



***Area Improvement Programme –
update report***

**SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE IN
SPELTHORNE
*14 March 2011***

KEY ISSUE:

Progress on the Area Improvement Projects in Ashford, Sunbury Cross and Shepperton

SUMMARY:

All three projects are proceeding and will deliver improvements to the three town centres by end March 2011

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.

1. INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Surrey County Council and Spelthorne Borough Council are partners in a Programme to support the secondary shopping centres in Spelthorne; Ashford, Shepperton and Sunbury Cross. Presentations and reports have been made for your Committee previously.
- 1.2 Each council has committed £300,000 to the overall programme and so each area has £200,000 to spend on environmental improvements and other initiatives to support the town centre.
- 1.3 The Programme has run since 2008/2009 with the earlier stages involved in consultation with local stakeholders. Each project has now devised plans for how the money will be spent and the plans are different according to each area.
- 1.4 The projects are now well into the final implementation of these plans and some of the works have already been completed. All other works are being supervised so that they can deliver by the required timescales.
- 1.5 There has been good cross-working and co-operation between the councils with officers from both organisations working with each other for the benefit of the town centres.

2. KEY ISSUES

Ashford

- 2.1 In Ashford work is proceeding for the development of a new community space with seating, planting and a clock outside the Santander Bank. Other improvements will include:
 - Replacement of street furniture – ongoing.
 - Paving and tree works – completed.
 - A deep clean of Church Road.
 - An art project which is being discussed with the College for the Car Park
 - New lighting for the war memorial and a replacement flagpole – to be completed by the end of March.
 - New welcome to Ashford signs – completed.
 - Sundry cleaning and painting to improve the multi-storey car park – by end March.
- 2.2 The total cost for the Ashford project is £196,147

Sunbury Cross

- 2.3 In Sunbury Cross the following improvements have already been delivered as part of the project.

- Upgrade to CCTV in the Underpass
- Replacement of gates in the Underpass to facilitate better cleaning
- Removal of a dilapidated phone box

2.4 In addition it is also worth noting that the County Council's own works to improve the Underpass have had a positive effect on the area and addressed some of the issues about the Underpass which were brought to our attention in consultation with residents:

- Cleaning of the "tagged" murals in the entrance tunnels (but not the main tunnel).
- Repainting of those walls to make good and then applying an anti graffiti coating to discourage further "tagging" and facilitate easier removal.
- Repainting of the plain walls (as opposed to the walls with murals).
- Resurfacing of the stairs leading into the tunnels.
- Improvements to the M&E equipment for pumping etc to alleviate flooding.
- Jet washing and removal of "tagging" on the tiled surfaces in the tunnels.

All those works took place without any call on the project budget.

2.5 The following works have also been commissioned as part of the project.

- CCTV improvements to the rear of the Parade and Heathcroft Avenue – these are now installed.
- Skate Park on Green Street – work started in February 2011 and is due to finish on 31 March 2011.
- Tree planting on Staines Road West – this is completed.
- Refurbishment of the Clock Tower area including new seating, lighting and surface treatment– this is due to be completed in early March.

2.6. In addition, thanks to the Local Committee's approval of a grant for County Councillor Beardsmore, a further 5 semi-mature trees have been planted in Vicarage Road.

2.7 The project has spent £225,000 and whilst this is over the original budget, it has brought in £9k of funding for the trees in Vicarage Road (as mentioned above) and £16k of s106 funding for the CCTV improvements. All in all, the project will break even.

2.8 The Project Board is planning an opening event on 17th March 2011 for the Clock Tower and other works nearby. The Skate Park will have an official opening with professional skate boarders at later date.

2.9 One of the other intangible benefits of the Sunbury Cross Project is that the Council has established a group for the businesses in the area, where

previously there was none. The group, known as the Sunbury Cross Business Group, has met regularly since July 2010. It now has an independent Chairman and Treasurer. The author is acting as Secretary for the time being to keep the meetings going. This group has undertaken some activities in its own right, including looking at the toilet provision in Sunbury Cross, holding a farmers market (the first one of which starts on 16 April 2011) and lately has started to look at ways in which Sunbury Cross, and the group, can be marketed to bring more people into the local businesses.

Shepperton

- 2.10 In Shepperton in the High Street have been completed to reduce the height of the kerbs. This has been possible without affecting the roots of highway trees. Reduction of the kerb height will make parking easier.
- 2.11 A new wall has been built outside the Village Hall with new planting which screens the recycling area which has been moved. Local schools have been involved in the production of a village history board which will be displayed near to the Village Hall.
- 2.12 One tree has been removed from the high street because it was in poor condition. A replacement has been planted. As part of the work to the kerb stones, new tree pits with granite surrounds and a new surface have also been provided. This last element of the work has encountered a delay, firstly due to the bad weather and then due to delivery problems with the granite. It is hoped that all these works will be completed by the end of March 2011 and that there will also be an opening ceremony in Shepperton.
- 2.13 New seats on the pavement between the trees will also be provided.
- 2.14 The projected outturn for Shepperton is expected to be slightly under the £200,000 budget and will be known once the resin bonding work for the surfaces has been completed.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: There is none