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## **WEBSTERS WAY - ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT**

### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report updates Members on proposals for environmental improvements to Websters Way, Rayleigh.

### **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 This issue was first discussed at a meeting of the Committee on 17th October 2002, when it was concluded that officers should consult with Rayleigh Town Council and Essex County Council on the possibility of assistance towards the cost of a scheme.
- 2.2 In the meantime, the Rayleigh Traffic Study Sub-Committee was formed to re-examine traffic movements in the town centre. The conclusions of the Traffic Study Sub-Committee were reported to Members on 17th October 2003 and this report now provides details of the consultation with the County Council and Town Council on possible environmental enhancement.

### **3 VIEWS**

- 3.1 The response from the Town Council was to the effect that, given the cost of the suggested improvements, the Town Council is unable to offer any assistance to the cost of the project.
- 3.2 The response from the County Council was a little more cautious. In principle, the County Council sees a scheme for environmental improvements in Websters Way as a positive addition to the works already carried out in the town centre.
- 3.3 However, no commitment to work in partnership to joint fund the scheme has been given. Rather, the County Council has indicated that it will not dismiss the idea out of hand and would be prepared to give further consideration to the matter.

### **4 CONCLUSIONS**

- 4.1 It is clear that Rayleigh Town Council is not prepared to make a contribution to the cost of the proposed works.
- 4.2 The position of the County Council remains to be clarified and, whilst it seems the proposals can be discussed further, it is considered that a financial contribution is unlikely.

**5 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 It is considered that the environmental enhancement of Websters Way would have significant, positive benefits for the town.

**6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The broad financial implications of the overall enhancement scheme prepared by G.L. Hearn would be of the order of £500,000. The total cost of any scheme would vary, depending on its extent and the quality of the materials used. There is currently no provision within the Budget Strategy in respect of this scheme

**7 RECOMMENDATION**

- 7.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RECOMMENDS**

That, no further action be taken on the proposals for the environmental enhancement of Websters Way, Rayleigh.

Shaun Scrutton

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**Background Papers:**

Letters from Rayleigh Town Council and Essex County Council

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