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## **HULLBRIDGE VILLAGE ENHANCEMENT SCHEME**

### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report appries Members of the progress made to date by the Hullbridge Sub Committee in overseeing Phase 2 of the Hullbridge Village Enhancement Scheme.

### **2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 At the meeting of this Committee held on 12 February 2003, it was agreed that a Hullbridge Sub Committee be set up to oversee the final stages of the enhancement scheme (Minute 67/03 refers).
- 2.2 The Sub Committee, at the meeting held on 4 March, agreed that this task should be carried out in three distinct parts:-
1. To oversee the successful completion of Phase 1 of the scheme
  2. To oversee the commencement of Phase 2 of the scheme
  3. To establish actual costs of the scheme.
- 2.3 An interim report in respect of costings for Phase 1 of the scheme was presented to this committee on 17 July 2003 (Minute 350/03 refers). The balance available for Phase 2 of the scheme at that time was estimated at £24,334.

### **3 PHASE 1 WORKS**

- 3.1 The works for Phase 1 are now complete, apart from the installation of one tree. The forecourt owner has agreed in principle to the positioning of a tree on their forecourt, but has deferred final agreement pending other works to their property.

### **4 PHASE 2 PROPOSALS**

- 4.1 Members have now agreed a scheme which would include, subject to agreement from forecourt owners in respect of trees, litter bins and finger post, the following:-
- Slabbing of the pavement between 249 and 267 Ferry Road
  - Resurfacing the forecourts with the approval of the forecourt owners
  - Provision of four lamp columns with hanging baskets
  - Provision of 18 bollards

- Provision of 2 trees
- Provision of “finger post” sign

4.2 The estimated cost of the scheme is now approximately £41,000.

4.3 As Members will see, there is a shortfall in funding of around £16,000. Hullbridge Parish Council has pledged £16,000 to assist the project and other small donations are expected from other Hullbridge organisations. Essex County Highways Officers are trying to ascertain whether or not some Government funding could be made available for the project.

4.4 In view of the above, the Sub Committee asked the Corporate Director (Finance and External Services) to utilise his delegated authority and place orders for the work to commence.

4.5 Essex County Council has been asked to place orders for the materials to be used. The County’s contractor will be unable to commence work until early April, but this is a better time to start work owing to the lighter nights and possibility of better weather.

4.6 The work to the forecourts will be carried out by Rochford District Council contractors. This work requires warmer weather for the resurfacing materials to have maximum bonding effect. It is hoped to carry out this work at the same time as the paving works, but that will be dependent upon the weather conditions at that time.

4.7 The Essex County Council work will be carried out under “Contract 2000”. As Members will be aware, this means that the costings given by the contractor are not fixed and are subject to variation. County officers are confident, however, that the costs now quoted are more robust than those quoted for the earlier schemes. Nevertheless, there is a risk of either an overspend or some items of work not being carried out if additional funding cannot be identified. Notwithstanding this, both officers and Members of the Sub Committee considered that the risk was acceptable for the works to go ahead.

## **5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 With the amount of budget available for the project from Rochford District Council and the commitment of £16,000 from Hullbridge Parish council, there are sufficient funds available for the scheme to go ahead, subject to the caveat mentioned at paragraph 4.7 above.

## **6. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

### **6.1 Resource Risk**

6.1.1 There is a small risk that, owing to the nature of “Contract 2000”, there is a possibility of expenditure exceeding the costings given. In the event of this happening, either additional funding would be required or some element of

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work would not be undertaken. With the experience gained from previous contracts and the monitoring that will take place from both County and District officers, it is considered the risk is acceptable.

**6.2 Operational Risk**

- 6.2.1 Contract works will start in April which is in accordance with the recommendations of the Member Contract Management Review reported to Finance and General Purposes Committee on 11 October 2001. Nevertheless, adverse weather conditions could delay completion of the project. Some aspects of the project are dependent upon consent being given by individual forecourt owners.

**6.3 Reputation Risk**

- 6.3.1 The local community has had expectations raised that the scheme will be completed. Not to go ahead now would damage the reputation of the Council in that area.

**6.4 Third Party Risks**

- 6.4.1 Work must be carried out to required standards in order to ensure no hazards are left which could lead to injury claims. Certain works require formal consent from forecourt owners which must be obtained prior to work being carried out, otherwise claims could arise.

**7 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Consent is required from forecourt owners prior to work being carried out.

**8 PARISH IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 The works will be carried out within the Hullbridge Parish area. The Parish Council is contributing £16,000, provided that a proper monitoring balance is set up to ensure the quality of work is up to the required standard.

**9 RECOMMENDATION**

- 9.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES** to note progress on the scheme.

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