



East Northamptonshire Council

Policy and Resources Committee - 9 November 2009

Brookside, Glapthorn Road Improvement Project.

Summary

This report seeks Member approval to proceed with road improvement works at Brookside, Glapthorn; with associated costs.

Attachment(s)

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 At Policy and Resources Committee on the 16 March 2009 (Minute 416) Members approved the release of funding towards road adoption works at Brookside, Glapthorn.
- 1.2 Following further consultation with residents of Brookside, the nature of the road improvements works have changed; along with the associated financial contribution.
- 1.3 This report provides Members with an update on progress, and seeks approval to move forward with the new proposals.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The aim of this project has always been to improve the condition of the road and footpath; to make it safe for residents and the rest of the village to use.
- 2.2 Adoption of the road by the County Council's Highway's Department has been viewed by officers of the Council, the Ward Member and the majority of Brookside residents, as the most sustainable solution. This is because it would be permanent; once completed there would be no ongoing need for repairs to be undertaken.
- 2.3 Following Member approval to contribute funding to the project, the internal project team undertook further consultation with the residents to confirm that they were happy for the works to go ahead.
- 2.4 Officers have subsequently been informed that their previous perception, that at the public meeting in January 2009 verbal agreement had been reached on moving towards adoption of the road, was inaccurate.
- 2.6 Therefore it is with disappointment that the project team have had to conclude that full adoption of the road is not possible.

3.0 Next Steps

- 3.1 The alternative option is to undertake resurfacing works only. This would involve scraping up the existing surface and laying new tarmac.
- 3.2 The Council sought quotes for this work in April of this year. Two companies have provided quotes which range between £17,000 and £19,000 plus VAT. Therefore, officers anticipate the total cost to be no more than approximately £22,000 including VAT.

- 3.3 Spire Homes have recently confirmed that they are still prepared to meet 50% of the cost of the works.
- 3.4 When looking at full road adoption, a financial contribution from the residents was envisaged in recognition of the very high cost of the works (approximately £100,000). Officers are not proposing to seek a contribution for the resurfacing work; due to the significantly reduced cost, and administrative burden of collecting so many small payments.
- 3.5 At the Policy and Resources Committee meeting on the 16 March 2009, Members approved a contribution of up to £34,000. The revised contribution is approximately £11,000; which represents 50% of the cost of the works.
- 3.6 This option would not provide a permanent solution to the road maintenance issue. However, the contractors who have provided the quotes advise that the works would have an estimated lifespan of 20-25 years.
- 3.7 Road ownership and ongoing maintenance would not be affected, and residents have been advised that any Council funding for this project would be as a one-off goodwill gesture. When the road eventually needs resurfacing again, it will be the responsibility of Spire Homes and the residents to undertake this.
- 3.8 Resurfacing of the road will benefit the private residents. However, it will also be of significant benefit to the rest of the village whose health and safety is currently put at risk by using it.
- 3.9 Officers would now like to proceed with obtaining final written permission from the land owning residents, obtaining revised quotes and instructing contractors to undertake the works.

4.0 Recommendation

- 4.1 Members are recommended to approve the reduced contribution of £11,000, up to a maximum of £12,500; to enable road improvement works to proceed.

Implications:		
Corporate Outcomes or Other Policy/Priority/Strategy		
Good Quality of Life	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Good Reputation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Good Value for Money	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	High Quality Service Delivery <input type="checkbox"/>
Effective Partnership Working	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strong Community Leadership <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	Knowledge of our Customers and Communities <input type="checkbox"/>
Employees and Members with the Right Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours		<input type="checkbox"/>
Other:		<input type="checkbox"/>
Decision(s) would be outside the budget or policy framework and require full Council approval		<input type="checkbox"/>
Financial	There are no financial implications at this stage	<input type="checkbox"/>
	There will be financial implications – see paragraph 3.5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	There is provision within existing budget	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Decisions may give rise to additional expenditure at a later date	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Decisions may have potential for income generation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Risk Management	An assessment has been carried out and there are no material risks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Material risks exist and these are recorded at Risk Register Reference - inherent risk score - residual risk score -	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff	There are no additional staffing implications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Additional staff will be required – see paragraph				<input type="checkbox"/>
Equalities and Human Rights	There will be no impact on equality (race, age, gender, disability, religion/belief, sexual orientation) or human rights implications				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	There will be an impact on equality (see categories above) or human rights implications – see paragraph				<input type="checkbox"/>
Legal	Power: Local Government Act 2000, Section 2				
	Other considerations:				
Background Papers: Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee 16 March 2009 - Minute 416					
Person Originating Report: Cat Hartley, Housing Strategy Manager chartley@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk 01832 742078					
Date: 15 October 2009					
CFO		MO		CX	

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