



**OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE  
(Epsom and Ewell)**

**REVIEW OF STREET FURNITURE - EPSOM TOWN CENTRE**

**8 DECEMBER 2010**

**KEY ISSUE**

To consider proposals to rationalise street furniture in Epsom town centre to improve the street scene and determine a planning identity.

**SUMMARY**

The town centre of Epsom is in need of a consistent street furniture style. At present there is an eclectic mix of bollards, seats, litterbins and street lighting. A street scene strategy would enhance the image of Epsom town centre.

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Local Committee is asked to:

- i) Approve the creation of a working group to choose a style of street furniture for Epsom town centre.

## **1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The current street furniture in Epsom town centre has been in place since around 1991 when the one-way system was introduced. The common theme to the street furniture style has previously been limited to use of a consistent colour scheme.
- 1.2 Over the years many items of street furniture have been damaged and replaced with similar but often not identical street furniture leaving a mix of styles. For example there are 6 different types of litterbin in the town centre.
- 1.3 The green colour scheme that was adopted has also been difficult to maintain accurately. There are now different shades of green used on guardrail panels throughout the town as well as different shades on the lamp columns and bollards.
- 1.4 During the past few years there has been an attempt at rationalising many items of street furniture, mainly signs and posts, and this will continue when opportunities arise in an effort to de-clutter the town centre.

## **2 ANALYSIS**

- 2.1 Plan E for Epsom town centre has highlighted the need to make Epsom more attractive for residents and members of the public visiting shops or businesses.
- 2.2 With the growing Hospital Cluster Developments there is a greater need to encourage people to shop and linger in Epsom town centre rather than being drawn to nearby shopping areas such as Kingston or Sutton.
- 2.3 A subtle way to make the public realm appear more attractive is to use matching street furniture and any chosen “theme” may be emulated when new lighting columns are installed as part of the PFI contract for lighting renewal.
- 2.4 The first step is to choose a style of street furniture. This can either give a modern feel or perhaps a more traditional design would be in keeping with Epsom’s history. At present, Victorian lanterns on lamp columns in the High Street are mixed with very modern street lighting in Station Approach.
- 2.5 It is suggested that the proposed working group would comprise a representative of Surrey County Council; a representative from Epsom and Ewell Borough Council Planning Team; a representative for the local business community; the Local Committee Chairman; the Divisional Member and the Borough Member(s) for the town centre.
- 2.5 Three possible options are initially suggested for the town. It is anticipated that the area included for street furniture improvement would extend to Kiln

Lane and West Street towards the West Park Development. Potential options are:

***Option 1***

Contemporary style similar to the Station Approach area with stainless steel guardrail, cycle stands, modern street lighting columns.

***Option 2***

Traditional Style with wooden and cast iron seating, cast iron bollards, and litter bins. This would probably best describe the current street furniture.

***Option 3***

Conventional style with functional aspect to seats, litter bins and market place feeder pillars. Concrete and plastic polymer materials are often used for this purpose.

### **3 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 Funding for an initial package of measures can be met from Section 106 contributions already held. It is anticipated that £20k can be used immediately but it is envisaged that continuous improvements will be possible year on year once a style is agreed and as finance becomes available from developments or other sources. Funding for the forthcoming street lighting replacement project has already been secured.
- 3.2 If it can be agreed, the Borough Council may be able to fund replacement of litter bins with those corresponding to the chosen theme, as renewal becomes necessary, if these cannot be included as part of the initial package of works.

### **4 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The measures will have benefits for the blind and mobility impaired by relocating many of the items of street furniture that are currently positioned in challenging locations.

### **5 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Improved street lighting will reduce the risk of crime. Well-planned and well-kept streets, utilising robust street furniture, are also known to reduce the likelihood of vandalism.

### **6 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 It is recommended that a Working Group be created to decide on a style of street furniture. There are numerous manufacturers who can supply a whole range of products. With so much choice it would be better to

consider and discuss which products suit the image of Epsom over two or three meetings.

## **7 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 There is wide variety of street furniture products available and choosing a style to suit Epsom should be a considered process. A working group consisting of Members, Officers and the Business Community would be best placed to decide on a style to enhance the street scene.

## **8 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT**

- 8.1 Should approval be forthcoming, officers will approach potential working group members. An initial meeting would be arranged and work could then begin choosing which products are to be used before deciding on an agreed package of measures.

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