

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member, Regeneration & Environment
2.	Date:	13 December 2010
3.	Title:	Laughton Common/Monksbridge Gateway Improvement Works – Gateway Environmental Improvements, Dinnington Ward
4.	Programme Area:	Environment and Development Service

5. Summary

To report on proposals for environmental improvement works throughout the Laughton Common/Monksbridge corridors, including Monksbridge Roundabout.

- (i) To provide enhanced landscaping works along Station Road and Outgang Lane, Laughton Common between the railway bridge at the north-west end of Laughton Common and Monksbridge Roundabout at the south-east end.
- (ii) To provide enhanced landscaping works to Monksbridge Roundabout incorporating two mounds which acknowledge Dinningtons Neolithic past; the town is believed to take its name from a local long barrow or burial mound.
- (iii) Similarly to provide high quality enhanced works along Monksbridge Road, Dinnington between Monksbridge Roundabout at the north-east end of the corridor and the junction of Monksbridge Road with Rotherham Road at the south-west end.

6. Recommendations

Cabinet Member approves the proposed works and notes the funding arrangements.

7. Proposals and Details

The Laughton Common/Monksbridge Road highway corridor was identified as a potential Gateway Improvement scheme within the wider Gateway Improvement Plan (approved 22 June 2005) and was included in the 2010/11 Regional Housing Programme.

The Cabinet Member will be aware of 'Gateway' style street name signs already installed throughout this corridor; a further phase of works is now proposed as follows.

Introduction of pedestrian footways at the junction of Monksbridge Road with Rotherham Road and at Station Road with 'The Sycamores'.

Introduction of wildflower and bulb planting throughout the area, together with limited tree and shrub planting.

Landscaping improvements to Monksbridge Roundabout comprising two raised barrows, mature tree planting, wildflower and bulb planting. It should be noted that the existing commemorative 'Pit Wheel' feature will be retained.

Please refer to the plans in Appendix A (extent of coverage of the works), B (Footway Improvements at junction of Monksbridge Road and Rotherham Road) and C (Footway improvements at the junction of Station Road and The Sycamores) for details as to the extent of the works. More detailed copies of these plans have also been on display in the Members Room for the past week.

The Gateway project team within RIDO have ensured that extensive consultation has been carried out with the local community, including residents within the immediate vicinity of the works, the 'Friends of Laughton Common', New Laughton Tenants and Residents Association and Thurcroft Parish Council. Local Members have been involved with the project through the Dinnington Area Development Framework Steering Group.

Subject to Member approval, works will be carried out during the period January to March 2011.

8. Finance

These works will be funded from the 2010/11 Regional Housing Board programme, with Monksbridge Gateway having been allocated a budget of £180,000. It can be seen therefore that the proposed works fall well within the budget limit.

Total estimated costs:

(i). Outgang Lane Corridor

Cultivation and seeding	£	2,630.55
Maintenance of seeded areas	£	539.60
Wildflower planting	£	352.42
Spray off areas	£	1,667.60

Cultivate for shrubs	£	88.00
Shrub planting	£	2,240.00
Shrub maintenance	£	640.00
Beat up of shrubs	£	224.00
Tree planting	£	800.00
Bulb planting	£	3,117.60
Additional topsoil	£	500.00
Street lighting columns	£	7,500.00
Footway Improvements	£	9,243.89

Total £ **29,543.66**

(ii). Monksbridge Road Corridor

Cultivation and seeding	£	2,636.40
Maintenance of seeded areas	£	540.80
Wildflower planting	£	554.64
Spray off areas	£	1,707.20
Cutting back existing vegetation	£	1,360.00
Tree planting	£	320.00
Bulb planting	£	1,620.00
Footway Improvements	£	19,276.70
Traffic Management Costs	£	800.00

Total £ **28,815.74**

(iii). Monksbridge Road Roundabout

Traffic Management Costs	£	1,500.00
Excavation, tree & shrub removal	£	1,844.00
Spray off areas	£	413.60
Excavate tree pits & fill with top soil	£	726.00
Supply & spread sub-soil	£	2,340.00
Supply & spread top-soil	£	930.00
Cultivation	£	574.20
Plant semi-mature trees	£	7,200.00
Seeding (including wildflower species)	£	701.62
Bulb planting	£	1,734.60
Turfing	£	3,296.00
Aftercare	£	1,963.42
Contingencies	£	1,161.17

Total £ **24,384.61**

(iv). Landscaping Design Fees/Consultation Costs

Total £ **10,084.93**

Overall Costs £ **92,828.94**

The estimated costs include for any defects of the hard works within a year following completion of the works. Thereafter maintenance of the improvements will be transferred into the ongoing Streetpride maintenance programme.

It should be noted that the proposed improvements will not add to the existing Streetpride maintenance budget above the level normally expected for general ongoing highway maintenance. Landscaping improvements in particular have been designed to be self-sustaining (comprising Wildflower species and bulbs) with very limited maintenance requirement.

It should also be noted that a small area of land affected by these proposals at the junction of Monksbridge Road with Outgang Lane is in private ownership, specifically Brobot garages Ltd. Brobot have been consulted over these proposals and are fully supportive. They have also undertaken to maintain these landscaping works as part of their regular maintenance programme once completed.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The risks & uncertainties are expected to be only those which would normally be associated with small scale construction and landscaping works.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The scheme contributes to the 'Rotherham Proud' agenda by enhancing the main 'Gateway' routes into the Borough with high quality public realm works. It will also contribute to 'Rotherham Safe' in that the public highway will be free of defects. The scheme contributes to the Community and Corporate Plans by:

Supporting the Housing Market Renewal Programme.

Improving and promoting the image of Rotherham and addressing negative views both within and outside the borough, through the environmental improvement of Gateway Corridors which form many peoples first impression of the borough, as well as a backdrop to the lives of many of its residents.

Providing sustainable neighbourhoods of quality, choice, etc, by contributing to an improved environment within many residential districts.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Public consultation has been carried out by the Project Officer and the designs have been approved by the Dinnington ADF Steering Group, which includes the local Ward Members.

Further background papers include:

The Gateway Improvement Plan (Approved 22nd June 2005, Cabinet Item 37)

Housing Market Renewal Area Masterplan (Dinnington)

The local community have been engaged on this and other related environmental improvement projects via the ADF Steering Group, Community Planning Officer and by direct mail shot of local residents.

Discussions have been ongoing with representatives of Streetpride to confirm their capacity to deliver these works during 2010/11.

Contact Name: Andrew Newton, Project Officer, Development Team. Telephone ext 3849. Email andy.newton@rotherham.gov.uk