



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

**EPSOM TOWN CENTRE  
STREET FURNITURE REVIEW**

**5 DECEMBER 2011**

**KEY ISSUE**

To consider the results of the Street Furniture Review.

**SUMMARY**

A study to review the street scene for Epsom Town Centre was agreed by this Committee in December 2010. A working Group was set up to look into how the street scene could be enhanced and to develop a strategy with the Borough Council so that future development in the town would comply with an agreed style of street furniture.

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Local Committee is recommended to:

- i) Agree to the recommendations of the Street Furniture Working Group as provided in this report and carry out improvements to the street scene once agreed.

## **1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Local Committee approved the setting up of a Working Group to review the street scene in Epsom Town Centre in December 2010.
- 1.2 The Working Group consisted of County Members, Borough Members, Borough Planning Officers, County Highway Officers, Police Safety Officer and representatives of Swail House, and Epsom Civic (formerly Preservation) Society.
- 1.3 The aim of the group was to consider improvements to the street scene and to determine a planning identity. A number of meetings and site visits have taken place during 2011 to establish the style of street furniture that would best suit Epsom. Terms of Reference for the Group were established and agreed at the Local Committee in March 2011.

## **2 ANALYSIS**

- 2.1 The Group considered the different styles of street furniture in the town and the different shades of green colour for bollards, seats and litter bins. The existing green colour had been difficult to maintain over many years and various shades of green could be seen around the town. Black was chosen for the street furniture colour theme.
- 2.2 It was important to establish the extent and boundaries of the town centre. The agreed area can be seen in appendix 1. This would allow the Borough Planners to create a Town Centre Street Furniture Strategy that would be essential for ensuring that future developments in the town centre area would have to match the template for street furniture.
- 2.3 The style of street furniture was debated and it was agreed that a traditional style of wood / cast iron would be best for the area. Examples of the product that was agreed upon can be found in appendix 2. The product is the Townscape Baltimore Seat.
- 2.4 The site visits highlighted the need to continuously declutter the town centre. For example the Law Courts are no longer located in East Street so signs leading pedestrians from Epsom Station to the courts are no longer required and should be removed.
- 2.5 It was also agreed that some pedestrian guardrail could be removed in the town. Although guardrail within the staggered crossing points at junctions added to the feeling of pedestrian security, there were excessive amounts of guardrail that served no real purpose and could be removed. This would add considerably to the sense of space without compromising safety. The Spread Eagle junction does not have pedestrian guardrail and this does not make pedestrians feel any more vulnerable. The main areas where this was possible was the Church Street / Upper High Street junction. There are no plans at present to remove the guardrail that runs down the centre

of the High Street. It was agreed that all remaining guardrail would be painted black.

- 2.6 The planters and old concrete bollards could be removed from opposite the cinema in Upper High Street. This would enhance the area and give more space near the crossing point.
- 2.7 It was agreed by the Group that stainless steel cycle stands looked best and as there were many stands already established in the town the additional cycle stands would match the existing.
- 2.8 Litter bins are provided and maintained by the Borough. However it was agreed that a consistent style in a black colour would compliment the chosen furniture style.
- 2.9 There are many cast iron bollards within the town centre and there is no proposal to remove or replace the bollard. However the change in colour to black to match the other items would help create a consistent colour theme.

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

- 3.1 The cost of providing the measures agreed by the Group are in appendix 3. The funding is available through S106 monies.

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

- 4.1 The proposed improvements to the town centre street furniture have been established with a representative of Swail House. The decluttering of unnecessary street furniture will benefit all pedestrians and cyclists.

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

- 5.1 The provision of new lamp columns and improved street lighting will assist in reducing crime in the town centre.

### **6 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 The working group has discussed various options for enhancing the town centre street scene. The preferred colour for the town centre is black. There are existing black cast iron bollards in Church Street and the traffic signal poles in West Street were installed in black recently. Any replacement of traffic signal poles in future would be with black poles.
- 6.2 The preferred choice of street furniture style is wood and cast iron for seating as per Townscape Baltimore range of seats. The group agreed on an option to have a roundel infill that will be a racehorse symbol in black and gold.

- 6.3 All cast iron bollards will be painted black to match the existing bollards in Church Street.
- 6.4 Guardrail will be removed from some areas subject to a road safety audit. All remaining guardrail will be painted black.
- 6.5 All litter bins will be replaced by the Borough Council with a consistent style. They will be black in colour.
- 6.6 The Borough's Planning Department are currently working on the Town Centre Strategy. A draft has been produced but the final document has yet to be finalised.

## **7 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 The street scene in Epsom Town Centre is in need of enhancement. The styles and colour theme are an eclectic mix and there is a need to have a consistent theme throughout the town.
- 7.2 The Working Group was formed to review street furniture and has made recommendations to use black as the predominant colour for seats, litter bins, bollards and guardrail.
- 7.3 Decluttering of existing street furniture will increase the feeling of space and the provision of additional cycle stands will encourage more sustainable travel to the town centre.
- 7.4 The creation of a Town Centre Strategy will assist the Borough planners in ensuring that future developments in the town centre use / provide street furniture which matches the new items to give continuity.

## **8 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT**

- 8.1 Work will commence on carrying out the agreed measures. Painting of existing street furniture, and the provision of new style seats and litter bins will transform Epsom Town Centre. It is anticipated that all measures would be in place by the time of the 2012 Derby Festival.

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