



## OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)

### THE SQUARE, CATERHAM (‘Shabby to Smart’)

2 July 2010

#### KEY ISSUE

To update the Committee about progress developing and implementing the environmental enhancement scheme centred on The Square in Caterham.

#### SUMMARY

A community-led Caterham Healthcheck group identified ideas to make Caterham a more attractive place to live and work, including a desire to improve the appearance of the town, changing it from ‘Shabby to Smart’. Successful funding bids were made to SEEDA following financial commitments from Caterham Parish Councils, Surrey County Council and Tandridge District Council.

This report provides an update on one of the improvements, the proposed environmental enhancement works centred around The Square.

#### OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee is asked to:

- i) Note the content of the report.

## 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, 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. The views of local people were sought and over 2000 people contributed to the project.
- 1.2 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. Funds have been raised from the Lottery, DEFRA, Market Town awards, Parish councils, and the Round Table, amounting to £10,000. A successful bid was made 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
- 1.3 This report describes the works planned around the The Square.

## 2 ANALYSIS

- 2.1 The ABC group and their advisors (Local Architect Random Greenway and Associates) formed a project team with Surrey Highways to develop a scheme around The Square, aimed at improving the streetscene and pedestrian routes.
- 2.2 The improvements that have been developed include:
- Removing most of the old guardrail.
  - Improving the footways and pedestrian routes around the roundabout including new tactile paving.
  - Provide coloured surfacing on the carriageway in front of the kerbs to help keep cars further from the footway.
  - Planting 3 trees and other low level ornamental shrubs on the islands approaching the roundabout. This helps block pedestrian desire lines opened up by the removal of the guardrail.
  - Upgrading street lighting and replacing or rationalising street furniture. The street lighting work will be carried out by Skanska in advance of their programmed lighting replacement programme in Tandridge during 2011. New sign posts and lamp columns will be painted black.

- Resurfacing footways and kerbing to improve their appearance and functionality.
  - Resurfacing the road to repair potholes and surface irregularities.
- 2.3 It is planned that the works will be carried out during the school summer holidays in July and August 2010 to minimize disruption to local businesses and traffic. There will however be some disruption to traffic and some of the resurfacing work will be carried out over night.
- 2.4 The final scheme will not physically reduce the carriageway widths and traffic should flow as normal, although there will be a greater emphasis on pedestrian routes around The Square.

### **3 CONSULTATION**

- 3.1 ABC carried out a public consultation on the detailed proposals in February 2010 with displays in the Library. Of the 220 returned questionnaires, 80% supported the scheme. The scheme has the backing of the Council's involved with the Caterham Community Partnership and the local businesses.
- 3.2 Surrey Police are also supportive of the proposals, however they have reservations about the removal of the guardrail. This has been considered in the design process and the placement of planters chosen to try to stop people crossing the road away from the designated crossing places.
- 3.3 Tandridge Access Forum also support the proposals. Careful consideration has been given to the use of coloured surfacing so that visually impaired pedestrians are able to distinguish the extent of the footway and crossing locations.

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

- 4.1 The proposed changes in The Square have been designed taking into consideration needs of all highway users. The improvements should benefit vulnerable road users.

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

- 5.1 Surrey County Council is putting £45,000 towards the 'Shabby to Smart' project in Caterham and an additional £15,000 into carriageway repairs in the area. The budget for the works in The Square is £108,000 and it is planned to keep within this figure.

## 6 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 This scheme has been widely consulted and is well supported by local community. The improvements should help make Caterham a more attractive location, improve pedestrian facilities and in turn help local businesses.

## 7 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The scheme meets the policy objectives of Surrey County Council's Local Transport Plan.

## 8 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 8.1 The scheme will be implemented during the school summer holidays in July and August.

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS:**