

HOCKLEY AND HULLBRIDGE IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report seeks Members' views in respect of a number of elements regarding the above two schemes prior to the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) using his delegated authority to progress the issues.

2 HULLBRIDGE

- 2.1 Two issues have arisen on which the views of this Committee are sought.
- 2.2 Previously the litter bin identified was the Gregory OSL B60 model used in Rayleigh which would be painted in maroon and gold. The Swintex model used in Rochford and Hockley is also available in maroon and gold and Members may wish to consider this alternative model.
- 2.3 The Gregory model is made of metal and has a 60 litre capacity. This model is tending to rust and leave stains on the pavement. The Swintex model has a plastic casing which comes down to pavement level and consequently provides a cleaner image. Photographs of the two bins are shown in Appendix 1 of this report.
- 2.4 The cost of the bins are:-

6 Swintex model @ £180 = £1,080

6 Gregory model @ £245 = £1,470

As may be seen, there is a modest saving in changing to the Swintex model.

- 2.5 The second issue is in respect of trees. The original scheme envisaged a number of trees being placed upon various forecourt areas. Shop owners have contributed towards the cost of these trees.
- 2.6 As the forecourt areas are sloping, the County Arborculturalist and Highways Officers are advising that any trees would need to be placed in planters. This has additional capital cost, together with the requirement to maintain a structured watering regime.

- 2.7 The cost of the planters is wide ranging with prices being obtained of between £300 and £1,000 each.
- 2.8 The District Council does not have the resources available at present to carry out the maintenance that would be needed for trees in planters.
- 2.9 The types of trees recommended by the County Arboriculturist for use in the planters are:-
- Amelanchier arborea “Robin Hill” – white delicate flower – good autumn leaf
- Japanese Hornbeam – small and suitable but no outstanding flower or autumn colour
- Cornus mas “Cornellian Cherry” – early spring yellow flower
- Parrotia persica “Vanessa” – very good autumn colour but no meaningful flower
- Prunus cross surbetilla – autumn flowering delicate white flower.
- 2.10 With the advice now being given by County officers, decisions need to be made as to whether or not to continue with the provision of trees if planters are to be used.
- 2.11 With regard to watering and maintenance, the Parish Council and forecourt owners could be approached to see what, if any, assistance they would be prepared to give.
- 2.12 Whilst it would be extremely disappointing not to have trees as originally planned, the implications of using planters does need to be addressed. If the decision were taken not to provide trees, those who had donated funds would have those sums refunded with interest.

3 HOCKLEY

- 3.1 With regard to Hockley, the decision now required is in respect of what elements of the eastern side of Spa Road should be upgraded. A map of the town centre is attached at Appendix 2.
- 3.2 The costs of repaving estimated by Essex County Council are as follows:-

	£
Spa Hotel frontage and side	28,457

14-22 Spa Road	10,977
24-38 Spa Road	20,436
40-42c Spa Road	19,430

Whilst the above costings appear extremely accurate, Members should be aware that, under the Essex County Council contract 2000, these are not fixed estimates. As Members are aware, these costs could well increase or decrease as the contract progresses.

- 3.3 From a visual impact, it would be beneficial to carry out works from the Spa Hotel to 38 Spa Road. This would be at a cost of £59,870.
- 3.4 With regard to the condition of the existing footway, it may be more advisable to carry out the work between 14 and 42c Spa Road. This would cost £50,843.
- 3.5 At the meeting of this Committee held on 19 November 2002, County Officers advised that there was approximately £50,700 available for the remainder of Hockley.
- 3.6 As there is no additional funding provided within the capital budget for these schemes, it is suggested that at present work should commence from 14 Spa Road and carry on as far as funds will allow.

4 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The completion of the schemes will enhance the environment of Hullbridge and Hockley town centres.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 These are set out in the above report.

6 RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES** to give guidance to the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) in respect of:
 - (1) the provision of litter bins in Hullbridge
 - (2) the provision of trees in Hullbridge
 - (3) the scope of works to be carried out to the eastern side of Spa Road.

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Background Papers:

None.

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