

Subject: Britannia Village Improvement –
Whittle Street

Status: For Publication

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 24th January 2007

Report of: Head of Street Scene and Liveability

Portfolio

Holder: Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Liveability

Key Decision:

NO

Forward Plan General Exception Special Urgency

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. As part of the ELEVATE Environmental Improvements Project, to seek approval for the improvement of Whittle Street / Rochdale Road 'garden' area which is currently owned and maintained at by the council.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 2.1 The matters discussed in this report are linked to and support the following corporate priorities:

- **Environment**
Focusing on making the most of our fabulous rural setting, including parks and open spaces
- **Community Safety**
Tackling crime and disorder and working to make sure people feel safe as they go about their lives
- **Health**
Making sure people have a long and healthy life.
- **Education**
Promoting education and learning opportunities for all ages as well as making sure local businesses can employ people with the skills they need.
- **Economy**
Quality jobs for local people as well as the skills to access them.
- **Community**
Making sure we're a borough where all opinions count and people respect and celebrate difference. The LSP Environment Action Plan includes a target to bring neglected woodlands into beneficial long term management.

3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

- This is an ideal opportunity for the council to take advantage of a scheme which aims to make paths safer and more accessible for the community.
- The council has an opportunity to take advantage of this funding opportunity and partnership working in order to achieve improved pathways at very little initial cost.
- The funding has only been secured on the basis that the council approve the works and subsequent training opportunities. As this is council land, improvements would have to be found from mainstream budgets at some point in the future.

4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

Background

- 4.1 An application was made in 2005/06 to the Council for several improvements in the Britannia area from Groundwork Rossendale acting on behalf of the Britannia Residents United. These improvements were carried out successfully. This last area (Whittle Street) was also the priority of Britannia Residents United.
- 4.2 Elected members of the three wards (Greensclough, Irwell and Stacksteads), have, according to Groundwork Rossendale been consulted on the wider Britannia improvements in 2005/06. The Whittle Street improvements was part of this wider scheme.
- 4.3 In consulting (face to face) with 190 residents, the majority welcome the improvements to Britannia. Consultation was carried out in 2005/06. A short information provision session will occur in conjunction with Britannia Residents United.
- 4.4 The need has identified within reports such as:-
- Bacup + Stacksteads + Britannia area action plan
 - Rural Opportunities Across Rossendale (ROAR)

It is recognised that 'streetscape improvements and enhancements' are made to 'brighten the area up'. Funding is currently available to improve sections of Britannia through ELEVATE. The project will be of no cost to the council and will serve to improve facilities in this area.

- 4.5 Full consultation with residents has been undertaken.

Options for Consideration

1. Do nothing

There is a need to carry out reparation work, however this is not a corporate priority for mainstream funding at this time. Failure to go ahead with the project will result in the funding being lost.

2. Approve the project

This is an ideal opportunity to:

- Carry out much needed reparation work and promote partnership working
 - Take advantage of funding through the ELEVATE programme
 - Increased use of the site would promote healthy lifestyles; deter fly-tipping, vandalism and other anti-social behaviour.
3. ELEVATE funding is available for the project which aims to be spent before the end of March 2007. Should there be a delay in the commencement of the project it is possible the funding will be withdrawn and the project will be cancelled.

5. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

- 5.1 Funding for maintenance of the site is already established, it would be highly unlikely that these improvements would incur further cost to the council.

List of Items of Work Created/Reduced by Britannia Landscape Improvements

- 5 extra trees to maintain (Mountain Ash, Silver Birch) – Small with an open canopy.
- Replace existing 'crazy' paving (currently dangerous / trip hazard) with new area to be surfaced with reclaimed stone setts and flags – approx size 40 sq.m. – Less maintenance / risk.
- Area of grass to mow remains the same.

6. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF PLANNING, LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

- 6.1 No specific comments.

7. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES

- 7.1 N/A

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 Groundwork Rossendale have undertaken a significant amount of consultation during 2005/06 with residents in the area. The plans have been discussed and agreed for the improvement of the area.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 To agree to proposals to ensure that funding secured is spent within the financial year 2006/07.

10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- 10.1 400 + houses invited to a design and comment evening – 40+ people attended and gave views
- 10.2 22 young people were consulted
- 10.3 50 + individuals were consulted with regard to plans outside Britannia school
- 10.4 80 + houses were consulted on sites specifically / potentially affecting them
- 10.1 As part of the delivery of this project, further work will occur with the youth of this area to try to engage them in potential youth provision in the Britannia area.

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Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Drawing – CR140/L02	Attached