



**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S  
LOCAL COMMITTEE IN  
EPSOM & EWELL**

**LONGMEAD ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY  
ROSEBERY HOUSING ASSOCIATION**

**19<sup>th</sup> March 2007**

**KEY ISSUE:**

To present the Environmental Strategy for Longmead Estate, Epsom by Groundwork on behalf of Rosebery Housing Association.

**SUMMARY:**

The Environmental Strategy aims to provide Rosebery Housing Association with a framework for carrying out improvements within the estate in the next 5 years and also to identify and plan improvements that are a priority for residents but require more strategic approach with Surrey County Council, Epsom & Ewell Borough Council and other partners and stakeholders.

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Committee is asked to agree

- (i) that it is broadly in support of the general findings and proposals
- (ii) that in principle it supports the involvement of Surrey County Council and Epsom & Ewell Borough Council in developing the opportunity for strategic environmental improvements on the Longmead Estate by relevant partners.

## **1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 Following an extensive process of consultation with the residents of the Longmead Estate, carried out on behalf of Rosebery Housing Association, Groundwork has produced an Environmental Strategy for the estate which includes recommendations for improvements aimed at improving quality of life and community safety in the area.
- 1.2 The recommendations in the report are based on the outcomes of the consultation results of local people on the estate and initial discussions have already taken place with Groundwork Merton and relevant officers from Surrey County Council and Epsom & Ewell Borough Council.

## **2. ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY**

- 2.1 The aim of the Environmental Strategy is to provide a plan for the implementation of environmental improvements on the Longmead Estate to be carried out by Rosebery Housing Association and also a plan for carrying forward improvements that are outside their control through a coordinated approach with the involvement of all relevant partners. All proposals are intended as a framework for further discussion and appraisal with relevant partners at this stage.

### **2.2 OPTIONS**

A summary of some of the main proposals that concern Surrey County Council and the London Borough of Epsom & Ewell are included here.

#### **HIGHWAYS**

As the main concern for residents arising from the consultations various measures are proposed to deal with speeding traffic through the estate ranging from speed tables at junctions to 'Homezone' type developments in some side streets and cul-de sacs where people have priority over traffic and play areas, planting etc. are introduced. Specific examples include:

- Measures to reduce speeding traffic on Hollymoor Lane and Harvester Road and crossing for pedestrians made safer – this could include speed tables across Hollymoor Lane at junctions with side roads, and the installation of pedestrian refuges in the centre of the road.
- Measures to reduce traffic speeds on Longmead Road and safer crossings for pedestrians – including the installation of a pedestrian-controlled crossing, near Blenheim High School, and chicanes/ speed cushions or a speed camera.
- The upgrading of the existing footpath along the east side of Longmead Road to create a shared-use foot and (two-way) cycle path.

- In the long term, the creation of 'Home Zones' in the side streets and cul-de-sacs of the estate is recommended, making safe streets where people have priority over traffic.
- The verge along Harvester Road that has been damaged by parked cars could be replaced with hard surface to allow for the parking to take place without damage.
- Line painting to discourage dangerous parking, particularly at school drop-off and pick-up times (e.g. parking on roundabouts near Epsom primary school).

#### COMMUNITY SAFETY

- An audit of lighting on the estate, especially in the alleyways, is recommended.
- An agreement between landowners to rationalise the management of the alleyways – e.g. maintenance of the lights and planting; 'one-stop shop' for residents to report broken lights - and produce a strategy for new lighting to be installed where necessary.
- Further alleyways should be gated with others, better lit and maintained, kept open as pedestrian routes.
- Improve the pedestrian alleyway along the boundary with the disused St Ebba's hospital site by removing the concrete fence and replacing with railings to improve visibility and improve the appearance of the boundary.
- Further 'Safe Routes to School' and similar projects to encourage children to travel to school on foot and by bike.

#### GREEN SPACE

- The play area at Bakersfield Park to be upgraded as a priority – this could be carried out as part of an enhancement of the park as a whole.
- Further opportunities for play to be introduced around the estate, with the creation of new play areas (these could range from conventional play equipment (climbers, swings, springers etc) to more informal play areas such as play sculptures.
- Community spaces with seats, paving and shrub planting could be created on some green areas. Others could have wildflower planting and appropriate management regimes to brighten up the environment of the estate.
- A full survey of existing trees to be carried out, including recommendations for pruning/ treatment and new planting.
- Rationalise parking on greens which could be laid with 'grass paving', delineated by bollards, to formalise the parking and reduce damage to the greens.

#### YOUNG PEOPLE

- More activities and places to gather aimed at young people on the estate – should include training/ supervised use of mini-motos and scramblers (at appropriate site off the estate) and also activities aimed at the girls.

### **3. CONSULTATIONS**

The consultation process involved:

- Open public meetings x 2 in April 2006 attended by 76 people
- Community mapping events x 2 in August 2006 attended by 162 people
- Outreach work with young people including producing a video from summer to autumn 2006 involving 70 young people

### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no immediate financial implications for the councils as the Strategy report and an initial programme of environmental improvements will be funded by Rosebery Housing Association. However some of the priorities for local residents, such as reduction in speeding traffic, could require financial commitment by Surrey County Council and by Epsom & Ewell Borough Council in the medium to long term. These financial implications are not yet agreed or detailed and are subject to further discussions and the involvement of the councils in a strategy of improvements.

### **5. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS**

The following implications apply if recommended proposals if carried out:

- Minor improvements to biodiversity through creation of more diverse planting, better management of trees etc.
- Reduction of air pollution through traffic calming
- Increase in involvement of residents in improvements to their quality of life
- Decrease in fear of crime
- Improvements in health especially of children and young people
- A general improvement to the appearance of the estate will help improve the quality of life for residents and assist in the economic regeneration of the area.

### **6. CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

The proposals aim to address

- Fear of crime on the estate by addressing the pedestrian experience of moving through the estate and general improvement in appearance and management of external spaces
- Perception of anti-social behaviour by young people by involving young people in the process and creating links between young people and adults on the estate

**7. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

Consultations were designed to reach harder to reach sectors of the community such as young people and ethnic minorities.

**8. CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

The environmental strategy and planned improvements are aimed at improving the quality of life for people living on the Longmead Estate and assisting in the regeneration of the general area.

**Report by: Rosebery Housing Association and Groundworks**

**LEAD/CONTACT OFFICER: David Bayliss  
Development & Asset Management Director  
Rosebery Housing Association**

**TELEPHONE NUMBER: 01372 814005**