
Meeting: Traffic Management Meeting
Date: 20th October 2009
Subject: Petition To Resurface The Footpath Between Church View Avenue And Hillside Close.
Report of: Basil Jackson
Summary: The purpose of this report is to present a petition raised by residents of Church View Avenue and Hillside Close, Shillington in support of works to improve the condition of the footway in their area and to recommend further actions as a result. This petition has been presented at Executive Committee and referred back for further report.

Contact Officer: Debbie Poynton
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Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: Silsoe & Shillington
Function of: Council

RECOMMENDATIONS:

that the incoming petition be noted and that the lead petitioner be informed that:

The proposed scheme for resurfacing is placed in the 5 year programme subject to the annual review of priorities.

Background and Information

1. In June 2009 a petition was sent by Councillor Alison Graham to the Highways office at Woodlands on behalf of residents of Church View Avenue and Hillside Close, Shillington requesting improvements to the condition of the footway in their area.
2. In accordance with the process in operation at that time an acknowledgement was sent to the lead petitioner and a copy was forwarded to colleagues at Bedfordshire County Council.

3. The procedure in place at that time was for Bedfordshire Highways staff to undertake investigation into the grounds stated on the petition and to report the petition together with a proposed course of action to the first available meeting of the Bedfordshire County Council Development Control Committee.
4. Due to the changes in local government arrangements in Bedfordshire that were taking place at the time there was no opportunity to do this within the life of the outgoing County Council and the arrangements for presenting to members of the new Central Bedfordshire Council were not available at that time, and indeed for some time subsequently.
5. This petition was reported to Executive Committee on the 15 September 2009 and referred back for a further report.

Information

6. A petition signed by residents of Church View Avenue and Hillside Close was received stating that the footpath that runs between Church View Avenue and Hillside Close is badly overgrown with weeds and seriously uneven. Residents requested that the footway be resurfaced.
7. The footpath is used mainly by those residing in the houses immediately adjacent to gain access to the rear of their houses and Hillside Road. It is essentially a footway between two rows of houses.

The Way Forward

8. Routine Safety Inspection and Engineers Investigation have taken place at regular intervals and have picked up reactive maintenance issues. The footway is severely distressed and overgrown by vegetation.
9. Structural maintenance and renewal works is justified at this location and the scheme should be included in the 5 year programme. The estimated cost is approximately £7500.
10. However, due to the condition of the adjoining footways, it would be difficult to deliver the link footway scheme in isolation. The footways adjoining the carriageways at Hillside Close and Church View also require maintenance. Indicative costs for this, is approximately £13000.
11. Additionally there are existing concrete lamp columns in the footway that are likely to be due for upgrading to steel columns. It would be premature to re-construct the footway until after this has been assessed and implemented.

Conclusion and Next Steps

12. Whilst the footways are undoubtedly in need of some maintenance works they are relatively minor in nature and the footway between the houses serves only those properties. These works should not be carried out in isolation and the adjoining footway areas will need to be included within the proposals.
13. In assessing priorities, works that benefit the greatest number of people would generally receive a higher weighting. Notwithstanding this, the footway in question is highway and therefore will be maintained. The proposed scheme for resurfacing is therefore included in the 5 year programme.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

None as a result of this report.

Financial:

The resurfacing proposals as detailed will have a capital cost of approximately £20,500 for the entire scheme,

Legal:

None as a result of this report.

Risk Management:

None as a result of this report.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

None as a result of this report

Equalities/Human Rights:

This report and recommendation does not have any implications under the Human Rights Act 1998.

Community Development/Safety:

None as a result of this report.

Sustainability:

None as a result of this report.

Background Information

Copy of Petition.