephone box had been sorted out with BT).

It was agreed that the bin outside the Garden Association/Sue Ryder shop would be left as it is.

Trees

Members noted that 3 trees were to be supplied – 1 to be provided by the County and 2 by the District.

The County's price would be £300 to supply and fix (corner Malyons Lane/Ferry Road), including a root trainer and two year maintenance contract (tree replaced if it dies within that time). The tree would be planted by a specialist, but the finishing works would be included with any other works the contractor is undertaking. This could be retained with tegula blocks at an approximate cost of £1000. These could be added later if there were sufficient funds. The Parish Council could be consulted regarding possible planting around the tree.

The Corporate Director (Finance and External Services) was asked to use his delegated authority in instructing Essex County Council to proceed with the planting of the above tree.

The trees supplied by the District would be as follows: -

1 outside Hot Gossip – written permission has been received and this would be planted straight in the ground.

1 outside the Gold Lion – written permission has been received, although there is a need to check ownership. District Officers had established that the tree could be planted on a slope and retained with tegula blocks.

Members agreed to the variety Prunus Miyako for all three trees. Full costings would be brought back to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee for the three trees including root trainers.

Hanging Baskets

Members agreed to the 'cup and saucer' design as in Rayleigh Town Centre at a cost of £100 each plus fixing costs. It was agreed that the County would liaise with the Chairman of the Sub-Committee over the colour, and if appropriate she would ask the Corporate Director (Finance and External Services) to allow Essex County Council to proceed.

The Parish Council would be consulted with regard to providing and maintaining the plants.

Cost of Scheme

The County reported the following figures to the meeting on costs to date: -

	£
2001/02 Costs	46,000
2002/03 Costs	55,432

Sub-Total	101,432
Committed	6,800

Total	108,232
Budget Available	
RDC	100,000
ECC	14,000

	114,000

Amount available to spend £5,778.

Members noted that: -

- The cost of the contract included plant and labour costs. The figures provided at the outset had been estimates only. Members were concerned that the advice they had originally been given was that a formal design was not necessary. However, this would have resulted in detailed costings.
- Figures quoted on a contractor's print out on the 24 July 2002 had shown the costs at that stage to have reached around £80,000.

Members were concerned that there now appeared to be so little funding remaining from the original £100,000 provided by the District Council, when very little additional work had been undertaken since July. The figures, which had been presented, would suggest that Phase 2 was not achievable.

The County Council pointed out they had no control over the contractor’s final costs and that with hindsight Contract 2000 would not be the way forward for this type of scheme. However, Members were particularly concerned that: -

- The assumption had been that £10,000 would be left from Phase 1, which together with the additional £14,000 from the County would have resulted in £24,000 being available for Phase 2.
- The expectation of forecourt owners and the general public had been that Phase 2 would be possible.
- The County Council had not consulted the District Council to keep them informed of the apparently escalating costs.

5 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

A meeting was arranged for Wednesday 19 March at 10 am and a subsequent meeting to be held on Wednesday 9 April at 10 am. Parish Cllr Mrs W Stevenson tendered her apologies for the latter one.

On a Motion moved by Cllr C R Morgan and seconded by Cllr Mrs R Brown it was

Resolved

That a detailed breakdown of the scheme costs to date be prepared for the Sub-Committee to consider, prior to referring to the matter back to the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

The meeting commenced at 10.00am and closed at 12 noon

Chairman.....

Date