

REMOVAL OF CHEWING GUM UPDATE

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the results of the free trial of the chewing gum removal process that took place in Rochford Square and also of the responses from Town and Parish Councils on contributing to the costs.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 A report was presented at the meeting of this committee on 17 October 2002 that detailed a method of removing chewing gum and other stains from the town centre pavements. It also gave an estimated cost for this process being carried out in Rayleigh Town Centre.
- 2.2 It was agreed that the free trial of 300 square metres be taken up and that the various Town/Parish Councils be consulted to ascertain if they were prepared to contribute towards the costs in their particular town centre.

3 FREE TRIAL OFFER

- 3.1 The free trial offer of 300 square metres was undertaken by the Chewing Gum Removal Company in Rochford Square on 18 December between 5.00pm. and 8.30pm.
- 3.2 An inspection of the works took place the following morning, attended by Council Officers and Members and a representative of the Chewing Gum Removal Company.
- 3.3 It was very clear where the cleaning had taken place, as all of the chewing gum had been removed and there was also very little other staining left on the pavement.
- 3.4 Where the cleansed area stopped and the uncleansed area started, there was a very noticeable difference in the appearance and condition and therefore it was agreed by all parties that the process did produce a positive result.

4 TOWN / PARISH COUNCIL CONTRIBUTIONS

- 4.1 Letters were sent to the Town / Parish Councils of Rayleigh, Hockley, Hullbridge, Rochford and Wakering, enquiring if they wished to contribute towards the costs of implementing this process.
- 4.2 At present the only Council that has agreed to a contribution is Rayleigh, who have committed £1,000 for 2003/04. Hockley Parish Council have responded but at present are not able to make a contribution.

5 COSTINGS

- 5.1 Various town centre areas have been measured and an estimated cost calculated as follows:

Rochford:	Approx. £265 per clean (378 square metres).
Hullbridge:	Approx. £1,162 per clean (1660 square metres).
Hockley:	Approx. £770 per clean (1100 square metres).
Gt. Wakering:	Approx. £1,275 per clean (1820 square metres).
Rayleigh:	Approx. £4,300 per clean (6125 square metres).

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Based on cleaning all of the areas detailed in Section 5 every 6 months, there would be a total cost to the Council of approximately £15,544 per annum, less £1,000 contribution from Rayleigh Town Council.
- 6.2 At the moment there is no provision in the draft budget for 2003/04 in respect of chewing gum removal. Should Members wish to make a bid this will have to be referred to Council on the 28 January 2003.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The effective cleansing and removal of chewing gum from the town centre pavements would improve the environmental standards existing in those areas.

8 RECOMMENDATION

8.1 It is proposed that the Committee RESOLVES

To consider the potential impact of implementing this cleansing and the associated costs and make recommendations accordingly.

Roger Crofts

Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)

Background Papers: None

For further information please contact Jeremy Bourne on:-

Tel:- 01702 318163
E-Mail:- jeremy.bourne@rochford.gov.uk