



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)

Caterham Healthcheck: an Update

6 March 2008

KEY ISSUE

This report provides an update on the community-led Caterham Healthcheck (ABC : A Better Caterham) and progress on the county council's work as part of the Healthcheck's key project 'Shabby to Smart'.

SUMMARY

The community-led Caterham Healthcheck is now complete, giving a community profile of the area, sharing local views and highlighting priorities for the town and area.

A final report and actions from the Healthcheck group identify ideas for developing a more attractive place to live and work, including a desire to improve the appearance of the town, building it from 'Shabby to Smart'. A bid to SEEDA for funding to start this process is imminent; this committee report gives an update on the Healthcheck work and the specifics in relation to Highway issues as part of the 'Shabby to Smart' SEEDA bid i.e. streetscene improvements and drainage work in the town.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Tandridge) is asked to:

- (i) Note the ongoing work of the Caterham Healthcheck and the county council's support in relation to specific projects.
- (ii) Continue to contribute through Member representation at the ABC Steering Group meetings and the proposed Caterham Partnership once this is established.
- (iii) Agree the proposed list of streetscene improvements supplied by the Caterham Healthcheck group and costed by Surrey Highways.
- (iv) Consider the initial drainage issues report from Highways, with a possible bid to the Integrated Transport Scheme funding in allocations for 2009/2010.

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In 2006 a community study of Caterham and the surrounding area was initiated as part of a market town Healthcheck project. Run by a volunteer group, supported by Surrey County Council and Tandridge District Council, and parish councils, this provided a residents and business view of the economic, environmental, community and social, transport and access issues of the town and its environs.
- 1.2 The views of local people were sought and over 2000 people contributed to the project. The final report of the Healthcheck group, A Better Caterham (ABC), outlined a shared vision for the community and identified a programme of potential projects to deliver desired improvements.
- 1.3 Funds have been raised from the Lottery, DEFRA, Market Town awards, Parish councils, and the Round Table, amounting to £10,000. A bid is currently being prepared to SEEDA for £90,000, matching funds committed from Surrey County Council and Tandridge District Council of £45,000 each; giving a possible £180,000 contribution to initial improvements outlined as part of the Healthcheck's main project 'Shabby to Smart' (S2S). Parish councils have also made contributions to town improvement projects.

2 KEY ISSUES HIGHLIGHTED BY THE HEALTHCHECK

- 2.1 In addition to the Shabby to Smart' project, a number of additional priority actions have been identified for the town:
 - A Caterham Festival, providing an opportunity for different groups in the community to showcase their artistic and cultural interests and talents, and to promote local groups and activities. The first Caterham Festival will take place in the summer of 2009 and plans are well advanced.
 - Support for youth activities in the town, through the new county council's youth facility in Godstone Road which is planned to open later in 2009, and other youth-led projects for Caterham on the Hill, which are currently in the planning stage.
 - Support for local businesses through events such as the successful 'Meet Caterham Business' exhibition held in October 2008, where 400 people attended and over 40 local businesses exhibited.
 - 'Shop Smart : Shop Local' working with the retail sector. This initiative will be launched in Easter 2009 and will focus on encouraging the local economy and retail activity in the town.
 - A leaflet entitled 'Caterham Trails' mapping places of interest in the town is being compiled. This will promote the town to visitors and residents.
 - The Healthcheck has discussed a longer term 'vision' for the town, with ideas for new road layouts and public spaces. This 'bigger picture' for Caterham has, as yet, no potential funding identified and further detailed business planning is required from the Healthcheck group if these ideas are to become a reality.

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3 SEEDA BID AND STREETSCENE ISSUES

- 3.1 The attached Annexes 1 and 2 outline the priority streetscene issues from the Healthcheck 'Shabby to Smart' group and Surrey County Council Highways costings for that work.
- 3.2 Annexes 3 and 4 detail the drainage investigations and provide site information for Croydon Road, on the junction with Mount Pleasant Road.
- 3.3 Any work requiring additional funding would require a possible bid to the Integrated Transport Scheme funding in allocations for 2009/2010 and would need to be agreed through the Local Committee.

4 CATERHAM HEALTHCHECK IN THE FUTURE

- 4.1 The Caterham Healthcheck Group (ABC) is currently seeking to set itself up as a legal entity so that it can bid for and receive grants to support local projects. This new entity will become 'The Caterham Partnership' and continue the work of the ABC Healthcheck. Representatives of the key organisations and stakeholders will be part of this new group and the Caterham community will continue to have the opportunity to be part of this work.
- 4.2 Surrey County Council will continue to support The Caterham Partnership, participating in the areas of priority wherever possible; some of this is done over and above routine service work. County Members continue to be actively involved.
- 4.3 With The Caterham Partnership, the county council will explore opportunities for external funding for larger visionary schemes when a clear business case is available. Funding from regional infrastructure funds currently looks unlikely.

5 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Surrey County Council has committed £45,000 to support the application for SEEDA funding, which is anticipated to bring together a total initial fund of £180,000. It is hoped that the outcomes delivered from the 'Shabby to Smart' project, as well as other initiatives, will generate a vibrant economy for the town.
- 5.2 Any resource for major schemes of work would need to be identified from external sources.

6 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Healthcheck approach is a process which takes account of equality and diversity issues.

7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Any community safety issues that have been identified through the Healthcheck process will be addressed as part of action planning for the future.

8 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 This report gives an update on the Healthcheck work and the specifics in relation to Highway issues as part of the 'Shabby to Smart' SEEDA bid i.e. streetscene improvements and drainage work in the town.
- 8.2 The Local Committee (Tandridge) is asked to:
- (i) Note the ongoing work of the Caterham Healthcheck and the county council's support in relation to specific projects.
 - (ii) Continue to contribute through member representation at the ABC Steering Group meetings and the proposed Caterham Partnership once this is established.
 - (iii) Agree the proposed list of streetscene improvements supplied by the Caterham Healthcheck group and costed by Surrey Highways.
 - (iv) Consider the initial drainage issues report from Highways, with a possible bid to the Integrated Transport Scheme funding in allocations for 2009/2010.

9 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 The community-led Caterham Healthcheck is now complete, giving a community profile of the area, sharing local views and highlighting priorities for the town and area. The priorities of the Healthcheck group are now being taken forward; partly through a bid to SEEDA which requires county council support.
- 9.2 The information and recommendations in this report clarify the county council's involvement in the future work of The Caterham Partnership.

10 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 10.1 The ABC Healthcheck Group will establish itself as a legal entity and then submit the SEEDA bid. If successful, work will be started on the plans outlined in this report.

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