
HULLBRIDGE VILLAGE CENTRE IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report advises Members of the work carried out by the Hullbridge Village Working Group in suggesting improvement works in the Village.
- 1.2. The report seeks approval to the scheme and authorisation for the design brief to be released to the Essex County Council Design Consultant.

2 PROGRESS

- 2.1. The Group will have met on nine occasions, had one site visit and held an open meeting for traders. In addition, examples of street furniture and paving materials have been on display at the Parish Council offices in order that members of the public may give their views on the most appropriate design.
- 2.2. A scheme has now been agreed in principle. Plans and artist impressions are currently on display in the Members Rooms at Rayleigh and Rochford.
- 2.3. A design brief has also been agreed, a copy of which is also on display in the Members Rooms at Rayleigh and Rochford.
- 2.4. A meeting of the Group will be held on 3 July prior to this Committee. Decisions will be made with regard to the design of paving materials and street furniture. These decisions will be reported verbally on the evening.
- 2.5. Forms have been made available to the public in Hullbridge through various outlets. An analysis of the responses received is shown at Appendix 1 of this report.
- 2.6. From the comments received the proposed improvements would meet the high priority wishes of the public.

3 CO-OPERATION OF LOCAL TRADERS

- 3.1. Owing to the street layout in Hullbridge, the majority of the area which would normally be thought of as footway is private forecourts which are in the ownership of the various shopowners.
- 3.2. The proposed improvements would only have an impact if all of the shop frontages were included within the scheme.

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- 3.3. From early contact with shop owners, it became clear that the substantial majority would not be prepared to pay for works to be carried out to their frontages.
 - 3.4. In view of the above, the Working Group devised a design for the refurbishment whereby the public footway would be paved, but the shop frontage areas could be resurfaced using a low cost material which would, nevertheless, improve the visual aspect of the area as a whole. By doing this, it is suggested that the work to the shop frontages be carried out at Council expense.
 - 3.5. The shop owners were then consulted as to whether or not they would allow access to their frontages for this work to be undertaken and also whether they would consider sponsoring items of street furniture.
 - 3.6. At the time of drafting this report, a response is still awaited from 3 of the shop owners. An analysis of the responses to date is shown at Appendix 2 to this report.

4 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. The scheme will enhance the visual aspect of the main shopping parade and allow easier access for the disabled.

5 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. The scheme has been designed in partnership with the Hullbridge Parish Council.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. Once the brief is handed over to Essex County Council, that authority will carry out full design and monitor the contract works.
- 6.2. At present, it is envisaged that the scheme can be met from the budget allocation of £100,000 contained within the capital programme.

7 RECOMMENDATION

It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

- 7.1. To agree the design for the Hullbridge Village improvement scheme.
- 7.2. To agree that the proposed resurfacing works to the shop frontages be carried out at the expense of the Council.
- 7.3. Subject to 7.1 and 7.2 above, to instruct Essex County Council to proceed with the design of the scheme.

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- 7.4. That a report be made to this Committee with a fully costed design for the scheme once prepared by the County Council.

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APPENDIX 1

HULLBRIDGE IMPROVEMENT SCHEME QUESTIONNAIRE

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC RESPONSE (UPDATED)

	YES		NO	
	No	%	No	%
Should the Council carry out an improvement scheme?	97	92	4	4
Provide more trees	72	69	15	14
Provide more planting	51	49	15	14
Have a Hullbridge colour scheme	39	37	38	36
Provide better and safer parking	71	68	13	12
Enhance the forecourts outside shops	79	75	9	98
Repave the public highway in paving	83	79	12	11
Upgrade lighting columns/lanterns	66	63	14	13
Provide new street furniture	46	44	29	28
Provide new seats	50	48	26	23
Provide better access for disabled people	85	81	2	2

Total No. responses received: 105

Not all respondents answered all questions.

Other Comments

Comment	No.
More CCTV cameras	6
Pedestrian precinct	1
Clear broken glass	2
Youth facility	5
Improved policing	18

**TRANSPORTATION & ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES COMMITTEE - 4 July 2001**

Item 17

Improve unmade roads	10
Additional zebra crossing	3
Bank	1
5-a-side football pitch	1
Improve river frontage	2
More litter bins in side roads	1
Improve parking outside shops, close to river and outside school at pickup times	1
Speed restriction measures	2
Remove litter from grass verges	1
Improve public transport	1
Prevent cycling on pavements	1
Busses to run later	1
Complete works to kerbs and pavements (in Abbey Road.)	2
Replace grass verges with paving	1
Erect "No Ball Games" signs	1
Provide more dog litter bins	2
Provide public conveniences near to library	2
Relocate play area closer to village centre	2
Prevent parking on pavements	2
Improve facilities for young children	1
Improve mowing of grass verges	1
Widen pavements	1

APPENDIX 2

CONSENT TO CARRY OUT WORKS TO FORECOURTS

RESPONSE FROM TRADERS

Address	Response Y/N	Sponsorship	Comments
115/9 Ferry Road			Referred to owner – no response
121 Ferry Road	Y	Tree, litter bin	Vital that they be kept informed of progress
127 Ferry Road	Y	Tree	
129 Ferry Road	Y		Private forecourt resurfaced 4 months ago.
131 Ferry Road	Y	Litter bins, bollards	
135 Ferry Road	Y	Tree, plants	Seats would be liable to vandalism
141/3 Ferry Road	Y	No	
145 Ferry Road	Y	Litter bin	